FED Newsletter

Issue 51 March- April 2018

UM Open Day 2018: Faculty of Education

Delegation of the Faculty of Education of Beijing Normal University Visits UM

http://www.umac.mo/fed/newsletter/articles_en
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.

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Seminar on “Numbers: Where Do They Come From? And Where Do They Go?”

Seminar on “Numbers: Where Do They Come From? And Where Do They Go?”, was held at Tin Ka Pin Lecture Hall, on 7 March 2018. Prof. Roger Evans HOWE was invited to be the speaker. Prof. Roger Evans HOWE obtained his PhD degree from University of California, Berkeley. He is a world-renowned mathematician and mathematics educator. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has more than 40 years of service in the fields of mathematics and mathematics education and has received numerous honors for spearheading national education initiatives and ultimately expanding the frontiers of mathematics.

K-12, the expression is a shortening of kindergarten (K) for 4 to 6-year-olds through twelfth grade (12) for 17- to 19-year-olds. Although number is a central object of study in K-12 mathematics, the nature of number gets remarkably little attention.

In this talk, Prof. Howe argued that student understanding of what a number is needs to go through at least two transitions as they progress through the curriculum, and suggested that more explicit attention to the transition point might improve student learning.

During the discussion, Prof. Xuhua SUN, from the FED of University of Macau, commented that there are 300 million people in the world who have given up their studies of mathematics because they can hardly cross fundamental math problems. That is to say, from another aspect, Prof. Howe's proposal has extremely strong practical significance - more attention should be paid to the basic research and practice of number.
Delegation of Shaanxi Normal University Visits FED

On 16 March, a delegation from Shaanxi Normal University visited the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. The administrative staff of FED prepared a variety of activities for the delegates, including Class Observation, Lunch Gathering with FED Student Representatives, Tea Reception and FED Tour.

Prof. Bing WEI, Programme Coordinator of Graduate Programmes, Prof. Chunlian JIANG and FED students joined the tea reception. They had a warm discussion on their study experience with the delegates.

Mr. Chi Hang LEI, Administrative staff of FED, showed the delegates around the FED Building as well as FED facilities, including Visual Art Room, Piano Classroom, Music Practice Room, Science Laboratory, etc.

The delegates attended a class “Philosophy and Education” given by Prof. Min-Chuan SUNG.

The delegates observed a class “Child Development” taught by Prof. Wei-wen CHEN.

In the class, Prof. Sung and Prof. Chen attentively tutored both the FED students and the visiting students.
Round Table & Movie: Education Innovation for the Future

Round Table & Movie: Education Innovation for the Future, co-organized by the Faculty of Education, the University of Macau, Macao Tong Chai Charity Association, and Aha School of Social Innovation, was held at E4-G062 on 19 March 2018. Prof. Yisu ZHOU from the Faculty of Education, Mr. Yuan GU, the founder of Aha School of Social Innovation, Ms. Quan CHEN, Senior Project Manager of Macao Tong Chai Charity Association, and Mr. Zhihao LI, a Chinese education innovation practitioner, attended the event. Prof. Lionel M. Ni, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, the Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) of the University of Macau, gave an opening speech for the event.

The film “Most Likely to Succeed” (2015) is an educational documentary directed and written by Greg Whiteley. It is called “one of the most exciting educational documentaries ever written in history.” The film tells the story of a school. This school, which has no textbooks, no bells for class, and even no tests, has 98% university enrollment, and its average score is 10% higher than the other schools in the area.

In contrast, our current education system is attempting to teach and test skills, which led to a severe problem that students still can’t gear up for the challenges of the 21st century even after graduation. This feature-length documentary examines what sort of educational environment is most likely to prepare students for an exponentially changing world.

