读 华彩篇章
品 东西文化
感 师大生活
悟 大学真谛

华 之泱泱
师 风苍苍
英 其风采
语 者歌章

Stay Hungry , Stay Foolish

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called *The Whole Earth Catalog*, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960's, before personal computers and desktop publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came along: it was idealistic, and overflowing with neat tools and great notions.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of *The Whole Earth Catalog*, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

An Excerpt from a speech by Steve Jobs
at Stanford University, California USA
JUNE 12, 2005

（美编 / 董雪晴　审稿 / 郭忠义）

9/2016

PROFILE【人物】

ECNU LIFE【校园生活】

SPOTLIGHT【校园

LITERATURE【美文荟萃】

STUDY ABROAD【他山之石】

A Journey of the Mind Powered by Passion

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Yu Zhenhua

A Journey Initiated by Interest

If you are interested in what you do, you are a lucky dog. Fortunately, Prof. Yu is exactly one of those lucky dogs. Driven by his interest, Prof. Yu has been studying philosophy for 30 years since he first stepped into the field in the 1980s shortly after the Cultural Revolution.

ECNU Circle: When did you first encounter philosophy?

Yu: I went to university in the 1980s when the influence of the Cultural Revolution still lingered. At that time, many youngsters would ponder[4] over big issues like the idea of nation and democracy. Besides, literature, history and philosophy were the most popular academic subjects among college students back then. It was under such an atmosphere that my interest in philosophy was kindled[5].

E: How did you develop an interest in philosophy?

Y: It is a long story. In 1981, I studied at Shanghai Normal University which boasted dedicated teachers and academic freedom. As there was no college entrance exam at that time, like there is now, I would read whatever I liked after class and gradually found a passion for literature. Besides, campus life was colorful with various students' clubs such as science club and art club. After I joined in the literary club, I found my interest in literary theories and later fell in love with anesthetics. Finally, I chose philosophy as my major and settled down with it.

E: Are there any people who have had an influence on your choice of philosophy?

Y: I remember an author called Zhang Xianliang whose works left a deep impression on me at that time. He was a man with unique insight and in-depth analysis. One of his novels quoted extensively from Karl Marx's *Capital*, which served as a form of encouragement for the young people back then. Besides, when I did an internship in the primary school attached to East China Normal University, I listened to many lectures held in the library or the Wenshi building at ECNU, one of which was a speech about the science of philosophy and dialectics[6]. I was so impressed by the speech that I decided to take philosophy as my major in the future.

A Journey Powered by Passion

E: Is it difficult to sustain your interest in philosophy?

Y: I don't think so. I like to think about major issues like freedom and democracy. I have an overwhelming passion for philosophy for no reason. It is such a passion that encourages me to do research in philosophy unswervingly[7]. Besides, after I got a bachelor's degree in philosophy, it was natural for me to move on to pursue a master's degree and then a doctor's degree in philosophy. I never flinched nor regretted any of over my choices.

E: Do you think that philosophy is too abstract and difficult to be understood?

Y: I think so. In my pursuit of philosophy, I have been trapped in confusion many times. Each time I felt puzzled by a difficult question, I would respond by thinking it harder. By doing so, I greatly improved my ability to think logically and speculatively. Look at that young man over there, I used to have bushier[8] hair than him when I was young. But now, my hair is like this. (Prof. Yu pointed at his hair and made a joke by comparing him with a young guy on the cover of the magazine ECNU Circle.) This is the result of thinking too hard. (He said this, bursting into laughter.) During the past 30 years, I have always been always pondering difficult philosophical questions. Such an effort helped me to refresh my mind and dispel my confusion. It was those sustained efforts that helped to shape who I am now.

E: Among Chinese philosophers, who do you think has had a great influence on your research?

Y: Chinese philosopher Feng Qi is well-known for the ingenuity of his theory about wisdom, which is a crystallization[9] of China's historical revolution and current development, and a combination of Marxism, Chinese traditional philosophy and western philosophy. His theory of wisdom was originally based on his mentor's theory of epistemology. Later he shifted the focus of research to methodology and morality, creating his own theory of methodology and moralism. It seemed that Mr. Feng served as a groundbreaker in China's philosophy, exploring the unknown world and expanding our perception. I inherited his legacy of philosophy and continued my research on wisdom. Besides, I also put forward an epistemology about posterity, which contains both propositional knowledge and non-propositional knowledge.

E: What has contributed to your successful application for the national research project sponsored by CNSSF? What is the motivation for such an application?

Y: In 2015, the Department of Philosophy of ECNU held a seminar in memory of the great philosopher Feng Qi. My research on Mr. Feng's thoughts and theory was a major part of that initiative. Later, as the Chair of the Philosophy Department, I decided to apply for the national research project. During the application process, every faculty member contributed a lot and the success is therefore the result of the team effort. The reason why we applied for the national research project was that we wanted to make Mr. Feng's theory of philosophy known to the world. We needed to do a lot of translation and got his theory published overseas which turned out to be an incredibly demanding task. We have attempted to cooperate with some foreign scholars who are interested in Chinese philosophy. Meanwhile, the disciples[10] of Mr. Feng will also participate in such a huge translation task.

E: What do you think is the difference between Chinese and western philosophy?

Y: As far as I'm concerned, there isn't much of a real difference in essence. I once studied western philosophy in Norway and I did not feel strange at all because philosophy examines the common problem facing the mankind regardless of his or her race, gender and nation. For instance, both Chinese and western philosophy aim to help people gain a full understanding of their life and pursue the ultimate truth. However, I don't mean to say they are exactly the same as they were born in different traditions and have grown in different cultures.

E: What advice would you give ECNU students who want to hear some advice on learning philosophy?

Y: For the undergraduates who long to learn philosophy, they can read some classical books on philosophy such as *A History of Western Philosophy* written by British Philosopher Russell and *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* written by Chinese Philosopher Feng Youlan. Park Geun-hye once said, "When I suffered, I would read *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* for it guided me through the harsh times and enlightened my mind". Actually, these two books cover the basics of Chinese and western philosophy and are really worth reading. Besides, it would be better if they could communicate frequently with scholars in philosophy by sharing or debating philosophical ideas.

During the interview, Prof. Yu's ideas about philosophy and pursuit for innovation impressed us deeply. We used to regard philosophy as a subject which was far away from the life of ordinary people. Thanks to the interview, we now feel that there lives a philosopher in everyone's heart. Rich or poor, old or young, you can be engaged in philosophical undertaking as long as you are curious about the world. Take Prof. Yu for an example, it was his patriotism that contributed to his reflection on life and philosophy. Furthermore, his passion for philosophy is really admirable, encouraging him to take on the journey with philosophy for more than 30 years! We are amazed about his accomplishments while he, calm and detached, simply takes pleasure in the journey with philosophy.

