

THE NEW ABNORMAL



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Department News

“Getting Back to Normal”:

2022 Senior Play *Noises Off* Brings Laughter and Delight in the Season

WRITTEN BY IVY LIAO

The 2022 senior play in the English department drew attention by choosing Michael Frayn’s 1982 *Noises Off*. Directed by Annalise Lin, performed at the Arens Multi-functional Conference Centre, with an ingenious theatrical design, *Noises off* ended three-days performance from December 8th to 10th to audience’s loud laughter and great applause, with cast and crew aiming to bring joy to the season and a sense of normality despite the ongoing pandemic.



Curtain Call. Photo by Ivy Liao

Michael Frayn’s *Noises Off* is a play within a play. Temperamental director Loyd Dallas (played by Tina Chang) produces a comedy titled *Nothing On* with a mediocre, emotionally unstable cast and crew, including Poppy (played by Mia Jiang) and Timothy (played by Sylvia Chan) as the

stage managers, Dotty (played by Claire Tai), Brooke (played by Sandy Lee), Belinda (played by Zoe Shin), Gary (played by Fillan Chen), and Fredrick (played by Ivan Zhang) as the actors and actresses performing in *Nothing On*. The three acts in *Noises Off* expose sequential phases of the rehearsal,

its premiere, and the performance near the end of the tour. As the play unfolds, the mounting chaos causes a string of farces on stage and off stage.

"It is a challenge," said Cecilia Liu, the faculty advisor of the 2022 senior play. "Cooperation is especially important in the production of *Noises off*, a play within a play. Not only acting performance but setting construction has to be in the right beats." Shifting from the performance of *Nothing On* on the front stage to the antics backstage, the play requires a complex stage design. It challenges crew members to brainstorm a critical production of the design that audiences can fully understand at a glance. Lin, the director, and the crew worked hard to reach the goal. "In this play, we need a scene with seven doors and double floors, which is truly a difficult and challenging task," she shared. "This setting needs to be turned around for use in the second act, which shows the off-stage's ongoingness."



Rehearsal. Photo by Annalise Lin

For a comedy to work, comic timing is key. "It is not easy to put a farce on stage," said Cecilia Liu. In *Noises Off*, actors must perform exhausting physical actions, but

are crucial. "We work hard in noticing even trivial acts that help form a hilarious atmosphere and produce funny physical humor. If the goal is to make the audience laugh out loud, we have to know how to create the right moment for them to laugh," Lin said before the opening performance.

Q: What is the motivation behind choosing *Noises Off* as the 2022 senior play?

Lin: In the past few years, the chosen scripts for the senior play were much more disheartening and serious with either a physically or psychologically heavy atmosphere. This motivates me to bring a totally different theme on stage. I want to bring happiness and joy to the English department and the audiences; therefore, *Noises Off* becomes one of the best choices.

Q: What are the challenges in the production?

Lin: Set construction is really a great challenge. The play contains lots of huge props such as doors and floors, and it takes time and money to create them. We also have to make sure the transitions from act to act are very fluent, and no mistakes are allowed. Even a slight misplacement of props and the wrong timing of sound effects or stage lighting will possibly ruin the atmosphere created from the beginning of the show.

Q: *Noises Off* is a play within a play. How did you connect when directing this play?

Lin: I resonate with the play a lot. Problems that actors have during the rehearsal in *Noises Off* are indeed what we have

encountered in our rehearsal. For example, actors sometimes forget the lines, and wrong stage movements or blocking happens, too.

Q: What do you consider special about the 2022 senior play?

Lin: *Noises Off* is definitely a play in which each audience can feel the energy and happiness. The past few years have been

difficult because of the pandemic, but luckily, life is getting back to normal.

The alumni are able to come back to the campus, and performance in front of a crowd is allowed. I hope students and faculty in the English department can relax by watching this comedic play. It will be great for them to forget their frustrations and to recall their feelings of joy in the year.

How to Get prepared: Alumna's Strategy in Studying Abroad

WRITTEN BY SILVIA SHEN

Seeking further study or entering the workforce? This is an everlasting question that fresh graduates face. In order to give English majors suggestions for studying abroad, Jiayu Xu and Shona Song, alumnae from the English Department at Fu Jen Catholic University, who went to England and France last year respectively, shared their methods of adapting themselves to new cultures in October.

Shona said that she wanted to study abroad as a good way to practice speaking English. Eager to know more about cultural differences, she chose to study in France.

Jiayu was passionate about British culture and had made up her mind to learn and even work abroad many years ago. They both emphasized that going to graduate school is a good way to pursue further study and to prepare themselves before entering into different industries.

Shona chose Emlyon Business School because it's an outstanding school in France and cooperates with top schools in the USA. Having experience with learning French cuisine, Shona has become familiar with dining restaurant management. Emlyon works with different companies and



Jiayu at the hall of King's. Photo provided by Jiayu Xu

provides many opportunities for students to practice branding, marketing, and consulting in the workplace. Jiayu Xu didn't have a dream school, but she preferred major relevant to the creative

industry. “King’s College London is one of the best choices for me,” she said.

Personalities are formed differently between Western and Eastern countries. Shona said that normally, Asians are more introverted than Europeans. “Asian students are more likely to stay in their comfort zone.” To challenge that, Shona joined different parties and interacted with foreign students as part of her daily life. “I tend to explore more and increase my awareness of French culture, and it is the reason why I choose to go abroad.” In contrast, Jiayu Xu doesn’t socialize frequently, so she prefers walking on the streets and admiring nature by herself. “I seldom join any club because I am not sociable.” She said. “Luckily, my classmates are all easygoing.”



Shona and her group members. Photo provided by Shona Song

Shona and Jiayu graduated from the English Department a few years ago. Shona emphasized that in the English Department, she not only learned language skills but also became more familiar with cultural diversity. “Through Western Civilization and some of the American English literature courses, I learned about European and American cultures,” she said. “When traveling, I can visit these museums and see artworks and identify these artists.” She can apply her aesthetic ability to real workplaces, such as décor for events in hotels.

