



In the Decade of Art

XJTLU Art Education Centre



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## PREFACE

# Art without Boundaries: the Ten Years of Yuan Li and Her Art Association

It is the freedom and compatibility that is the biggest charm of art.

During the ten years working in XJTLU, Yuan Li gradually realized that art has no limit.

Irrespective of nation or group, as long as you love art and experience it yourself, you will find the unprecedented enjoyment of the soul.

“This is the goal of the Art Association, as well as the greatest significance of my work.” said Yuan Li.



the 2010 New Year Concert

## 2009: the First Step Costs Troublesome

In May 2006, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, or XJTLU, which was established by Xi'an Jiaotong University and the University of Liverpool in cooperation, was officially inaugurated in Suzhou.

Adhering to the mission of "cultivating advanced technical and managerial talents with international vision and competitiveness", while developing the academic research, XJTLU also attaches particular importance to the training and development of students' personal abilities. With the expansion of XJTLU enrollment scale, the total number of students gradually increased. The school enrolled only 160 undergraduate students in the first year, over 570 in the second year, over 730 in the third year, and in 2009, more than 1000 undergraduate students entered the college. In the free, open and inclusive atmosphere of the school, the student clubs began to be set up, like dance groups, singing groups and orchestras. But without the guidance and management of professional teachers, these groups were scattered at that time.

In 2009, the XJTLU decided to recruit professional art teachers and set up the XJTLU Art Troupe (the predecessor of the Art Association). It was this opportunity that enabled Yuan Li to join XJTLU and become the only art teacher in the university, ending her teaching at the Communication University of China, Nanjing, where she had studied and lived for 11 years.

Li, master of Chinese music culture major of Nanjing University of the Arts, mainly did theoretical research during her post-graduate years, but she believes that the theory together with the previous instruments learning like piano, accordion and guzheng, make her at home when guiding students in practice.

On September 8, 2009, the XJTLU Art Troupe was formally established, with 10 teams including the chorus team, dance team, folk team, orchestra team, model etiquette, calligraphy team, painting team, host team, qiyi martial arts team and a secretariat. Yuan Li was the general director of the Art Troupe.

"Let all the art-loving students join the group, offer them opportunities to show their talents. At the same time, influence the rest of XJTLU students through the performance of this group so that they can also enjoy the professional art performance and actively participate in all kinds of arts activities, and finally cultivate students' sentiment and enrich the campus culture of XJTLU," as Li said, which was the very original intention of the troupe when it was founded.

In the early days of its founding, the Art Troupe had a very difficult time. At that time, there was only one building in XJTLU and no rehearsal hall. All teams had to rehearse in the only auditorium, 2s of Base Building. Without venues, students could only rehearse in turn, so that the time for rehearse was very limited. Prior to some important events, 2s was always packed with members of each team and everyone was scrambling to rehearse the upcoming show.

"During the hot spell in the summer near the show, we stayed at school and practiced in 2s over and over again every afternoon," recalled Yiling Zhu, the captain of SIMAX, "few students but we SIMAX members were in the campus as the temperatures rose to 35 degrees Celsius. Tired of rehearsal, we would sing; tired of singing, we would chat; tired of chatting, we even slept in 2s."

The only rehearsal ground was almost a "concentration camp" for students. Li said, "My early students and I had a very special and deep attachment to 2s, as we often rehearsed late into the night at 2s."

In addition to the field, the Art Troupe also had difficulty in professional instructors. With Yuan Li alone, it was obviously hard to coach nearly a hundred students of ten teams, so she has to hire new art instructors. But the difficulty came with it.

"At first few people supported the team, no one knew the XJTLU Art Troupe. When you didn't get results, it was hard to recruit excellent people, and I was the only one who personally directed every team. It was the hardest time," Li said. "I worked overtime almost every day. Not only did I hold regular meetings with team members, but I also practiced, coached and rehearsed with the team in preparation for every performance. Even the details of promotion and the logo needed me to check and decide."

What impressed Li was, "when the Art Troupe just founded, a foreign teacher named Sami was very keen to join us in the programming and stage layout. Then the first Christmas party was hosted by the troupe." Mingyue Zhang, the first head of the Art Troupe, said, "Those few nights before the party, we students worked together in Sami's office, using scissors and pigments to make the set of the party." With the joint efforts of all members of the troupe, the whole Christmas party was a sell-out. For the first time, the Art Troupe as a unit showed an excellent demeanor in front of all the XJTLU teachers and students.

After the first success, the activities of the Art Troupe went more and more smoothly. The wonderful performance on the New Year Party, the New Year concert and the graduation party made more people understand the XJTLU Art Troupe. The Art Troupe more and more famous, it got much easier to recruit guidance teachers.

After finding the professional mentors for the teams, Yuan Li focused more on the administration of the troupe. She personally participated in the selection of each leader. "I want the students to know what qualities an excellent leader shall have, not only good management skills, but also a strong affinity."

With the joint efforts of Yuan Li and every member, the Art Troupe grew rapidly after the numerous difficulties and frustrations.

## 2016: Reform for the Further Development

With the steady development of the Art Troupe, there was always a question in Yuan Li's mind:

What can art bring to XJTLU?

She thought of that thanks to the advantages of Sino-foreign cooperation, cultural exchange was "boundless" in XJTLU. In addition, the activities held by Yuan Li and his members involved not only the students, but also the teachers of XJTLU. "There are often teachers involved in our art activities. Sometimes the teachers of the art courses we set up are students with specialties, while the students below the podium are actually the real teachers of the college, such as in the classes of the Chinese calligraphy and painting curriculum." These artistic activities have greatly enriched the extracurricular life of teachers and students, and tied them closely together through the ties of art.

In this context, in 2013, the concept of "art without boundaries" came into being. Yuan Li explained that art has no boundaries. It cuts across countries and races, allowing people from different cultural backgrounds to communicate with each other. It also shows that it does not care about age and identity, so that all people can grow up in art participation. Therefore, taking the students as the center and the arts as the carrier, breaking the boundaries of space, region, culture, language, identity, and discipline, and finally presenting a harmonious community of XJTLU, is the function of "art without boundaries", as well as the goal of the Art Troupe.

With the clear goal, Li's art center grew faster and stronger. Especially the Art Troupe, with the whole group of less than 100 people and each group of less than 10 people at the beginning, by 2016, had involved dozens of members in each group. The Orchestra had grown from a few members at first to a symphony orchestra of more than 50, the Dance Troupe could perform group dances of more than 25 people, and students of the Hosting and Broadcasting Troupe hosted almost all kinds of activities in the campus. The development of each group in full swing, Yuan Li not only felt glad but also began to worry about the integrated management of the big team.

"The overall number of the team members is so large that there would be many difficulties if we continue to manage them in the same way. As the ability, energy and time of the head of the big troupe was so limited that it was impossible for him to manage so many teams. There were so many problems on communication among small teams, sharing of resources, the inconsistency of executive power, and so on. Therefore, the management of the Art Troupe must be reformed."