1. speculative: adj.
2. epistemology: n.
3. posterity: n.
4. ponder: v.
5. kindle: v.
6. dialectics: n.
7. unswervingly: adv.
8. bushier: adj.
9. crystallization: n.
10. disciple: n.

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“ Yang Yanhong is the Deputy Party Secretary[1] of Meng Xiancheng College and her job covers student affairs and the development of the Second Class. Before coming to Meng Xiancheng College, she worked in the ECNU Student Financial

students. She loves her job and has organized and participated in quite a number of activities aiming to enhance students' overall qualities. Young as she is, she has a deep insight in the general education and life education.

Influence Life with Life

ECNU Circle: Can you tell us why you decided to be a teacher at ECNU?

Yang Yanhong: I have dreamed of being a teacher since I was little, and that's why I chose to study at ECNU in 2000. I graduated in 2007 with a master's degree and decided to work here, as I considered this to be an ideal realization of my childhood dream. In fact, I also tried other work before graduation, including internship in the government and a Hong Kong-invested enterprise. I worked as a practice teacher in No. 2 High School of East China Normal University, teaching politics in the top science class. I tried those not because I was not sure of my career choice, but because I believed that a good college teacher should have rich life experience to be a better guide to the students. Now I have worked for almost nine years and fully enjoy it here at ECNU.

E: What job did you do after your graduation?

Y: At first, I worked in the Joint Service Center for Student Development[2], granting financial aid to students from poor families. To help more students, I tried many means to collect money on and off campus.

Every year in the graduation season, the students would leave many things behind, so I encouraged them to donate the useful articles to the Charity House. Those articles were put on our website, and students could apply to get the things they needed, just like what they did when shopping on Taobao.

The art majors would produce a lot of works during their college years, and they could not take all the paintings with them when they left school. I asked them to donate the paintings, had the paintings mounted and framed, and hung them on the walls of the Charity House. When guests came to visit the Charity House, I would show them the paintings and tell them stories behind each piece. Many guests liked the paintings and would buy some pieces before leaving.

We also called for companies to make donations. Some companies donated their products, such as KAO[3] that donated shampoo and Colgate[4] donated toothpaste to us. Some companies donated according to the need of students. One of the entrepreneurs[5] who used to be my classmate donated forty suits so that our students could borrow the suits for their interviews. They could either borrow the suits for free, or do volunteer work in the Charity House for four hours. Some companies even donated courses, and students could receive free trainings in some other institutions[6].

E: Can you tell us an unforgettable experience when you worked in the Joint Service Center?

Y: I am particularly impressed by the changes on the students after our cooperation with IBM. We used to think about helping financially needy students only with material things, but then we were aware that such students might also have problems in study, life, or mental adaptation, so we cooperated with IBM for a joint program. The volunteers in IBM and the students of our school made pairs with each other and even the Global Vice President of IBM also participated in this program and became mentor to a student majoring in politics. The volunteers gave lessons to the students, asking them to do mock interviews or make

decisions about company policies. Some students were very shy at first and they would blush when asked to give their opinions. But at the end of the project, they could report their study in the form of melodrama[7]. At the same time, the volunteers from IBM were touched by the persistence of our students and became more positive about life.

E: You are now Deputy Party Secretary of Meng Xiancheng College. Tell us about your work here.

Y: I was transferred to Meng Xiancheng College in March, 2013 as assistant to the dean. Meng Xiancheng College, named after the first president of ECNU, is established for teacher candidates. These years, many reforms have taken place in our college, with the three prominent[8] features being the community culture, the tutorial system and the general education. In addition, our students have easy access to academic consultation and enjoy diversified second class activities. I am glad to be a witness and participant of these reforms.

E: Can you tell us about the reforms, starting with the community culture?

Y: The community culture is first associated with the reform of the dormitory. As students in our college majoring in twelve different fields, they now share rooms with students from other majors. At the same time, we created a shared space for our students. It was a tough job at the beginning, but we managed to vacate[9] the whole first floor of No. 20 dormitory building as a multi-functional[10] space for all students of our college. They can come here to study, to learn computer skills, to surf the internet, or to have a nice chat. In each of the other dormitory buildings, there is also an air-conditioned room for the students to study and communicate with each other. What we have been doing all along is to fulfill the original intent to establish Meng Xiancheng College, which is to create a relatively concentrated community, so that the barrier between different majors is broken down, and our students can study together, live together and get more chances to communicate with each other. This will help them to form right values and correct belief about the teaching career.

E: How is the tutorial system in Meng Xiancheng College?

Y: There are four parts of the tutorial system. The first is the resident tutorials, also counselors[11], who live in the dormitory building, so that students can get help from them more easily. There are ten student centers including career development center, scientific research and innovation center, etc., and each resident tutorial is in charge of the work of one center. Then there are life tutorials. Right now, we have fifty-one distinguished professors from twelve majors. They come to visit students, give them lectures, listen to their puzzles and give them advice about study and life, for example how to learn calculus and English, how to get along with parents, how to maintain long-distance relationship, and how to plan career paths. Life tutorials are so popular with students that some of them write thank-you letters to the tutorials after graduation. The third type is the student tutorials who are outstanding students in higher grades. What amazes me is the impact that the model of peers can have on their fellow students. The last type is called social tutorials. As most students will graduate to become high school teachers, and high school teaching is different from college teaching in many respects, we invited twenty-three special high school teachers to coach the students, particularly juniors and seniors. The essence of the tutorial system is to create a more intimate student-teacher relationship so that students can feel the love and caring from the tutors, and to influence students with the life experience of the tutors.

E: What is the original intention of designating student tutorials?

Y: We need models. Our student tutorials all have their own stories. When they share their experience and thoughts with the freshmen and sophomores[12], it can be touching and unbelievably inspiring. That's why we are keen on expanding the project and creating opportunities for students to display themselves and influence others.

The Secrets of Excellence

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On the afternoon of May 4, the International Youth Day of 2016, fteen talented students from the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering gathered in the lecture hall of the Student Activity Center of Zhongbei District. They were ready to compete for the honor of “Outstanding Student Youth” and “Fu Ying Scholarship”.

Fifteen candidates took turns to present their works and make an oral defense[1]in front of the specialists from ECNU and Fu Ying Corporation. Young as they were, some candidates had already published papers on top academic journals, for example, SCI which contains the most signifcant articles of various felds in the world, some had initiated[2] their own enterprises, and some had demonstrated amazing leadership skills or excelled in ACM contests. It was a tough decision to make, and with the vote from the specialists, the audience and the internet, Wu Ke, Han Li, Su Ting, Sun Mingjun, Hu Ming, Liu Yu, Liu Jintao and Jiang Wen fnally stood out and became the frst winners of “Outstanding Student Youth” and “Fu Ying Scholarship” in the School of Computer science and Software Engineering.