Jiayu appreciated the ability to search for and select information from the research training in CC courses. Students also learn to sort and clarify the arguments of different writers and cite them by following strict academic rules, such as the MLA style. In her academic life at King’s College London, almost all the professors required students to write a dissertation at the end of the semester. Jiayu’s experience at FJCU enables her to make this work less time-consuming and more manageable.

Shona and Jiayu wanted to reach their goals by overcoming different challenges in their daily lives.

Shona has reached the very end of her master’s degree, waiting to finish a dissertation and an internship in six months. She flew back to mainland China and is currently working at Marriott International in Shanghai in its design development operation. “I have had the experience of decorating new dining

rooms for different restaurants and it was really interesting,” Shona said.

Jiayu, in contrast, doesn’t have a clear career plan yet. She is still trying to figure out the right path for herself. As she added, it is not easy for her to live in England for a long time because foreign students only

get two-year-long visa permission. She has made up her mind to find a reliable company and try to work there to get a visa extension if possible. However, it is a “searching and waiting process” because all the choices she makes might affect the outcome of whether she can stay longer in England and get a work visa successfully.

Students’ Voice Returning to Campus After COVID-19: The Success of the 17th FJCU English Speech Contest

WRITTEN BY MANDY MOK

Organized by the Department of English Language and Literature, Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU) successfully held the 17th English Speech Contest, which was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, at LB301 on November 9, 2022. This contest aiming to enhance students’ English learning progress and oral expression abilities, attracted seven students from different academic majors to compete; a junior student, Tseng Tzumin, took first place.

All seven contestants gave impressive speeches and debated various issues during the competition. After the judges’ discussion, the champion was Tseng Tzumin. The 1st Runner-Up was Kan Chialin. They are junior and sophomore students, respectively, in the Department of English Language and Literature. The 2nd Runner-Up was Chiang Yuhsuan; she was a sophomore in the Department of Nursing.

This year’s judges were Professor Cecilia Hsueh Chen Liu, Professor John Basourakos, and Teacher Katy Lee. The competition comprised two rounds. In the first round, the contestants gave a prepared speech on the given topic of the competition. This year’s theme was “Dulce et Decorum Est,” a poem by Wilfred Owen during World War I. Contestants presented their interpretations and demonstrated

their understanding of the poem for three-minute. Then they gave two-minute impromptu speeches on a randomly selected topic in the second round. Three judges graded the contestants regarding their speech content and structure (40%), grammar and lexical choices (30%), delivery skills which include intonation, pronunciation, and body language (20%), and time management (10%).



Teacher Lee presented 1st place awards to Tseng Tzumin. Photo by Mandy Mok

"I like to challenge myself. I consider the speech contest to be an opportunity to develop my self-confidence by elaborating my ideas to large groups," said the champion Aubrey Tseng Tzumin. Last year, she studied in Teacher Katy Lee's class and was inspired to participate in the campus-wide English speech contest. Unfortunately, the contest was canceled last year. "I'm glad we have it back this year," said Aubrey.

Aubrey believed the competition was beneficial for improving her analytical reasoning skills. Moreover, she said, "When it comes to pressure, everything becomes more challenging. After the competition, I was able to identify my weaknesses. I learned from this experience and will try to tackle them for better performance in the future."

The contestants appreciated having Professor Cecilia Liu as a judge in the competition. Professor Liu retired last

semester; nevertheless, she has always been enthusiastic and devoted to departmental activities. "The Department of English has always been a big family to me. I'm glad to see the students doing well and so impressed by the contestants' performance," said Professor Liu.

Professor Liu believes this competition is a wonderful experience for FJCU students to improve their delivery skills, polish their English language skills, and enhance their English language competence. "The speech contest opens up more room for students to speak out and widens their visions, regardless of their academic majors," said Professor Liu.

Usually, this annual competition is scholarship based. It awards certificates and cash prizes to the top three students. This year, the student who won 1st place received an NT\$8000 prize, NT\$6000 for 2nd place, and NT\$3500 for 3rd place.

Who Says It Is Useless to Study Foreign Languages: What an English Degree Did for Us

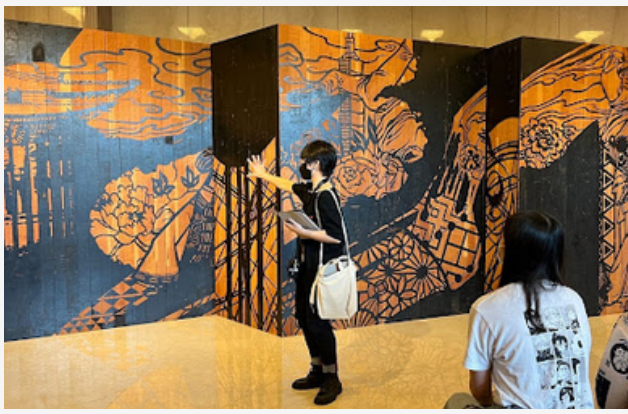
WRITTEN BY MONICA CHANG

On August 12, as the University Admission Committee released the latest data of this year's college placement results, the foreign language group had the most increased shortage of 62.47%, which became the highest among all departments. It is uncertain whether students' proficiency in literature and linguistics is useless or unprofitable in today's society, but some of the English department graduates from Fu Jen University have shared what an English degree did for them.

Fascinated by drama and stage at an early age, Jennifer Lin desired to study in a drama-related department during her senior high school years. "My parents

prohibited me from choosing the drama department at that time," Jennifer said in an online interview last week. "It was then that I decided to enter the English Department

at FJCU for its unique courses in English theater performance.” During her life in the English department, Jennifer admitted that she was not aware of what she had learned until she attended the internship program at National Theatre and Concert Hall.