After discussion, Yuan Li and the other teachers decided to change the Art Troupe into an autonomous form under the overall management of the Council, and the XJTLU Art Troupe was officially renamed the XJTLU Art Association.

"This reform meant broadening the scope of responsibilities of each regiment leader, who will not only lead the members to rehearse the performance and manage the business of the team, but also take responsibility of the administration. For example, some tasks that in the past were done together by head of the whole troupe and each small team now should be independently finished by the heads of each small team. After restructuring, the small heads must be able to shoulder their responsibilities independently and perform their respective duties with the big head. This includes both external contacts and internal coordination and cooperation.

At the same time, in order to prevent the fragmentation of the small groups, the Art Association also set up a special council, which is mainly responsible for the overall management of all the teams. "The various training the school provided for the student teams, the schedule of activities for each semester of each small group and other things are all properly coordinated and integrated by the Council." Yuan Li said, "At present, each small troupe develops independently. If there is no council to co-ordinate them, it will not be able to talk about the development of the large art troupe. It will become the development of some individual dance troupe or theatrical troupe, which is not conducive to the integration of the entire art resources."

Since the reform in 2016, the Arts Association has successfully elected three presidents. Unlike in the past, all the three presidents came from the council. In Yuan Li's words, "they are professionals in management, and in the future every president will also run independently from the council."

Though from the Council, each president and each small group has always been working together for the better development of the Arts Association. "The Council and the small troupes have always been a whole. The ten teams grow together," said Wenlong Li, the tenth president of Art Association, "it is perfect."

## 2018: Stay True to Road Ahead

Since 2009 when she came to XJTLU and took over the art troupe, ten years has passed, "The troupe was like a kid I brought up with myself. It used to be a toddler, but now it's moving forward fast." In Yuan Li's view, the process of accompanying a child growing up is in common with her ten years of running the art association.

"A newborn child is full of uncertainty about the world. So as a parent, we should take good care of him and take him to know the world. The same is true for the troupe. When I just came to XJTLU, the troupe was first set up, and I had to build some room for it to develop. At first, it was a little immature, and I gave it some small space. And as it grew up and had some new platforms, I was going to inject all kinds of elements to let it develop. It's like when a child grows older, he has his own thoughts, and the parents are more supposed to lead him in front, showing him the direction, letting him set the right goals and to fight for his ideals. The Art Association today has a very broad space for autonomy, and in most cases I will provide students with a clear goal while the specific implementation plans are arranged by the students themselves."

Although this process is extremely hard, but Yuan Li believed that one day it would pay off. Over the past ten years, under her leadership, the Art Troupe has won excellent results in Jiangsu College Student Art Show for three consecutive years. For example, the Drama Troupe has won the first prize for two times, the Choir has won the third prize for three times, the Dance Troupe has won the second prize, and so on. However, in Yuan Li's mind, what she most valued was not the honors but the harvest and growth every student got in the troupe.

"Every student chose us because the Art Association provided an opportunity for them to discover themselves and realize their potential. At the same time, I would do my best to help them develop their abilities, so that they can get improved."

In Li's memory, the students of the troupe were in a completely different state when entering and leaving the troupe. "Some students were not confident enough when they first joined, and I gave them a lot of opportunities to exercise themselves, sometimes even forcing them to charge ahead on important occasions so that they could have the real confidence. With these experiences, they will do better and better when faced with other things. Some other students started out with simple musical instruments and were not very skilled, so I got them to practice more and learn from others when rehearsing and performing. Sometimes the improvement is not so obvious, but even a bit progress made sense to the students."

When it comes to the grades of the students of the Art Association, Yuan Li always felt proud. "Some students got offer from prestigious universities like Cambridge and Oxford, some found their partner because of the experience in the Art Association, some chose the arts major in graduate school, and others made quite a name for themselves on the art road like Schubert who joined the Art Troupe in 2012."

Because of his special ability to play the electronic piano, Schubert joined the Keyboard Group of the Art Association. At first he didn't play well, but Yuan Li consciously cultivated his ability and gave him live control of every musical performance, in whose process he could learn and accumulate. During his two years at the troupe, Schubert took part in countless musical performances. In November 2014, when he was studying in the UK, he starred in the London UCL Jenova Festival as a keyboard player and was excavated by a record company due to his excellent performance and began to publish electronic music.

There are many excellent students like Schubert in the troupe. For Yuan Li, the most gratifying thing for her in the past decade was the students. "Even if I supported them for only one year, it was a gain for me. Such a group of students is the result of my education as well as a testament to my work."

For students in the troupe, Yuan Li is regarded not only as an instructor, but also as a family and friend.

Though having graduated for many years, Yiling Zhu, the second head of the troupe, would always meet Yuan Li as long as she returned to Suzhou. In her heart, "Ms. Li is like a little sister next door, always sharing her happiness with me, listening to my troubles and giving lots of advice." Yimin Lin, the head of the Ninth Art Association, thought that Li was more like a loving mother, "she always guided me patiently, whether in life or in study, and kept urging me to do everything confidently. I really appreciate her."

In the face of the students' love, Li was moved, with the biggest feeling of worthy. "My students still remember me, remember that there was such a teacher in their university who had given them a word of encouragement or brought them a little bit of improvement. It's a worthwhile thing for me."

In the next ten years, Yuan Li hopes to develop ten, twenty, thirty and more outstanding students on the basis of the smooth development of the Art Association. "They not only have their own love of art, but also develop smoothly in their study and life."

She gently looked at the photos of her students on the desk. "My greatest wish is that every student joining the Art Association or taking part in our activities get benefit and enjoyment."



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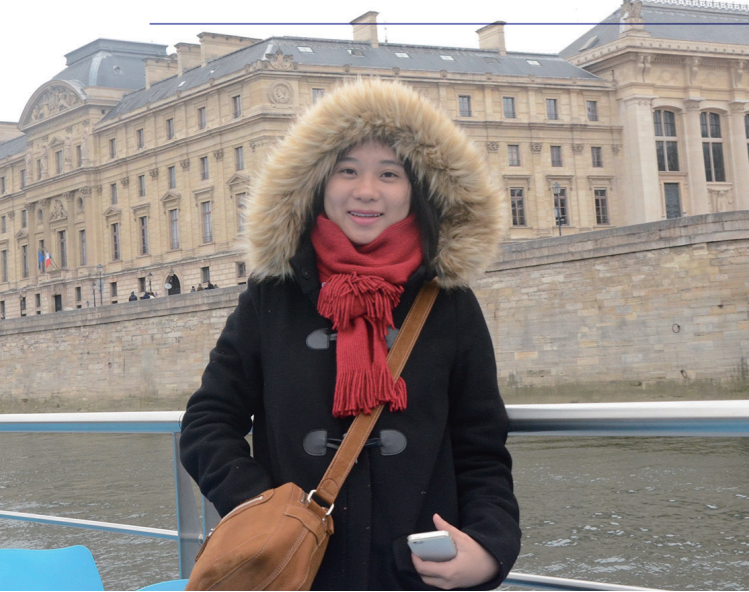
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# Mingyue Zhang: Be My Own Hero in the Life Journey

**Mingyue Zhang, the 1st president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2009 and majored in financial mathematics. D. Acc in the University of Toronto now, living in Toronto, Canada.**

It only took her 1 min to make the decision to run for the first president of the Art Association of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University.

