Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching 2017

FED Teachers and Students Participating Voluntary Teaching Activity in Hubei
OBJECTIVES

To disseminate educational ideals and report on faculty and student activities of FED;

To provide an easy and user-friendly platform for academic staff;

To promote a sharing culture and boost teacher education and professional development.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Sylvia S.L. IEONG       SLIeong@umac.mo
Leisure LI                              mb64877@umac.mo
Phone 88224144
Address E33-3030
CONTENTS

Academic Staff Activities

2. Seminar on “How to Be a Professional Chinese Language Teacher: A Reflection on the Compulsory Education Chinese Language Teacher Training Instructional Standards”.............................................................2
3. Seminar on “Teaching of Reading & Writing: An Integrated and Balanced Approach”.................................................................................2
4. Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching 2017....3
5. Seminar on “Enhancing English Reading Abilities in Chinese Children”..................................................................................................5
7. Exchange with Han Zhong Vocational and Technical College........7
8. Workshop on “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergartens: Use of Vocabulary Games in Story Reading”.................8
10. Academic Talk Sponsored by K. C. Wong Education Foundation: “St. Paul’s University College of Macau and the Emergence of Western Education during the Ming-Qing Transition Period”.............................10

Student Activities

1. FED Teachers and Students Participating Voluntary Teaching Activity in Hubei .................................................................................................12
The 2017 Series 4(Number 23): “The Power of ‘Thank You’: The Role of Gratitude in the School Context”, was held at E33-G021, the Faculty of Education on 7 November 2017. Prof. Ronnel Bornasal KING, Assistant Professor from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, The Education University of Hong Kong, was invited to be the speaker. Prof. Ronnel Bornasal KING is interested in understanding student motivation, engagement, and well-being.

Gratitude has become an increasingly popular topic not only in scientific circles but also among the wider public. However, the bulk of the research on gratitude has focused mostly on its effects on well-being among adult populations. Scant attention has been paid to how gratitude is associated with key school outcomes and how it is related to optimal functioning among school-aged children. In this talk, Prof. KING presented a series of studies (cross-sectional, longitudinal, experimental, and interventionist) conducted by their team that examined how gratitude is implicated in key school outcomes such as students’ motivation, engagement, achievement, and other critical outcomes.

Prof. Ronnel Bornasal KING presented his studies. Prof. KING also discussed their attempt to help improve gratitude by designing a positive psychology program for high school students. The talk was concluded by discussing the theoretical and practical implications of gratitude.

Prof. Ronnel Bornasal KING’s current research projects point out the broader role that positive education research could play in Asian educational contexts, which open new horizons for the research on gratitude.
Seminar on “How to Be a Professional Chinese Language Teacher: A Reflection on the Compulsory Education Chinese Language Teacher Training Instructional Standards” & “Teaching of Reading & Writing: An Integrated and Balanced Approach”

Seminar on “How to Be a Professional Chinese Language Teacher: A Reflection on the Compulsory Education Chinese Language Teacher Training Instructional Standards”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E4-G035 Anthony Lau Building, 8 November 2017. Prof. Rongsheng WANG from Shanghai Normal University, was invited to be the speaker.

Prof. WANG introduced the research content of “How to Be a Professional Chinese Language Teacher: A Reflection on the Compulsory Education Chinese Language Teacher Training Instructional Standards” from three aspects. Firstly, a standard system of teaching ability of subject teachers should be established. Secondly, teaching ability level tables that facilitate teachers’ self-diagnosis should be developed. Thirdly, the problem-oriented course content should be built, and teachers should carry out the course training according to the real demand.

Prof. WANG’s current research projects point out that students’ requirements should be translated into behavioral standards. To effectively implement “on-demand training” and “stratification training”, a new self-diagnostic tool for teaching ability of teachers has been developed. This research results constitutes a valuable and replicable experience for the studies on Chinese language teacher training instructional standards.

Seminar on “Teaching of Reading & Writing: An Integrated and Balanced Approach”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in Ho Yin Memorial Hall, Hou Kong Middle School, 9 November 2017. Prof. Rongsheng WANG from Shanghai Normal University, was invited to be the speaker.