The ECNU Circle journalists contacted the winners and interviewed Liu Yu, Han Li and Hu Ming. Let’s get close to these exceptional[3] young talents and fnd their secrets to excellence.

To stand out, you should do your best to specialize in the feld. If you can exceed others and keep your own style, you are unique.

ECNU Circle: I was there to watch the fnal competition. All the fteen competitors were excellent. How do you defne “excellence”?

Liu Yu: I think “excellence” means to specialize in a certain field in addition to good performance in study and work. We are now faced with endless choices — study, social work, various competitions and others. The most important thing is knowing what we really want to do and try our best to do it well.

Hu Ming: If we know our strength and try our best to develop it, we can be excellent.

Han Li: I define “excellence” as being profcient in one feld and keeping a good balance in study and life.

E: ***How did you feel in the final competition?***

Hu Ming

Liu: I was so impressed by the ability of other competitors that I got very nervous during my presentation. But it was inspiring to know how others strived to pursue their dreams.

Hu: At first I was under great pressure. I even held the manuscript in my hands in case I forgot the words. Then I relaxed myself while watching the presentation of other competitors and waiting for my turn.

Han: I felt heavy pressure. Other competitors were all outstanding in my eyes, and some of them did well in many felds, including study, research and competitions.

E: What do you think helped you stand out?

Liu: I think my work in many other fields helped me a lot. As director of the Information Publicity Center, I was in charge of graphic design and new media operation. I was chief editor of the student magazine “ENCODING” and other college publications. I also participated in many competitions on internet innovation and entrepreneurship in Shanghai. I tried tutoring and wrote English papers. In a word, I enjoy meeting challenges and I have improved myself along the way.

Han: I think the enthusiasm and the impression the candidates leave on the judges can make a big difference. All candidates for the last round of competition are excellent, so their performance on stage could have a great effect on the fnal result.

Han Li

As the old saying goes, “One minute's brilliant performance on stage takes ten years of practice”, while marveling at the glory of their achievements, we should not overlook the persistence and hard work of these winners.

Constant dripping wears the stone. You may get a good score by burning midnight oil

and cramming[4], but you can never become a real super scholar in this manner.

E: I hear that you led a six-member study team in the first year of college, and all members won scholarship at the end of the year. What's your secret?

Hu: Because we all devoted a lot of time to study. We would stick together when there were no classes in the evening. We got on well and encouraged each other. The scholarship came along with the motivation we obtained from each other.

E: What is the relationship between test score and professional competence?

Hu: Test score is not always correlated[5] to professional competence. I believe those who work hard along the way will do better than those who cram before exam for high scores.

E: You were a constant winner of top scholarships and won the honor of outstanding graduate. How did you make it?

Han: I always make full preparation before class and concentrate my attention in class. I believe this is the most efficient way of study, and I never need to make a frantic[6] last-minute effort to cope with final exams.

I also like to find other ways to improve my study. Once I learned about a CIEE project in ECNU, which enabled Chinese students to share dormitory with foreign students. I applied for it and got admitted. This experience not only broadened my horizon, but also greatly improved my English.

E: You are now a graduate student in the Program of Sino-French Education[7] for Research. What is special about this program?

Han: I will study in ECNU for the first two years, then study three more years in France for the doctoral degree. The teaching staff of the Program of Sino-French Education for Research cooperate throughout the course of my education. Now, aside from teachers of ECNU, the teachers of French fly here to give us lectures from time to time.

E: Can you share with us your good study method?

Liu: I will make good use of my spare time to do self-study. But I think the most efficient way is to listen attentively in class.

E: Can you give us some suggestions on the selection of courses?

Liu: You should have a clear idea of what you want to do in the future and select courses that help you attain your goal.

Participation in student organizations requires time and devotion. It is a great platform to make friends, to serve others, to acquire knowledge and to improve ourselves.

E: You have worked in the Joint Association of the Youth League and Student Union for a long time. Tell us about your experience in the union.

Liu: I participated in the Joint Association when I was just a freshman and became head of the Publicity Department in my sophomore year. In the third year, I was elected vice director of the Youth League and was in charge of the functioning of all the nine branches in the Joint Association.

I have learned a lot during my three years in the Joint Association, starting from basic skills such as PS, designing, operating new media, to planning activities, managing the Publicity Department and later the nine branches of the Joint Association as a whole.

The Joint Association gives me the chance to meet new friends, see the bigger world and improve my competence. I am happy and grateful that I have made this choice.

E: You participated in the edition of several magazines and have been chief editor of ENCODING. Why are you so interested in doing magazines?

Liu: Being an editor used to be my childhood dream, and doing magazines in campus provides me with the chance to turn my dream into reality. When I edited ENCODING, I had a team of around ten members from the Information Publicity Department. We worked together to decide the number of sections, the theme of each section and the topic of each article. Then everyone got the assignment to do the interview, collect information and write the article. Finally, all the articles should undergo strict proofreading[8] , be edited and compiled together, with the cover pages and directory added to make a

complete edition. As chief editor, I tried to assign each task to the most suitable member, and reminded them of the deadline from time to time. I would verify each step to avoid possible errors.

Doing magazines requires painstaking[9] efforts and meticulous attention should be paid to every detail, but it feels great to work together with all these like-minded friends. We are devoted because of our intense love for it.

Dream big and do your utmost to turn your dream into reality. Seize opportunities to practice and improve yourself. You can make a difference!

E: You are vice director of the New Media Center of the Student Union. What do you think is the key to doing good student work?

Hu: First, you should be sincere to all the members of the union. Sincerity brings about trust and understanding, which is the basis of smooth functioning of the union. Second, be impartial[10]. When making decisions about work, don't let personal emotions stand in the way and give each member a fair chance to participate. Third, fne line, which means there should be a clear division between work and daily life. You can be serious and strict in work, but never apply it to your life. The third point is particularly important for me and it has helped me make a lot of friends from work.

E: You were Secretary of Youth League in your class and have occupied some other positions. How did you handle your work?

Han: We need a strong sense of responsibility to do the work well. When I was Secretary of Youth League in my class, we would organize an activity every month. So it was very important to know the needs and desires of students and arrange activities that appeal to their interest. There were many things to do as secretary of Youth League, including collecting information, organizing activities, writing reports. You have to be patient and careful to do the job well.

E: You won the first prize in the 5th China University Students PR Plan Contest by designing the "One Shop, One School, One Farm" project for the 20th anniversary of Carrefour in China. Could you tell us about this contest?