Jennifer Lin working as an intern at National Theatre and Concert Hall. Photo provided by Jennifer Lin

As an intern responsible for touring her workplace, assisting the shows, and designing publicity plans, Jennifer explained her daily routine was composed of organizing points and constructing ideas. With the critical thinking ability and organizational skills gained from analyzing a wide range of literary works in the English Department, she was able to accomplish those unattainable tasks. Additionally, Jennifer assumed the abilities also helped with her performance in theater training. “As I read the text, I could translate the mindset, sensations, and thoughts of the characters into my personal feelings.” Jennifer said confidently, “In this way, I can express emotions that I have never experienced in person when acting, which allows me to be more in tune with the different roles than my peers.”

Amigo Chiang, who decided to enter the

English department because of her outstanding English grades, recalled in an online interview last week, “Most of my friends assumed I could only become a teacher, a translator, or a flight attendant. I thought, ‘How can you speculate or make a conclusion about my future, just based on what I study?’” While studying, Amigo was introduced to the marketing industry by chance and became very interested in learning more about commerce. To develop her second expertise unrestrictedly, Amigo not only attended relevant courses offered by the English department but also actively participated in marketing-related internships in her freshman year. During her internship interviews, Amigo was often asked by interviewers why an English student would want to work as an intern in the marketing industry. Amigo explained, “I realized that part of marketing requires creativity, and you can’t learn it from books alone.”



Amigo's workplace. Photo provided by Amigo Chiang

As an English major, Amigo considered English an advantage when communicating and emailing with foreign companies and clients. In addition, the training in the

English department, which often encourages students to challenge others' statements and develop their own viewpoints, also allows Amigo to construct her views within an organized structure when reporting to supervisors and proposing innovative ideas for her marketing projects. Amigo concludes at the end, "English does not necessarily enable me to get a raise, but it helps me to earn extra points for impressions, which makes me stand out among my colleagues."

"I had enjoyed reading Chinese books since I was a junior high school student," said Steven Hsu, "and eventually, I also began to wonder about the literary worlds of English." Nevertheless, Steven encountered an unexpected "turning point" when he entered the English Department. Owing to the complicated and heavy assignments and research reports in the department, Steven suffered from procrastination and maladaptation. "I was forced to recognize my psychological problems and, ultimately, embark on a journey to explore myself." With the assistance of the FJCU Student Counseling Center, not only did his

psychological state gradually improve but he also began to develop an interest in psychology. "The consulting was a life preserver, which brought me to shore," Steven expressed with gratitude, "I felt a sense of duty to give back and to help those who were also tormented psychologically." Since then, he has taken many psychology courses and read extensively in relevant academic journals.

Moreover, the writing classes in the English Department have also provided him with adequate opportunities to write about psychological topics. Through years of self-training, Steven's proficiency in English enables him to comprehend psychological textbooks that are not translated properly. Moreover, Steven also learned how to analyze literature during his years in the English Department, which has helped him analyze people's feelings when studying psychology. Finally, Steven shared at the end, "Studying English culture and literature allows us to find new standards to measure our value despite money making. We, therefore, should endeavor to gain valuable experience."

A New Generation Coming: The Building Renovation in CFLL

WRITTEN BY ANNALISE LIN

Over these past three years, the whole campus has had quite a few changes such as the reconstruction of the road at the front gate, the new street lights, and the improvements of the drainage facilities. The College of Foreign Languages and Literatures (CFLL) has gone to great efforts to renovate all the facilities, from the revamping of the classrooms and restrooms to new instruction equipment.

All these renovations provide a better learning environment for students in CFLL,

but these renovations have been in the making even since CFLL's founding in 1963.

To create a better and more globalized learning environment, the College designed a building with more classrooms that combine language learning and diverse fields together to help students in CFLL obtain more skills for their future careers.

Today, fundraising continues for future planned improvements.

The College of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Fu Jen University used to be a two-story building, which was reconstructed in 2016. According to Dean Kate Liu, there was no SF building in 1993, and the offices of all the instructors in the English department were in the CFLL building. As a result, they had more time together and chatted with each other more often. Wen-ling Su, the former associate dean of the CFLL who has been teaching since 2002 said, “Where the FG building is located, there used to be a two-story language-lab building. I remember having taught CC classes in some of the cozy, small classrooms on the second floor. Some of them would accommodate no more than 15 students, but they were great for building rapport and intimacy.”

In 2020, the first floor of the FG building was redesigned around the concept of globalization. Furthermore, Dean Liu also put three iMac computers and a projector in the lobby area for students. The sofa and bar section allows students to chat with each other to build community. According to Professor Wen-ling Su, Dean Liu has made great efforts to renovate the old CFLL building, such as revamping restrooms, refurbishing multimedia classrooms, and

constructing the Center for Cross-Cultural & Cross-Disciplinary Communication located on the fifth floor of LB. However, all these works were not only through the efforts of the Dean and the departments but also required a fund-raising project.



The Global Lounge in the new building of CFLL. Photo by Annalise Lin

The FG building began a fundraising project and welcomed the alumni to donate money and help the departments create a more comfortable and complete learning environment for the students. Now, there is a new project called CFLL Empowerment Project that shows all the classrooms planned for renovation and encourages people to donate money to help fulfill this mission. “Of more concern to English majors and alumni are the upgrade and maintenance of Litu (理圖), the College Theatre, where rehearsals for Annual Plays and Senior Plays are held regularly. The College is expected to run and maintain the theater by itself,” said Professor Su.

Dean Liu said that she hopes that the CFLL building, a physical sign of innovation and sustainability, can help all students be engaged in classes and outside of them in local and global communities. “Innovation

happens when classroom walls no longer mean confinement in learning; likewise, sustainability can be achieved only when efforts are made continually from

generation to generation,” said Dean Liu. If you also would like to support and make the project successful, please go to the website and donate money to the CFLL!

A Course to Look Into: Technology-Assisted Instruction & Presentation

WRITTEN BY VIVIAN LIN

In the English Language and Literature Department in FJU, there is such a course in which students could learn to create their own website using various online tools and improve English at the same time.

Well, for students majoring in the Department of English Language and Literature, there is such a course. Professor Bi-Chu Chen teaches a course called Technology-assisted Instruction & Presentation, in which students essentially learn how to use different multimedia tools to create their own videos, mind maps, and websites.