Prof. WANG explained how to teach reading and writing in the actual teaching in order to achieve the integrated and balance through the example of “ the Pines of Huangshan”.

Prof. Rongsheng WANG delivered his speech.
Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching 2017

Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching 2017, organized by FED of the University of Macau and co-organized by The Chinese Educators Association of Macau and Union of Catholic Schools of Macau, was held at the University of Macau during 9-11 November 2017, bringing together experts, scholars and professionals in the field of Small Class Teaching and other related sectors to share their insights into small class teaching. The DSEJ (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau) supported this conference.

Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching has been held for several sessions. Scholars and experts from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan have shared their fruitful experiences and perspectives in promoting small class teaching. This was the first time for Macao to host the conference, aiming at improving the scientific research standard of curriculum and teaching in Macao while sharing valuable experiences with educators in other Greater China regions. It also provided a platform for local teachers to learn from one another and enlarge the space of future cooperation so as to promote the development of high-quality teaching. The conference was divided into four parts: Expert Report, Teaching Rehearsal, Regional Experience Sharing and Thesis Presentation.

After the opening ceremony, Ms. Lai LEONG, Director of Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, delivered a keynote speech. Prof. Lionel M. NI, the Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) of the University of Macau, said, “It’s the first time that Greater China Region Conference on Small Class Teaching meet in Macao, which, I believe, will help promote the Macao educators’ sensitivity to small class teaching.”

After the opening ceremony, Prof. NI presented the Certificate of Appreciation to distinguished guests. Prof. NI delivered a welcome speech. Ms. Lai LEONG, Director of Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, delivered a keynote speech. After the opening ceremony, Ms. Lai LEONG, Director of Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, delivered a keynote speech entitled Development and Outlook of Small Class Teaching in Macao. Ms. LEONG reviewed the development of education in Macao after its return to China. She analyzed the opportunities and challenges of small class teaching in Macao. She said: “Today’s conference has not only brought us together to share experience, but also provided the opportunity to invite experts to demonstrate best possible teaching practice in Macao. This is both theoretical and practical achievement.”
Prof. Beifei DONG, Prof. Chuanxiong XIE from, Prof. Yongjun WU, Mr. Shangrong CHENG, and Prof. Guocui LI delivered the lectures on their recent research of small class teaching.

With the leadership of the FED staff, the participants visited the Pui Ching Middle School, the Affiliated School of the University of Macau, Escola Nossa Senhora De Fatima to observe the teaching rehearsal of the teachers from mainland China, Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan.

Teachers from Wuhan, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Chengdu, Hongkong and Taiwan shared their perception of daily teaching.
Seminar on “Enhancing English Reading Abilities in Chinese Children”

Seminar on “Enhancing English Reading Abilities in Chinese Children”, was held at E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, the Faculty of Education on Monday, 20 November 2017. Dr. Dan LIN from the Education University of Hong Kong was invited to be the speaker. Dr. Dan LIN is the leader of the Language Acquisition Area of Strength in the Faculty of Education and Human Development in the Education University of Hong Kong. She is a developmental psychologist with research interests mainly in cognitive development. Her research focuses on reading and writing development, language and learning, learning difficulties and interventions.

In traditional research, the main factors that influence Chinese children’s English reading are “phonological awareness”, “English vocabulary” and “letter knowledge”. Dr. LIN used many experimental methods, based on scientific experimental data to draw conclusions.

Dr. LIN shared her research on reading and writing development of Chinese children.

Dr. LIN’s current research projects point out that spelling mediated the effects of phonological awareness and English vocabulary knowledge and partially mediated the effects of letter knowledge in English word reading. These findings are of great value for pre-primary students and kindergarten teachers.
Seminar on “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergarten: An Enriched Oral Language Program with Phonological Awareness Exposure”

Seminar on “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergarten: An Enriched Oral Language Program with Phonological Awareness Exposure”, was held in E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education on 20 November 2017. Prof. Mei Lee NG, Assistant Professor of Department of Early Childhood, the Education University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Siu Sze YEUNG, Assistant Professor of Department of Psychological Studies, the Education University of Hong Kong, were invited to be the speakers.

In Hong Kong and many other Asian societies, English learning begins very early but the teaching approaches adopted by kindergartens are very diverse and not evidence-based. Current research projects point out that providing quality English learning experiences to very young learners is important for future language and literacy outcomes.