Liu: Two of my friends who minored in Public Relations got to know about this program asked me to participate with them as a team. We thought that "the transformation of supermarkets in the age of e-commerce" and "the desire of modern people to return to nature" should be the two key probes of this project. Then we designed online and below-the-line[11] activities accordingly to optimize customer experience, so as to ensure a successful transformation of traditional supermarkets in this electronic age. I learned a lot from this project, especially about the feld of public relations. That has laid a solid foundation for my present work in the public relations department of Tencent.

E: You are the first prize winner of the first Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest (Application Group) of ECNU. Tell us something about it.

Hu: I designed an android app with a friendly interface, and used a kind of technique named web crawler to perfect its function. Frankly, I did not expect to win the frst prize, and the result came as a great surprise and encouragement for me.

But winning a campus contest is quite different from doing actual business projects, with the latter attaching more importance to practical use. I am now working as an intern in a company. I have learned different things from work, which pushes me to think about how to apply my knowledge to actual work. I believe it is quite necessary for us to gain some work experience during the undergraduate years.

When asked about the key to their success, Liu Yu said: "We should live with enthusiasm and to the fullest. Do what we want to do, and be the kind of person we want to be." Hu Ming said:"There is no reason not to work hard in university. There are so many opportunities for us to try different things. We should know

1. make an oral defense:
2. initiate: v.
3. exceptional: adj.
4. burn midnight oil and cram:
5. correlated: adj.
6. frantic: adj .
7. Sino-French Education.
8. proofread: v.
9. painstaking: adj.
10. impartial: adj.
11. below-the-line:

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KEEPING FIT ON CAMPUS

Most students here at ECNU have an exercise habit. Partaking[1] in exercise is an effective way for ourselves to relax and it can help us stay in good shape. To teach our students how to exercise properly and avoid some common mistakes, we had an interview with the Assistant Professor Zhang Zhongyin in School of Physical Education and Health[2] in ECNU.

Firstly, it is necessary to distinguish the difference between keeping fit from exercise. The common exercise, like football, basketball and jogging, can improve our body constitution. By contrast, keeping fit usually requires gym equipment and scientific training method. More importantly, the volume of training must be at high intensity. Due to the rapid development of the Internet and smartphone, it is more convenient for us to keep fit through the Internet and some personal fitness apps, such as Keep, ibody and so on. However, the fit-keeping effect of these apps is overstated and limited. Therefore, going to the fitness center and keeping fit under the guidance of fitness instructor is the best way to get proper and scientific training.

It has also been ten years since Sky, Li Xiaofeng, won the championship of World of Warcraft at the World Cyber Games in 2005. The Cyber Games has shocked the whole world because of its incredible rate of change and growth in popularity. In fact, the Cyber Games has gradually being accepted by the public and official representatives. These young people who dedicate themselves to the Cyber Games have showed the world that online games are not simply for fun but can be competitive, like athletics.

The E-Sports Club is a newborn student club of ECNU, which was founded three years ago. And in order to know about this club, the journalists of *ECNU Circle* have sat down and had an interview with Xue Wenqing, the president of the club.

Though Xue Wenqing has become the new president for only one year, he is definitely qualified for the job. It is estimated that the club has about 450 members this year. In order to develop the club, he has organized a lot of activi-

1. Cyber Games:
2. inevitable: adj.
3. indulge: vt. …
4. momentum: n.
5. League of Legends:
6. Defence of the Ancient: n.
7. interaction: n.

Living alongside the beautiful Cherry Lake on Minhang Campus, most of ECNUers may be unaware of an important academic forum held on May 21st in the Teachers' Guest House nearby---Criterion, Curriculum[1] and Education (the 2016 National College English Reform and Development Forum). Serving as a platform for people to share their teaching methodology and teaching experiences, the forum has attracted a great number of education experts, language teachers and researchers all around the country. It aimed to establish the standard of college English teaching by evaluating the current curriculum and discussing the future development.

A Glimpse of the 2016 College English Forum at ECNU

The opening ceremony of the forum was hosted by Prof. Zhu Xiaoying, the Vice Dean of the School of Foreign Languages of ECNU (SFL). Prof. Wang Haixiao, the Secretary General of College English Supervision Committee under the Ministry of Education, Mr. Zhou Zhongliang, the Vice Dean of Students' Academic Affair and Mr. Yu Liyang, the SFL Party Secretary[2], delivered their opening addresses respectively. Prof. Wang remarked that the current college English reform has developed into a crucial period, with its goal emphasizing the understanding of the learners'actual needs and highlighting the application of cross-disciplinary[3] knowledge with the help of English. He added that back in 1980s and 1990s College English Reform gave its priority to the teaching objective and from 2007 to 2013 teaching mode was the focus of the reform. Prof. Wang, Prof. Zhou Bingbo and Prof. Chang Hui all delivered their key speeches, followed by well-prepared presentations on special topics given by experienced teachers. Those lectures were not only informative but also thought-provoking, causing a heated discussion among the participants. The afternoon sessions featured group discussions, in which all the participants were engaged in a more in-depth discussion on achievements and challenges of current college English reform.The presentations given by the frontline[4] teachers proved to be benefcial to those participants. The forum ended with a closing speech by Prof. Wei Baolin, the Dean of the Department of College English at ECNU, who gave thanks and encouragement to the teachers present. The forum turned out to be a success. Many participants felt they were greatly inspired by the spirit of forum and would make great efforts to pursue excellence in their future teaching career.

A Review of ECNU College English Reform

Thanks to the 2016 Forum, *ECNU Circle* journalists got an opportunity to have several interviews with the experts and teachers present, involving them in a detailed discussion on the ECNU College English Reform. The following is a report of what we've discovered and will bring to our readers.

What do education experts and scholars think of the reform?

Prof. Wang Haixiao: Teachers need to understand the core of the English reform in today's educational context, which is to respect the individual development and care for the individual needs in the learning process. Meanwhile, teachers should be encouraged to integrate the educational resources both online and offline into their classes and even to publish the textbooks for their target students if possible. At last, Prof. Wang gave a favorable remark on the ECNU English Reform, adding that such a reform is in line with the latest trend of college English teaching and sets up a good example among other universities in China.

Prof. Wei Baolin: The reform has been underway for more than two years and now has achieved a balance of pertinence[5] and authenticity by integrating self-compiled materials with original books in the required courses. The teaching mode of college English classes should by no means be the same as that of the senior middle school. Although English study is said to be much harder than it used to be, ECNU students are also found to take more initiative in their language learning process and so far have experienced positive changes in terms of their motivation and performance.