During the video conference, the guests and the students watched the movie together, shared the experience and the thinking about education development. Immersed in a harmonious and warm atmosphere, everyone spoke freely and enthusiastically, explored the infinite possibilities of future education, and put forward many ideas. Nowadays, more and more intelligent technologies have replaced the manual workers on a large scale; in the future, artificial intelligence is likely to replace mental workers step by step. Today, the teaching content of many schools becomes out of date. How to keep up with and adapt to future education as much as possible has become a problem that researchers and practitioners need to pay attention to.
“Tea with Dean of FED”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E33-1002, on 22 March 2018. This is a casual meeting for bridging students and professors by having discussions on study and career matters.

To strengthen communication and with the students, Prof. Lionel M. Ni, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, invited some postgraduate students to have tea together. Students from different majors actively asked questions about their studies. Prof. Ni patiently answered them all.

Prof. Ni and students also discussed related issues such as curriculum setting, teaching internship, employment, and further studies. For example, when it comes to the changes in the professional curriculum setting, how to deal with learning environment changing and finding relevant learning methods have received unanimous attention. In this regard, Prof. Ni commented that finding the purpose and goal of learning is very important. For academic papers, it is more necessary to find corresponding learning methods and approaches based on their current learning stage and level and they vary from person to person.

During the tea meeting, the students spoke freely and enthusiastically. Prof. Ni fully affirmed the good ideas and thinking of the students and expressed that they should pay more attention to the initiative, activeness, and effective communication during the postgraduate study and further study. Every student will have a different learning experience at the FED with a bright and beautiful future.
Seminar on “Integrating Science and English: What Primary and Secondary School English Teachers Say about their Experience”

Seminar on “Integrating Science and English: What Primary and Secondary School English Teachers Say about their Experience”, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall on 23 March 2018. Prof. Chiou-Lan CHERN was invited to be the speaker.

Prof. Chiou-lan CHERN is the Dean of College of Liberal Arts of English at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) and currently serves as the coordinator of Nine-year Integrated English Curriculum Advisory Team of Ministry of Education in Taiwan. Her research interests include L2 reading instruction and critical thinking, English language policies, and English teacher education.

This presentation showed how English teachers integrated science into their curriculum plans. A small group of English teachers, both from primary and secondary schools, were invited to work with a Chemistry team in a lab to familiarize themselves with three topics of science: air pressure, composition of air, and matter. They then turned their lab experiences into learning materials in English and use them in the classes for primary and secondary school students in a science camp. The teachers conducted the lessons successfully and pulled together their experience of integrating science and English language in their class activities.

Their reflections showed that it is important to support English teachers to teach beyond linguistic elements, so that they can help their students learn content knowledge through English.
On April 4, 2018, the Seminar on “Advancing Footsteps: New Revolution of Chinese Shanshui Painting” was held at the Student Activity Centre E31-G001 Music Theatre. The guest speaker Mr. Qinsong XU is a first-rate national artist enjoying the State Council Special Allowance Expert. Now he is Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Artists Association, Chairman of the Guangdong Federation of Literary and Art Circles, Honorary Chairman of the Guangdong Artists Association, and President of the Guangdong Painting Academy. Mr. Xu has won numerous awards. The National Art Museum of China, China National Museum and other institutions collection have exhibited many of his works.

Mr. Qinsong XU, a first-rate national artist, was invited to be the guest speaker.

In the Seminar “Advancing Footsteps: New Revolution of Chinese Shanshui Painting”, Mr. Qinsong XU analyzed the development history and artistic characteristics of Chinese Shanshui Painting, affirmed the changing role of Ling-Nan Chinese Painting in Chinese modern art, and shared the history and understanding of his artistic creation career. Regarding the historical development of Shanshui painting, Mr. XU pointed out that Chinese Shanshui painting is the most important subject in Chinese painting. Its essence is the “Heaven and Man Are United as One” philosophy of China. Mr. XU analyzed the artistic characteristics of Shanshui painting in Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