In this talk, the speakers shared the project findings from a number of research projects in the area of second language learning among very young Chinese ESL learners. Specifically, the rationale and design of enriched oral language program with exposure to phonological awareness was presented. Effects of the program on second language learning in Chinese kindergarteners was discussed.
Exchange with Han Zhong Vocational and Technical College

On 20 November, a delegation from Han Zhong Vocational and Technical College visited the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. The administrative staff of FED prepared a variety of activities for the delegates, including Tea Reception, Class Observation, keynote report and FED Tour.

Teachers from Han Zhong Vocational and Technical College exchanged their opinion on curriculum of Early Childhood Education with Prof. Juan ZHANG.

Prof. Biying HU delivered a talk on her recent research.

Prof. Zihao LI delivered a talk on his research of dance education.

The delegations exchanged with FED professors on curriculum and students development.

The delegations visited the delegates around the FED Building.
Workshop on “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergartens: Use of Vocabulary Games in Story Reading”

Workshop on “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergartens: Use of Vocabulary Games in Story Reading”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education on Tuesday, 21 November 2017. Prof. Mei Lee NG, Assistant Professor of Department of Early Childhood, from the Education University of Hong Kong, was invited to be the speaker.

Prof. Mei Lee NG introduced the research content of “Quality English Learning Experience in Kindergartens: Use of Vocabulary Games in Story Reading” with storybook reading activities. Storybook reading activities provide a meaningful context for young children to understand the meanings of words found to be highly predictive of future literacy skills including word reading and reading comprehension. But how to engage learners effectively to interact with the words that are presented in story reading?

This workshop introduced the various games that can be generated from the storybook reading which provides children multiple exposure to the target vocabulary. Participants were given hands-on experience of designing the games, playing the games and reflecting on how the games engaged very young children in active learning.
2017 Workshop (Number 1): “Publishing in Competitive Journals in Education: How Editors Think”

Workshop on “Publishing in Competitive Journals in Education: How Editors Think”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E33-2036 on Wednesday, 6 December 2017. Prof. Timothy TEO, Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of Faculty of Education, was invited to be the speaker. He is also Honorary Professor at the University of Auckland. Prior to joining the University of Macau, Timothy has worked at the National Institute of Education (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) and the University of Auckland (New Zealand). Prof. TEO is chief editor of two international journals, The Asia-Pacific Education Researcher (TAPER) and International Journal of Quantitative Research in Education (IJQRE). He is also a member on over 10 journal editorial boards. As an author, he has edited three books and written many book chapters and conference papers.

This was a three-hour workshop on the editorial processes in handling manuscripts. In particular, Prof. Timothy TEO advised that attention should be paid to the thinking processes that editors use to judge the suitability of manuscripts. Firstly, Prof. TEO introduced what competitive journals are and why we should publish in these journals. Then Prof. TEO pointed out that basic standards should be consistent with a clear focus, compelling arguments, persuasive ideas, well-defined problems and appropriate solutions.
Academic Talk Sponsored by K. C. Wong Education Foundation:
“St. Paul’s University College of Macau and the Emergence of Western Education during the Ming-Qing Transition Period”

Academic Talk Sponsored by K. C. Wong Education Foundation: “St. Paul’s University College of Macau and the Emergence of Western Education during the Ming-Qing Transition Period”, was held at E33-1004 on 13 December 2017. Prof. Lang XIAO from the College of Education, Zhejiang University, was invited to be the speaker. Prof. Lang XIAO graduated from the Department of History of Nanjing University in early 1982. He studied in Nagoya University in Japan during 1988-1997 and received his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in education. After returning to China in 1997, he engaged himself in postdoctoral research at the Department of Education, Zhejiang University.

In his report, Prof. Lang XIAO first gave a brief review of academic history. Prof. XIAO introduced the modern western Jesuit school education in four stages, including the modern Catholic reform movement, the development of western higher education, the gradual progress of the school education system in the Jesuits and the Childhood Education, which was written in Macao.

His report unfolded a historical picture on the emergence of western education development. Finally, Prof. Lang XIAO looked forward to future research, which was summarized from macro level, middle level and micro level respectively.