In June, 2009, after receiving the e-mail of establishing the Art Troup, Zhang decided to run for the president immediately for two reasons: to practice herself and to meet more people who enjoy music and art. With her experience of forming a band in high school as well as her great passion for music and art, she won the election and the story of the Art Association began.

Yuan Li, instructor of the Art Association, says that Zhang, like a sun shining with boundless radiance, was exactly a girl power. Zhang agreed with this appraisal and added that currently she prefers to have a more mature and peaceful mind, just like the moon.

## Early Days of Art Association

The emergence and development of anything new will always face difficulties. This is the same with the Art Association. New as the Association was, there was no experience for Mingyue Zhang to refer to. She had no alternative but to explore the road by herself.

The first problem she had to face was the position of the Art Association in XJTLU, that was to say, how to blend in with the existing organizations and cooperate with them. At first, the Association was affiliated with the Art Department of University students' Union. Conflicts arose because of the disagreement about who should be in charge of performance, which worried Zhang. To her, the greatest problem in the early development lay in the structure and responsibility. Their job allocations were ambiguous in the beginning. However, after Zhang and Instructor Li figured out that with limited resources, the Association's supposed specialty was only giving performance, they started to cooperate better with the Art Department. Half a year later, under the efforts of instructor Li and Mingyue Zhang, the Art Association finally got independent and developed with a satisfying trend.

After that, the problem became how to develop it. At first, there

were nine teams subordinated to the Art Association, including vocal music, orchestra, keyboard, dance, host and speech, model, calligraphy and painting, traditional Chinese instruments, and ballad. An event needs not only the performing team but also the cooperation among departments responsible for secretarial work, previous promotion, props, costumes, and acoustic equipment. Thus, how to achieve coordination was Zhang's largest concern. After 9 years, recalling her time spent in the Art Association, she believes that it is exactly the problem of realize the cohesion of a big group from all these small groups that has cultivated her the most important capacity.

To unite everyone better, in addition to the regular meetings with the team leaders, instructor Li and Mingyue Zhang also showed their care to each team member. According to Zhang, instructor Li sought help for professionals off the campus for every team. With professional guidance, the Art Association became more formal. Besides, training together improved the skills of members and strengthened their bonds.

## The First Performance

The experience of holding the first Christmas evening party remained fresh in Zhang's memory. It was only half year after the establishment of the Art Association. The departments were still

connecting and the rehearsals just began. It occurred to nobody that such a new tribe could bring an amazing and impressing evening party.

"The purposes to hold the party was firstly to celebrate Christmas and secondly to offer an opportunity for faculties and students from all over the world in the campus to show their own cultures. We asked many foreign teachers at ELC for their advice on the party, like the way to celebrate new year in their country and their traditions. Likewise, regarding the specific details of planning the party, we expected feedbacks from teachers and students, among whom, teacher Sami from the UK gave us the greatest support. He had learned stage design, so he was able to offer suggestions on both stage setting and programming. Moreover, we invited teacher Andy Snyder from ELC to give performance of piano playing and singing, and student Kingley from Nigeria to sing a song at the party."

Although the preparation was very short, every department of the Association committed to the party and offered great ideas and works. "We students were in responsible for the setting of stage. During the several days ahead of the evening party, we cooperated in the office of teacher Sami, working the setting out with scissors and pigments. In addition, we designed an unexpected stage setting in an ingenious way. We prepared many balloons which were fixed on the top of the stage with a net, and when the performance ended, we pulled the string and all the balloons would fall down." Speaking of it, Zhang seemed to go back to the tremendously romantic and joyful atmosphere of that time.

She was very familiar with the programs of the Art Association



then. For example, the dance team gave the performance of folk dance A Lane in the Rain, the program of traditional Chinese instruments team was Jubilation and Colorful Clouds Chasing the Moon, while the keyboard team played the piano song Don't Cry for Me, Argentina. After numerous meetings and rehearsals, all seats were occupied that night and the party was a great success. It was also the first time that the Art Association was displayed in front of the all the faculties and students in XJTLU.

## From Stage to Backstage

With the Art Association operating in a normal way, Zhang had an increasing number of performances to plan. Her role of a drummer on the stage gradually turned into a planner and organizer behind the scenes. For her, what was most impressing of the Art Association is that in every event, people could make concerted efforts in order to give a perfect performance.

Even until now, she could still remember every name of her teammates. For example, Dixuan Fu, Yiling Zhu, Yue Zhao were rather active in planning events, Hu Gang was responsible for slides, Qiu hao Xu for acoustic equipment, Tiejiao Wang for lights, and Jingzi Zhang for stage setting, etc.

In Zhang's eyes, those successful performances were impossible without people working hard behind the scenes. "Though they were not performers and the students may not remember them, they were still the core of the Art Association, whom the Association could develop without. I would like to express my gratitude to them and wish we could unite again one day."

It is now the sixth year after her graduation. Recalling her experience in the Art Association, her greatest reward is this group of life-long friends. "Despite the fact that we now live in different countries and cities, we are still tightly connected by that unforgettable experience, about numerous nights and weekends rehearsing in S2, numerous celebrations after the events, and numerous preparation meetings. Those are memory and treasure for my whole life.

## Stay True to the Original Intention

Zhang describes herself as a person who is strong-minded and dare to make a different choice and take actions. "I firmly believe that every current choice and effort in my life will be the foundation for my future choice."

After college, instead of pursuing graduate study in the UK directly, she chose to take the last three exams of ACCA in Singapore and became an auditor there. Having worked for a year, she studied in Singapore Management University for a master's degree of accounting. Later, she received offers from the four famous accounting firms, but she went to Canada to get a doctorate of accounting in University of Toronto.

When talking about these unusual decisions, Zhang thinks that she herself is very surprised now with them, wondering how she made them with such courage, though she was fearless at that



time. She interprets her courage then as “the one who knows nothing fears nothing” or “the fight of a fledgling”.

She feels lucky as being able to persist in scientific research and enter University of Toronto to be a part of the doctoral program of accounting which ranks first in the field. “Competition of the program is extremely fierce. Former candidates who succeeded were all graduates from famous universities like Tsinghua University and Peking University. I was very fortunate because of my special experience. In addition to my FYP instructor Huang Jing during college time, two teachers I met when I was pursuing a master’s degree in Singapore also helped me greatly. Without them, I may not enroll in a Ph.D. program and live a different life now.”