Associate Prof. Zhou Xiaoyong: The college English reform at ECNU has undergone a long brewing period[6]. Such a reform is greatly different from the former one which aimed at exploring how to teach by focusing on teaching materials. By contrast, the recent reform is to fnd out what to teach by taking the standard as its core. My colleagues had made extensive investigations and researches at home and abroad since February 2012 before the reform was officially declared in 2013. So far, the original goals of the reform have been mostly accomplished and ECNU students' performances at CET4 have been upgraded accordingly. However, there was still much room to be further improved. For example, our English online courses didn't function as well as expected. Later it would be greatly adjusted by involving it into the framework of the regular curriculum.

What do frontline English teachers think of the reform?

ECNU Circle journalists randomly interviewed some teachers present at the forum. Many of them thought favorably of the reform and shared with us their compliments and expectations.

Ms. Xia Ping: The ECNU college English reform really makes a difference.Teaching standard is more demanding, the course setup is more clearly defned, the textbook material is more authentic and effective, all of which are really conducive[7] to the improvement of students' reading capability. Besides, students'participation at class is strongly encouraged and significantly improved and therefore they take more initiative to learn English by themselves. Reading courses aim to strengthen the cultural awareness and critical thinking skills apart from improving the language proficiency.However, because of the increasing amount of reading tasks and increasing difficulty of content, ECNU students are expected to fulfill a great amount of learning tasks after class. If the students are not well prepared for those after-class assignments, the learning effect of reading course will be greatly infuenced. So far one of the biggest challenges for reading course is that it's difficult to evaluate and supervise the after-class reading assignments.

Ms. Xu Lulu: The previous college English courses are much similar to those of the high-school. Thanks to the reform, now the English courses are more demanding with their curriculum being more student-centered and their assessment being more diversified.The current listening and speaking classes encourage college students to do independent studies, write academic reports and finally give in-depth presentations. On the other hand, the reform sets a much higher academic expectation for our teachers. For instance, now I'm checking physics as one of my students pointed out a mistake about physics in my lecture yesterday. Besides, the current curriculum is perhaps not so satisfactory in some senses. For example, the listening textbook is said to involve too much science knowledge without a detailed explanation, which seems to be a bit challenging for literary students to understand in English.

Associate Prof. Sang Zilin: One of the benefts of the current reform is definitely the decomposition[8] of English curriculum with the four core courses of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Such decomposition is conducive to effective classroom teaching, making it more focused and targeted.Yet there are still some problems to be solved. For example, how to promote effective learning among students was and still is a challenge for the future reform.

Associate Prof.Li Hui: Students in advanced English classes tend to show more interest in English learning. The teaching goal is a little different from that of the average English classes. We lay a great emphasis not only on the accumulation of vocabulary but also on the cultivation of language learning habits and critical thinking skills. Besides, students are encouraged to participate in overseas academic English tests such as IELTS and TOEFL. One problem is that some students in advanced classes may not be accustomed to the demanding learning atmosphere, while other students in average classes may be eager to move to the advanced class and take a challenge in their learning. I think it will be better if there is an easy access for students to move from the advanced class to the average class and vice versa. .

What do you think of College English Proficiency Test at ECNU?

The ECNU College English Proficiency Test (CEPT) has been incorporated into the college English reform as an evaluation tool of the learning results. It is said that ECNU students won't get a degree if they haven't passed CEPT, thus making the test a concerned topic among ECNU students. Therefore, we interviewed Dr. Guan Xiaoxian who is responsible for the research and execution of CEPT.

Dr. Guan Xiaoxian: Thanks to the reform, we are given freedom to pick up our own teaching materials and set up our own curriculum goals.On one hand, effective classroom teaching is necessary for the success of the reform.On the other hand, the evaluation, in terms of final exam of each semester and CEPT performance over the first school year, is equally necessary. The original intention of the CEPT is to examine the learning results of ECNU students who have participated in the reform. The ECNU CEPT has been underway for two years and maintained a difficulty index[9] around 0.6. Many ECNU students think CEPT is somewhere between CET4 and CET6 in terms of the difficulty index.What's more, the CEPT may serve as a stimulation

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and Intonation Contest annually. They learn how to organize a big event, how to cooperate with team members, and how to lead a group. With their commitment and devotion, great progresses and achievements have been made in recent years. The team has successfully applied for 3 National, 5 Shanghai and more than 10 ECNU sponsored research projects exploring their peer-tutoring, its validity and reliability, its culture and identities. They grow to be competent in all aspects and developed to be a one-major but multi-skilled person. Two of the teaching assistants
National first prize of China Dai
National English Spea

Introduction of the course

Initiated in 2007, the Pronunciation Teaching Assistants Program was originally intended for English majors only. However with

for one and a half hours. The syllabus[4] includes introduction to phonetics, pronunciation correction, and supplementary[3] activities like film dubbing,

WHY ARE REALITY TV SHOWS SO ATTRACTIVE

/2015 /

Nowadays, more and more celebrities can be seen not only in TV dramas and films but also on reality TV shows. More and more people, especially teenagers, started to watch them and were intrigued[1] by them. As far as I'm concerned, the reason why reality shows are so popular is the combination of star effect, curiosity of unusual experiences and herd mentality[2].

The celebrities are the main reason that people are attracted by reality shows. Ordinary people are usually willing to see stars on a TV show, not to mention those fans and idolaters[3]. I believe that, for some big fans, whenever they know their idols are going to show up on reality shows, they would never miss those programs. Sponsors of these shows always invite all kinds of celebrities, such as sport stars, movie stars, singers and so on, which attract more fans to the programs. Actually, people who are not big fans still have their reasons to insist on watching reality shows, one of which is to learn about stars' daily life. Celebrities always live far away from us, thus, various kinds of reality shows are good ways to take a close look at them.

To count the reasons why people love to watch reality shows so much, curiosity of unusual experiences should also be taken into consideration. There are various reality shows today, if a reality show wants to become more popular than others, it needs to be unique. Thus, directors of reality shows usually manage to make the program special that ordinary people can't experience in their everyday life, for example, the famous “tear off the brand name”[4] game in “Running Man”. People can be attracted by these unusual and interesting activities and then fall in love with reality shows.

Another important reason is herd mentality. More and more people like reality shows.If you have never watched any reality shows, you will have no common language with your friends. Think about this. Your friends are talking about a reality show merrily, and you completely don't know what they're talking about because you never watched that show. I suppose this scene is very uncomfortable to anyone. So admit it, the reason why you're watching a reality show is that other people are watching it.

Although the popularity of reality shows is just a phenomenon, we can see a lot about human minds and commercial activities. I can't tell whether these are good to society or not. I'm still worrying about its negative influence, especially those on teenagers. Anyway, as ordinary people, we can just wait and see what will happen.

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1. intrigue: v.
2. herd mentality:
3. idolater: n.
4. “tear off the brand name”: “ ”

Recently, more and more people have become addicted to reality TV shows, such as “*Running*

However, when they keep in touch with reality TV shows, they create a new big passion for it quickly.