Academic Talk Sponsored by K. C. Wong Education Foundation: “The Portrait of ‘Teacher’ in the History of Ancient China”, was held at E33-G017 on 14 December 2017. Prof. Lang XIAO from the College of Education, Zhejiang University, was invited to be the speaker. Prof. Lang XIAO also serves as Vice-President of the Education History Branch of the Chinese Society of Education.

The portrait of “teacher” in the history of ancient China went through a long period of development. Prof. Lang XIAO talked about the “teacher” from the “Wushi” (wizards) in the Shang Dynasty to the private school teacher in the Qing Dynasty. During this process, several basic characteristics have developed, such as “possessing profound learning”, “being both a teacher and top official”, “holding both the country and the people close to his heart”, “Respecting the teacher, respecting integrity” and attaching great importance to “Personality Education”. All these ideas are enlightening references for the current teacher education.

Workshop on “Works Bridging Mathematical World and ‘Real World’: Modeling Curriculum Materials for High School Students”

Workshop on “Works Bridging Mathematical World and ‘Real World’: Modeling Curriculum Materials for High School Students”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held on 15 December 2017. Dr. Kai Chung TAM was invited to be the speaker. Dr. TAM graduated from Mathematics Education Program, Teachers College, Columbia University. He is currently math education specialist in New York City. He grew up in Macao and is familiar with education system here.

Dr. TAM said that mathematical modeling is an important tool to get through the “math world” and the “real world”. Solving mathematics problems is also one of the important goals of math education. In recent years, increasing importance has been attached to mathematics modeling. Universities and colleges in Macao have also organized students to take part in mathematical modeling contests. At secondary education level, the ideas of modeling and application was discussed over 30 years ago.

Dr. TAM also introduced the ideological development of the Mathematical Modeling Course of Secondary School. In addition, he talked about the resistance of development and why it is held in high regard today. At the same time, he used some representative cases of international mathematics education reforms, such as education reform in Germany. The perspective of mathematics modeling curriculum design is useful reference for the current educational system in Macao.
During 20-25 December 2017, 12 students from FED participated in “Voluntary Teaching Activity in Hubei Province”. The activity was organized by FED Student Association and the Youth Committee of The Chinese Educators Association of Macau. Prof. Sao Leng IEONG, adjunct Professor and Prof. Kwok Cheung CHEUNG, Director of Educational Testing and Assessment Research Centre in FED were the advisory board members of this voluntary teaching activity. Mr. Wai CHEONG, President of FED Student Association, was the associate team leader.

This voluntary teaching activity is very fruitful, including classroom teaching, heart-warming home visits, exchange of ideas as well as donating materials such as books and scholarships. Through teaching, visiting and experiencing local life in Hubei Province, this volunteer teaching activity aims to give Macau young teachers and student teachers a better understanding of the conditions under which ethnic minority children live and study in mountainous regions and education in China, so as to boost their enthusiasm of caring for and helping others and their commitment to education.

The group started the journey by visiting Hongping Central School and Muyu Township School in Shennongjia Forestry District. They brought with them well-prepared lesson materials and lovely gifts for the students there.

They integrated into the teaching plans such subjects as Chinese, English, Math and included information on Macau, the world cultural heritage, the general information about the festivals, etc. Children were very interested in the diverse subject knowledge and listened carefully in class.

After the completion of classroom teaching, the groups visited eight local families with presents and donated some money. The group then visited Central China Normal University and Changqing Sun Kindergarten in Wuhan. They exchanged ideas with the representatives of these institutions on the education and culture, which increased their knowledge and broadened their horizon.
In addition, the group also went to Shennongjia Forestry District and Yangtze River Three Gorges Dam. They were attracted by the wonderful scenery and learned more about the mystery of nature.

The group visited the local families in Shennongjia.

This voluntary teaching activity gave the students and teachers a lot of touching and unforgettable experience and the local school children a lot of happy learning experience. Some FED students believed that it was a good opportunity to purify their spirit, and learnt how to treasure and share what they have.

The group visited Changqing Sun Kindergarten in Wuhan.

The group visited Central China Normal University.

The group delivered warm and love to Hongping Central School in Shennongjia.