Thanks to her good fortune, Zhang treasures her opportunity to pursue a doctorate. It is now her second year in University of Toronto. With the difficulty and intensity of the course, she has thought about giving up for several times, but finally she has persisted. For this reason, she intentionally wrote in her WeChat signature: “Never forget why you started, and your mission can be accomplished.” Zhang smiled, “That is to tell myself that do not forget why I chose to pursue a doctorate.

### A Simple Life

Compared with working nervously and busily, Zhang prefers the simple and casual life in campus. That is also why she has chosen to do scientific research. After graduation, she will become a professor in a good university and go on with her research work. As she says, she would rather live a simple life. She admires two actors at home: Huang Lei and Liu Tao. She considers them as people of the same type. “I like them because they can achieve a balance between successful career and their family.” Zhang thinks that she is a paradox. In her work, she is rational and diligent, fearless to any difficulty and trying her best once the goal is set. However, when it comes to her family, she becomes emotional. She wants a balance between work and



family. “It is likely that people will get mature and think in a more comprehensive way when getting old.” She said to me.

Maybe to others, though Zhang does not have a steady job, she has an enviable family. She met her husband in XJTLU. Having known each other for 10 years, being in love for 8 years and being married for 3 years, they have spent their most precious youth together, supporting and encouraging each other. This warm relationship is also the strongest support whenever there are difficulties in her life.

The couple keeps a golden retriever named “Pidan”. During her leisure time, she walks the dog and watches the lately variety shows in China. “Before my postgraduate days, I never watched such programs. However, when in Singapore, with the increased pressures in study and work, I turned to these mindless videos to relax herself, since there were not friends to meet frequently.” When asked whether she will be bothered by external pressures, Zhang says, “what is most important is to focus on my own life. Do my own work since it is useless worrying.”

“Everyone should overcome some difficulties in their life to be their own hero.” This is a saying that she used to believe. According to her, people have their own insistence and they should insist to get a good outcome. Now her task is to finish her doctorate program and go on with her academic journey.

Deep in her heart, her expectation towards a simple life has never changed—that is to do whatever we like with families and friends wherever we want.



Zhao Yue:

## Whatever Happens, Fearless to Go Forward

**Yue Zhao, the 2nd president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2009 and majored in electrical power & Electrical Power Engineering. M. E.Eng in the University of Adelaide now, living in Australia.**

At first sight, she gave me a very gentle feeling.

Sitting at the table, Zhao Yue, with long black hair over his shoulder, smiled and looked down at the phone. There were two cups of coffee, a burger and a dried fruit on the table. This is Zhao Yue’s WeChat head photo and the most enjoyable time for Zhao Yue in her life. She said, “I am in fond of trying different food.” She treated people with courtesy. At a moderate speed of speech, she told me her story.

Ever since her Master master's degree at the University of Adelaide, Zhao Yue has lived alone in Australia for four and a half years. First to the foreign countries, she is not familiar with the local language. But now, she has adapted to the rhythm of studying, working and living abroad. Zhao Yue has experienced confusion and anxiety, but she has never stopped moving forward. In her words, no matter what happens in front, she is fearless to move forward.

Luckily, until now every choice she has made is not bad.

### Solitude

Zhao Yue enjoys the time of being alone in life. In her view, “A person needs a certain amount of self-space in addition to fulfilling social and family responsibilities.” Zhao’s “self-space” is usually easy and comfortable. She loves to call her time alone “Otaku.”

After the demotivational culture and Buddhist-style culture became popular, this year was called the “first year of fat Otaku culture.” “Fat Otaku” is the vocabulary of the two-dimensional cultural circle, which refers to the chubby house boy and girl who is slightly fat. They are too lazy to be mourned, not as clear-minded as the Buddhist system, but instead rely on the most instinctive desires to live in the world, to acquire some subtle, easy-to-reach happiness in eating and drinking, so as not to be dragged down by unreachable ideals and huge imaginary. For Zhao Yue, her daily happiness also comes from this. She will do some baking when she is at home. Zhao Yue told me that she fell in love with baking after coming to Australia. “I didn’t have such an environment when I lived in college campus, but now I have my own kitchen and I have time to do it.” In the kitchen, she

is very relaxed. “Time flies very quickly. I always have a sense of accomplishment after baking.”

At first, Zhao learned baking by following the cookbook on the Internet. It was not very successful at first, and it took a lot of practice to get better. “Now every weekend she will prepare the breakfast for next week. I will make a big Chiffon cake, with no cream but 12 eggs in it, so that 2 people can eat it for 5-6 days. Chinese food stresses the cook’s feelings. The amount of seasonings is dependent on one’s feeling or his preferred flavor. However, things are different with Western-style pastry. Weighing, time, and heat are all necessary prerequisites for a successful pastry. To Zhao, it is a test of patience. “Actually I have a impatient disposition. Baking will hone my patience.”

Besides bakery, she enjoys watching films at home as well. Recently, she watched again the movie “The Fantasy Drifting of the Boys” directed by Ang Lee. The film tells the story of a young man, Pai, who lost all his families in a marine peril. He and a Bengal tiger drifted on a lifeboat for 227 days. The boy and the tiger built a fancy relationship and eventually regained their lives

together. Different from her first watching experience, Zhao is no longer limited to marvel at the magic of the set. She will think of more in-depth content. "People will be a lot of confusion in work or life, just like the protagonist floating on the boat, with many unknown waiting for you in front. Although knowing little, we can not stop moving forward." She was greatly encouraged. "As long as you don't give up, there will be hope."

**Cooperation**

In addition to being alone in life, Zhao Yue had to deal with people most of the time. Both of her bachelor's and master's degree are in electronic engineering. After her master's degree, she successfully entered a company in Adelaide, developing product in electronic control.

"I dealt with only machines and codes before. However, in work, I need to cooperate with the team to fulfill the task. Product development is like project management. It is very complicated. You have to work with different people who can help you finish the whole process." Zhao regard it as the most important work helping her mature. Before it, it is the experience in the Art Association that exercised her team work ability, which is crucial to her interrelationship in workplace.

Zhao said, "Although most art Association members were in love of art performance, some were unwilling to cooperate in the performance. We need their cooperation to give a full performance." As the Association president, she had to coordinate the relationship of many people to ensure a successful performance.

"Not only live performers, but also preliminary preparations, on-site emergency handling, etc., all require teamwork." What impressed her the most was the rock festival that she organized together with her team during her first summer vacation in college. As a warm-up for the welcome party, this rock festival invited the famous rock band "Red and Black" at the time and several rock bands organized by some freshmen and sophomores. "The members of the 'Red and Black' band were all graduated school seniors. We needed to contact them to coordinate time. We also needed to coordinate time with other band musicians. The whole schedule was very tight." Because of the summer vacation, there were only four planners for the music festival. At the same time, as it was an outdoor performance, there were more factors to consider than indoor performances, such as setting up the stage, venue rental and weather factors, etc., which undoubtedly added difficulty for the success of the music festival.

