



05/2015

PROFILE 人

A Bridge Between Two Cultures

— An Interview with Dr. Lu Xiaohong,
Chinese Director of UCACI

The Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas¹ (UCACI) was established in 2008 as a joint effort between the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) and East China Normal University (ECNU). Its mission is to promote Chinese language and culture, and to enhance communication as well as cooperation between Chinese and American institutions. At present, it is the only Confucius Institute in the state of Arkansas. Students from all across the state come to learn Chinese at UCACI, and the number of students learning Chinese has steadily increased since 2008, when only five schools in Arkansas had a Chinese language program. As of 2014, this number has grown to twenty.

On December 7-8, 2014, the 9th Global Confucius Institute Conference was held in Xiamen, China. At the opening ceremony of the conference, ECNU was presented with the Outstanding Confucius Institute Chinese Partner Award for its contribution to the development of Confucius Institutes. Student reporters from *ECNU Circle* had the opportunity to interview Dr. Lu Xiaohong, the Chinese Director of UCACI, upon her return to Shanghai.

Dr. Kimbrell, Commissioner of Arkansas Department of Education awarded Dr. Lu Xiaohong "Arkansas Traveler" certificate issued by Governor and Secretary of State.

ECNU Circle: What have you achieved since you were appointed Chinese Director of the UCA Confucius Institute in 2012?

Professor Lu: As the Chinese Director from ECNU, my main responsibility is to promote Chinese language and culture in Arkansas, and to build a bridge for academic and cultural exchange between ECNU and UCA. Arkansas is located in the southern region of the United States, known for the natural beauty of its forestry and lakes. Agriculture was and still is a major part of the state's economy. People there are very nice but also rather conservative. Before UCACI was established, very few schools offered Chinese language classes, and qualified Chinese teachers were in great

shortage. Not many people knew much about China and Chinese culture. So we started cooperating with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and local schools to implement a Teaching Chinese in Arkansas program. Through this program, qualified Hanban² Chinese teachers are selected, trained and sent to local schools in Arkansas, providing kids the opportunity to learn Chinese and experience Chinese culture. Because of the contribution that UCACI has made, the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas Education Commission, and various school districts have expressed

much gratitude to UCACI and the Hanban Chinese teachers. Hanban Chinese teachers are recognized as Ambassadors to Arkansas and are awarded a special certificate, "Arkansas Traveler," which is issued by the Governor and the Secretary of State in recognition of the teachers' distinguished accomplishments. In 2013, along with 18 Hanban Chinese teachers, I had the honor of accepting this certificate from the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. We then went to the State Legislature Assembly to be recognized by the legislators at the State Capitol in Little Rock³, and received a standing ovation⁴ from all the senators and representatives present.

E: In the past two years, what challenges did you have at work? How did you solve them?

L: As I have just mentioned, traditionally Arkansas is a conservative and agricultural state. In Arkansas public schools, quite a lot of students are from low-income families. There are some misconceptions and concerns about learning Chinese. Many kids hold the view that Chinese is difficult to learn and China is such a remote country that they may never have the chance to visit China or use Chinese in their lifetime. The school districts' perspective is that foreign language is not a required course in Arkansas. It is not the school districts' priority to add a Chinese program to their curriculum, especially when they have a very tight budget. And besides, it is totally up to students to decide whether they will take a foreign language class or which foreign language they will learn. Therefore, we need to do a lot of work to promote the Chinese program so as to increase the enrollment of students in Chinese language courses. We talk with superintendents and school principals to put a Chinese program in their agenda. We believe this will help prepare their students to be world citizens in an increasingly diverse world, and enable students to function effectively in a changing

global community. For today's students, Mandarin⁵ is so much more than a class. It's a key that will unlock a future filled with cross-cultural connections. We use examples of well-known companies in Arkansas to promote Mandarin teaching—for instance, Wal-mart. As we know, Arkansas is the home state of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., the largest retailer in the world. We tell the students that if they can speak Chinese and know something about Chinese culture, they will have an advantage when they enter college and the job market as Walmart has over 400 unities in China. Other companies in Arkansas like Acxiom and Tyson Foods also have operations in China.

Some students don't want to take Chinese class because they feel it is too difficult to learn. We then tell them some success stories to build up their confidence. One example is the founder of Facebook, Mark Elliot Zuckerberg, who made a speech in Tsinghua University not long ago. During a 30-minute interview, he used only Chinese to communicate with the host. We shared this video with students to encourage them to learn Chinese. Furthermore, we also organize cultural activities and summer camps in China in the hopes of getting students interested in Chinese culture, which may in turn spark the development of a desire to learn Chinese.

UCACI held Chinese cultural activities at high school. Students were fascinated at the Chinese musical instruments.

E: Some western scholars call Confucius Institutes the “Trojan Horse” of China’s cultural invasion. What is your opinion?

UCACI held a series of Chinese cultural events at the local library for people to experience.

E: The UCA Confucius Institute offers Chinese classes and cultural activities to the local communities and schools at different levels. How does that work?

L: I would say it is a win-win operation. The UCA Confucius Institute works with the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at UCA to strengthen its existing Chinese Minor program by offering the Confucius Institute Scholarship, language immersion programs, and Chinese cultural activities open to the UCA community. We also offer Chinese classes to UCA faculty and staff.

We cooperate with local school districts, setting up Chinese language classes in elementary and secondary schools. It benefits the local children to begin learning a foreign language as early as possible. Through their communications with Chinese teachers, American kids can learn more about China. In collaboration with the local libraries, we have organized a variety of lectures and cultural

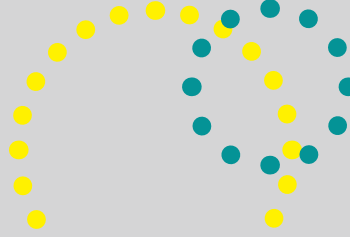
activities for local residents, such as music, dance, acrobatics⁷, martial arts, calligraphy, painting, and so on. On September 27, 2014, the first “Confucius Institute Day” was celebrated across the world. It was also UCA’s Family Day. So Confucius Institute Day and UCA Family Day were combined, a perfect blend of Chinese culture and American culture. Alumni⁸, parents and kids from the community were invited to the event. We had many hands-on cultural activities for kids to experience as well as performances, exhibits, and artifacts for visitors to see, and it was really a brand new experience for most of the participants. The Confucius Institute is, so to speak, a bridge between two different cultures, and it contributes to the diversity of the university and the local community.

L: Cultural exchange is a two-way street. The influence of one culture on the other is mutual. Take the Hanban Chinese teachers for example. When they arrive in America, they must get training from the Arkansas Department of Education and interact with the local residents. During this period, they go through a process of cultural shock and eventual cultural adjustment. They will begin to develop a more culturally diverse and tolerant attitude. By taking the training and teaching in a real classroom setting in the United States, these teachers’ methods and conceptions of educational theory get updated, helping to develop their professional skills. While teaching in local schools, teachers need to understand the school culture and conform their teaching behaviors to school regulations. Most of the local kids have never met Chinese teachers before, nor have they learned much about Chinese culture. Through the direct contact with the Chinese teachers or the cultural activities held in their schools, the students gradually begin to show an interest in learning more about Chinese culture, the daily lives of ordinary Chinese people, and China in general. Therefore, I think Confucius Institutes enhance the mutual understanding on both sides.

E: What can we learn from other cultural institutions such as the Goethe Institute⁹, founded by the German government, and the Alliance Française¹⁰, founded by the French government?

L: Both the Goethe Institute and the Alliance Française were established much earlier than Confucius Institutes. We learn from them in many aspects. Michael Kahn-Ackermann, the former director of Goethe Institute China, is now the senior consultant of Confucius Institutes. He is often invited to give lectures at the Confucius Institute Conference and workshops held for the Chinese directors regarding issues related to language and culture promotion. At its inception, Goethe Institutes promoted German culture chiefly by teaching the German language. It then paid equal attention to language teaching and cross-cultural communication. Finally, it became an efficient platform for cultural exchange. This is also the road we aim to take. It is a trend for Confucius Institutes to gradually attach more importance to cultural exchanges. Like the Goethe Institutes with Germany, we are making efforts to build a colorful image of China and to provide a platform for multilevel cultural and academic exchanges.

E: What are the exchanges and methods of cooperation between the UCA Confucius Institute and other Confucius Institutes in America?



L: The Consulate General¹¹ of the People's Republic of China in Houston has given great support to the development of Confucius Institutes in the southern region of America. Annually, its Education Office organizes and sponsors the Confucius Institute Director Conference for the Southern Region to discuss and facilitate further development and cooperation. We also attend the North American Confucius Institute Joint Conference¹² to discuss the development and challenges currently facing Confucius Institutes. In addition, the Confucius Institutes can submit a joint application to Hanban to co-host tour performance and lectures.

E: Do you think the more Confucius Institutes, the better? What should Confucius Institutes do to retain Chinese learners?

Dr. Lu accompanied Chinese Ambassador in the United States Ambassador Cui Tiankai on his visit to Little Rock in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Clinton Presidential Center.

L: There are about 475 Confucius Institutes around the world as of the end of 2014. There is still a long list of universities and institutions waiting for the Confucius Institute Headquarters to approve their application. The Confucius Institute is not simply a Chinese language school, but a unique institution that exists to promote Chinese culture and academic exchange. Each Confucius Institute has its own strengths. Some focus on Chinese medicine, some have a specialization in Chinese opera, and some even become convenient business platforms. Only when the Confucius Institute becomes part of the university or the institution and integrates itself into the strategic development of the university can it maintain sustainable development. Thus, what matters is not the quantity but the quality.

Hanban has initiated some projects and programs to retain Chinese learners. For example, the China Study Program provides scholarships and financial support to qualified candidates who wish to pursue doctoral research in China. To attract the interest of high school students, Hanban organizes summer camp programs in China to give them a chance to be immersed¹³ in Chinese language and culture. Moreover, they can continue their Chinese language learning at the college level. At UCA,

UCACI invited Dr. Steve Runge, Executive Vice President and Provost (right 2, back), Ms. Laura Young, Vice President (right 3, back), and Ms. Jane Ann Williams, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost (right 3, front) from UCA to the Welcome Reception for new Hanban Chinese teachers. Dr. Guo-ou Zhuang, Director of UCACi (right 1, back). Dr. Lu Xiaohong, Chinese Director of UCACI (left 1)

for instance, we see some students who learned Chinese in high school choosing to take on a Chinese minor in college.

E: What qualifications should a Chinese instructor have to teach in America?

L: First, the instructors should be able to adjust to a new living environment. Many small towns in America do not have public transportation. Teachers have to learn to manage these cultural differences and live independently. Second, they should have effective cross-cultural communication skills. They should have an open mind and be able to communicate with parents, school administrators, colleagues, and other community members to learn more about local and school culture so as to teach Chinese effectively. Third, teachers should have strong classroom management skills and be able to engage

the students in learning. What challenges instructors is the classroom management aspect. They should try to make class fun and attract students to the class by organizing meaningful learning activities. Finally, they should be able to promote the Chinese program in the school to enroll more students into available Chinese classes.

E: How will the Confucius Institutes influence the internationalization of domestic universities and enhance the international recognition of ECNU?