“The course is taught in English, and students are divided into groups to present their projects such as website building and tools tutorials in English. ” Professor Chen, the instructor of the course, said in an interview with us.

Professor Chen added that in an age with advanced technology, learning how to use different online tools and websites is also critical. “For students in the English Department, learning to work with technology is especially important since only learning and knowing English is not enough.”

In Professor Chen’s course, she uses

diversified tools and websites as her teaching materials, but also her students’ learning materials. After teaching one or two important functions of a tool, she would then ask students to try the functions themselves so that they can learn to actually “use” it.

The tools taught in the course range from screen recording and mind-mapping tools to website-building tools. One student who has been in the course, Sylvia Tu, mentioned in an interview with us that she liked the website-building tools and the online meeting tools the most. “The former tools allow creators to present content in a more interactive and eye-catching way,” she said, “while the latter tools make distant-teaching more convenient and allow users to use the online space creatively and flexibly.”

“I like the mind-mapping and website-building tools the most,” another student who has been in the course, Yvonne Tseng, said in an interview with us. She explained that they are all useful in this generation

because technology is a significant component of our lives.

When asked about her favorite tools taught in the course, Professor Chen stated that she doesn't have a favorite one and that each tool is useful in its own way. "With the final project, in which students have to create a website using Google Sites, students can explore the different tools taught in class and decide which ones they will use to create content for their websites," she said.

Professor Chen also brought up how she intended to encourage students' self-learning through the projects she designed for the course. For example, group tutorials can help students know how to truly use an online tool instead of vaguely knowing how the tool can be used. "Only passive listening is not enough," she said, "and teaching as well as learning a tool can help students master the tool instead of knowing the tool on a superficial level," said Professor Chen.



Both Sylvia Tu and Yvonne Tseng expressed their support for technology-assisted teaching and learning. "The way we

absorb information has changed rapidly over the past years," Sylvia told us. "Technology-assisted teaching is inevitable nowadays. Students will have to rely even more on websites, videos, and interactive media to learn as time goes by," she added.

Yvonne agreed, saying that she personally lacks the skills of using online tools. She added, "If I can combine knowledge and technological techniques together, it will be even better than just acquiring knowledge."

As students who have participated in the course, Sylvia and Yvonne have both benefited from the course. For Sylvia, the course provided her "an opportunity to step out of her comfort zone" since she had to learn to use tools that she had been unfamiliar with. As for Yvonne, she found learning about the SDGs in the process of creating her group website the most rewarding as they are an important topic internationally.

Interestingly, Professor Chen mentioned that the course has always been subject to change and modification. "It has never been exactly the same. I change the topics students work on, the timeline for their projects, and the tools I teach every year." She said that only a few tools, such as Google Sites and mind-mapping websites, are tools she always teaches because they help students improve their organizing skills.

That being said, different tools and projects may await students who take this course in the future.

Professional Development in EMI Instruction: The EMI Workshop of the English Department at FJU

WRITTEN BY JOSEPHINE CHENG

On Wednesday afternoon, during advising hour, professors and students of the English Department go in and out of the classroom FG302 in the CFLL building to hold a special English workshop for teachers from different departments at Fu Jen University. The workshop is designed and instructed by Professor Sherri Wei and Professor Paul Bellew for English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) training.

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The FJU Bilingual Education Center reports that the EMI workshop not only provides an introduction to academic literacies, including four skills reading, writing, listening, and speaking, but it also includes teaching issues, such as digital-based learning, assessment design, and effective large-class management for teachers.

According to Professor Wei, "Teachers from different departments engaged in the EMI program through an online group at the very first start. The group was created at the suggestion of Professor Kate, the dean of the College of Foreign Languages and Literatures. It is the third year since the online group has evolved into a one-semester course, and teachers at FJU can receive a series of systematic training and

gain support from the community of the EMI workshop."

Globalization and technology have led to the popularization of bilingual education through different languages across the world. In December 2018, Taiwan released the Bilingual 2030 policy, which intends to facilitate bilingual learning conditions in Taiwan to enhance its advantages as a Mandarin-speaking nation in the global market. This education policy aims to spur Taiwan's internationalization, economics, and politics. English as a medium for instruction and communication, rather than a subject, has become a new focus for education.

In her report "EMI: A Growing Global Phenomenon," Julie Dearden, the director and founder of OXFORD EMI Training, has given the most well-known definition of English Medium Instruction: the use of the English language to teach academic subjects in countries or jurisdictions where the first language (L1) of the majority of the population is not English. Though the delivery of content, whole-class interaction, the learning materials, and the demonstration and assessment of learning

outcomes should be in English, an EMI class does not represent a 100% English environment. Despite the fact that English is used as the main tool in class, a small portion of other languages is allowed for developing interactions and idea generation.

As universities internationalize, the need for EMI courses is correspondingly rising. The EMI workshop aims to help teachers at FJU develop confidence in using English as a Medium of Instruction and acquire essential pedagogical skills to gain success in class. According to Professor Bellew, apart from introducing various applicable concepts and teaching skills in class, the workshop is designed to be very participatory. Participating teachers are encouraged to partake in activities in every meeting and also give teaching demonstrations. The sharing of different ideas and processes of participants' teaching inspires everyone, including the instructors involved.



The EMI Workshop. Photo by Josephine Cheng

The trend of EMI courses results in new challenges for EMI teachers and promoters of EMI training and classes. Professor

Sherri Wei said, "Over-preparing for the workshop could be an issue that brings about extra pressure for participating teachers. Often, the struggles come from psychological factors, so this workshop functions as community support to assist teachers with practicing English as a medium for instruction and boosting their confidence as EMI instructors. In addition, it takes time for teachers to find the balance between their expectations, their actual capacity, and students' proficiency level to make the class feasible."

Because teachers from distinctive departments with diverse professional backgrounds are recruited to join the next workshop, the workshop analyzes the needs of participants signing up for the EMI workshop at the beginning for a clear understanding of each individual. Additionally, the workshop is divided into modules with different themes, so teachers can select the modules they want to join.