Of course, I do really hope our Chinese TV programs can have more original TV shows which attract people's attention and are full of value. Only in this way can our TV industry develop better. Maybe in the future, people will be interested in our programs only for likeness from hearts rather than the heavy pressure.

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1. Running Man：
2. Dad, where are we going:
3. star effect:
4. hit: n.
5. accelerate: v.
6. favorable: adj.

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled[1] in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies[2]
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned[3] from our timidity
In the fush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

Maya Angelou, born Marguerite Annie Johnson, was a Pulitzer Prize-winning African American poet. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928 and died in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on May 28, 2014. Angelou was also a dancer, an actress and a singer.

Her most prominent works include *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which documents her childhood, and *The Heart of a Woman*. She won multiple awards and honorary degrees throughout her life. Angelou was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom[4]—the highest civilian award in the United States—three years before her death. She won the NAACP[5] Award for Outstanding Literary Work (Poetry) in 2007 as well as the BET Honors Award for Literary Arts in 2012.

Angelou is hailed as one of the most signifcant authors of her time, and is seen as a torch-bearer for African-American women. She received worldwide acclaim upon publishing *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in 1969—a volume where she discusses how she is kept from freedom.

Angelou was well-known for her civil rights activism and worked with both Malcolm X—who she frst met in Ghana—and Martin Luther King. She aided X in building the Organization of Afro-American Unity until he was assassinated in 1964. King was killed four years later on her 40th birthday. Despite their deaths, Angelou continued to work in civil rights.

At the 1993 Presidential Inauguration[6], Angelou recited a poem from her *And Still I Rise* volume. She was the frst African-American woman to perform at an inauguration.

1. coil: v.
2. ecstasy: n.
3. wean: v.
4. Presidential Medal of Freedom:
5. NAACP: 全称为 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
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6. Presidential Inauguration: （

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Have you ever fallen in love with a city through a movie? If so, you must have experienced the following: the city where the story takes place, where the protagonists meet each other becomes an attractive place that appears in your dreams constantly and calls to you for a visit. Now, this article is going to introduce some of such movies and such places.

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Rome: the capital city of Italy
Places of interest:
Mouth of the Truth
(where Joe pulls a prank on Ann)
Spanish Steps
(where Joe and Ann chat and decide to enjoy a day of freedom)
Colosseum
(where Ann, Joe and his friends visit and have fun)

Ann is a princess who is fed up with her tight schedule and tremendous duty as a public fgure. Therefore, during her stay in Rome, she runs away to get some fresh air. She is found sleeping on a bench in a plaza[1] and taken to a shabby apartment by a journalist, Joe Bradly. At frst, Joe does not recognize Ann, but when he does, he wants to make money out of the princess by writing a story about her. So, he hides his identity as a journalist and pretends not to know Ann, and Ann claims herself to be a girl who escapes school. They take a wonderful adventure around Rome: they have coffee at a street side cafe, they visit famous tourist destinations in Rome, they go to a dance on a boat and they even visit the police station because of the mess Ann makes while riding a scooter[2]. As they get to know each other, the two young people start to have feelings for each other, but they both know there is no way for them to be together. At the end of the day, Joe drives Ann back to where she belongs and decides not to sell the story. The next day, Ann and Joe meet again in a press conference as they are who they truly are. And that is probably their last meeting.

Seattle: A West Coast seaport city in the United States.
Places of interest:
Lake Union
(by which Sam and Jonah live)
Space Needle
(which appears in the movie as a landmark)

Sam and his son, Jonah, move from Chicago to Seattle after the death of his wife, in order to start a new life, but he is still overwhelmed with the grief. Little Jonah is so worried about his father that he calls a radio talk show and persuades his father to talk to the hostess. Sam's talk on the air[3] touches hundreds of women listeners' hearts and Annie is one of them. She is moved to tears when she hears Sam's story on her way to her fancé's parents' house. After that, she begins to feel attached to the man whom she has never met. She even tries to write to Sam and wants to meet him in the Empire State Building on Valentine's Day. Although she does not post the letter, her friend mails it for her. Jonah likes Annie's letter and asks his father to go to New York, but his request is refused, so he goes to New York by himself to see Annie. On Valentine's Day, Sam hurriedly fies to New York to look for Jonah. Annie is also in this city and she confesses her feelings for Sam to her fancé and breaks up with him. Finally, the two meet on the top of the Empire State Building.

London: the capital and the most populated in the United Kingdom
Places of interest:
10 Downing Street
(where David lives and works)
South Bank
(where Daniel and Sam talk about)
Somerset House
(where there is an open air ice-skating rink[4] in winter)

This Christmas-themed comedy shows different aspects of love through separate but interrelated stories. The Prime Minister of London, David, falls in love with one of his household staff Natalie. David's sister Karen fnds out the affair between her husband Harry and his secretary, Mia. Karen's friend Daniel is a widower[5] and left with a stepson named Sam who is fond of his classmate Joanna. Daniel encourages his stepson to reveal his affection to Joanna, and in the meanwhile he himself bumps into a beautiful woman Carol. Harry's employee Sarah has admired her colleague Karl for more than two years, but when their relationship wants to go one step further, Sarah has to give it up for the sake of her sick brother. Mark has had a secret crush on his best friend Peter's wife Juliet. He gathers all his courage to tell Juliet the truth and in return is given a gentle kiss. Their writer friend Jamie is cheated on by his wife, so he leaves home for France and while there he meets his Portuguese housekeeper Aurelia—the true love of his life. Bill, a singer whose song becomes the number one single, decides to spend the Christmas Eve with his longtime manager, even though he complains about him all the time. More stories are included in the movie.

Apart from its fascinating plot, a movie can also be appreciated for its scenes: the amazing scenery and the spectacular architectures. Many other cities have been portrayed in movies, such as Tokyo in *The Garden of Words*, Shanghai in *Tiny Times*, so on and so forth. As long as you pay attention to the details shown in a movie, you will notice the charm of the city described in it and may probably be dying to visit it.

1. plaza n.
2. scooter n.
3. on the air
4. rink n.
5. widower n.

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Stories of Asian Students at ECNU

Studying abroad seems to be an easy choice for college students today. What is behind is the courage to step out of a comfort zone and into a discovery of an unknown culture. The discovery trip may enable you to eliminate stereotype[1] or prejudice and finally bring you into the moment of enlightenment[2]. The following interview is between *ECNU Circle* journalists and two Asian students,Ye Guanteng from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Li Weiquan from Djakarta, Indonesia. They both come from overseas Chinese families and major in International Economics and Trade at ECNU now. They will share with us how Asian students feel when they study abroad in China.