L: As each Confucius Institute is partnered with a Chinese University or educational institution, its presence contributes greatly to the internationalization of the domestic university through the academic exchange programs that Confucius Institute sponsors. For example, UCA students can apply for the Confucius Institute Scholarship to study at ECNU. In addition, we organize the Arkansas Education Leadership Group, which visits ECNU and other universities in order to strengthen the cooperation between Chinese and U.S. exchange programs. These visits will surely enhance ECNU's recognition and reputation. As a result of the positive impetus of the UCA Confucius Institute, for the first time, the biennial World Short Story Conference, which used to be held in Europe and North America, will be held in Shanghai in 2016. ECNU will be working with the organizing committee to host the conference. World famous writers, including both Pulitzer Prize Winners and emerging writers, will be invited to the conference. I am sure it will be a great hit in 2016.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Arkansas: n. (美国) 阿肯色州 | 9. Goethe Institute: 歌德学院 |
| 2. Hanban: 国家汉办, 孔子学院总部 | 10. Alliance Française: 法语联盟 |
| 3. Little Rock (美国) 小石城 | 11. consulate general: 总领事馆 |
| 4. ovation: n. 鼓掌, 喝彩 | 12. North American Confucius Institute Joint Conference: 北美孔子学院联席会 |
| 5. Mandarin: n. 普通话 | |
| 6. salon: n. 沙龙 | |
| 7. acrobatics: n. 杂技 | 13. immersed: adj. 沉浸于 |
| 8. alumni: n. 校友 (alumnus 的复数) | 14. impetus: n. 推动 |

With some questions regarding the education mode of Meng Xiancheng College, we fortunately seized the opportunity to interview Wu Wei, the Secretary of the Party Committee of Meng Xiancheng College.

Wuwei: Meng Xiancheng College Makes a Difference



ECNU Circle: What is the original intent of Meng Xiancheng College?

Wuwei: Meng Xiancheng College aims to initiate a creative mode of cultivation¹ by providing students with the so-called second classroom, which differs from the first classroom but enriches the contents of it. We try to put students in a community in which they live and study together and strengthen the interaction between themselves and their counselors. In the meantime, students can form good habits and study in an academic

E: And could you tell us more about the Meng Xiancheng College’s mode of cultivation?

W: On the one hand, counselors and mentors are arranged according to the specific majors of the students to assist their development. Counselors and mentors not only give instructions for their present study and life on campus, but also care for their coming future. On the other



a convenient platform to share different ideas. And exchange students will be sent to the Chinese University of Hong Kong next summer.

E: Do you think the college is going to be popular among Chinese universities?

W: Colleges are getting increasingly concerned and as I have mentioned above, it is a creative cultivation which could contribute to the reform of the undergraduate education. Indeed, it is beneficial to college education but one is supposed to initialize his or her own way not to merely copy others' success. In fact, we just pursue a change, a reform, and a new way to give impetus to the development and optimization of the undergraduate education, so it doesn't matter if you do not mean to establish a college.

E: Do you think our young students will find it is hard to find a job?

W: In my opinion, ECNU is one of the best teaching universities in our country. With our elaborate cultivation and our own diligence and intelligence, I think our young teachers will be the most competitive job hunters.

E: Why do some graduates fail to get a satisfactory job? Are they lacking in some characteristics?

W: I always contend that people will provide you with good jobs if you are skilled enough while you have to beg others for a job if you are not well-prepared. Some students are lazy and they do not try to enrich their lives or enhance their capacities. Obviously, they will feel regretful when they finally step out the ivory tower and confront the society.

Students should be engaged in all-round development in universities, which means to get good academic results and master some communication skills. Only with high IQ and EQ can one be guaranteed a good future and as an ECNUer, students are supposed to be strict with themselves.

E: Our interview is coming to an end, and do you have something to say to students in Meng Xiancheng College?

W: I hope students can improve step by step in the learning atmosphere which is carefully built for them. In addition, learning is still the dominant⁵ task in college life and students have to balance the efforts spent on study and after-class activities. And students should be charismatic⁶ not only in their performances but also in their outlooks, which means they should learn to restrain themselves. Finally, I wish everyone could live with love in Meng Xiancheng College, in the schools and in ECNU. I think students will treasure the precious time in college because it is bound to be one of the most indelible periods in their lives.

- 1. cultivation: n.
- 2. intrinsic: adj.
- 3. indelible: adj.
- 4. obligation: n.
- 5. dominant: adj.
- 6. charismatic: adj.

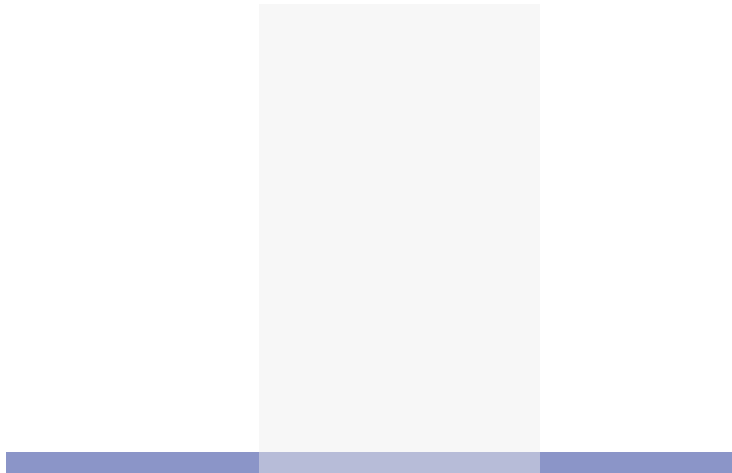


Huo Zhenglong

is a sophomore in the School of Communication in our university, majoring in Broadcasting Science.

On our first meeting, we are immediately impressed by his modesty and sincerity, and when he talks about his studies and his plan for the future, he looks very confident and persistent.

Every year there are new hosts coming onto the stage, but only few of them can survive and shine on the stage and the TV screen. “Good hosts can be more valuable when they grow older. While you are young, it is the high time for you to enrich yourself through your hard work. And that is how you can stand out from all of the other hosts and keep shining on the stage.” In addition, Huo Zhenglong mentions that those successful hosts are not necessarily those who major in broadcasting in college. Many of them majored in journalism, economics, and international affairs. They become hosts for all kinds of reasons and they can be very good at some certain areas. Therefore, broadcasting



Huo Zhenglong also has his own idol: Cui Yongyuan. And he thinks highly of Cui’s Talk show. He thinks Cui is a smart and humorous host, and from his debate with Fang Zhouzi, people can tell that he is very enthusiastic for the truth. Also, people never get bored with his shows. These are the qualities that Huo Zhenglong wants in order to be a good host. “My family loves his shows. It is quite admirable to make a talk show so popular for people of all ages.” Speaking of his idol, Huo has a lot of words of praise. “These years, Cui turned from CCTV to we-media⁶, which displays his wisdom. Also he always speaks with a sense of art.”

In addition, among all the famous hosts he has contacted, Cao Kefan impresses him most. “When I take part in the Shanghai Literature and Art Award Festival, I have the honor to see him host the festival. Since most of the honored guests do not show in the rehearsal⁷, there is no way to know what the award-winning guests will say. But during the festival, Cao shows himself as a master through controlling and leading the conversation.” Huo Zhenglong says that the most significant feature Cao has is

“stability.” That is not what one can get just through a short time of practice. Therefore, Huo Zhenglong really appreciates the opportunities to contact famous hosts. He says, “Broadcasting is a major that needs a lot of practice. What we learn in school are only the most basic things. If you want to be a good host, you must have more experience and see and learn by yourself.” He suggests that students majoring in broadcasting should always seize the opportunities to practice and improve themselves.

Huo Zhenglong tells us that at the end of the semester he is making a program by himself. This includes designing the whole program, deciding the content of the program, finding the relative videos and music and editing them. “After we finish this program, I am sure we can learn a lot of things.”

Besides the professional learning, Huo also has a lot of hobbies like playing basketball, billiards⁸, erhu, and percussion. “All my three roommates in my dormitory happen to be basketball fans, so we can get together and play from time to time.” It is not only for killing time, but also for broadening the knowledge and preparing to be a host. Because of his love for sports, Huo Zhenglong wants to be a sports commentator. “However, it is too early to decide what I want to do in the future. The most important thing now is to enrich myself. Of course I will make some preparations from now, such as learning some professional sports knowledge and rules of sports games. Furthermore, I will watch and learn from some of the sports programs, and learn the ways they design and broadcast programs.”

It is not easy to be a successful host. The broadcasting major has become popular these years, but where there is an opportunity, there are also challenges. About this, Huo Zhenglong’s opinion is that nowadays few hosts are needed in a program and a good host can have a pretty long career. In addition, new hosts are coming up every day. Therefore, if you want to achieve and keep a place on the stage, you need to create your own style that can catch audience’s attention. But most importantly, you must have enough knowledge in your mind./

- 1. disseminate v.
- 2. internship n.
- 3. non-linear adj.
- 4. Fist of Power n.
- 5. clench v.
- 6. we-media n.
- 7. rehearsal n.
- 8. billiards n.

A Brand-New Start For The 21st Century School of Talents

Perhaps you cannot pin out the 21st Century School of Talents on an ECNU campus map. It is not so well-known and even gets a nickname as “Secret Intelligence Service in ECNU”. However, this school boasts a history of 20 years and has cultivated 1,069 elite students with its one-year program. In this issue’s *ECNU Life*, we will take you on the discovering journey of the 21st Century School of Talents.

It is a typical scene on such a freezing January morning that students on Zhongbei campus wrapped themselves up in down jackets or thick trench¹ coats. By contrast, the scene you see here is that 200 boys and girls dressed up in formal suits or nice skirts as if they were welcoming the spring. With a stack of resumes in hand, they were pacing around anxiously with a wish that their turn was coming soon.

These students are the candidates waiting for the final interview of the 21st Century School of Talents of ECNU, in which they will be divided into several groups to conduct a 20-minute group discussion and present a brief report of their discussion results to three judges who are experienced supervisors from various academic departments in ECNU. Out of over 400 applicants only 70 to 80 can survive the interview and be admitted.

Liu Jian, the candidate from Philosophy Department was given a discussion topic about how managers should deal with the scientific research funds. Although she felt a bit nervous waiting for the interview, she reassured herself that her logical thinking

and fluent expression would help her stand out² among those candidates and win her an admission ticket.

Liu has got a decent reason applying for such a program. The 21st Century School of Talents, founded in 1994, has cultivated 1,069 elites among whom are some famous alumni such as Hong Qinghua, the founder of LüMaMa.com. The one-year program is not only open to third-year and fourth-year undergraduates but also to first-year and second-year graduates. The program provides all the participants

with opportunities to expose themselves to the up-to-date information of various academic fields, sharing the insights of the renowned experts and making field trips all over China.

Inspiration by Interdisciplinarity³

Founders of the 21st Century School of Talents have been applying the concept of interdisciplinarity into practice, although it was still a novelty 20 years ago. Such innovative practice has brought immense benefits to its participants. Ms. Mao Yingping, Vice President of Shanghai Beijiao Senior High School, is one of the beneficiaries. As an English

major, she listened to around 30 lectures covering various topics ranging from science and technology to arts, humanities and business.

“Thanks to the science lectures, I realized that mathematics can be so beautiful,” she said. “If the theories of possibility are put into application in a proper way, if the overall planning is guaranteed, the work efficiency can be greatly enhanced and the odds of success are quite likely to increase.” Moreover, for those art-major students, mathematics is perhaps just an optional⁴ course. So the science lectures provided by the School of Talents might be the only chance for them to

explore the beauty of maths.

The training and knowledge Ms. Mao got from the program helps her win a competent and rewarding career. “Nowadays, people are aware of the fact that highly qualified teachers are expected to be versatile⁵ apart from being masters at their own academic fields.” In the student-teacher conversations, topics are no longer confined to the teachers’ academic fields as students’ interests vary from person to person. “You will leave a deep impression on your students, if you can get involved in the discussion of their interests or give a sharp and wise comment on their opinions.” Mao said.

The 21st Century School of Talents

Back in 1990s, only those students with excellent academic performance were granted the chance to apply for the School of Talents. Today, every student can have a try. Among them are future science researchers, student leaders and volunteers. Even if you are an average student with a particular skill, you may also get an opportunity to attend the interview.

“The 21st Century School of Talents is a must-have,” said Xue Yinshen and Zhu Jiayi. They are the fresh graduates of the School of Talents. Apart from their impressive academic performance, they are also leaders of Student Unions and debating clubs. Although the number of applicants admitted is on the increase each year, the threshold⁶ of the selection is getting higher and the interview is growing tougher.