Mr. XU’s innovation in pure Chinese Shanshui painting is a study of the richness of the “gray limit” to create a symphony-like artistic effect on the painting. Mr. XU once said, “Art is a painful and difficult undertaking. In fact, Chinese painting is an art of time! Mature creations are not only the products of professional adherence, but also the persistence of life.”
PhD Oral Defense by Mr. Jinbo HE

Mr. Jinbo HE, a PhD candidate in Faculty of Education, had the oral defense on Monday 9 April 2018, in Administration Building, Ho Yin Conference Hall (N6-G010). The thesis title was “Evaluating the Performance of k-fold Cross-Validation Approach for Model Selection in Growth Mixture Modeling”.

The Examination Committee was chaired by Prof. Lionel M. NI, Vice Rector (Academic Affairs), UM. His supervisor was Prof. Xitao FAN, Chair Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, China; co-supervisor was Prof. Chester KAM Chun Seng, Assistant Professor, FED, UM. Examination Committee members were Prof. Jianxia DU, FED, UM, Prof. Yisu ZHOU, FED, UM, and Prof. Zhonglin WEN, South China Normal University, China.

PhD Oral Defense by Ms. Fang HUANG

Ms. Fang HUANG, a PhD candidate of Faculty of Education, had her oral Defense on Thursday 19 April 2018, in Administration Building, Ho Yin Conference Hall (N6-G010). The thesis title was “Technology Acceptance among EFL Teachers in Chinese Universities”.

The Examination Committee Chair was Prof. Lionel M. NI, Vice Rector (Academic Affairs), UM, and Supervisor was Prof. Timothy TEO, Distinguished Professor, FED, UM. The Examination Committee members were Prof. Jianxia DU, Professor, FED, UM, Prof. Chun Wai FAN, Assistant Professor, FED, UM, Prof. Mingming ZHOU, Associate Professor, FED, UM, Prof. Chingsing CHAI, Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The PhD Oral Defense by Mr. Jinbo HE went smoothly. Congratulations to Mr. Jinbo HE!

The PhD Oral Defense of FED by Ms. Huang went smoothly. Congratulations to Ms. Fang HUANG!
Delegation of the Faculty of Education of Beijing Normal University Visits UM

On 17 April 2018, a delegation from the Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, visited the University of Macau. The delegation, was led by Prof. Jianping CHENG, Party Secretary of Beijing Normal University, consisted of Prof. Xudong ZHU, Minister of Education, Prof. Dan YU, Dean of the Institute of Cultural Innovation and Communication, Prof. Wulong ZHANG, Director of the Education Foundation, Mrs. Wenxia FAN, Alumni Association Secretary-General, and Mrs. Xiumei WANG, Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office.

Prof. Lionel M. NI, the Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) of the University of Macau and Interim Dean of FED, chaired an exchange meeting with the delegation in N6-5024. Prof. Timothy TEO, Associate Dean representing FED, Prof. Kwok Cheung CHEUNG, Director, Educational Testing and Assessment Research Centre, Prof. Jianxia DU, Director, Centre for Information and Communication Technology in Education, Prof. Sao Leng IEONG, Adjunct Professor, participated in the conference.

Prof. Jianping CHENG and Prof. Lionel M. NI exchanged the souvenir to show the gratitude.

The topic of discussion is research on higher education. During the exchange meeting, delegates and representatives of UM had a lively in-depth discussion on the situation of education and teaching in Macao, the relationship between teacher’s psychological construction and ability development, and the setting of college entrance examinations. Both sides showed an earnest desire to started cooperative efforts on many aspects, such as the sharing of educational resources and developing a new model for innovative education.

After the exchange meeting, the Global Affairs Office of University of Macau arranged an campus-tour for the delegation. Afterwards, the delegation visited Henny Fok Pearl Jubilee College and dined with the students of UM in College Canteen. After the meal, Prof. Dan YU of Beijing Normal University delivered a distinguished seminar on “The Beauty of Traditional Chinese Culture in the Modern World”.

