



Special Summer Entertainment Edition Third OCIT Conference on Applied Foreign Language

By Carol Wu

The Third OCIT Conference on Applied Foreign Language Teaching was held on June 3, 2006. We had the honor of inviting two renowned keynote speakers—Dr. Chuan-Hsiu Hung from National Yun-Lin University of Technology and Dr. Hintat Chang from National Taiwan University—to present speeches on Issues and Needs of Institutes of Technology and the onset age of second language acquisition respectively.

There were eleven papers presented in the conference covering the fields of Language Assessment, Second Language Learning and Teaching, and Literature. In addition to the academic research paper presentation, participants also enjoyed the book fair sponsored by six publishers.

Feedback from participants showed that this conference covered issues on both theoretical and practical sides of language assessment and second language learning and teaching. We look forward to another successful conference in the future.

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Teacher's introduction

By Fang Chun - Ou

I was born in 1972. I received my bachelor degree in the major of computer science at Providence University in 1994. After graduation, I taught at senior high school for six years. My computer science undergraduate degree and employment background have allowed me to understand and utilize technological aspects of language teaching. In addition, I am enthusiastic in the combination of theoretical framework based on EFL and SLA research and technology-enhanced education.



Learning gives me a world of satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment. The more I learn, the more fulfilled I feel. In 2002, I received my master degree at New York University in TESOL. My desire to attend the Ph.D. program stemmed from a realization that my Master's degree education was only a starting point in learning second language teaching methodologies. During my doctoral studies, I worked in Division of Adult Studies (DAS) which is part of the University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning (KU-CRL). The institution is committed to enhancing quality of life for people with disabilities or who experience societal and ecological barriers.

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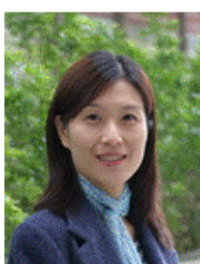
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My research interests include: second language acquisition, reading strategies, language assessment, Phonetics, Psycholinguistic investigations of language structure, and research methodologies. My dissertation title is "The effects of *The Summarization Strategy* on reading comprehension of non-proficient Taiwanese University EFL learners".

I believe there is still much to be explored and studied in education academia. I am committed to teaching career and I would like to make a major breakthrough in EFL curriculum and instruction. I also hope to contribute to the Taiwan academic environment in my field of profession.

Trust Me ...

By Sabrina Wu



Worried about the future? Depressed before graduation? Although I have been in the same situation, I always try to be positive. I always believe, "Trust yourself and do your best; then you can make it." Let me tell you my story.

Many years ago, when I entered the 5-year program at OCIT, my mom thought I would not have a good future. My parents are both teachers; therefore, they think being a teacher is the best job one could have. In order to reach their expectations of me, I made a plan to achieve that goal.

While I was at OCIT, I studied hard and took the university transfer exam right after I graduated. Unfortunately, I failed the exam. However, I didn't give up. I took the exam again the next year because I believed I could make it. Finally, I entered a university and majored in International Trade, which was also my major at OCIT.

During my time at the university, I also took Foreign Languages and Literatures as my minor in order to improve my English and prepare to study abroad. Consequently, I took the TOEFL and GMAT exams and applied to Master's Degree programs in the United States. In the end, I was accepted by New York University!

After getting my MA, I came back to Taiwan and got a teaching job at Chinyi Institute of Technology in Taichung County. Two years later, I returned to my alma mater, OCIT – this time as a teacher!

But, I wasn't finished yet. After a few years, I wanted to achieve an even higher goal. I took the TOEFL again and the GRE exam and got accepted into a PhD program in the United States. Three years later, I had finished my PhD and it was back again to OCIT – this time as an Associate Professor! My parents are really proud of me!

So, just remember that if you know what you want, and you try your best to achieve your goal, anything is possible!



2006 OCIT Cup

By Vincent Lai

On Friday, March 31, the *2006 OCIT Cup* English speech contest was held here at OCIT. The contest is one of the greatest events for senior high, vocational high, and vocational college students in central Taiwan. This year, 69 students from 38 schools participated in the event.

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According to Benjamin Chen, OCIT Chairman of the Board and a strong supporter of this activity, OCIT has long emphasized the importance of English education. This dedication to developing English language skills can be seen in the strength of the OCIT English curriculum and in the strength of its faculty (including 14 foreign teachers).

In order to enhance student's English learning motivation and offer students an opportunity to observe other excellent contestants, this school has sponsored the contest for the past four years.

The two Student Hostesses this year were Sandra Chang (張慈芳) from the AFL Department and Carrie Hsu (許瑜珊) from the Department of International Trade. The six judges were all invited from outside of school. They were Mr. Sergey Redkin, Sister Katrina Eggert, Mr. Jason Buddo, Mr. Bruce Lafko, Ms. Linda Jean Martin-Song, and Dr. Clyde A. Warden. The contestants were allowed to speak on their choice from among four topics, My Ideal Teacher, Dangerous Friends, Money, and Education.