"The four of us used a summer vacation to find several merchant sponsors in Wenxing Square. With the sponsorship, we hoped that the event could reach more people, showing our responsibility to sponsors. However, it was at the beginning of the freshmen's year and they were having military training. There were very few students who knew about these performances. Therefore, we had a lot of pressure on publicity. Unexpectedly, there were many more people on the night than we expected to come, and I was very happy."

To Zhao Yue, in the case of very tight resources, it wa still

possible to cooperate with everyone to successfully hold a field event, which made her very proud. "The school is a tiny society. The teacher let us facing and dealing with problems independently, so I got enough exercise, which was actually subtly cultivating the skills needed for work."

She believes that her current working status is very different from the student status. She is more patient in work. "At the time of the art Association, everyone worked very well. If anything happened, everyone would work hard, making things go smoothly. However, in work, I have to solve each problem by myself in order to achieve the final goal, which takes more patience."

That is why she misses the time in the art Association. "It is the best day of life to me and there may be no such time in the future. I knew many good people then. We worked and played together. It was an enjoyable experience."

**Pressure**

Zhao Yue seldom relaxes herself. "I tend to give myself pressure." Protected by her family since childhood, she has experienced few obstacles until now. She has migrated to



Australia, has a decent job and the company of husband. This life makes many other people envy but she believes it can be better. Many people may think that it is unnecessary to add more pressure to herself since she does not have to worry about house, car and money. However, people do not understand that such people have more uneasiness and plights than ordinaries. They seem to live in the shadow of their parents. If they want to surpass and break through, they must pay more effort, courage and judgment than ordinary people.

"Actually it is not easy for us to become ordinary people because we have had rather nice environment offered by parents. It takes great efforts to reach the current living standards brought by them at this age. Maybe it takes us less time to achieve it than our parents, still there is struggle. When you have become used to your superior life, when your parents are gradually with drawing from your life, you must be able to realize the life your

parents gave you." Such thoughts encourage her to keep learning, growing, and moving forward.

Besides work, Zhao spends much time to improve herself and to her, the best way is to learn. "Everyone will encounter a bottleneck period, feel that they are not rising fast enough, and they have not learned enough. Compared with friends around me, I feel that I am growing slower than them." Zhao Yue, who is in the bottleneck period, seizes the opportunity to study some other skills and even plans to return to school to pursue a doctorate. "But I have not yet found a direction that interests me. If you just read a major and then find that you don't like it, it will be a very torturous and painful process, so interest is very important. If you can't figure out your interest, you will be very painful."

Zhao will not let herself fall into the anxiety of making choice for too long. She is striving for a balance between work and life. Most of the time, she wants to be in a state of relaxation, so she particularly likes to travel, and the destination that has impressed her the most so far is New Zealand's Fiordland National Park.

The fjord is New Zealand's most representative natural landscape, a spectacle formed by the flow of glaciers over 100,000 years. The waterfall rushes into the deep bottomless fjord, and the lush pristine rainforest is tightly cuddling with the majestic mountains, leaving countless visitors as well as Zhao lingering. "We were sitting on a large ship with dozens of people. Both sides of the water were icebergs. Looking away from the boat, the sea and the sky blend into one color. We could not see the end and felt that the boat could keep moving forward without stop, which was particularly relaxing."

There is a bungee in the fjord. "It is the earliest bungee in the southern hemisphere. It is free for people over 70 years old. We took the off-road vehicle to the bungee and looked down from the height. The scenery was really beautiful." She was very envious of the people who dared to challenge the bungee in the high place. At that time, she still lacked the courage. "The next time when I have a chance, I will try the bungee jumping."

She is satisfied with her current work and life. "You need to have your own career and have certain achievements in one area. But I don't want to use up my energy for work. I feel that besides work, having a healthy and happy life is the most important thing."





## Yiling Zhu: Happiness From Each Mention of SIMAX

**Yiling Zhu, the 2nd president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2009 and majored in biology. PH.D candidate in the King's College London now, living in London, U.K.**

At 2 p.m. on May 2, Yiling Zhu, wearing her striped dress, arrived at the Moon Harbor in Suzhou as scheduled. An interview was to be held at a tea restaurant there. Looking out through the French windows, the weather was gloomy and the Jinji Lake in the distant seemed to be shrouded in the gauzy sprinkle. These were the last two days for Zhu to stay at home. Then she would fly to London, England, to continue her doctoral thesis.

From an undergraduate to a doctor, Zhu has lived in England for 7 years. Although her research domain transferred from biology to nutriology and finally to antibiotic, her curiosity has remained the same. Acknowledging that she was lucky enough, Zhu, however, did not attribute her achievements to sheer luck, "or I couldn't go this far." To Yuan Li, Zhu's instructor in the Art Group, her success was just a matter of course. "This is what she should be-- a shining girl entering a prestigious college with excellent grades-- and she will be brighter and brighter," said Yuan Li.

Back to 9 years ago when Zhu has not yet stepped into academic research, she enrolled in the Art Association where she encountered the band—SIMAX, a name always bringing her pride and happiness, and she has spent her most wonderful days there. "To me, it is what I dedicated to and achieved in college." Yuan Li thought "popular" was too pale to describe the stupendous influence of the band, "SIMAX ushered in an era of its own."

### "Croatia Became Our Name."

The story between Yiling Zhu and SIMAX began with Maksim Mrvica's Croatian Rhapsody.

In the first week of the new semester, Yuan Li asked Zhu to team up and play Croatian Rhapsody at the welcome party for the freshmen. Since it was the first task she had received in college, Zhu felt excited yet nervous, happy with the chance to give a performance and worried about her lack of experience. Thus, she began watching the videos of Maksim's performance again and again in the dormitory, her mind wandering off to the playing scenes in the meantime.

Soon, Zhu found some partners. Unexpectedly, there were some members she had met before in the enrollment of students with artistic specialities at Tsinghua and Nanjing University. For such a coincidence, she could hardly believe it until now. She did not remember the first scene they met, "We soon became familiar with each other and began to call the nicknames. Monkey, Mingyue, Xingxing, Xinyue and I, we five presented a most naive

version of the tune after one month's practice. Immature as it was, the playing was surprisingly successful. Through our performance, people around us knew Croatian Rhapsody almost overnight and Croatia thus became our name in the following four years.