In Xue’s interview, one of the three judges was Mr. Pan Liang, who was then the Minister of Student Affairs Department. After a brief report of their group discussion, they waited anxiously for the judges’ comments. Contrast to their good feelings, Mr. Pan’s comment, though accurate, sounded a bit harsh. He reminded them of the fact that their report ran five minutes

When Talents Come Across

overtime. Worse still, he was still confused with their points of views and needed further clarification. At that moment, Xue picked up the courage to explain and defend their arguments. “I think I would have been eliminated from the interview were it not for my final statement,” he said.

The fate of a narrow escape from elimination also falls on Zhu in a more dramatic way. He was the last person to make the presentation in his group. Although his group members have all agreed on the division of the presentation, he found his teammates covered his part in their own presentations, which left Zhu nothing new

to talk about. He was driven to the corner. “I was only able to wrap up what my group members had already said,” he explained. Fortunately, my speech ended up well.

These two episodes in the interviews reveal two potential problems. First, a leaderless group discussion without any supervision or observation is not comprehensive. The interviewer can’t have a clear picture of the contribution of the students in the group discussion. For example, they have no idea of who coordinates the discussion, who sets up the outline for the group’s presentation and who contributes more original ideas. Secondly, excellent

applicants are not necessarily good team players. They are self-reliant and self-motivated. How to mix with team members without sacrificing their originality is a subject of great concern. Hopefully, the above-mentioned problems may find a solution as time goes by.

Confronting Challenges Head-on

The above two problems may sound trivial, there is a big strategic challenge facing the School of Talents. The challenge comes along with the Age of Big Data.

Twenty years ago, students in China did not have

offering students a wide range of academic resources with a series of lectures.

The training program of the School of Talents is highly appreciated by its earlier participants like Ms. Mao, but new members such as Zhu Jiayi and Xue Yinshen do not buy it. “Some of the lectures are not to our taste, and we are more attracted to TED speeches⁷ or educational websites like MOOC⁸,” they commented, “For we have more options on what we really want to explore.”

Under such a new circumstance, the School of Talents is now undergoing a transformation. Ms. Xie Yushan, the program designer of the School of Talents,

the off-line communication is irreplaceable. To facilitate the off-line communication, participants are encouraged to take part in different research projects, traveling to other cities or towns and sharing their knowledge and insights with their fellow students.

The 21st Century School of Talents is committed to groping for the most effective solution to the cultivation of talents on campus. On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, we sincerely hope that it embraces a fresh start and a bright future.



an easy access to the Internet as we do today. Without proficient English, they find it hard to get the up-to-date academic resources. To fill the gap, the 21st Century School of Talents was established, aiming at

admits that lectures used to play a dominant role in the training programs, which needs to be changed.

Xie also believes that

- 1. trench coat
- 2. stand out:
- 3. interdisciplinarity: n
- 4. optional: adj.
- 5. versatile: adj.
- 6. threshold: n.
- 7. TED Speeches :
- 8. MOOC:

The Film Studio Gadfly

“It is not I who choose the art, but the art that chooses me,” said Zhou Xun, a junior student from the School of Communication. Inspired by his passion for art, Zhou Xun and his friends established an amazing studio--- Meng Gad--- at ECNU. Although it originally began as a resource-sharing organization for film courses, its founders later built a platform using WeChat and garnered much attention among ECNUers.

This issue of ECNU LIFE contains a special report on the studio Meng Gad and interviews its founders and core members--- Yan Haobo, Zhang Yicheng, Zhou Xun and Zhang Zhen. They are all junior students majoring in broadcasting and television.

ECNU Circle: The name of your studio, “Gadfly,” sounds quite interesting. Are there any stories behind this name?

Zhang Yicheng: Absolutely. There is a well-known novel titled *Gadfly* written by an Irish woman named Voynich. In addition, Socrates, one of the world’s most renowned philosophers, once compared himself to a gadfly because he thinks that he must suck the blood out of people like a gadfly in order to move them into action. He is a courageous man who points out the “social cancer” and never yields to authority.

Zhou Xun: Additionally, the book *Gadfly* exerts a great impact on ordinary people, raising their awareness and propelling them to fight during hard times. We all hope that our studio will function as a brave gadfly at ECNU to cheer students up and encourage them to face their challenges head-on.

E: What is the organization of the studio like?
Yan Haobo: There are now nine people in our studio working as directors, cinematographers and

scriptwriters. As a resource-sharing organization, our members usually team up with one another to fulfill a task on their own in terms of their interests and strengths.

E: Can you introduce the type of work the studio produces?

Yan Haobo: Our studio mainly shoots short video clips, feature films, commercials, and sometimes personal albums. Shooting commercials offers us a chance to raise funds for our studio.

E: Would you like to talk about the way you promote your studio on your WeChat platform? What kinds of programs do you offer?

Yan Haobo: We try to promote our studio through our original program, which centers around philosophy and different lifestyles. For example, we recommend various films, exhibitions, and sightseeing spots in Shanghai. Whenever you feel bored or overwhelmed, you can find some cheerful information on our program, and go try out what we advertise.



E: Would you describe in detail each of the film works you’ve shot?

Zhou Xun: I once shot a film called *Fog* in memory of the chimneys near our Minhang campus, you know. It is the story of a writer and a photographer. The former is greatly concerned about the environmental pollution caused by the “poisonous” gas from the chimney, while the latter enjoys a beautiful landscape including the chimneys, gas, and sunset every day. In shooting this video, I wanted to express the conflict between desire and moral value.

Zhang Yicheng: I am fond of script writing. I prefer to write something abstract rather than dramatic and detailed. Our studio once shot a film called *Killer*. It describes the relationship between the film director and the film characters. The director made an appearance to introduce the film itself, but was unfortunately killed by his own characters. It is all about the concept of the reflexive structure in film.

E: Have you come across any difficulties in terms of the growth of the studio?

Zhou Xun: The main difficulty lies in the recognition of the audience. Our fans used to be our friends and classmates who enjoyed the unique art culture provided by the studio. It’s fairly easy to watch an audience grow from 100 to 300, but it is difficult for this number to rise from 300 to 1000---the bottleneck problem. We need boots on the ground to promote our art.

E: What would you say if more students wanted to join your studio?

Yan Haobo: We really hope that more talented people can join us and help build our studio into a professional one. But we have to remind applicants of the fact that being director is not the only job position offered here. Actually, we don’t expect everyone to be a director—as you know, filming is a team effort and needs commitment from different roles. We can take turns to play the role of director.

E: Do you think the establishment of the Studio Gadfly shows there is a kind of entrepreneurial spirit among students?

Yan Haobo: Yes, I think so. We have actually applied for an entrepreneurship project. Although we may try some experiments in business, our priority still lies in the promotion of art on campus.

E: Do you want to say something about the future of your studio?

Yan Haobo: Since we want to be unique, we have to be especially courageous and adventurous. If you are such a person, just join us. We sincerely hope that our audience can give us constant attention and warm support. Their advice or feedback is highly appreciated. We want to create a dynamic campus life by exciting ECNUers with our original film works.

- 1. garner: v.
- 2. gadfly: n.
- 3. cinematographer: n
- 4. feature film:
- 5. chimney: n.
- 6. reflexive: adj.
- 7. boots on the ground:
- 8. entrepreneurial: adj.



O3 Club

Works for a Greener World

The O3 Club, namely Club of Our Own Oasis, was founded 12 years ago and has been valued as a five-star club for a decade. As the only nonprofit organization for environmental protection in ECNU, it aims to enhance the awareness of environment protection among ECNUers.

Academically speaking, O3 club is affiliated¹ to the College of Ecology and Environmental Science, thus enabling its members to get professional guidance from teachers. Besides, O3 club boasts² a wide partnership with various business or social agencies, such as Pizza Hut Green Superman, Sina Weibo, HK Environmental Protection Association, Environmental Protection Association of Youth Volunteer, and Shanghai Environmental Science Research College.



Financially speaking, it is well supported with membership fee, special development fund as well as the grant from College of Ecology and Environmental Science. As its secretary Mr. Lin Zaiyong says, their goal is to build O3 club into the first-class nationwide environmental protection association.

Highlights³ of O3 Club

1/

Give Eco-lectures

The Pizza Hut Green Superman is a philanthropic⁴ project launched by China Environmental Protection Foundation and YUM Restaurants China. It aims at appealing to college students to spread the knowledge of environmental protection and cultivate the low carbon lifestyle. They will give the eco-lectures to primary school students, which mainly involves water conservation, trash classification, new energy utilization⁵, biodiversity and etc.

The O3 Club has been an active participant in this project for several years. Its project partner is Jingdong Primary School in Minhang District with a class of some 200 students in

grade three. Instructors from O3 Club are seriously involved in the lecture with well-prepared materials and PPT. Primary school students learn a lot about environmental protection from the lecture and therefore give a high rating of this project.

2/

Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement for the planet organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The event is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour--- from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.--- on the last Saturday in March, as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.

The O3 Club attaches the great significance to the

promotion of Earth Hour and gradually makes it a traditional and unique activity of the club. In recent years, the O3 Club held various activities to celebrate Earth Hour, such as dark evening party and concert without electricity. As for the way to celebrate Earth Hour, O3 Club never set a fixed mode for their members to follow. Instead, heated discussions will be held in which every member can contribute his own idea and share it with others. By doing so, they gradually establish an awareness that their idea and act eventually make a mark⁶ on saving the electricity and protecting the earth.

3/

Embrace the Nature

The Embrace Nature is divided into two parts --- Going

Outdoor and Making Leaf Bookmarks. The members of the O3 club have paid visits to Shanghai Century Park and Shanghai Botanical Garden serving as outdoor guides. Their task is to get close to the nature and introduce it to the passersby. As for the leaf bookmark, they make bookmarks out of the fallen leaves with the help of chemicals and instruments. The more creative your bookmark is, the closer you get to the nature.

4 / Green Plants Adoption⁷

The project “Green Plants Adoption” is designed to spread the idea of environmental protection by encouraging college students to participate in growing the green plants. As the project coordinator in ECNU, the O3 Club distributes nearly 300 different seeds to the students on campus every year. The process of growing seeds into green plants is carbon neutral. College students' low-carbon lifestyle begins with planting the seeds.

5 / Fruit Card

The fruit card is both eco-friendly and romantic. More than 100 college environmental protection organizations advocate the use of fruit cards rather than paper cards for the sake of saving the scarce forest resources. This nationwide intercollegiate⁸ project

provides college students with an opportunity to exchange best wishes and greeting in an original and romantic way. It has become one of the O3 club traditions and enjoys the increasing popularity among ECNUers.

The Operation of O3 Club

As we know, the concept of environmental protection has gained the great popularity nationwide. However, it remains difficult to promote such awareness among college students. As an experienced student-governing organization, the O3 club has been dedicated to this cause for 13 years and will make more contributions. Let's get a closer glimpse of how it works.