Academic Staff Activities Issue 51 March- April 2018
2018 Series 5 (Number 1):
Educational Technology Research in Korea:
Recent Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

Seminar on “Educational Technology Research in Korea: Recent Trends, Challenges and Opportunities”, was held at Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education, on Thursday 19 April 2018. Prof. Hyo-Jeong SO, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Technology, Ewha Womans University, Korea, is invited to be the speaker. Previously, Prof. Hyo-Jeong SO had worked in Pohang University of Science & Technology (POSTECH), Korea and National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She received her Ph.D. degree from Instructional Systems Technology, Indiana University. Her main research interests include mobile learning, computer-supported collaborative learning (CSCL), and informal learning.

In recent years, the Korean society has been facing numerous challenges in socio-economic, political, and educational developments. With the realization that the Korean society is ill-prepared for the emerging demands in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Korean government has been pushing several initiatives that aim to reform current educational systems for future societal demands.

In December 2016, the Korean government has announced the “Future Education Blueprint for the Intelligent Information Society”. Prof. Hyo-Jeong SO pointed out that in this future planning, technologies are expected to be a key enabler that supports flexible and self-directed learning environments, and the cultivation of important competencies such as collaboration, creativity, and complex problem-solving skills.

With this backdrop, this talk aimed to present both opportunities and challenges of educational technology research in Korea, particularly focusing on the policy-driven initiatives and their implications on changing pedagogical approaches. First, Prof. Hyo-Jeong SO presented the macro-level initiatives of educational technology such as the digital textbook project, coding education and K-MOOC, which have been implemented with strong policy support. Then, Prof. Hyo-Jeong SO focused on the future school project that she conducted with three schools in Korea and discussed how emerging technologies (e.g., games, cloud technology) are changing pedagogical approaches and learning culture.
Delegation of West Visayas State University Visits FED

On 23 April 2018, a delegation from West Visayas State University, the Philippines, visited the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. The administrative staff of FED prepared a variety of activities for the delegates, including FED Tour, a talk and Graduate School (GRS) visiting.

Administrative staff of FED received Student Delegation at the Main Entrance of Faculty of Education. Prof. Timothy TEO, Associate Dean (Research) of FED and Prof. Bing WEI, Programme Coordinator of Postgraduate Programmes of FED attended the meeting with the

Delegations and Prof. Teo took group photos together.

Prof. Teo briefed the guests on the Faculty of Education. Prof. Wei guided a discussion with the students on FED Postgraduate Programmes. Since they were all graduate students in curriculum and development, FED also arranged a visit to the Graduate School of University of Macau and they learned more about our graduate programmes.

After the tea break, Mr. Wai Lon CHANG, administrative staff of FED, showed the delegates around the FED Building. In N6-2022, Ms. Nora IEONG, Functional Head of Promotion and Admission Team of GRS, and Ms. Jennifer MAI, Promotion & Admissions of GRS, presented Graduate Programmes offered by University of Macau. In the Q & A session, the two sides exchanged views on the problems encountered in the study life of graduate students in different regions.
Chinese New Year Gathering 2018 for FED

The Faculty of Education held “Chinese New Year Gathering for FED House Programme 2018” celebrating the Chinese New Year at The Learning Commons area on 7 March, 2018. All the FED academic and administrative staff members and students gathered together.

On this special day, the Faculty of Education sends Chinese New Year greetings hoping that peace and love will prevail everywhere all the year round. There were also wonderful shows and fun games, and the winners were awarded festive gifts. The “House” was filled with joys and happiness.

As a start, Prof. Ping Ching WANG, Assistant Dean of FED, extended his warm welcome to the participants. FED students, Ka Chon PHANG, Io Chong IP, Man I LEONG and Cheng Fai LAM, put on an amazing singing performance. A quiz game about Chinese New Year traditions were also prepared for the participants, allowing them to learn more about the festival.