ECNU Circle: What is your original intention of studying abroad in Shanghai?

Ye Guanteng and Li Weiqian: As it is known to us that China's higher education enjoys a good reputation here in Asia. We chose to come to Shanghai for study simply because our brothers and sisters are all enrolled in Chinese universities. Besides, Chinese universities kindly offer a scholarship to international students. For example, I received a full scholarship from ECNU this year. As for the benefits of studying abroad, we think that it not only broadens our horizons, enriches our life experiences, but also breaks our stereotypes and rebuilds our values. Being immersed in the cultural diversity, we get to know what we read and learn from books tells only a part of the story. To know the whole story, you've got to travel and see the world.

E: How do you feel the school life here at ECNU?

Ye and Li: Academic life here can be a bit challenging. Major courses like Macro-economics and Micro-economics are not as easy as we had expected.We failed to gain a full understanding because our comprehension in terms of Chinese is rather limited. As a result, we have to make extra efforts to catch up with our Chinese classmates. In addition, sometimes we tend to feel lonely as we live alone in dormitory for graduates and don't have any roommates. It's a pity that we don't mix with our Chinese classmates but fortunately we make friends with overseas students from all over the world as we live in the same dorm building.

E: Could you share with us the local culture in your hometown?

Ye: Malaysia, a typical tropical country built in forests, is well-known for its palm trees and hot sunshine. It's summer all year around. Usually it's hot in the daytime and won't get cool until nights when you see Malaysians hang out in the alleys[3] of their neighborhood enjoying beer, barbecue and sea breeze. Malaysians are blessed with a laid-back[4] lifestyle. They get up around midmorning and then go for a ride or chat with friends over coffee.

Li: What is special about Indonesia is that it is a country of music lovers. A popular street scene at night is an Indonesian music show where boys sing their favorite songs while playing guitar. The drum they use is nothing but a barrel for drinking water. Besides, you can also see such a performance either in buses or restaurants. Moreover, gamelan[5] is a traditional Indonesian musical instrument. Though it is greatly different from other musical instruments, gamelan is said to be able to mix with both traditional music instruments and modern music instruments.

E: What about the local custom and religion in Malaysia and Indonesia?

Ye: Malaysia is a country of multi-ethnic groups with different religions. Although Islam is the biggest religion, Malaysians are allowed to practice whatever religion they believe. In Malaysia, you may hear the Islamic prayers, Buddhist chanting and even Daoism preaching. Moreover, Malaysians are given freedom to pursue their own customs, education and culture. For example, Indonesian Chinese like my family still keep traditional Chinese custom.One popular scene in Malaysia is that you will see Islamic temples everywhere and Islamic women wearing black scarf with only their faces exposed.

Li: Indonesians pay great attention to the etiquette[6] and courtesy. Generally speaking, we greet each other with handshakes but we are not allowed to take the initiative to shake hands with people of the opposite sex. Elegancy, modesty and kindness are recognized virtues of Muslim. It is said that a faithful Islamic believer will worship on bended knees fve times a day. He also has to take off his shoes and take a shower before kowtow[7].

E: How do you like Shanghai?Is there anything impressive on your mind?

Ye and Li: Shanghai is an amazing city.We are deeply impressed by the hustling and bustling atmosphere

Concerning life on Minhang campus, we would say it's a challenge for us to make adaptation as we are so accustomed to the convenient urban lifestyle in our home country. As Minhang campus is far away from the downtown area, it takes us two hours to go downtown by bus and underground. It's so different from riding a motorcycle along the beach in our countries. Moreover, both of us have been living in hot tropical zones for 18 years, while now we experience four distinctive seasons here in Shanghai. Another impressive thing is that Chinese drivers are kind of reckless compared with Malaysian or Indonesian drivers. Back home, drivers seldom blow their horns or use high beam lights as it's a sign of impatience and warning. Drivers usually wait patiently and politely.

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Wu Lingqing is a senior student in the Japanese Department of the School of Foreign Languages. She is now studying at Nagoya Gakuin University(NGU)[1] for a one-year exchange program. Wu is also a journalist of the ECNU Circle and has worked with us on several articles for the past few editions. For this new edition, we are going to cooperate in a different manner. We gave her an interview to better understand her fresh new experiences at NGU.

E: Can you tell us about this exchange program and how well you are doing at NGU?

W: I feel incredibly lucky to get the chance to study at NGU as an exchange student. NGU is a religious private school characterized by Christianity, therefore I not only get the chance to improve my Japanese proficiency[2],but also have better access to the Japanese religion and culture at the same time.

The first classes in Japanese universities usually start at 9:20 a.m. to spare time for commuting. As I live inside the campus, I don't need to get up very early in the morning. I take many courses here at NGU.I take a course called “Introduction of Japanese Linguistics” together with Japanese natives. I also take some basic language courses specially designed for exchange students, such as listening and speaking. There is a variety of optional courses covering

But Japan is an alien land anyway, and there were too many new things for me to adapt to, so I could not help feeling homesick when I first arrived here. I particularly missed the classic Fujian delicacy herbal jelly that my mother used to make for me at home, and felt sad that it would be a long time before I could taste it again.

With the passage of time, I have got used to the new place and the new rhythm of life. I will treasure my limited time in NGU and enjoy myself here.

What I am most excited about is that my parents will come to visit me during the Spring Festival. I am looking forward to the happy time with them.

E: How do you get along with new teachers and classmates here at NGU?

W: I have become familiar with the teachers and classmates here at NGU, and have made new friends here. Once, a Japanese teacher invited us to his home for dinner. In the Japanese culture, it is a great honor to be invited as a guest. The dishes were all handmade by the teacher and locals nearby. To our surprise, a specialist was invited to teach tea ceremony hand in hand. After dinner, we sat together with the teacher and discussed about life, culture and even politics. The teacher joked about the government in a rational and humorous manner. We chatted, argued and laughed together. It was a great time.

I realize that nationality is not a big obstacle in cross-cultural communications. If you are sincere to others, you can always get friendship.

E: Do you have any difficulty communicating with the local people?

W: At first, I had big trouble in communication. When I went shopping in the supermarket, the shop assistants would slow down their speed while talking with me, but still I would fail to understand what they said from time to time. I came to understand that for language learners, book knowledge is far from enough, and living in the native speaking countries is a great way for improvement.

After half a year of living here, I can communicate much more smoothly with others. I have even learned the different terms for “cabbage”.

E: What is your overall impression of Japan?

W: Japan is an island country with a small territory[9]. At the same time, it is one of the most developed countries in science and technology. I once visited Toyota city, the birthplace of Toyota, which witnesses the development of the car industry. Cars have become necessity rather than luxury for the modern people. I hope that one day China can also have its own world-class enterprises and strong brands in the car industry.