The implementation of EMI courses on campus is still in the experimental phase. Professor Wei mentions the possibility of a collaboration between EMI teachers and general English teachers. Interdisciplinarity helps to enrich resources to fulfill different aspects of students' needs and to improve EMI learning outcomes. Additionally, with the increasing demand for and the utility of using English as a lingua franca for cross-culture international communication with non-English native speakers Professor Bellew suggests that being a good communicator will be a valuable skill to learn.

An Inevitable Fact:

What Difficulties Has the English Department at FJU Been Facing?

WRITTEN BY MONICA CHANG

According to the latest data from the University Entrance Examination and Placement Committee (UEC), the foreign language group has the highest shortage of 62.47% for undergraduate enrollment among all departments, which results in the language-related departments of public and private schools suffering from this severe shortage. Hence, there is an inevitable fact that the English Department at Fu Jen University has also been encountering a demanding enrollment crisis since this year.

Yun-Pi Yuan, an associate professor in the Fu Jen English department specializing in linguistics, language assessment, and remedial teaching, considers the hardships of student recruiting as a result of not only Taiwan's low birth rate but its political policy. As a result of Taiwan's opposition to China in recent years, there has been a gradual loss of exchange and international mainland Chinese students, which has influenced the number of overseas students in the English department. "Without adequate students, higher institutions encountering severe enrollment shortage is just a matter of time, even if the department's faculty and curriculum are already flawless," Professor Yuan said.

Although the total enrollment for BA admission was not affected harshly, Julie Lee, the secretary of the English department at FJU, explains that the quality of students is less satisfactory than in previous years. In the past, the department used oral exams to examine students at the individual application stage of the academic test to recruit students with a strong motivation for learning English

literature and language. Unfortunately, due to the decrease in the number of students who not only attended the college entrance exam but also decided to forgo studying foreign languages this year, fewer students were selected in the individual application stage than in previous years. Hence, the remaining vacancies in the FJU English department had to be filled with students from the second stage of the placement exam, meaning they may not be as enthusiastic as those who entered the first stage. Consequently, the number of students in the FJU English department is sufficient, but their quality is decreasing.

In addition to the issue of quantity and quality of enrollment, Julie further mentions the prejudice caused by the bilingual policy. "In my personal view, I regard the bias that Taiwanese believe studying in the English department is worthless since everyone can speak English by receiving compulsory education is the most prominent crisis we are facing now." To put it another way, learning English as a subject is ultimately different from treating it as a language. The skills that an English department can offer students are more than communicating

and composing in English, such as developing critical thinking, self-perspective, and teamwork. Thus, it is an urgent challenge to deepen high school students' understanding of the English department and motivate their interest in learning English literature and cultures.

To reverse prejudices about the English Department, Professor Yuan and secretary Julie both share how the department attempted to combine English literature with technology, business, and teaching so that students' future pathways can be more

diverse. In fact, according to Professor Yuan, such a strategy has already brought a significant effect on MA admission.

"During the interview for the master's degree program, some interviewees came here because they are interested in courses such as TESOL and Multimedia Instruction Track, which is currently the particular course offered only by Fu Jen English department," says Professor Yuan. "Therefore, what we can do now is to keep endeavoring to design courses that are exclusive in the English department."

Campus News

Voice of FJU: A Campus "DreamWorks"

WRITTEN BY JOLIN LIU

Voice of FJU begun in 2001 is a student-oriented Fu Jen Catholic University campus radio station, featuring an integrated and multi-modal format with podcasts and traditional radio shows. This multimodality allows students to pursue their dreams in mass communication fields by providing internship opportunities while incorporating new media forms.



A recording studio in Voice of FJU. Photo by Jolin Liu

Podcast is a more influential medium than radio today. Simply put, podcast is a term combining “iPod” and “Broadcast” that offers digital audio programs, which are available on the Internet so that people can listen to them anytime. Generally, podcasts are run by numerous podcasters who focus on a specific topic and niche market. However, the Voice of FJU merges the characteristics of these two media, and the public can enjoy the informative and amusing content conveniently and instantly by visiting the official website or just turning on the radio to FM88.5.

“Since senior high school, I have always wanted to realize my dream of creating my own podcast channel!” Regina, a veteran of Voice of FJU, said. She added, “After learning that Voice of FJU provides rich resources and complete professional radio equipment, I was eager to join this institution.” Yoyo Wu, a senior news department representative, who also finished all the rigorous training courses with Voice of FJU said, “I like to interact with people and have been interested in the mass media industry since senior high school. After attending the student recruitment promotion of this radio station, I found that the members are eloquent and have surpassing communication skills. So, I decided to submit my application and desire to be an intern at Voice of FJU.”

Voice of FJU provides students with internship opportunities to allow them to be closer to the “real” mass communication industry. This campus radio station welcomes all undergraduate students and

and invites them to join the group by holding the recruitment and selection. Voice of FJU is equipped with four professional departments, including programming, news, public relations, and engineering. The students are assigned to all four departments in rotation so that they experience different training, gain practical experiences and develop management skills.

First-year students mainly do the basic work, including special guest interviews, recordings, script writing, and program hosting. In the second year, students can realize their dream of being radio-makers. For example, Regina and her partners’ channel called “A Psychological Chamber Lives Three Landlords” focuses on dialoguing about kinship, love, and friendship. Yoyo and her partners’ “Hotteok & Tteokbokki Hot Pot,” shares and discusses the latest Korean trends, culture, and music. “Hotteok & Tteokbokki” refers to two Korean traditional cuisines because the creators hope the audience can “taste” everything in Korea by listening to their program.

Regina says the learning process at Voice of FJU is tough but meaningful, with challenges such as scheduling, made especially difficult during the pandemic, and the pressures of being a creator of her own channel. However, Regina said, “Indeed, we faced obstacles on the path, but I learned how to communicate effectively with people and became adaptable and adaptable and flexible through creating radio programs.”