The contestants were divided into two groups, and they competed in two rounds. The top six contestants from each group qualified to go on to the next round of the contest. Because two of the participants tied for 6th place, there were 13 finalists for the second round. In the second round, contestants delivered the same speech they made in the first round. After an intense competition, the top six prize winners were finally selected. And yes, there **was** an OCIT student among them; Vincent Lai (賴勇任), won 4th prize! Congratulations to Vincent and to all of the other winners!

The 2006 OCIT Cup was again an exciting, challenging competition, and we are sure next year's will be bigger and better than ever. We hope to see YOU there!

The Star of OCIT

By Phoenix Chin

Participating in the singing contest "The Star of OCIT" was a fantastic experience. Many interesting things happened during the contest. Many competitors (including me) were very nervous at first, and most of us got very serious stage flight. Some people couldn't stop shaking, some keep calling their friends and some didn't talk and just sat there on a chair. Anyway, I saw many expressions on many faces that were different from what I usually see.

On the other hand, the ambiance backstage was very exciting and busy. I saw many staff from CTS(華視) focusing on their works, and I could see from their eyes how much they love their jobs. Everyone backstage had his or her own role and each was working really hard to do the best that they could. We had many dress rehearsals so that even one little mistake wouldn't happen during the contest.

Everyone was very friendly and kind. The CTS staff encouraged us when we felt down, and the competitors also supported each other. We were just like a big family even we though we had known each other for a few hours. I was really concerned that something bad would happen to me, like being scolded by the judges.



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Fortunately, I passed the critical test and won the third place. The judges were not as critical as the gossip said. In fact, they gave me a lot of constructive suggestions, which will help me improve my singing skill.

During this competition, I met many students who had the same interest as I do, and I had great fun with them. Most people think that competitors must be very competitive with each other; however, we actually became more like friends. I think this is the most valuable thing that I gained from participating in this contest. I hope I have more chances to be in this kind of competition again, and I will try my best to give a better performance in the future.

AFL Students, Junior Judges

By Kelly Hsieh, AFL 2 Z



On June 10, my classmates and I went to Da Ming elementary school for a speech contest. We were the judges. It was my first time to be a judge; I was a little nervous, but also very excited.

When I saw those small kids, I didn't think my English is better than theirs – their perfect appearance, their excellent body language, pronunciation and expression! All amazed me!

Although some students were too nervous and did not speak very well, at least they were brave enough to stand on the stage. Everyone prepared hard for this contest; everyone was the number one in my heart. I think I need to work harder and do my best in the future! Is time to get going!

By Gina Wang, AFL 2 Z

A few days ago, my friends and I went to Ta Ming elementary school to be judges. That was a big English short stories speaking contest. I scored the fourth-grade students. In that classroom, we had 52 students in the competition. All of them looked so pure and childlike. When we started the contest, they were so silent. They respected others on the stage. And the competitors on the platform were so vivid, using body language and props.



Although they were just 10 or 11 years old, it was easy for them to speak naturally and fluently! Look at us ... even though we have learned more English, we still cannot speak out like that! After I saw these students, I thought that we ought to improve ourselves more and more, including our speaking, writing, listening and reading.

This speech contest took more than two hours; it was an exhausting event. But it was also an unforgettable experience.

By Winnie Lin, AFL 2 Z



On Saturday, June 3, we went to Ta Ming elementary school to be the judges in an English speech contest. Many children were in the contest. When they went to the stage and started to tell a story, I was surprised! Wow! How could they speak so smoothly?

Not only did they speak very well, but that includes the expressions on their face and their body language. It was an amazing performance!

Before they came to the contest, I think they worked very hard at home. They prepared many props with their parents to make the contest more lively. They were really attentive at this great contest. I am proud that I had this opportunity!

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By Amber Wu, AFL 2 Z

We went to Ta Ming elementary school as English speech contest judges. I scored students who were eleven years old. At first, I was afraid of the children because young kids' English these days is much better than before! I was afraid I wouldn't be able to do very well. Then the contest started. These students left me amazed. Their English is so good! I think I should start working harder!

*By Sara Hsieh, AFL 2 Z*

Two weeks ago, we went to Ta Ming elementary school to be judges in an English speech contest. It was fun for me. Novia and I were in judges in the same class. The children were adorable! They not only spoke English well, but they were also fashionable. Their clothes were cute and special. Some were dressed like Superman, a monster, or a bee.

They were nervous when they spoke; they always forgot the words, but their intonation was great! Some children performed very well – they even used body language!

By Patty Hsieh, AFL 2 Z

Last weekend, I went to Ta Ming elementary school to be a judge in an English speaking contest. When I got there, I was really excited because this was my first experience as a judge. Kelly and I listened to sixty-six students' stories. When they started to speak, I was shocked. Their English was so good!