Shortly afterwards, the invitation from Shanghai world Expo spurred them to form a band. Participation of Jiaxuan Chen and Yuan Cao helped them finalize the lineup: Yiling Zhu would serve as the piano player, Yuan Cao as the guitarist and bassist, Yizhen Shi as the violinist, drummer as well as arranger, Jiaxuan Chen and Lixin Xu as the violinist, and Xinyue Shen as the pianist and keyboardist. They were also unanimous in naming their band SIMAX (six young make max). "At first we all thought we would only play classical music all our life, but the voice of youth from our hearts encouraged us to try something novel. We thus defined ourselves as members of neoclassical group and kept trying different styles of tunes." It was such bravery that made SIMAX prevalent in XJTLU and even the entire university district. During that summer holiday near the Expo, the band stayed at the campus. "We called our rehearsal place a concentration

### Yiling Zhu: Happiness From Each Mention of SIMAX

camp. At a temperature of 35 degrees high, there were few people left and only the sound of our playing could be heard over and over again from 2S Hall every afternoon. Feeling tired, we resorted to singing, then to talking and to sleeping. Standing on the stage, off the stage, we felt the world was our oyster."

During the three days when they performed on the Expo, they moved around to three places, and their first performance left Zhu with a deep impression. "It was raining heavily that day and we made our debut with nervousness." After the show, an elderly lady came over to ask for the name of tunes we had played and asked about us. She then expressed her expectation to watch our performance again. Zhu was deeply moved by her words, for in her heart, the praise from a stranger brought the band the greatest glory and pride. Such happiness lingered in their heart in those three days and would be easily aroused at the moments when others mentioned SIMAX.

### The Incomparable Happiness

Since elected as the second head of the Association, Yiling Zhu has almost devoted all her time to it except her performance with the band. In addition to concerts she held under various themes including classical, films, and animation etc., Zhu also assisted other teams in their own special performance. Compared with nine years ago, the Association has quadrupled its members. When Zhu served as the head, the symphony orchestra has not yet been founded. "We had to mix folk music with string at that time," although there were a few performers, "listeners really enjoyed our show." said Zhu with a smile.

She still remembered, "When holding activities, we did all the

preparations by ourselves, like making posters and invitation cards. For the latter, we designed the pattern and had it printed out, and then took them back to cut and fold." Such trivialities occupied Zhu's everyday life. She wasn't tired at all in those days, just as she put it, "The happiness from engaging in something one truly loves is in fact incomparable."

To Mingyue Zhang, the Association's first and former leader, Yiling Zhu was highly responsible and competent, "What I appreciate her is that she successfully builds an emotional bond among all the members." said Zhang, "As we used to support and encourage each other when holding activities, we feel as if we've stuck together through thick and thin." Such an experience helped the two girls forge an intimate friendship.

According to the XJTLU's "2+2" teaching model, students can choose by themselves either to stay at Suzhou or to go to the Liverpool University in England to further their study. The six members of SIMAX made different decisions. Therefore, they had to say good-bye to each other at the end of the second year. "Me, Xingxing, Jiaxuan and Xinyue decided to go to England, while Monkey and Yuan preferred to stay." With so many things concerning going abroad to handle, Zhu hesitated over whether they should spare some time to give a farewell performance. It was not until Yuan Li's words of "We should give one, or we will regret." did she strengthen her mind to say yes. Now Zhu feels deeply grateful to Yuan Li for her suggestion.

On April 21, 2011, SIMAX gave their last performance at the 2S Hall they were so familiar with. "On that day, there were far more people than expected so that even the corridor at the back was



occupied. Before our show, a stranger came to me and said he was sorry for not being able to attend at night. Somewhat surprised, I never thought people should feel sorry for their absence. How come we have regrets then?"

Yuan Li's remembered: "A multitude of people went to the show and they declined to leave after the finale, with a constant "Encore" shouting out from their mouths. Seeing that, Zhu played one more tune at a higher speed. Along with her flying hands, my heart also began to beat violently."

Zhu was already overwhelmed with gratitude as she wrote down the guests' names on the visitation card, but in that evening when the listeners were shouting Encore, another string of thankfulness surged up from her heart. "At that moment, I was the happiest person in the world." Not only did Zhu feel grateful to all the members in the band, to those who have devoted themselves to the show, but also to herself, for the continuous efforts she made in pursuing her dream in the last two years.

### After Departure

An old era fades, yet a new one is still behind her veil. Excellent players are rarer and rarer nowadays. After SIMAX members' leaving for England, the president came expressly to tell Yuan Li, "We cannot afford the loss of such a wonderful team. I hope you can group a second SIMAX, if dismissed, a third one. Although the faces are new, we at least keep the tunes unchanged." Unfortunately, there is no SIMAX since then, never more. When talking of the reasons, Li said: "We still have talented students, but emotional connections can hardly be built among them. Therefore, the SIMAX remains a legend." Li now keeps dreaming about one thing, "By the next year of 2019, the tenth birthday of the Association, all its members around the world could come back and hold a party to retrace their old memory." Hearing that, Zhu gave a firm nod.

In England, Zhu always took along with the tune of Croatian Rhapsody wherever she went. At Liverpool's welcome party, Zhu, Xu, Chen, Shen, the four SIMAX members played again the adapted tune with another two Hong Kong students. Having limited time to rehearse, they did not cooperate so well as before, "But as it was the same tune, we still had the familiar feeling while performing."

Now a PhD candidate at King's College London, Zhu bought a piano and would play it in her spare time, "I cannot give up music." On different festivals, Zhu would play different tunes to match the atmosphere, pouring her best wishes into the melody, and then post the playing video to WeChat moments. Yuan Li would always listen for a while, "More diligent, she would have been a pianist." In Zhu's heart, she had a deep gratitude toward Li, "Without her support, SIMAX may not exist, really thank her for offering us those opportunities."

To Zhu, SIMAX represents her youth when she spared no efforts for one thing with no fatigue, no regret. "I may get old, but my

passion won't fade. I will miss those friends I have worked hard with, miss that once determined self," Given any chances, she is willing to play Croatian Rhapsody a thousand times, "If only we six could play it again together."

On the Spring Festival this year, in their WeChat group, as the six members of SIMAX were sharing the fun of the festival, one question popped up: "Maksim gave his performance at the Spring Festival Gala, so when will we six play again?" (when will be our reunion?)

### Current Situations of SIMAX Members:

Yiling Zhu: Former SIMAX captain and piano player, now a Ph.D. candidate in Pharmaceutical Science at King's College London, UK.

Yuan Cao: Guitarist, bass player, now a Ph.D. candidate in Graduate School of Science at Nagoya University, Japan.

Yiyang Shi: Violinist, drummer and arranger, now a Master degree candidate at New Brunswick University, Canada, also the violin and viola player of Fredericton Symphony Orchestra.

Jiaxuan Chen: Violin player, graduating from the University of Cambridge with a Master's degree, and now working in China Minmetals Corp.

Lixin Xu: Violin player, graduating from the Imperial College London with a Master's degree, and now working in international department of DIDI.

Xinyue Shen: Piano player and keyboardist, graduating from London School of Economics and Political Science with a Master's degree, and now working in Deloitte Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Ke Yan:

# A Brave Thinker, Doer and Dream-Chaser

Ke Yan, the 3rd president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2013 and majored in media & English, graduate of the University of Auckland, now working and living in New Zealand.