For Yoyo, the Voice of FJU advances her communication skills. As a manager, she thinks the common difficulty is to organize work content for members and make semester curriculum plans with the deputy director. She said, "At first, I realized the radio station was not as wonderful as I thought it would be. But I think the tasks and even trivial stuff are a kind of training, which strengthens my social skills so that I can interact and cooperate well with interviewees and classmates."

As a campus radio station, Voice of FJU plays a crucial role in Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU). On the one hand, this campus radio station offers chances to the

students in the College of Communication to put what they learn into practice. On the other hand, it is a pipeline that provides opportunities for students from other departments to step into the mass media industry. Regina said that their channel can reach even high school students, and several applied to FJCU because of the Voice of FJU. For Yoyo, Voice of FJU is a goodwill ambassador for the reputation and image of FJCU. She said, "Usually, our guest speakers would say to others that they came to our university for interviews instead of indicating the name of the radio station. So, I think one of the core values of Voice of FJU is that it represents our university to some degree."

Breaking Ground in FJCU Student Organizations: The Korean Cultural Research Club

WRITTEN BY MANDY MOK

On September 25, 2022, the FJNews announced the establishment of the Korean Cultural Research Club (KCRC), the first student-led organization that features cultural studies at Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU). Created by students from the College of Foreign Language, KCRC aims to introduce Korean culture on campus and enhance FJCU students' awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of diverse cultures.

Over the last year, FJCU has had 90 registered student clubs and organizations. These extra-curricular activities empower students to explore diverse opportunities and a vibrant campus environment for self-development and camaraderie. *The New Abnormal* met with the club president Fan Yuntang, also one of the founders, to learn more about the club.

Fan Yuntang is a sophomore majoring in Japanese Language and Culture. "Last year,

I met a Korean friend studying Chinese at the Fu Jen Center of Chinese Language and Culture. We shared the ideas we brought from our culture and learned a lot from each other," said Fan. "It inspired me to start a club at FJCU to promote interaction and dialogue between Taiwanese and Korean cultures."

On September 29, the club held its first meeting at the Global Lounge in the CFLL Fr. Franz Giet Building. It attracted over 60

students to participate. The success of this first meeting has expanded the club's presence in FJCU.

"The KCRC offers a shared space on campus for K-wave lovers to communicate and bond with each other," said Fan.



The K-pop Night on November 09. Photo by Mandy Mok

K-wave (Korean Wave) refers to a cultural phenomenon of the emerging presence of South Korea in the worldwide entertainment market. Many teenagers in Taiwan are fascinated by K-pop music and idols, including Fan. She has been interested in Korean culture since junior high school. "At first, I was a K-pop fan," Fan said. "When I was watching Korean TV shows, I started to develop basic knowledge and understanding of South Korea. Then, I decided to study Korean culture and language in depth."

In recent years, K-wave has gradually risen to an unprecedented level. The explosive popularity of K-wave in Taiwan has been drawing FJCU students' interest in Korean culture, including food, fashion, and language. "I learned that there are quite a lot of FJCU students indulging in Korean

culture. The club is here for everyone to get in touch with campus-wide Korean culture lovers," said Fan. The club has already attracted 78 members in the second month of its establishment.

"Most importantly, we provide FJCU students with entertaining events blended with education purposes to gain a better, more comprehensive understanding of Korean culture," said Fan.

The KCRC designs activities that enable students to experience and explore different aspects of South Korea. Each Wednesday, the club members meet and host activities, including Korean cooking classes, Hanbok workshops, K-pop dance classes, and K-pop Nights.

Moreover, the club provides Korean language classes with native Korean teachers. Fan emphasized that the club takes responsibility for ensuring the quality of the lessons. Students can develop and equip themselves with Korean language skills and proficiency at Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced levels.

The club successfully held its first K-pop Night on November 9. It attracted 46 students to attend.

Tsai Chichming and Shermin Tan Yixuan are in their first year majoring in Medical Informatics and Innovative Applications, and Advertising and Public Relations, respectively.

Tsai Chichming and Shermin Tan Yixuan

are in their first year majoring in Medical Informatics and Innovative Applications, and Advertising and Public Relations, respectively. They have been fascinated with K-pop since they were young. Tsai and Tan enjoyed the K-pop Night; they appreciated the club's efforts in bringing

them together and organizing activities to engage them with in-depth knowledge of Korean culture and language. "I enjoy the open and welcoming environment of the club. I believe this is not only a club for K-Wave lovers but also for all students at FJCU," Tsai said.

Obituary: Cardinal Paul Yu-Pin

WRITTEN BY EMMANUELLE MINOUNGOU

Cardinal Paul Yu Pin, born on April 13, 1901, and died on August 16, 1978, was one of the most famous religious men to stand against the communist domination of China. From Taiwan, he fought during his lifetime not only to bring souls to God but also to help the needy to escape oppression in China by siding up with Taiwan's leader of the time.

Cardinal Paul Yu Pin was a devoted servant of God who dedicated his life to the service of God. Called the voice of the wild in homage to John the Baptist, Cardinal Paul Yu Pin was known for his love for the gospel. From 1946, the cardinal served God in China until the end of the new communist regime in 1949.

Forced to leave the country because of the rise of communism, he was exiled to the United States, where he dedicated himself to helping Chinese Americans and raised funds to help refugees from communist China who resettled in Taiwan, where Fu Jen Catholic University made him Rector Magnifico and president until 1978. In 1923, Yu entered Rome Communication University to study philosophy and theology. He learned to speak more than 10 languages. On 22 December 1928, he became an ordained priest.

In 1959, Pope John XXIII asked him to work

toward rebuilding Fu Jen in Taiwan. The third Catholic Institute of Higher Education in China closed in 1950 when its rector priest was arrested by communist authorities. Since then, he worked hard to make Fu Jen great in Taiwan where his status has been sculpted and placed near the main entrance of the University. His personal belongings have been kept previously in the FUHO museum where students can learn about him.