Clear Mission

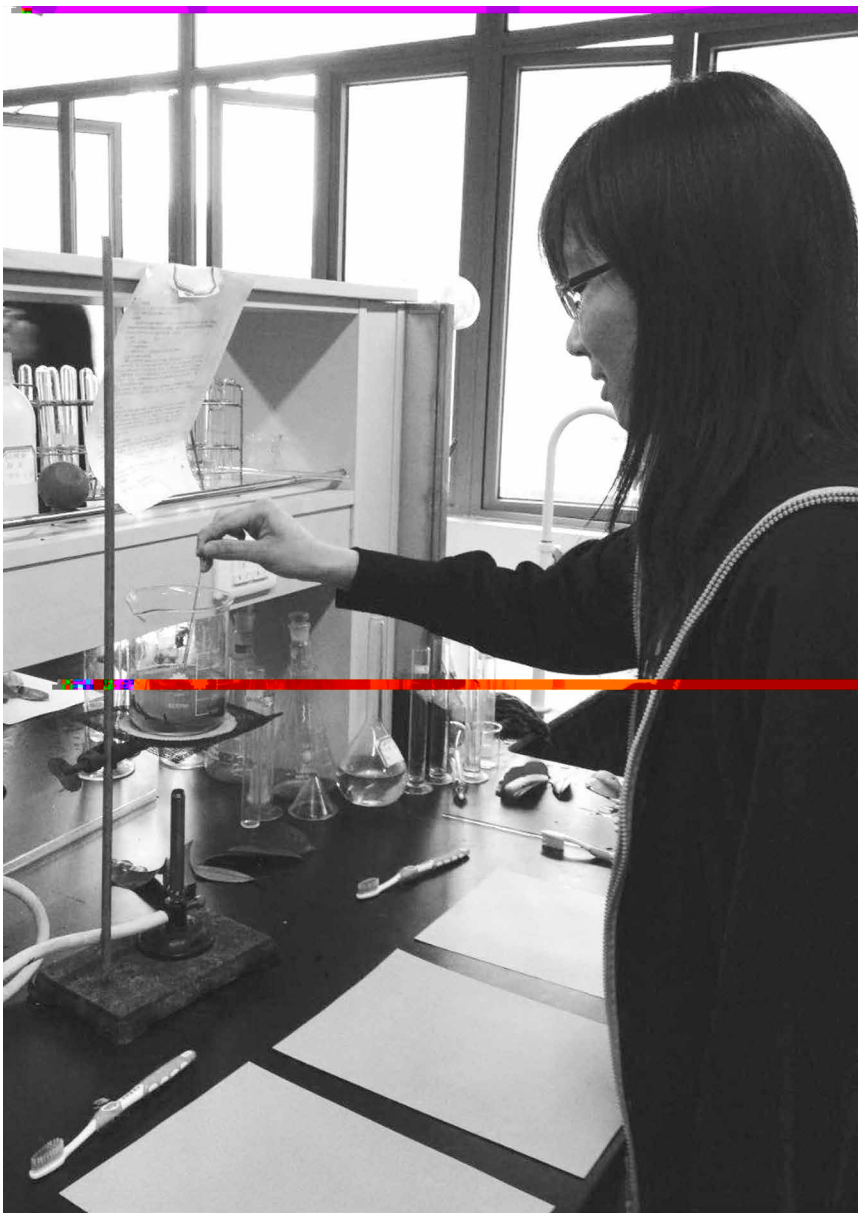
Although we may know a lot about environmental protection, we have a rather weak awareness of environmental protection, let alone the particular acts. O3 Club starts with the mission to arouse and enhance the public awareness of environmental protection.

Effective Methods

O3 Club maintains a high frequency of promotional activities in order to increase the publicity of environmental protection and keep the public exposed to such awareness. Publicity alone won't work well and should be combined with other practices. Actually, college students get fully involved in most of the activities held by O3 Club. Besides, college students always regard the environmental protection as a lofty cause and take it seriously. O3 Club tries to add much fun to the environmental protection activities.

O3 has been striving for the cause of environmental protection for years and hopefully it will go down in the history of environmental protection as a great achiever.

- 1. affiliated: adj.
- 2. boast: v.
- 3. highlight: n.
- 4. philanthropic: adj.
- 5. utilization: n.
- 6. make a mark on:
- 7. adoption: n.
- 8. intercollegiate: adj.



LET TRY



China Daily
journalist and
honorary judge of the
Competition, Mr. Yang
Dan, says that excellent
pronunciation, fluent
expression, and profound
thought are essential to a
good speech. Thanks to an
elaborate training program,
the ECNU competitors did
well in all these aspects in
the competition.

After being chosen
as finalists on behalf of
ECNU, Chen Zhanghan and
Tian Zhengzheng received
a series of trainings for
overall improvement. From
seminars¹ to the counseling
of foreign teachers and one-
to-one instruction, they have
matured along the way.

Professor Liu Sen
would meet the competitors
twice a week and ask them
to give speeches on the latest
news, helping polish² their
speech draft, correct their
pronunciation and body
language. As a major of

philosophy, Tian Zhengzheng
is very profound in thought,
which might render his
speech hard to understand.
In view of this, Mr. Zhao
focused on simplifying his
philosophical ideas and
converting them into plain
expressions. As Tian is a
bit introverted and serious,
Mr. Zhao would often talk
with him and encourage him
to speak more and practice
more.

It goes without saying
that the two players’
achievement in the
competition embodies not
only their own unremitting³
hard work, but also the
painstaking⁴ efforts of the
whole team.

“We
Bo
Oh”



1. polish: v.

Time Auction

Time Auction is an activity organized by the E-star Volunteer Team of the School of Information Science Technology with a history of over 3

E: What did you do to attract the bidders?

G: I told them in my self-introduction that I come from Sichuan Province, and many of them think that people from Sichuan are passionate. Actually, I am not only an outgoing guy, but also easygoing. What's more, my achievement during undergraduate time was pretty convincing. As a curve wrecker⁷ in others' eyes, my studying experiences would be a great help for them. I had confidence in the value of my time before the auction, but the final bidding time of 180 yuan was still beyond my expectation. It truly excited me.

E: When you first contacted the buyer, did you feel nervous?

G: No, I did not. I like making new friends. By lucky coincidence, we found we come from the same Province and major in relevant fields. This common ground made it much easier for us to communicate with each other and we have become friends ever since. Even now we may get together from time to time to enjoy hotpot and have a nice chat.

E: What have you learned from this experience?

G: I understand that time is of different values to different people. We should cherish time and make the best use of our time.

E: Will you participate in Time Auction again in the future?

G: Yes, it is such a meaningful activity that I am willing to participate in it again. Moreover, I have recently started learning French. I hope this will become my new selling point for the next auction.

ECNU Circle: How much did you expect before the auction? How did you feel when you learned the final result?

Yang Tianqiang: My final price was 110 Yuan. It far exceeded my expectation of 50 Yuan. It was indeed a pleasant surprise as I could contribute more to charity. But at the same time, I think we should not measure charity work simply by the sum of money donated. Charity is something we should do continuously with a loving heart.

E: What did you do for the buyer in the two hours?

Y: I spent most of the time helping her write a good speech. I brought her an umbrella on a rainy day. In fact, there was a lot more I could do for the buyer, such as fixing computer problems or doing sports with her.

E: What do you think of Time Auction?

Y: I think Time Auction is an interesting and meaningful activity, with charity as the final purpose. But there is still room for improvement. First, as there is not enough promotion about the activity, not many students know about it so far or could participate in it. The organizers should make an effort to enhance publicity. Second, as Time Auction is in essence charity work, there should be more introductions about the Yue Miao Garden and the life of those living inside. This is our motivation and what we are all concerned about.

The buyers all took pictures with their time sellers. The brilliant smile on the young faces exhibits their excitement about the auction, as well as their pride in being able to contribute to charity work through the joint effort. Eventually, 2247 yuan were raised in this year's auction. E-star signed an agreement with Yue Miao Garden, to sponsor a 20-year-old disabled young man for a year. Yue Miao Garden is a non-governmental charity organization that mainly helps people in their twenties who are mentally disabled, or suffer from cerebral palsy⁹ or autism¹⁰. In fact, this is not the first cooperation between ECNU and Yue Miao Garden. The E-star members have worked as volunteers in Yue Miao Garden since 2003. After the auction, Fan Binglin, Dean of Yue Miao, came to ECNU with his staff to give thanks to the E-Star Volunteer Team. Fan sent a calligraphy piece written by a disabled man with the four Chinese characters of “

Looking at the Stars and Solving Specific Issues



It has been more than a year for the six student assistants of the ECNU president to be at this post. Next term, there will be a new selection of student assistants and these six schoolmates may leave their post or stay a while to instruct new assistants. Let us dig up what they have been doing all this time and learn more about them.

First of all, we will see who they are and why they applied for this job in the first place.

Zhu Hongyan, a graduate student from the School of Communications in her third year, is responsible for undergraduate teaching and library affairs. Zhu's affinity and conscientiousness has made her a highly popular student counselor at ECNU, and she would like to keep up this job in the future.

"I was already a student counselor when the recruitment notice was issued and I considered such requirements as 'two and a half days of spare time

each week, research experience, and a strong sense of duty' all suit me well. Working as an assistant to the president provides me with the opportunity to learn more about the executive departments in our university and to communicate with different people. This is an enlightening experience which will help me serve my students better in the future."

Li Xiaomin is a graduate student who studies physics in MengXiancheng College. He is a hardworking and reliable assistant in charge of normal student issues.

"I used to have some doubts and radical views

about the normal students education program in our university. In order to see whether I had the right perspective, I applied for this post to learn more about the program and do something for our university and the normal students."

Yang Jingpeng, a junior student in Applied Chemistry, is responsible for logistics and affairs related to medical treatment and security in Minhang Campus. Yang is pretty much an idealist with a strong social competence. His ambition is to change the world as a successful businessman.

"As monitor of my class, I used to report student issues to the logistics department. This job provides me with a higher platform to do more meaningful things. I can improve myself and contribute my efforts to our university."

Wu Xiaolong, a graduate student in sociology, is responsible for teaching, research, and issues of graduate students. As a photography enthusiast, he has been famous for **365 Photos of ECNU** since his senior year. As is expected, he is in charge of publicity work. In the future, this talented young man wants to do his bit for the cause of education.

"It turned out there were fewer people I could get to know. After becoming a graduate student here. When I saw the recruitment notice, I decided to apply for this job to meet more people and do more

things for my beloved university before graduation."

Chen Xile, a graduate student from the School of Life Science, is responsible for undergraduate teaching affairs. Xile is an extroverted girl with an outgoing personality. She also wants an education career in the future.

"I happened to learn about the recruitment from President Chen Qun at the beginning of my senior year. I kept that in mind and applied for the post as soon as I saw the notice. First of all, I like the novelty of this position. In addition, as I love community activities and want to commit myself to the teaching career after graduation, I want to improve myself with this experience. The most important reason is that I love ECNU so much that I truly want to do something for her."

Meng Gang, a junior student from Preschool and Special Education School, is responsible for logistics and affairs related to medical treatment and security in Zhongbei Campus. Meng is a versatile young talented person with vigor and ambition. Through self-study, he managed to set up the website for the student assistants of the president. He is also engaged in public welfare and has worked as a volunteer in NGO¹ for several years.

"I used to work in the Student Union for the protection of student rights and interests", says

Meng Gang, “This post as a student assistant enables me to do more practical things for our students. I love it!”

The six student assistants of the president went through several rounds of tough competition to get the post. Firstly, resume screening. Then there was a written examination in which they were asked to air their views on the development of our university. The final stage was an interview given by delegates from different executive departments and student representatives. Finally, these six students stood out among all the competitors.

There is no doubt that being a student assistant of the president and working in the Student Union have similarities and differences. The great part is that both aim to serve students and their ardent love for ECNU is the main drive for their work. Moreover, they can make new friends with those who share common goals. As for the differences, the six student assistants of the president started from scratch². Their job included the design and decoration of their office and figuring out the working mechanism, working content, and regulations. In the process, they have achieved some goals. But more often than not, they may have to change or even give up some initial planning. For this part, it’s totally unlike working in the Student Union. There are no existing patterns for them to follow and no predecessors to give them advice.

In addition, there is no superior-subordinate relationship among these six assistants. From small tasks as drafting a document to arduous ones as conducting research, they have always worked together.