Talking with Ke Yan often brings one a subtle feeling, which may be related to his life style-- Working hard to conform to the trend of the society while in the meantime keeping himself away from the clamor of the money-oriented business world. As a man of 26 this year, Yan is much more mature than most of his peers, so he is often mistaken as a "post-80s" by those who first meet him.

In the summer of 2010, Ke Yan sat for the college entrance examination. To everyone's surprise, he broke his own record, getting an all-time high score, and was admitted to XJTLU. With his beautiful voice and self-possessed host style, he soon became a popular "Gold Voice" of the campus. At the end of 2015, Yan got his master's degree of management at The University of Auckland and successfully entered a local Chinese company in New Zealand. "The company revenue was octupled the first year I worked there", so only after two years, he was promoted from a buyer to a manager, all of which were mainly attributed to his bravery in thinking, working and pursuing for his dream. On Yan's journey of obtaining all this, however, the specter of a precarious future was always on his mind, "On one day I feel I have the whole world, but what about the next day?"

### Never Say Never

"When a child I was determined to leave Yinchuan." Ke Yan said firmly. Unlike many others who were attached to their parents and hometown, Yan knew exactly what he wanted since he was very young. In achieving all these accomplishments, he thought his perseverance played a vital role.

At college, Ke Yan was surer about his plan. When choosing where to further his study after graduation, he was faced with three choices: Germany, Canada and New Zealand. He finally made his decision out of one single consideration: To choose a country where he can settle.

For Yan, going to New Zealand was the bravest decision he has ever made, "I've never been there before, nor did I have any relatives or friends in that country. I finally chose it anyway, taking a plane ticket, and embarked on my new journey alone." A seemingly simple decision like this once being made, Yan had to



undertake whatever consequences it may bring about, which required extraordinarily strong wills of him. Recollecting now, Yan was quite grateful to that once courageous self, "Now seeing from the results, I think I've done a right thing."

In Yan's six years abroad, the biggest problem he met was how to accustom himself to the local life. Despite of the huge efforts, he now still finds it difficult to integrate into the social circle. But now, he becomes relieved, "You may feel bewildered in a certain period, thinking that going abroad means one has to act like a foreigner, which is actually not necessary. You are a Chinese. Wherever you go, you are a Chinese. What you speak is Chinese and you have your Chinese roots. These are the things that will never change. Even now I'm in New Zealand, I still keep our Chinese way of living."

But never has Yan thought of coming back when facing such a problem. In his long-term plan, he refuses to lead a monotonous



life, "Maybe I will go to another foreign country to experience a refreshing environment."

### Life in the Limelight

Ke Yan was quite surprised when he heard others praising his beautiful voice, "That was the first time I had received those comments", which later boosted his confidence in his running for the host of welcoming party as well as signing up for the host & recitation team of Art Association.

"The welcoming party was the biggest one at XJTLU so that all the freshmen would know you if you were the host." Yan intended to take the opportunity to let his favourite girl know him. Unfortunately, he lost the competition, for he had little hosting experience. The failure, however, spurred him to join in the recitation team with an aim to improve himself and enrich his experience. By doing so, he thought he might be able to seize the opportunity next year.

Ke Yan will never forget his first hosting experience, "I stood at a wrong place!" The activity was held at Dushuhu Campus of Soochow University. Among its four hosts, two were from Soochow University, another two from XJTLU and the two hostesses were supposed to stand between the two hosts. As the first one to come onto the stage, Yan was so nervous that he stood at a wrong place. Thus, the last host had nowhere to stand but offstage, "Then he came around from behind and stood on my left, upsetting our initial plan, so at that moment I felt quite ashamed."

The incident did not influence Yan at all, "They all said I'd done a good job. After that, I had more opportunities to host activities on our campus. With the help of some senior sisters from Soochow University, I got a chance to host commercial activities and made my first pot of gold." Since then, Yan became a celebrity and nearly took on all the hosting work in the campus. Yuan Li, his instructor at the Art Association, said he was a "Golden Voice" of XJTLU.

When the Association was seeking its third leader, it was a surprise to all that Yan stood out with a high score. Yuan Li recollected, "His competitors were all team leaders, some of which were sophomores, even seniors, so no one had expected Yan could win out with a score far higher than his runner-up."

Yan actually knew that he was unlikely to win, "Our team leader didn't run for the position, so I thought maybe I could have a try." Though the odds were against him, Yan was still eager to win. Thus, the result was both unexpected and reasonable to him. "My performance was resonant enough to tug at others' heartstrings." Having never received any professional training, Ke Yan impressed all the judges and audience only with his talents for hosting, speech-delivering and leadership, which did spare him much efforts in pursuing success.

Now as a seasoned host, when Yan looks back to his first failure in the election, he says, "I didn't have any experience at that time,

and it's natural to lose. Having gift but no experience is not enough." Therefore, Ke Yan was extremely excited at the moment he received recognition and stood at the center of the stage to host the welcome party, "My initial dream eventually came true."

In the bottom of his heart, Yan quite enjoys standing in the limelight, "I love being admired, and I will also try my best to match their admiration. A mediocre man has nothing worth appreciating, for admiration only belongs to the extraordinary ones."

### Be Better

Perhaps it was Ke Yan's uniqueness that made him a "showy" man. Yan has watched twice the domestic TV drama "The Advisors Alliance" while it was on air. In his spare time, he would talk about the plots with his boss, also his mentor and friend. To him, Ke Yan was much like Sima Yi's disciple-- Zhong Hui, a man of noble birth, achieving his success at an early age. But at the same time, he warned Yan that, "Those who are showy because of an early success like Yang Xiu won't reach any further."

On that note, Yan agreed with his boss, "Conceit was Yang Xiu's fatal flaw. He was truly able to see through others, and then he would directly speak it out, so would I. Therefore, I'm more suitable to get along with outsiders than with insiders. My colleagues might dislike me and even file complaints against me. To the competitors in our circle, they might detest my overly high-profile style. But I was very popular among our sponsors, investors and partners."

Up until now, never has Yan thought of changing his high-profile style. "I would rather keep my original personalities and stay true to myself than becoming a slick person. I'm not smooth in others' eyes, but that's what I am. For a man of 26, is there anything wrong to refuse being smooth? If I change my personality now, what will I become at 30, or 40? A sophisticate?"

After their talking, Yan posted a poem of Cao Cao titled A Short-Song Ballad to his WeChat moment:

I lift my drink and sing a song  
For who knows if life be short or long  
Man's life is but the morning dew  
Past days many, future ones few  
The melancholy my heart begets  
Comes from cares I cannot forget  
Who can unravel these woes of mine  
I know but one man... the God of Wine

Among these lines, "Man's life is but the morning dew; Past days many, future ones few" are my favourite. Life is too short to set any limits. It is to be pursued and explored. I just don't want to regret someday."