The FUHO History Office contains a Memorial Hall to Cardinal Paul Yu pin where his talent and contributions to the country and church are commemorated through some of his displayed relics.

After working at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan, he was more and more determined to rescue refugees from China. He was one of Chiang Kai-Shek's closest advisors, and never missed an opportunity to address the issue of communism to any

potential helper. He attended the second Vatican Council from 1962 to 1965.

In April 1969, he was honored as the cardinal priest of Gesu Divin Lavoratore by Pope Paul VI. Upon his resignation as Fu Jen's rector in August 1976, he became the first director of Dharma Realm Buddhist University's Institute for World Religion.

He was also appreciated for his good deeds. Sister Maryta Laumann, a German missionary who has been in Taiwan for over 50 years and also called the mother of textile and clothing said, "He was a remarkable person, ready to risk it all to help others. To him, all lives mattered, and all souls were important." He has done so much for the population that his anniversary remained celebrated over the years.



Paul Yu-Pin Statue. Photo by Emmanuelle Minoungou

Cardinal Tien Ken-Sin: Achievement

WRITTEN BY EMMANUELLE MINOUNGOU

Cardinals are the most senior bishops in the Catholic Church. They are chosen by the Pope, and their duty is to divide the leadership of the various departments of the Holy See and the essential parishes of the world. Cardinal Thomas Tien Ken-Sin was a remarkable individual who excelled in his duty as a man of God; he worked hard to help people in need by helping build shelters, hospitals, and convents. From 1918 to 1969, he achieved great things.

Cardinal Tien Ken-Sin is the first Chinese Catholic cardinal before cardinal Paul Yu-pin. Born in 1890 in Zhangqiu Town, Yanggu County, Shandong Province, Tien's father died when he was really young. After his baptism at the age of 11, he first studied in a small monastery and continued his studies later at a bigger monastery in Polli village, Yanggu. His

ordination as a priest occurred On 9 June 1918, in the Church of the Holy Spirit, which was the cathedral for the Bishop of Yanzhou.

Cardinal Tien is well known for his devotion to God and the Holy Church. His love and fight for the greatness of the church allowed him to achieve great things. He was

part of the diocese of Juye located in Yutai, Wenshang. As he scrimped to keep the churches running, the economic conditions of churches improved consecutively. His strategy of knowing what the people needed in order to provide help was to mingle with the locals, and he was appreciated for his humility and compassion towards others.

In 1929, Tien Ken-Sin entered the Holy Speech Society, where he studied for two years. He vowed to become a member of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and serve all his life which he also accomplished.

As a member of the Society of Divine Word, his mission was precious and valued to his heart. He went to Jiexiang, Yuncheng, and other areas to do missionary work in 1931. In 1934 (said in 1933), he was appointed by the Holy See as the supervisor of Yanggu Parish in Shandong Province. In 1939, Tien was promoted to vicar and head bishop of Yanggu.

On November 29 of the same year, he was consecrated as a bishop by Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Basilica. The next year, he founded the Sisters of Our Lady of China in Chaocheng County, Yanggu Diocese, which was a rare order founded by Chinese people at that time. The establishment of the Sisters of Our Lady had been followed by the construction of the parish on which he worked day and night, and he always went there to teach regularly.

In 1942, Tien was appointed bishop of the

Qingdao Diocese in Shandong Province. Then in 1945, the Pope appointed him the first Cardinal of the Far East.

On 18 February 1946, he was approved in St. Peter's Basilica, but concerned about the status of the Chinese Church in the universal church, Tien advised the Pope to establish a Chinese hierarchy to improve the Chinese Church's status. As his request was approved, the Pope appointed Tien as the Archbishop of Peiping on April 11, 1946, and the hierarchy of the Chinese church was soon established after that.



Statue of Tien Ken-Sin. Photo by Emmanuelle Minoungou

In Taiwan, Tien worked hard to achieve establishment of the Saint Joseph convent with the ICM sisters from Belgium in 1959.

The convent aimed to help the poor and bring medical assistance to people.

The sisters set up a dispensary on Da Pu Street in Taipei City, providing medical care and medication to people in need. Cardinal Tien as well connected helped the sisters to bring the convent to reality, after which they established the Saint Joseph Hospital on Dong Yuan Street two years later and continued supporting the poor. On May 1, 1962, the hospital was inaugurated. Its main purpose was to serve mothers and children, as the number of premature newborns in Taiwan was high. From April 1960 to December 1967, he was the Chair of the Board of Trustees; at Fu Jen Catholic University.

He participated in building and establishing Saint Thomas Seminary in Taiwan and

GengXin Hospital. He also assisted in the restoration of Fu Jen University and became its President. The University built and named a building after the cardinal Tien Ken-Sin as tribute, a homage to him and his achievements. His impact on his community and society resulted in continuing his legacy. A memorial hall was established in Chiayi as a commemoration 20 years after his death. A hospital was built and named after him to remind us of his commitment to helping the poor and effectively providing health care.

On 24 July 1967, Cardinal Tien Ken-Sin passed away at St. Martin's Hospital of the Sisters of Our Lady of China in Chiayi, Taiwan. He was buried at the metropolitan cathedral in Taipei and later transferred to the Cardinal Tien Memorial Chapel at the SVD mission station in Chiayi.

The Nationwide Singing Contest: Chin Yun Cyan Rhyme

WRITTEN BY ANNALISE LIN

Singing has always been one way for human beings to relax and express their emotions and thoughts. From small choirs to big competitions, singing plays an important role in people's daily life. Speaking of competition, there are many famous singing competitions held by college students in Taiwan, including GoldenMelody held by NCCU, FengYun Awards by FCU, and Jing Shaow Awards by TKU. These competitions not only help students express their own feelings, but also help the music industry grow since several celebrities made their debut in these competitions.