Speaking of the influence of this job, Chen Xile says that they all cherish the friendship developed in this job. Each of the six members have distinct characteristics and advantages. For instance, Meng Gang is meticulous in work, while Yang Jianpeng is very sociable, so they have all benefited a lot by drawing upon others’ strengths³. Moreover, their love for ECNU gets deeper and they are more proud

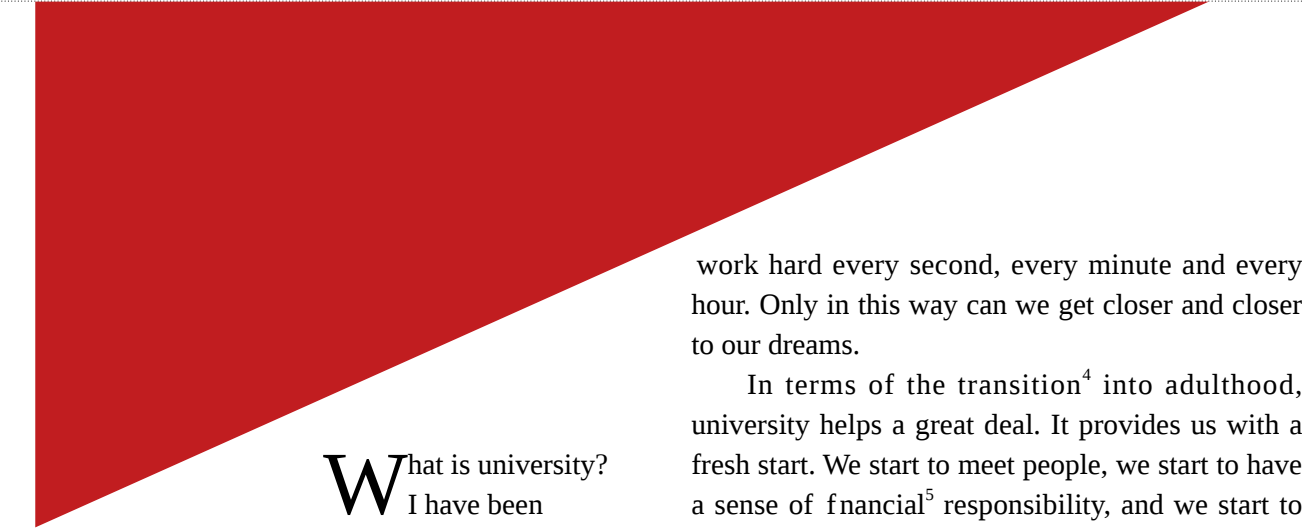
to be ECNUers. Yang Jingpeng says he has matured through the job and has learned that in many cases, we need to take various factors into account, and try to solve problems with initiative and great patience.

The six student assistants of the ECNU president tell us in the interview that their working time is from 1p.m. to 5p.m. from Monday to Friday. At least one of them should stay in the office to deal with emails, messages on the website, phone calls from students, or to receive students who come to them for help. Recording every message carefully, they will report students’ problems to relevant departments. If there is any problem with (s. If t)0.6 (h)0.5 (e)0.5 (re)07821.2 (83l pr)0.5.a worki oe(nt)0.6careful (m)0.5 (bfollo (3)u.6 Soay tTJ greuw T0.028 T 5

At69 Tc 0.082haden uccr
At55 【The sio Facel)81.8Meetihat0.6 (0.6iSecurity Departmp.mTc 0.082 ly)64.7 (0.5 (n t)0Bmails, h83 Tvan d5 (with em s83 Tvanxn up.6 (h)0.5 (r503nem for5as ld821.2)0.5unk
At79
At76.5 (23r193 27.273m 1p.(website8.5 blame fr)0.5T mm, fr)0.5buin0.6 ((v(r patie i(r .2 9as ld TJ 0.0118y)64.7 (0.5 (n t)0c 0.7031.2 6)0.6 (h)0eu)0.5 ffr)0.5u.5 (t)l 0.703l 0.703y
【The siheir worki3.9mechanism0 0.082 5ly)64.7 (, the(time is from 1p.mF om October)40(, 200 (wlln strrecruitmp.m)51. ()TJ 0 T*【time is from 1p.(noticenw)-ery mte)-ery m is)



as I See It



What is university?
I have been thinking about this question for so many years. And finally, I am standing on campus as a college student with an answer to this question.

University is a place to polish¹ myself and help me grow stronger.

This is a world of freedom. This is a world of choices. This is a world of responsibilities. University leads me to figure out the answers to these questions: Who am I, truly? What did I enter this university for? What stage will I reach? This whole new space gives me a chance to look back at myself and choose a direction for the future.

Mei Yiqi, former president of Tsinghua University, once said, “That a university is called a university is not because of its splendid² buildings, but because of its masters.” A university campus offers us fascinating scenery, while the professors illuminate³ us by sharing their knowledge and explaining the rules of society. As students, we aim for our dreams under their guidance at whatever the cost. We can be slow walkers, but we never walk backward. Rome was not built in one day. We must

work hard every second, every minute and every hour. Only in this way can we get closer and closer to our dreams.

In terms of the transition⁴ into adulthood, university helps a great deal. It provides us with a fresh start. We start to meet people, we start to have a sense of fnancial⁵ responsibility, and we start to achieve complete independence. We are becoming adults thanks to college life.

Every one of us, rich or poor, upper or lower, should at least have one or two good friends. My teacher used to tell us, “Having friends is because you don’t want to be stupid alone. Never be stupid alone.” Friendship is like a bottle of wine: the longer you keep it, the sweeter it will be. Many years later, when I look back, I will surely think of the sweet days together with my friends. I may be stupid, but I’m not alone.

This is the meaning of university in my eyes. It leads me to new ways of thinking and gives me a chance to work hard and fght for my dreams. It gives me the opportunity to develop friendships while I am still growing up. I will treasure these four marvelous⁶ years, appreciate the success that comes to me, and enjoy the pain which is unable to be avoided. When I walk out of my university, I’m sure I will have become a better “me,” and I will tell the whole world without regret that “I AM HERE.”

1. polish: v.
2. splendid: adj.
3. illuminate: v.
4. transition: n.
5. independence: n.
6. marvelous: adj.

Life with Respect to Others

Something happened when I was an exchange student at National Dong Hwa University which has encouraged me to think about the cultural differences between Mainland China and Taiwan. Though we are separated by the Strait¹, we can learn from each other and further improve cultural exchange and communication. One day, I was reading a book in the Seven-Eleven.² I noticed a senior citizen around my grandfather's age with worn-out³ but clean clothes and a blue hat, waiting outside. He stood beside a bicycle, looking at the cashier uneasily. He took off his hat and put it on again, then did so again with great expectation in his eyes. I pretended not to watch him. I did not raise my eyes until I noticed that he had turned around. He was carrying several cardboard boxes. He unfolded⁴ them, and threw away the trash inside. Then he tied them together with a string. He put the boxes on the back of the bicycle and left with great satisfaction.

I heard other international students complimenting the kindness and warmth of the residents who live on this island, with which I agree. But what made the deepest impression upon me was the citizens' attitudes toward life. They lived a decent life and showed great respect to others. When walking along the streets, I found the peddlers⁵ with books in their hands, reading attentively. When I went shopping, most shop assistants helped customers find clothes in their size with enthusiasm. Even if you did not buy anything, their attitude would not turn negative. I recall that once, when I was trying on a pair of shoes, the shop assistant took the time to find my size in another shop across the street. Though I eventually decided not to buy them, he remained friendly. The tour guide told us that we could try all the samples in the Mochi Exhibition, and the shopkeeper there would introduce all the products to us. I also remember a taxi driver telling me that one of his colleagues had a car accident, but the insurance company paid for all the costs. He said that all taxi drivers in Taiwan had bought insurance so that money could be used to help those who have difficulties. In the elevator, there are signs suggesting people wear masks in order to prevent the spread of virus. I think maybe this is a sign of progress.

I think people living in Mainland China could learn from this. That senior citizen who collected boxes waited outside the shop all the time. It seemed as if he lived with great passion and felt ease no matter what his life was like. You cannot force life to be the way you want. However, what we can do is try hard. I do not think this is a passive attitude. Rather, it teaches me to be content with the present situation and to be grateful. One day, when I was sitting by a lake enjoying the beautiful scenery with a friend from Hong Kong, she told me that she found life in Hong Kong a little annoying. To be honest, I also thought that life in Shanghai was boring. But we both found peace in Hualian. That afternoon, we just sat there, enjoying the feeling of the gentle breeze on our faces. Shanghai and Hong Kong are both crowded cities with rapidly developing economies. It is a different case here, in Hualian. I think the slower pace of this place allows its citizens to enjoy a happier life. Competition in Shanghai is so fierce that people are busy pursuing their fortunes and hardly stop to enjoy life. Too much pressure drives us crazy and discourages us from finding the beauty of diligence in the process of improving ourselves. I cannot describe the influence the senior gentleman in my story has had on me. I found that people can and should live with respect to each other and life itself.

1. strait: n.

2. seven-Eleven:

3. worn-out: adj.

4. unfold: v.

5. peddler: n.

“Hope” is the thing with feathers—
That perches¹ in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all—

And sweetest—in the Gale²—is heard—
And sore must be the storm—
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm—

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land—
And on the strangest Sea—
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb³—of Me.

“Hope”
Is the Thing with Feathers

Emily Dickinson
(1830-1886)

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was an American poet. Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, to a successful family with strong community ties, she lived a mostly introverted⁴ and reclusive life. Although Dickinson was a prolific⁵ private poet, fewer than a dozen of her nearly eighteen hundred poems were published during her lifetime. Almost all of her poems were discovered by his sister after her death.

Dickinson’s poems are unique for the era in which she wrote; they contain short lines, typically lack titles, and often use slant rhyme⁶ as well as unconventional capitalization and punctuation. Many of her poems deal with themes of death and immortality, two recurring topics in letters to her friends. Despite unfavorable reviews and skepticism of her literary prowess during the late 19th and early 20th century, critics now consider Dickinson to be a major American poet.

1. perch: n.
2. gale: n.
3. crumb: n.
4. introverted: adj.
5. prolific: adj.
6. slant rhyme: n.

Home, Sweet Home

How do you feel being back on campus after the happy gatherings with your family members and friends back home during the winter break? Are you reluctant to say goodbye to your parents' specialty dishes and even their chatter?¹ Don't be afraid of being laughed at for feeling homesick because you cannot get the place with the sweet name of "home" out of your mind! There is a saying that explains your nostalgia²: "East or west, home is the best." Hopefully, the following TV shows will help relieve your homesickness and make you feel the warmth of home even when you are many miles away.

1. Modern Family (USA)

When you get to know the families involved in this drama, you will understand its title. Claire, a housewife, is married to Phil, a real-estate agent, and they have three children: two girls, Haley and Alex, the former of whom is pretty and fashionable while the latter is smart and nerdy, and an offbeat³

boy named Luke. Claire's brother Mitchell, a lawyer, and his husband Cameron have an adopted daughter, a Vietnamese girl named Lily. Claire and Mitchell's father, Jay, has divorced their mother and married a much younger, beautiful Colombian woman named Gloria. Gloria brings her son Manny (from her previous marriage) into the family and later gives birth to Jay's son Joe. In summary, one "normal" family consisting of Phil, Claire, and their three children, a family with two gay parents, Mitchell

and Cameron, and their adopted daughter Lily, and a stepfamily family including Jay, Gloria, Manny, and Joe, make up this very modern extended family.

There are of course always small conflicts that arise between the family members: Claire is sometimes over-protective; Haley is a typical teenage girl who goes out with guys her mother does not like; Alex is clever and thinks her family is not intelligent enough; Phil tries to be a "cool dad" while Claire can come across as a hysterical⁴ mom; Claire dislikes her young step-mother Gloria at first and calls her a "gold digger"⁵ behind her back; Jay has a difficult time accepting the fact that his son is homosexual; and so on. The list goes on and on. However, those conflicts are just the spice of their life. They make things up quickly and get along well, because they know that they love each other and nothing is more precious than a loving family.