Japan is also a good place to enjoy life. There are hot springs in many places like Kounan city. Having a glass of Iwate County’s yogurt after enjoying the hot springs will make you feel on top of the world[10].

Most Japanese people are kind and polite. They are hardworking and a bit rigid[11]. I wish there would be goodwill between our two countries forever.

Wu Lingqing said that she hesitated a little before making up her mind to go to NGU. Now she knows she has made the right decision and that overseas study is indeed a valuable experience for self-improvement, especially for language learners. The one year of study has greatly broadened her horizon and will lay a solid foundation for her language skills. She will make the best use of her next semester at NGU before returning to her beloved ECNU.

1. Nagoya Gakuin University (NGU):
2. proficiency: n.
3. Karate: n.
4. pragmatic: adj.
5. kendo: n.
6. fugu: n.
7. wisteria: n.
8. conscientious: adj.
9. territory: n.
10. feel on top of the world:
11. rigid: adj.

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Life in Norwich:

The Chinese Perspective

Part II

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Zhendong Du is a teacher of Translation and Interpreting at the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, School of Foreign Languages, ECNU. He is also a translator and interpreter. He worked for Xi'an International Studies University between 2000 and 2005, received training in Conference Interpreting at DG Translating and Interpreting, the European Commission, in Brussels in 2001, studied and worked in the UK from 2005 through 2009, and worked for the Chinese construction machinery giant Sany Heavy Industry as a senior interpreter from 2009 through 2011, before joining the ECNU in 2012.

Jerry's Indian neighbor Sujitha had lived in Norwich for two years longer than Jerry, and she told him that there had never been so many Chinese students in Norwich before. She said that before Jerry's arrival, she had only seen a couple of Chinese students, but now, Chinese students seemed to have suddenly fooded the place. Jerry began to understand why the locals seemed to act so cautious and even hostile towards him.

Jerry's Malay and Chinese neighbors in Bateman Close were both PhD students. The Malay man and his wife were both wearing simplifed Muslim dresses and were very polite, always smiling at and greeting Jerry and his family. But they never stopped to talk because either the husband or the wife would always go out as soon as they were back home from the university. Jerry's Chinese neighbor, Danny, told him that they were doing part time jobs. Danny's wife also had a part time job. In fact, all international students there with their families had part time commitments, in order to cover the huge expenses of rental, utility bills, food and travel there in the UK. Some worked as cleaners in the University Hospital nearby, others worked in places like the meat processing company on the other side of the town, or peeled potatoes for some vegetable processing companies. Many of them waited tables and washed dishes in restaurants on the Riverside. Jerry remembered his Ghanaian neighbor, Henry, who was a PhD student also, and had four children. The two that came to play with Emma always said they were hungry and asked for bananas to eat. Jerry very seldom saw Henry's wife, who was also called Aurelia. Danny told Jerry that Henry's wife worked night shifts to support Henry's study and raise the four children. Jerry was shocked: thank goodness compulsory education[1] in the country was free!

Jerry found out that most master level students also had part time jobs. So after a couple of visits to the Job Center in the City Center, he landed himself a part time job as well. He considered it a decent one—recycling back-issue magazines. The news agencies would send the magazines which they were not able to sell in time to Menzie's (the company's name) for recycling. The work area was very spacious and was partitioned into two parts. On his side of the glass wall were roaring machines, forklifts and rough-looking workers in refective vests and steel-toe work boots, men and women alike. Across the hall, on the other side of the glass wall was the administration area, where people wearing uniforms and stylish hairdos moved about in a more refned manner.

Jerry worked in several different institutions during his stay in Norwich, and he was always amazed by how these institutions were managed. He remembered all this and shared his insights with the fellow countrymen he met afterwards. All these institutions were managed carefully and scientifcally. For each new hire, the supervisor would give the "orientation[2]" in person. The supervisor would explain every detail of the safety rules and regulations to the new person face to face. He would show them around and explain the meaning of every sign and colored line in a very detailed fashion. And in the end the supervisor would ask them to sign a document which they must read out aloud and to which they must say "Yes, I understand" before signing. Jerry's impression

of similar experiences back at home was a whole-sale style briefing at a meeting and people signing the necessary documents without really reading them. None of it would be done one to one. Other “amazing” things included the supervisor working alongside all the other workers; the women working alongside the men, never expecting lighter assignments or special treatment because of their gender. They all said that working part-time in the UK could be back-breaking. Not surprisingly, Jerry’s job in Menzies’ was not easy, either.

Since you had the supervisor beside you, you couldn’t frequent the toilet too often or too long. They would make sure you didn’t waste a minute. Jerry attributed the advanced society, science and technology, and economy of that country to the way work was organized in that country.

Jerry thought the opportunity to study here in the UK was worth its while since you not only learned in the classrooms, your learning took place everywhere. He whole-heartedly endorsed[3] the Communist Party’s policy of encouraging Chinese youths to be sent to the developed world to study. You learnt from not only the teachers, but students from other countries, your part-time employers, and all that you saw and experienced.

The local people formed orderly queues for everything: the bus, the metro, taxis, in the post office, in the hospital, in banks, and in supermarkets; they talked quietly in lifts, on trains, in cafes and libraries; they didn’t litter; they didn’t spit; they fed the rabbits and squirrels and seabirds and didn’t attempt to catch them for fun or for food; they built “easy access” lifts everywhere for the disabled and ensured that no one but the disabled had access to them; everything they built was meant to last: from roads and bridges to the desks and chairs in their children’s classrooms. The British police responded very quickly and their hospitals were so much more efficient than the ones where Jerry came from. Their banks were adept at managing the country’s currency so that everything remained affordable by the local standard.

Jerry was quite happy to see the small Norwich City get gradually taken over by Chinese students during his study there. The more, the better, he thought. The local people, however, were much less welcome towards the new comers. Once, when Jerry tried to squeeze past an old lady who was still sorting out her coins onto the bus. The old lady immediately squeaked: “Somebody had no manners!” Jerry was puzzled since he didn’t even touch her. Afterwards, he realized that he had jumped the queue. The barber in Diamond Cuts hairdresser’s halfway to the City Center also became less friendly towards him. Jerry remembered that the man was a former boxing champion who had many of his pictures and trophies out on display on the walls and cupboards. One day, he heard him say: “These

1. compulsory education:
2. orientation: n.
3. endorse: v.
4. upgrade: v.
5. in large hordes:
6. chadors and niqabs: (　　)
7. lackluster: n.

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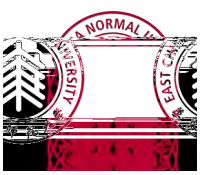
A Joyful Get-together



ECNU C