Aside from the competitions mentioned above, there is also a singing contest held by Fu Jen Catholic University called Chin Yun Cyan Rhyme. It is also a famous and nationwide competition that started its history in 1977. It used to be a campus-only contest but then evolved into a

countrywide one with the help of the Acoustic Guitar Club in 2014. Over the past few years, the crew has also added different types of activities such as workshops related to music-making and singing skills, and bizarre, which brings in more participants. In 2016, there were 125 teams

in total participating in the competition; however, in 2020, there were 264 teams participating, which is indeed a great improvement. This year, the CEO of the Chin Yun Rhyme, Zi an Kuo, said in an online interview that the purpose of the contest is to provide opportunities for people who love music to perform on a well-designed stage. Many people who love to sing find no place to perform and show other people their passion to music, but Cyan Rhyme gives them a chance to do it. One of the participants, Travis Li, reveals that this year is his first time performing on an official and professional stage. "I have learned to play guitar for many years, but I never had a chance to perform on a stage before. This year, one of my friends who is good at singing invited me to come and join the competition, and that's why I am here and also glad to be here."

Chin Yun Cyan Rhyme is famous for its storytelling of presenting the topics. "This year's competition consisted of three stages, and we used sequential storytelling to present our topic. For example, the first stage is an open audition for a music demo. People can sign up for the competition and upload their singing recording segment on StreetVoice, a music platform, and the judges will go and check it. In this section, the crew promotes the contest by videotaping a story about a girl who participates in the competition alone to pursue her dream," said Kuo. The remaining stages are preliminary and final. In these two sections, the crew pushes the story forward by releasing the other two videos about how the girl bravely stands

and performs on the stage and even meets new friends who are also in love with music and sings happily together in the end. "I think the concept is really interesting and realistic," said Li, "I did make friends through this contest, and they also invited me to join another singing contest with them. The most important thing I learned through this competition is that winning is never the point of participating in this game. The treasurable memory and enjoyable process of preparing and performing on stage are way more important."



Chin Yun Cyan Rhyme. Photo by Annalise Lin

"From the very beginning, we have encountered many difficulties. The schedule is very tight, and we missed some of the sponsor projects that ended earlier than the previous year due to the pandemic," said Kuo. The pandemic severely affects their competition in three aspects. The first one is in what mode they should hold the contest, online or physically. The second one is how to remain fair if the contest is held online because the differences between the equipment will definitely make difference in the quality of recordings. The third one is how to attract people's attention and promote

competition in such an unfortunate situation.

As the CEO of the 45th Cyan Rhyme, Kuo said in relief that he felt extremely stressed during the process of preparing for the competition, but he was glad that the competition ended up holding physically and everything went well and all the participants seemed to be satisfied and enjoy the whole contest. "We have spent lots of time preparing and asking for help from many people like school sisters and brothers. The big success of the Cyan

Rhyme is not only by our crew members' effort, but I also want to thank the teachers, sponsors, school sisters and brothers for giving me a chance to be in this position and supporting us whenever we have troubles. Also, this contest will not succeed if there were no participants. As a result, I also want to thank all the participants for coming and joining the game." said Kuo.

The history of Chin Yun Cyan Rhyme will pass on and always welcome people who love music and give themselves a chance to show their passion for singing.

Interactive Self-Learning Activities on EngNet of FJCU

WRITTEN BY JOSEPHINE CHENG

The Interactive Self-Learning activities on EngNet play a significant role in helping students at FJCU to continue improving their English through Cloud Chatroom and Cloud writing room online, regardless of their professions.

The Cloud Chatroom provides free English conversation classes for students at FJU to practice their oral English skills online. This English-speaking meeting is usually held as a one-to-one or one-to-two for students to have enough opportunities to speak English. Students can choose the time slot according to their schedules and the teacher they would like to have a class with by themselves. In addition, the instructors are of different cultural backgrounds and have different teaching styles. Hence, students can choose a suitable teacher and the content they feel interested in discussing in class. Teachers are willing to adjust the course according to student's interests and needs, enabling students to explore distinctive themes and see how

English is more than a subject, but a tool for different fields and aspects.

The reward system of self-learning points motivates students to complete the learning task continuously. Students who succeed in collecting 500 points can get a bonus of 5000NT dollars.

"The Cloud Chatroom breaks the limit of space and time, which allows me to engage in the English speaking practice wherever and whenever I want. these applications, I realized that these applications change I see the strength of online classes, particularly during the pandemic. I don't need to risk my safety and spend time on the road to head for the classroom. This

helps me save my time and energy, making it easier to persist in practicing," said Charlotte Tsai, a Nursing major student at FJU.

In addition, EngNet has the Cloud Writing Room, which provides instruction and feedback on students' English writing.

Students can choose the genre and the topic of their article. Once they finish their work and upload their tasks to the Cloud Chatroom, they will receive corrections and suggestions from teachers. If students have further questions about writing, they can book a time to consult the writing instructors for extra guidance.

"I like that I can choose which theme I feel the need to explore in class. For example, if I need to write an English email letter but don't know what to do, I can propose my specific request and will get help from Cloud Writing Room," said Charlotte Tsai. "Cloud Writing Room also assists Students with the writing tests for TOEFL and IELTS. Therefore, I am glad to see that we have a place where we can get help with the abundant resources."

Cloud Chatroom and Cloud Writing Room are just two of the two activities included in Interactive Self Learning on EngNet.

For instance, the Fun Pack activities are held as games to add fun to students' learning journeys. By breaking through different challenges, students get rewarded with extra self-learning points. Moreover, the games unfold based on various types of themes, including science, myths, astronomy so on and so forth. The creative form of learning deepens students' impressions of what they have learned.

"Fun Pack activities use many visual auxiliaries to extend our time of paying attention. The learning process is very participatory. I feel energized rather than exhaustive by attending this form of activity," said Ann Lin.

Nowadays, with the trend of combining technology with education and the impact of the pandemic, online learning has become a prevailing and even a norm for students' studies. Many students agree that activities on EngNet usher in more possibilities for gaining success in their English learning. Though many projects are still not very well-known by teachers and students on campus, the significance of interactive self-learning activities is getting more noticeable, especially, during the pandemic and the promotion of a bilingual learning environment in Taiwan resulting from globalization.

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