2. Baby Daddy (USA)

Twenty-two-year-old Ben is a carefree bachelor working as a bartender⁶ in New York City until one day a baby girl, Emma, is left by his ex-girlfriend on his doorstep. His elder brother Danny had just moved into his apartment in order to split the rent between him and his roommate Tucker. The sudden and unexpected arrival of the baby makes the three men feel completely lost. Fortunately, Danny and Ben's childhood neighbor Riley, who is studying at a law school in the city, comes to help them out every now and then. Aside from her, Ben and Danny's single mother Bonnie also occasionally lends a helping hand, which is a great relief to the young people. In this way, the story centers on the five adults taking care of this one baby.

There are some rough times in the show: when Ben refuses to sign adoption papers for Emma because he does not think he is ready to be a parent, when he leaves Emma alone in the apartment by accident, or when he has arguments with Bonnie about how to raise Emma. However, there are even more sweet moments: he "baby talks" with Emma while feeding her, he signs up for parenting classes, and he is excited about Emma's first steps. It can be seen that his love for Emma grows day by day, that he has gradually adapted to the role of father with the help of his family and friends, and that he has changed from an inconsiderate boy to a responsible dad. At the beginning, he does not even know how to change Emma's diaper and starts to vomit⁷ at the sight of her poo!⁸

3. Come Home Love (Hong Kong, China)

Fu Ma (nicknamed Tiger), a man in his sixties, is the head the Ma family. He has a much younger sister, Yau Ma (Angel), still in her forties. Fu Ma has two sons, Keung Ma and Chaung Ma (John). Keung Ma is married to Sheung Lai (Diana) and they have adopted the children of his deceased elder brother -- Tse Nei Ma (Tracy), now a college student, and Tse Yan Ma (Leslie), a fashion designer. John works in a law firm and lives with his father.

The scenes in this TVB sitcom are familiar to us all: families have congee,⁹ steamed buns and fried bread sticks together for breakfast, they wait until everyone is

home before starting dinner, and Diana mainly does the cooking, with others helping her once in a while or taking turns to wash the dishes. Harmonious as their family life is, there are inevitably some arguments. Fu Ma is eager to marry his sister Angel off and see his younger son John settle down and get married, but Angel and John do not want to hurry. Keung Ma is so nice a person that people tend to take his kindness for granted, which sometimes hurts his feelings. It makes Diana distressed that she has to manage both the household chores and her work at the same time, and that sometimes her family does not seem fully supportive. Also, even though the brother and sister, Leslie and Tracy, are adults, they fight over things like a new laptop or a concert ticket. Whatever the

problem and however serious it is, the Ma family is closely bound together and they, as a team, manage to work it out. Their story is always “to be continued.”

4. High Kick! (South Korea)

Soon-jae Lee, the head of the Lee family and the director of a hospital, and his wife, Moon-hee Na who takes care of the house, live together with their children and grandchildren. Their eldest son, Joon-ha Lee, is an unsuccessful investor working at home and is married to Hae-mi Park, a successful doctor in Soon-jae Lee’s hospital. Joon-ha and Hae-mi have two high school sons -- Min-ho Lee, a high-achiever at school, and Yoon-ho Lee, a more rebellious¹⁰ student. Joon-ha has a younger brother named Min-yong Lee, who is a physics teacher at his nephews’ school. Min-yong has a baby boy with his ex-wife Bong-hee Shin.

To recap: Soon-jae is the boss of his daughter-in-law and Min-yong is Min-ho and Yoon-ho’s teacher. With these relationships in the Lee family, their life is never boring: Soon-jae, a traditional doctor, disagrees with Hae-mi, who is a modern doctor;

Min-yong tells his elder brother and sister-in-law about Yoon-ho’s misbehaviour at school; Min-ho is the elder brother, but Yoon-ho treats him as if he himself were the

elder one, much to Min-ho’s annoyance; Moon-hee stays at home with her son, does all the housework, and sometimes helps babysit her little grandson. Their family life seems full of trivial¹¹ chores but it is these tiny things in one’s family life that should be kept as precious memories in the mind. Every moment with family matters and brings you feelings of happiness and

laughter, just as High Kick does.

Have the above-mentioned TV series reminded you of your sweet home? If yes, why not go and have a look! You will laugh and cry at the same time while watching, because that is what you have for home -- mixed feelings!

- 1. chatter:
- 2. nostalgia
- 3. offbeat: adj.
- 4. hysterical: adj.
- 5. gold digger:
- 6. bartender: n.
- 7. vomit: v.
- 8. poo: n.
- 9. congee: n.
- 10. rebellious: adj
- 11. trivial: adj.

Life as a Foreign Student: Cherished Memories

Nashaa Naseem

In this issue's culture column, Nash'aa from Maldives shares her life experience in China and offers a surprisingly different approach to understanding the cultural challenge and adaptation. Let's bend an ear for her story.



I arrived in Shanghai six months ago, with a mixed set of emotions and a thirst for new experiences and knowledge. Being awarded a scholarship to study at the prestigious ECNU had made me ecstatic² beyond belief, as I have always wanted to visit China for its rich culture and history. However, in the midst of the late-night ride from the airport to the university, the reality that I had arrived in a new city with twenty-four million people hit me. Coming from Maldives, a country with a population of less than four hundred thousand, it was hard to comprehend. By the time I was in my dorm room on the Minhang Campus, I was anxious, perplexed³ and fearful about how I could adjust without being able to utter a single word of Mandarin. Would I be able to explore Chinese culture and everyday life while studying? How was I going to figure out the metro?

What would I eat, if I can't ask what's on the menu or read the words myself? A hundred more questions kept me up the whole night.

Armed with a helpful orientation⁴ book provided by ECNU, I embarked on a journey to explore the campus and study the layout. After a long and tiresome walk, I realized that a bicycle was of the utmost importance. The campus was huge with beautiful gardens and little bridges, walkways, student facilities, canteens and small restaurants and shopping malls outside the university; this was the university I had dreamed of attending.

The second life lesson I learned was to always carry a note or a picture with the ECNU address, as it is easy to get lost in such a huge city or miss the bus stop. However,

getting lost was exactly how I met my closest Chinese friend, Sheng Ruizhi (George), an undergraduate student at ECNU. He not only assisted me in finding my way back to the university, but also taught me how to order pizza online and many things that may seem little but helped me better adjust to life in a foreign environment. The key to adapting to a new place is to make friends. Rather than waiting for people to talk to you, approaching them and conversing is far more rewarding, and is the best way to gain new knowledge or a friend.

Gradually I began to lose the apprehension of eating out, with the aid of a translator application

on my phone and a list of my favorite types of food. After a few weeks, I started to get a hang of how to do things; I was becoming more familiar with the surroundings. However, survival was my top priority, not enjoying the experience of the wonderful opportunity that I have been given to experience China.

Within a month of my arrival to Shanghai, I was lucky enough to visit Qufu on a trip organized by ECNU and UNESCO⁵. Attending the International Confucius⁶ Culture Festival and visiting the Confucius Temple opened my eyes; I was in a country with one of the earliest civilizations and some of the richest histories and cultures, and it is moving towards becoming the new powerhouse of the world. And what do I do? Limit myself within my comfort zone and explore like a tortoise, when I had less than a year to stay and experience everything that I could.

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated"—wise words from Confucius. I decided to drop all the negative thoughts