Their English intonation was better than mine. I remember one boy who spoke about a scout's story. The boy wore a heavy coat when he spoke. His voice was loud, and his sound was very normal. When they told their stories, they showed us their toys and their props.



I think the children probably go to the same cram school because some of their stories were the same. I listened to their intonation and their pronunciation, and then I gave the best one a high score. When I heard them, I thought my own English intonation is not very good. So, I must study hard. Otherwise, these children will be better than me in a few years.

When we finished this activity, we talked about our experiences. We found we had a lot of interesting stories to tell.

A Dream

An original story by Miranda, AFL 甲

I had a dream last night. I dreamed that I became a billionaire and had a lot of money. Everyone respected and envied me very much. I fell in love with a handsome guy. We often enjoyed each other's company. We went on a trip everywhere. We went to Europe, American, and Africa. But something unfortunate happened to me one day.

I lost all of my money. The handsome guy eloped with his lover. They stole all of my money. Oh, my god! I lost everything within one day. Suddenly, I woke up and found that I fell down from the bed with tears in my eyes. What a terrible dream it was!

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

A book review by Jamie, AFL2 #



This story is about a boy named Charlie, who lives with his family. They are poor, but they love each other. There is a big, secret factory in their town; many people want to visit it, but they can't. The owner of the factory is a really mysterious man called Mr. Wonka. He never appears in public, and people in town never see any employees walk into the factory. Every night, before Charlie goes to bed, he will look through the window and look at the big chocolate factory. He wonders, will he have a chance to go inside?

One day, Mr. Wonka proclaimed that he would give five chances to visit the factory. Winners would find tickets hidden in packages of candy. Charlie doesn't cherish any illusions because he knows he won't have any money to buy a luxury like chocolate. But luckily, he picks up some money on the street and uses the money to buy some chocolate. He quickly opens the candy since he is so hungry.

When they finish the trip in the factory, Mr. Wonka said Charlie will be the successor to this factory, because he didn't come up with any trouble during the whole visit. Everyone was astonished, including Charlie!

My favorite role was Mr. Wonka because he creates lots of amazing things and lots of delicious chocolate. The genius thing was that he managed the whole factory by himself! Actually, this is an old story. I read it nearly ten years ago, when I was still a little kid. It's a really attractive story that kids or adults will like.

The Model Millionaire

A condensation of the original story by Oscar Wilde

by Kelly Chen, AFL2 Z

Kenji Otis was the best-looking gentleman in London. He was good in every way. Unfortunately, he didn't have much money. Kenji's father didn't leave anything valuable to Kenji when he died. Kenji worked hard to make money, but he just couldn't do well, so he is not rich. Kenji fell in love with an attractive girl – Laura Merton. Her family was one of the richest in town. Her father wouldn't let his precious daughter marry a man who has no money. He said he would let them get married only if Kenji had ten thousand dollars.

One day, Kenji visited his rich painter friend, Alan, who was painting a picture of an old beggar with a sad face. For one picture, Alan would earn two thousand dollars. Kenji pitied the sad old man in the picture. He thought such an old man would need money, so he gave all his money to the sad model. Now he did not have any money at all. The next day, a visitor came to Kenji's house and gave Kenji an envelope.

In fact, the visitor was ordered by the old man who was the richest person in town. He heard all about Kenji and believed he was a kind, good man. There was ten thousand dollars inside the envelope! In the end, Kenji and Laura got married!

Turning A New Leaf ...

By Bailey (outgoing president)

Time flies like an arrow. I can clearly remember the day I decided to participate in AFL's club four years ago, and the day I was elected to be the president, and even the day we held the hand-over ceremony for next year.

I want to express my appreciation to all this year's officers (Natalie and Renee from 四甲; Rochelle from 一甲; Anna, Natasha, and Zeta from 二甲; Lisa and Edith from 四乙) and every hard-working partner in AFLSA. On behalf of the AFLSA, I MUST say thank you very much again to our beloved faculty advisor – Mr. Lasley. Without you all, the AFLSA could not have won the Excellent Club award this year!

For me, the members of AFLSA are just like a big family. We help each other; we share happiness and sadness; we learn how to get along with others. Although we may not be the best, but



By Alana (Incoming President)



First, I have to tell everybody that I didn't really volunteer to enter the election for AFLSA President – I was volunteered!

It's all thanks to my dear teachers, who introduced me, lead me, and gave me advice. And to all AFL students, I say "Thank you for your support!" You are giving me a chance to make this sweet society more perfect, more wonderful.

I will do my best in everything!



By Sophia Hung (2006-7 Faculty Advisor)

To be the new counselor of AFL students' club will be a great challenge for me. But I will do my best to work with our members. Next year we'll hold lots of interesting games and activities for AFL students. Hope to see you there.

AFL Student Voice

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