It is time to work hard, and it is time to be grateful. In this spring season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the University of Macau and the Faculty of Education for their generous support, to the students for their wonderful performance, and also to the many members for their enthusiasm for the party. FED as a family will get more united and work together to create a better tomorrow!

A quiz game about Chinese New Year traditions were also prepared for the teachers and students.

FED students put on an amazing singing performance.
“Lunch Gathering for Principals’ Recommended Admission (PRA) Programme 2018/2019”, hosted by the Faculty of Education, was successfully held at Learning Commons on 24 March 2018. More than 200 participants, including the new PRA students, their parents, friends, school principals and teachers, had a wonderful time together.

New PRA students, their parents, friends, school principals and teachers of FED had a wonderful time together.

FED academic staffs participated in the lunch gathering and exchanged ideas with PRA students. Prof. Chun Wai CHENG, Associate Dean (Teaching) of FED, delivered a welcoming speech. “Today, you have the opportunity to get together here. It’s your parents and teachers who have devoted themselves to helping you silently. Therefore, we welcome your parents and teachers to today’s event. We hope you will take this opportunity to share your joys with parents and teachers and express your gratitude to them!”

After the speech, FED students gave splendid dance shows led by Prof. Zihao LI. Students also performed singing and martial arts. Then, FED senior students shared a wealth of campus life and learning experience with PRA students. All participants enjoyed themselves very much.

FED students gave splendid dance, singing and martial arts.
FED administrative staffs also prepared a good lunch for all the participants. After lunch, administrative staff showed students and parents around FED.

During the lunch, students and teachers from FED fell into the lively discussion.

New PRA students visited the FED with the guide of administrative staff. They then visited Moon Chun Memorial College and Choi Kai Yan College, where they had a look at the dining hall, gym, classroom, and dormitory.

Through the Reception, the PRA students gained a better understanding and prepared themselves well for college life.
The University of Macau held the UM Open Day on 22 April 2018, attracting many visitors. The Faculty of Education prepared a lot of fun-filled activities for the Open Day, including exhibitions, Media Show, workshops and so on.

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, visited “Creative Lens: Voices, Stories and Dreams of UM Students” of Media Show hosted by Prof. Zihao LI.

Prof. Yonghua SONG, the Rector of the University of Macau, visited the exhibition hosted by Prof. Xuhua SUN.

Prof. Xuhua SUN hosted “An Exhibition: I am Proud! I am a Mathematics Teacher in Macao” in E33-G017.

Ms. Suk Fan WONG, Senior Instructor & Students of Visual Art hosted “In-between Painting and Threads”, “Reform of Masterpieces-3D Creation” in E33-G/F.
The Centre for Early Childhood Education and Child Development hosted Early Childhood Activities, carried out Free Play Activity, Creative Art Activity and Parent-Child Activity respectively in E33-3052&3053, E33-3049, E33-2044.


Prof. Zihao LI hosted “Creative Lens: Voices, Stories and Dreams of UM Students” of Media Show in E33-G/F.

Prof. Ping-Cheng WANG hosted “Creative Approaches of Piano Improvisation and Accompaniment” and by Mr. Hok Meng WAN, in E33-1048.

Prof. Juan ZHANG hosted “How to Use Neuroscience Technique to Investigate Language Learning?” in E33-3051.

Prof. Jin Jy SHIEH & Year-1 Students hosted “Why do I Want to be a Teacher?” in E33-G021.

Prof. Zhaowei KONG hosted Physical Fitness and Health Assessment in N8-3014, including Body Mass Index, Body Fatness, Grip Strength, Sit-up, Push-up, Flexibility, Resting Heart Rate, Blood Pressure, Vascular Stiffness and Cardio-respiratory Function.

FED designed several routes for FED tours, and the visitors were also shown around the UM campus. For those students who are interested to study in FED, the Open Day provides a good opportunity for them to know more about the campus and the university.