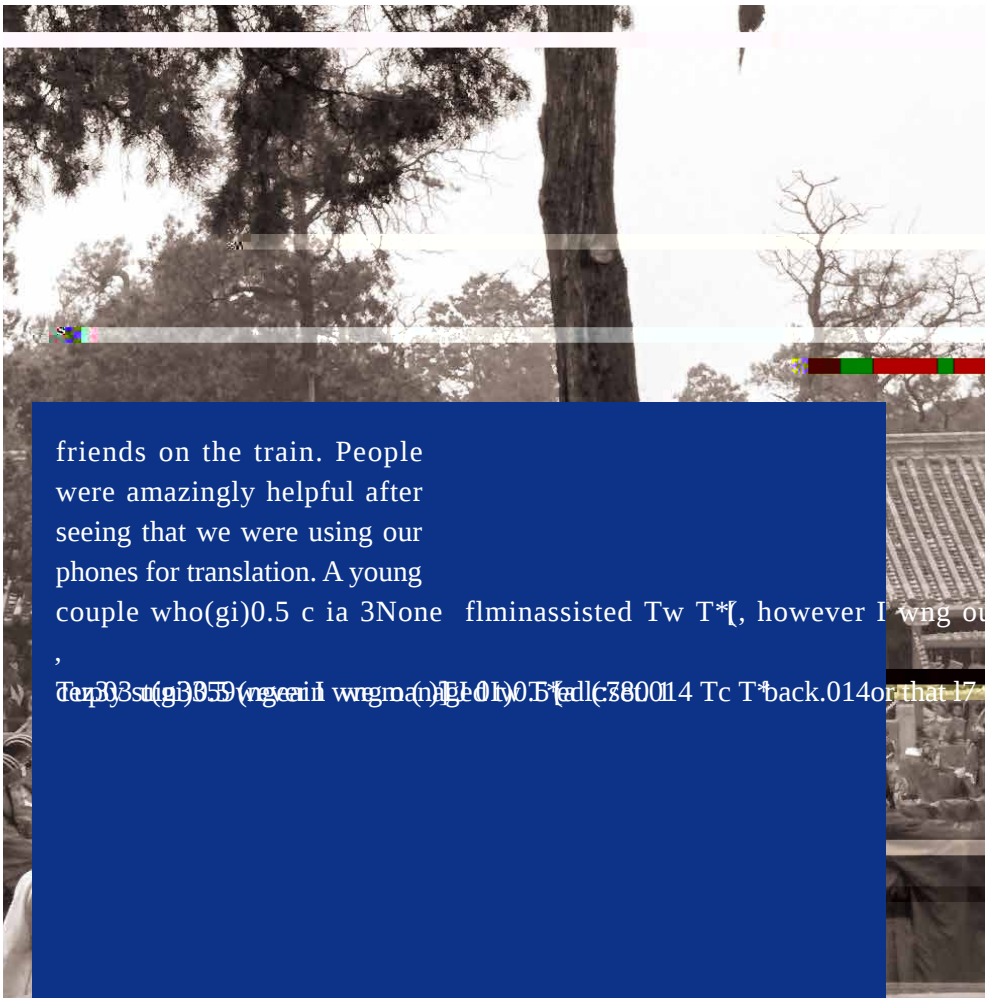




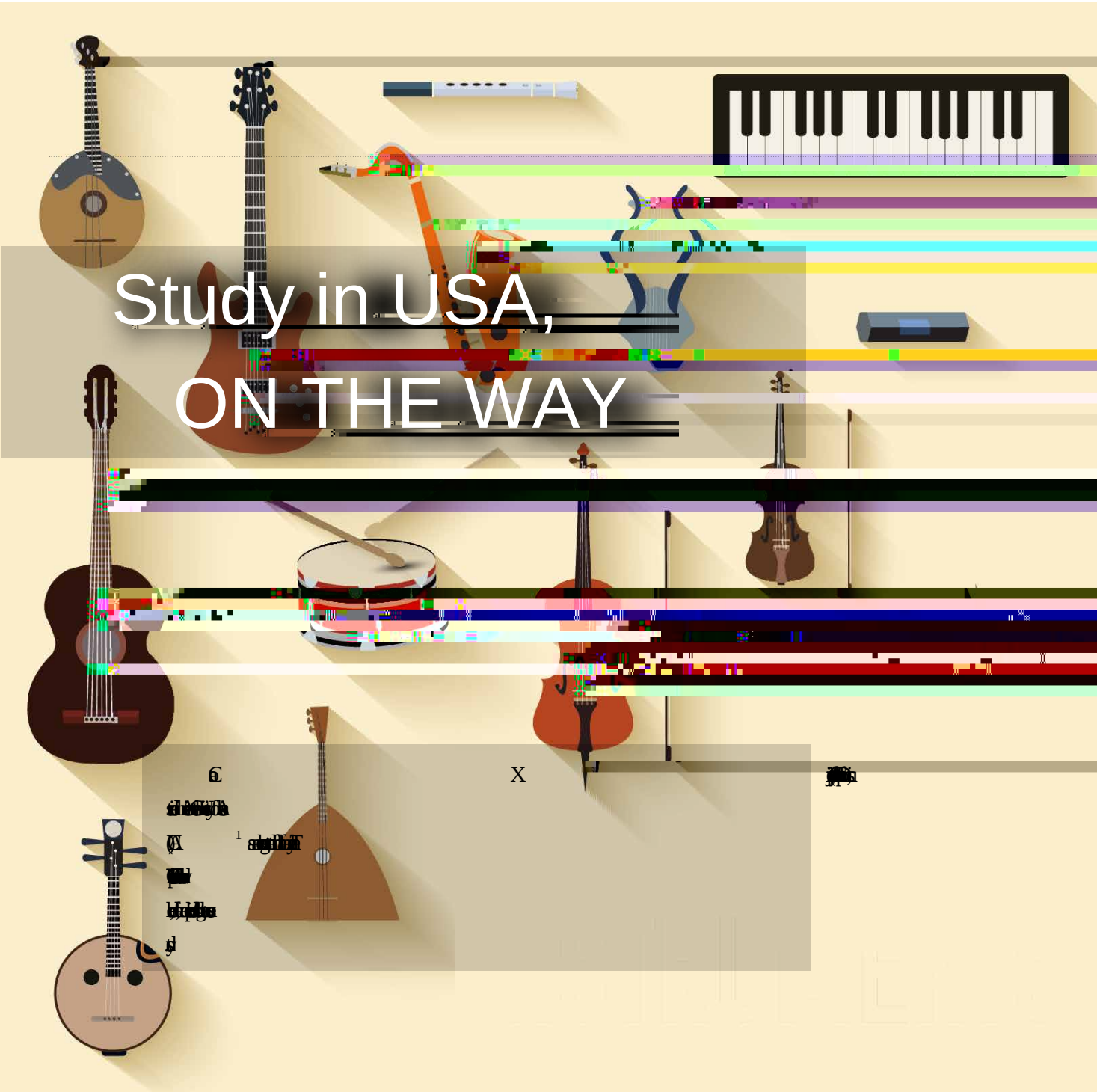
I had associated with limiting my travel and exploration. The main factor that limits anyone while traveling is the budget; however I was able to minimize the costs by traveling to the cities where friends and acquaintances resided. This way, the accommodation costs would be exceedingly low, if not free, and who knows the culture better than someone residing there?

The next months I challenged myself to find time between my studies and promised myself to explore China.

Dalian: It was during the National Holidays in October, and all the flights were full. Forging ahead, three friends and I decided to travel to Dalian on a 24-hour train with no seats. None of us could speak Chinese; however we managed to enjoy the whole trip by making new



friends on the train. People were amazingly helpful after seeing that we were using our phones for translation. A young couple who (g)0.5 c ia 3None flminassisted Tw T*[, however I wng ou
,
Texp33stg3059(wgeail wrgman)E01y0.5*allc380014 Tc T*back.014on that 17



1. American Central University of Arkansas (UCA):

2. Little Rock:

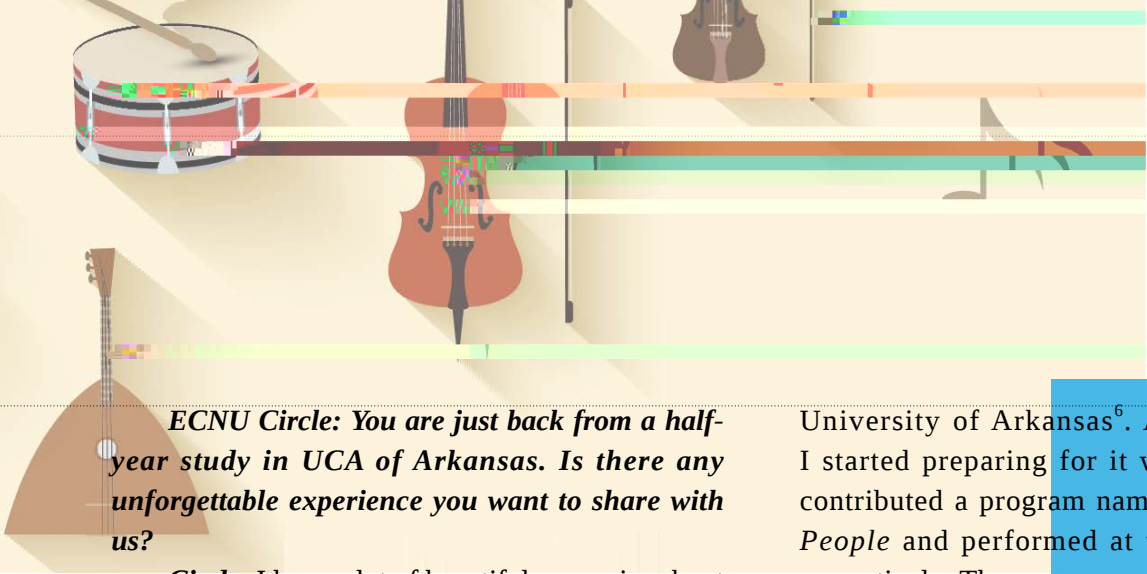
3. devout: adj.

5. gala: n

7. couplet: n.
4. Confucius Institute:

6. University of Arkansas:

8. violist: n.



ECNU Circle: You are just back from a half-year study in UCA of Arkansas. Is there any unforgettable experience you want to share with us?

Cindy: I have a lot of beautiful memories about Arkansas and UCA. Here I’d like to share with you my experience in the airport of Little Rock², Arkansas during my first arrival.

My friend and I arrived in the airport at 2.a.m in a tiny jet due to a 5-hour delay. In the darkness, we two girls stood helplessly with all the shops around us closed. We were at a loss, but what happened next would be a lifelong memory. In the midnight airport, an old couple on crutches were standing in front of us, holding a card with our names on it.

I was really touched. Afterwards, I learned that this old couple came to meet us in the airport voluntarily. As devout³ Christians, they believed it was their obligation to give new comers like us their help. With all their passion and kindness, they later became like family to us.

Oh! I departed for Arkansas just this day of last year. What a happy coincidence! (Laugh)

E: Ms. Lu Xiaohong, the Chinese president of the Confucius Institute⁴ in UCA recommended you to ECNU Circle. How did you get acquainted?

C: I met Ms. Lu several times in Arkansas. Once my host Floyd and Paula took me to a conversation club where we could meet people from different countries. That was when I met Ms. Lu for the first time. I was amazed to know that she was a teacher from ECNU. We were both happy to meet each other on the other side of the hemisphere.

Before the Spring Festival, Ms. Lu invited me to participate in the Spring Festival gala⁵ held by American Central University of Arkansas and

University of Arkansas⁶. After being invited, I started preparing for it with my friends. We contributed a program named *Dance of the Yao People* and performed at the two universities respectively. The response was so warm that even our host families were very proud of us! Although so far away from my homeland on the most important Chinese festival, I was very happy and felt at home.

By the way, I had a car accident on the way back. I still have the photos! The car rushed to the edge of the cliff and fortunately it was caught in the trees. I was just sitting next to the driver. Amongst the screaming, I was terrified and just murmured “It’s okay.” (Laugh) Fortunately, a local truck driver helped us out.

Then on March 1st, a classmate named Josh who was learning Chinese invited Chinese students to an outdoor home party. I met Ms. Lu again at the party. We had a great time there feeding ponies, barbecuing, shooting and driving a Jeep. I chatted with Ms. Lu all the time. By then, we had already got very familiar with each other and became friends.

E: What do you think of the Confucius Institutes in America?

C: On the whole, the Confucius Institutes in America feature a rich Chinese cultural atmosphere with the purpose of promoting intercultural communication and the spread of Chinese culture. When I visited the Confucius Institute during the Spring Festival, it was beautifully decorated with red lanterns, couplets,⁷ and various types of traditional Chinese food were offered. Everyone greeted each other with “ni hao” and “chi le ma”. I felt very proud that our culture was accepted and appreciated in America.



STUDY ABROAD

E: What do you think are the major differences in music education between ECNU and UCA?

C: Many teachers in the Music Department of ECNU have studied abroad and some of them are overseas Chinese. So it is already internationalized to some extent. The one-to-one professional courses are of high quality and our formal, well-organized and large-scale symphony orchestra is of very high standard.

Still, there are differences. Students in UCA are more open on the whole. It is common to see them playing the cello and singing on the road, which is rare in our ECNU campus. There was a violist⁸ at UCA whose hair was black when I first met him. The second time I saw him, blue. The third time, white. He never wore his shoes because he was “feeling the ground as a musician”, as he said. (Laugh)

Teachers in ECNU are more serious and strict in professional knowledge, while UCA teachers are more outgoing and attach more importance to personality. Once I was playing the piano in the music class in UCA, my American teacher exclaimed with extravagant gestures, ‘Cindy! Crazy! This is Beethoven!’

Overall, I have learned different things from the teachers in ECNU and UCA. So I’m grateful for the help of all the teachers I have met at home and abroad.

E: In addition to professional knowledge in music, what else have you got from the overseas study?

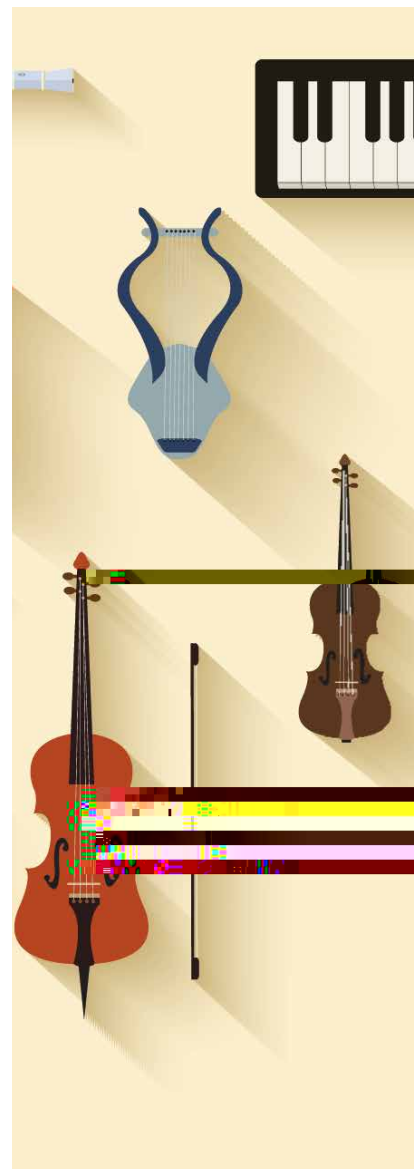
C: First, my English is much stronger. I made new friends and traveled to many places. I got a lot of help from many people. For instance, as it was not convenient for us to buy things from the supermarket, the local people volunteered to drive us there every week. I developed a deep affection with my host family and we still keep in touch now. I have broadened my views and learned to be more receptive of the differences among people.

E: How to get along with people from other cultural background?

C: Language is necessary, but not the most important. Open your heart and try to understand and accept the cultural differences.

Once, I happened to find my roommate staring at me. I was sleeping then! I closed my eyes again immediately. Later she told me that she had never watched a Chinese girl that close. You have to trust others before you make true friends.

To be honest, Chinese students sometimes cannot relax in a foreign environment. Here is the advice, just relax.



We are on the same planet, so “we are family”. Since we are blessed to be together, hold a sincere attitude towards others.

Cindy has won full scholarship from UCA. She will soon go back to America to pursue graduate study. m

E: Why do you choose to continue graduate education in UCA?

C: First of all, it is because UCA has promised me full scholarship. I think I can broaden my horizon and become more independent through the three years of study in a foreign country and get a clearer view of my future development.

I have learned a lot from the semester abroad at UCA. In fact, though I am quite optimistic and outgoing, I still felt homesick when I first got there. It took me some time to adjust to the new environment.

When I first got to America, I was confused about many things and could not quite adapt to the new life. But now, I have found inner peace. I am pleased to realize that I CAN study in America. In a word, a wish and a little confidence makes me this way.

E: Do you agree that overseas study experience helps with the future application of graduate program?

C: I think so. Overseas study gives you the opportunity to know more about your desired university, the teaching staff, and qualifications for admission. If you can stand out during your overseas study and impress the teachers, it will help a lot in your future applications.

E: As many ECNUers are interested in overseas study, can you give them some suggestions on how to make a choice?

C: Personally, I think you should take your major as the top priority. Choose what fits you best. Scholarship and school ranking ought to be considered as well. Besides, you need to pay attention to safety issues and traffic conditions.

E: Finally, how to make preparations for overseas study?

C: First, English is very important. Then you should make plans for overseas study as early as possible. Find a suitable program and work out a schedule for it, such as when to take TOEFL or IELTS tests, which materials to prepare. Have a goal in mind, work hard for it and seize the opportunity, you will realize your dream.



Travels in the United States

Zhao Gang is an associate professor in the Department of Translation and Interpreting at ECNU. His research interests range from translation studies to lexicography. As the head of the department and a Fulbright professor, he has published extensively both at home and abroad

In early September of 2012, I went to the United States in the capacity of Fulbright visiting scholar and started a 10-month research project at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The trip turned out to be both academically and culturally rewarding. Apart from academic pursuits, I took time to travel and entertain myself as a way to learn more about the United States and its culture. In this article, instead of discussing things academic, which, I presume of no interest to our readers, I will focus on what I saw during the several trips I made and what I did in my leisure time. Hopefully, this will serve as a window through which our readers can get a glimpse of American life.

Trip to Florida

Autumn in Columbus, the capital city of the state of Ohio, was extremely memorable. The huge maple trees lining both sides of the streets were turning red, looking like balls of fire. The pavement and meadows² nearby were covered with red and gold leaves, soft as carpets and flamboyant³ as roses. The river behind our apartment was flowing quietly, rippling from time to time with the kisses of autumn breezes. Occasionally, a fish would jump, breaking the surface of the water, producing crispy tinkles⁴ which seemed to enhance

rather than shatter the all-pervading stillness. The sky was always high and blue, with cotton-like clouds drifting leisurely to and fro. It was not cold at all, but the clear chill in the morning air reminded us of the advent of a long winter, urging us to make plans to idle away elsewhere for at least part of the bitterest season typical of America's Midwest. With that, my family of three began to plan our adventure to Florida, America's winter paradise.

The trip was long, taking us across five or six states in all. A single trip would take at least fourteen hours, which was rather frightening for me, since back at home I had never driven that far. We started off early in the morning the week before Christmas, driving a car from a rental company and using a GPS borrowed from a friend. All were light-hearted, and even a little excited, since this was our first long-distance road trip in the real sense. My four-year-old son, Kelvin, started to hum a lyric he learned from his preschool as the car sped along the

highway and the endless of farmland flashed backward. He was alone in the back seat. His mother, Joanna, sat in the front, helping me with the GPS, a smart gadget that would guide us throughout the journey.

Snow began to fall while we were still driving in Ohio, but it cleared up the moment we crossed the border into West Virginia. The road abruptly turned dangerous. I use the word "dangerous" because mountains were now all around us, and the road seemed to become steep all of a sudden, with sharp turns at short distances. Even worse, there were no dividing strips on the highway, and you could see massive trucks whistle by going both directions. Joanna, who thinks herself a better driver than me, and who often mocks me about my driving, was steering attentively, ignoring the rollicking⁵ teasing between father and son. Intoxicated by the foggy mountains, the clear, giggling⁶ creeks, and the steep valleys,

I couldn't help singing aloud: "Country roads, take me home, to the place. I belong. West Virginia, Mountain Mama...", and I was soon joined by Joanna, who finally heaved a long sigh

of relief as the car landed on a relatively smooth road.

As we traveled southward, the weather gradually became warmer and the road smoother. By the time we entered the State of Florida, it had become so hot that we were wearing t-shirts. Outside, the landscape was beautiful, so we took turns napping. The road was so long that the GPS often remained silent for hours. Not a few times, I even worried whether we were driving on the right road or traveling in the right direction. What impressed me most was the place names we encountered along the road. I had gotten to know them in books, but now I was there in person! They sounded so dear to me. As the Chinese saying goes, "It is better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books." The

greatest benefit traveling offers might be the broadening of our horizons.

After two days' driving and an overnight stay at Columbia in South Carolina, we finally arrived in Orlando, the first stop of our journey. Our plan was to visit Disney World, and then spend some time at the world-famous Miami Beach and at the adjacent⁷ Everglades Safari Park. Our final destination would be Key West, the southernmost tip of the United States and the hometown of Ernest Miller Hemingway. It is an island in the Gulf of Mexico linked to the continent by about forty bridges built on the sea.



Christmas Eve in Disney World:
People Mountains People Sea

Disney World, formally known as the Walt Disney World Resort, consists of four theme parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney’s Hollywood Studios, and Disney’s Animal Kingdom, of which the Magic Kingdom is a “must” for tourists. We finally decided on three of the parks, one park for each day. We decided to exclude Disney’s Hollywood Studios, because we had plans to visit Hollywood Studios in Los Angeles, California the next spring, which was said to be a more representative experience of flm studios.

We chose to visit the Magic Kingdom a day before Christmas, since we were told that on Christmas Eve, there would be stunning fireworks and grand parades. We also wished to see with our own eyes the boiling enthusiasm of the American people on this special occasion. However, the moment we were inside the park, we knew we had made a mistake. As tourists kept pouring in, it became increasingly crowded. People were everywhere, filling up every corner and the shady spot under every tree. You needed to wait in a long queue to buy food and drinks. All of this gave me the illusion⁸ that we were not in the sparsely-populated United States, but in Beijing or Shanghai, since, to quote a well-known Chinese idiom, it was “people mountains and people sea” here in the park. The only thing that reminded me that I was now abroad in America was the sea of faces of different colors and the sound of languages of every conceivable⁹ kind.

Despite this, the Magic Kingdom, with its diverse array of entertaining attractions, still held an irresistible charm to tourists, though most of the rides were much too adventurous for Kelvin, a boy of four. Reluctant to miss them all, we half-coaxed, half-coerced Kelvin into experiencing some of the more adventurous attractions with us, such as Everest, a thrilling rock & roller coaster, the Tower

of Terror, a horrifying fall from the top of a haunted, old, and dilapidated 13-story building, and the Haunted Mansion. For most of the time, Kelvin buried his head deep into my lap, with his eyes tightly closed. I could feel him trembling in my arms as all the others around him screamed loudly in terror. To be frank, I myself was almost scared to death when the coaster sped forward and backward like a lightning bolt along the steep mountain slopes and when our seats were lifted all of a sudden from the ground floor to the top of the building and then fell plump to the ground time and again. However, this was a time to show fatherly bravery. I put my arms around him tightly and patted him on the shoulder with a trembling hand. A sense of guilt and remorse crept into my mind: Would the poor boy be scared out of his wits? Would this leave a shadow in his tender heart? However, when asked later whether he was scared, he answered quite casually with the pet phrase he had just learned: so-so! Then it was Joanna and I who felt ashamed, since both of us felt like vomiting!¹⁰

Another thing that we always think back on today was the enormously huge turkey leg, a food specialty in the park. The leg, dripping with oil, was sold for 10 dollars each and was extremely enticing¹¹ to the eye. Unable to resist its temptation, I bought one and had the first bite. Kelvin stood beside me, looking up at me—no, at the leg—with

his mouth watering and his eyes full of longing. When finally it was his turn to take a bite, he bit hard and tore off a piece much bigger than he could chew. We simply couldn't help laughing out loud at his greediness.

What impressed Kelvin most was the many cartoon characters in different theme parks: Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Dora, Lightning McQueen, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Winnie the Pooh, Yogi Bear and Boo Boo, to name just a few. He had read about all of them in books, but now had the chance to see them with his own eyes. He was so fascinated by them and insisted on taking a picture with each of them we came across on the way. We decided to satisfy his desires where possible, since the Disney tour was meant for him, not for us.

Time slipped by unnoticed. In the twinkle of an eye, night fell. The park was now packed to the brim. At about 7, when we were still having supper, we heard a noise in the crowd. Looking out of the restaurant, we were stunned to see the castle, the most symbolic building in the park, lit up by different colors and designs. As the lights changed, the castle was displayed in varied shapes, accompanied by music from the Disney flms which were so familiar even to us, who only had a slight knowledge of these immortal stories. The castle was plain-looking in the daytime, but

now with the decoration of lights, it exhibited a beauty that was indescribable! We, like the other tourists, were shocked by the ingenuity of the designers!

Very soon, the grand parades began. The cartoon characters dressed in their Sunday best and other ingeniously¹² designed images seemed to emerge from nowhere, moving towards the crowds on big trucks with dazzling lights and loud music. People stood on tiptoe to catch a glimpse of them. Children were sitting on their fathers' shoulders, screaming at the sight of their favorite characters. Kelvin did the same, riding on my fatigued shoulders and refusing to descend. I was lucky that he was still young and light, not as heavy as he is now, but even so, I felt as if the burden on my shoulders was ever-increasing, and I nearly collapsed under his weight.

We began our retreat to the gate one hour before midnight. That was the time the fireworks were scheduled to set off. Our decision turned out to be wise, because when we elbowed our way through the crowd to the gate, the fireworks started and floods of people began to move towards the exit as they attentively watched the gorgeous fireworks exploding in all their grandeur, lighting the midnight sky in a rainbow of colors. Should we have stayed in the park, we would have found it extremely difficult to get out! We stopped

for while to appreciate the fireworks before we boarded the train carrying tourists to the main entrance. By that time, Kelvin had fallen soundly asleep in my arms. After all, he was not used to staying up that late at night, however exciting the fireworks might be.

The next morning found us sleeping like logs in our hotel, completely exhausted but dreaming of the good things we had seen the night before. We needed to conserve energy, because our schedule was still full for the next two days. After visiting the other theme parks, we would need to drive three hours to another exciting destination, Miami, sometimes called “God's Waiting Room,” to appreciate the charm of a city with a rich tropical favor.

---to be continued

1. presume: v.
2. meadow: n
3. famboyant: n.
4. tinkle: n.
5. rollicking: adj.
6. giggle: v.
7. adjacent adj.
8. illusion n.
9. conceivable: adj.
10. vomit: v.
11. enticing: adj.
12. ingeniously: adv.

Hot Words

整理 / 蒋俊帆 美编 / 王梦阳

网络热词

- 1. 想约吗？
- 2. 也是醉了。
- 3. 给跪了。
- 4. 问题来了。
- 5. 有钱，任性。
- 6. 我读书少，表骗我。
- 7. 整个人都不好了。
- 8. 也是蛮拼的。
- 9. 画面太美不敢看。
- 10. 安静地做个美男子。

- Want to date me?
- I am speechless.
- Give me a break!
- Here is the question.
- Rich bitch.
- Do not take advantage of my illiteracy.
- I have goose fesh.
- Give it one’s best shot.
- I cannot afford to take a look at it.
- I just want to be a lady-killer quietly.

英语新词

- 1. 冰桶挑战：
- 2. 剁手族：
- 3. 逗比：
- 4. 点赞狂人：
- 5. 土豪生活：
- 6. 朋友圈营销：
- 7. 炸鸡和啤酒：
- 8. 炒年糕：
- 9. 备胎：
- 10. 拉仇恨：

- Ice Bucket Challenge
- Hands-chopping people
- Dobe
- Easy like
- Jet setting lifestyle
- Friendvertising
- Fried chicken and beer
- Fried rice cake
- Rebound guy/girl
- Courting envy

编自Kevin English Class House
Chinadaily_Mobile
(审稿 / 余睿)