To Ke Yan, life is short enough, so why should people set limits to it? He once thought success was hosting a Spring Festival Gala and letting his parents see him on TV. But now, he has a broader view. He loves taking challenges and risks. To him, greater risks mean bigger rewards. Aspiration for the unknown promotes Yan to head forward while at the same time also triggers anxiety in him, "I'm too lucky all the way. But this is a fair world, no one can get everything he wants. You win some and lose some, which is why I feel so upset."

In his days at the Association, Ke Yan's motto was "The greater the ability, the greater the responsibility." At that time, Yan thought he should shoulder greater responsibilities. Today, with an ideal job in New Zealand, an economically independent life, and a fiancée, Yan seems to have a perfect life in others' eyes. But he is not content with this, "I won't stop my steps. I want to be better."



# Yan Sun: Always Be Part of His Art Association

Yan Sun, the 4th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2011 and majored in information system & information management, master of the LSE, now working in the headquarter of CMB in Shenzhen.



Yan Sun, the fourth president of the Art Association he joined in September 2011, showed his seriousness about the words “date of departure”. He confirmed that though having graduated, he would always be part of his Art Association.

“When you put your heart in something, it will be hard for you to give it up”, said Sun. He was right. Though graduated, he often tells others that he will strive for the Art Association whenever he is needed.

## Days in the Art Association Are Part of My Life

At the beginning, Sun joined the Art Association simply because he dreamed of playing the sax on stage. Learned to play the sax from nine years old with his first poor-quality sax bought by his mother, he was promised to get a better one when he made progress. As a music teacher with solid musical foundation, Sun’s mother not only played the piano and practiced singing, but also encouraged Sun by her own experiences. In other people’s eyes, it’s a good thing for Sun to have his own sax, to get great support and encouragement from his mother, and to be taught by professional teachers. But what bothered Sun was that he had no choice but to learn.

When Sun was a child, his mother told him never to do things in halves. Under the influence of his mother, he developed a character of persistence, especially in learning sax. After he passed the first grade test, his mother bought him a better sax, increasing his interest in learning to play the sax. With hard work day by day, he has passed the tenth grade test of sax during less than four years. The only experience from his success is nothing but to practice hard every melody until you can be adept at it. The sax Sun using now is the one he bought after the tenth grade test.

From then on, Sun still plays the sax as long as he has time. Now he plays the sax not to complete tasks assigned by teachers and to show off, but simply regards it as a hobby. To him, he would play the sax rather than play computer games when free. Though study was the most important thing for Sun in his teenage, he never gave up.

After several years, when playing the songs he liked leisurely on the stage, Sun realized that the days in which he practiced the sax are like light in the time tunnel. At the same time, playing the sax has already become an indispensable part of his life.

## Never Forget the Five Minutes

With strong assets, Sun joined an orchestra as he had expected. He still remembered that the first song he played with sax after entering college was Go Home. At that time, the orchestra could not provide enough quality programs for a dancing party, so he volunteered to play the sax. That was the first time Sun had played the sax on stage. Surprisingly, he had received an encouraging response. During the interval, he was surrounded by a group of audiences. The appreciation from others surprised him and entrenched his belief in playing the sax in the orchestra.

The two-hour practice every week was the most expected thing for Sun during days in the orchestra. All the members would volunteer to do practice together in empty classrooms after dinner. Since almost no one understood what composing is all about, they always did not know what to practice. When talking about that, Sun mentioned an important person--- Yiyang Shi. Though a previous member of the orchestra Shi was, he helped the orchestra to find melodies and guided them to rehearse. At that time, Sun’s Art Association lacked appropriate melodies. Therefore, Shi watched videos to seek for melodies that are suitable for the members to play. He downloaded melodies and composed them by special music software. Though with no rewards, he enjoyed that very much. Until now, Shi still helps Canadian folk orchestras to develop. Impressed by Shi’s devotion for the orchestra and love for music, Sun became more respectful of every member of the orchestra who made contributions to improving the quality of their performances and were committed to their pure love for music.

When Sun was the president of the orchestra, he organized several activities, including XJTLU New Year Concert, Initiation Party, Top ten Singers Competition, Special Program for Orchestra, and Dancing Performance. As time goes by, some details of his preparation was forgotten, but he would never forget that crazy five moments.

Most of the activities were attributed to cooperation with other clubs, but the Special Program for Orchestra was the only one held exclusively by Sun’s orchestra. Without the help of others, many odds and ends during the preparation were Sun’s task. Because of the inadequate preparation, the host’s microphone did not work suddenly. Knowing the last performance was at the end and the host had to introduce the next program, Sun rushed towards a nearby shop without any hesitation to buy batteries for the microphone. Finally, he handed the batteries to the host before the announcement of the next program. Having no time to have a rest, Sun was soon involved in other things. He said that five-minute running was the fastest he had achieved ever and he would never forget that.

There is no way to know how fast he has run during that five minutes, but for Sun, that five-minute running has already become an irremovable memory in his life. Trying his best to do what he loves makes his life meaningful.

## An Uncommon Success in His Life

Everyone was so happy and regretless as the program was completed as planned, which was also Sun’s definition of what success is all about. And the experience in college orchestra is one of his few success stories.

Expecting to amount to something in the orchestra, Sun wanted to turn his ideas into reality, such as the improvement of the orchestra’s management and the reallocation of resources available. He chose to run for the president of the orchestra and luckily won another excellent campaigner by a tiny margin.

Sun became the president of the orchestra in its booming period, the whole Art Association expanding to include more than 200 members. Every head of individual groups was versatile and thoughtful, wanting to demonstrate the excellence of their group members by giving more exclusive performances. However, due to limited funds, inadequate members and the not so sophisticated new members, the orchestra could not ensure the quality of their performances. Therefore, Sun had to make a choice and a balance among the requirements of every individual group.

At last, Sun chose to make sure that every individual group could give at least one exclusive program every year under various pressures. He said firmly that no matter how hard the work was and how limited the funds were, they would hold these exclusive programs and maximize the effect of every performance. Sometimes, they would give two or three programs a week. It turned out that the number of programs they had held was on record. Since there were not enough helpers, Sun must attend almost every program when there is no grip. Being present at every program and busily taking charge of all things, it was a big challenge for him to make every show a success. But he was very proud that he persisted along the way instead of being intimidated by difficulties.



For Sun, others held programs to meet the audience's demand for culture appreciation, while they aimed to make stages available for talented performers to show themselves. It seems they are selfish. But in Sun's eyes, their Association managed to meet the members' desire of performing, to make their dreams come true and to build a solid foundation for further development. He said that they must encourage the members to make programs more professional so that they could have more chances to give more performances. However, the problem is that most people would even give up watching performances since they could not understand what the performers want to convey. As for Sun, it is not a big deal at all. He believes that if they keep improving the quality of programs, there will be more and more audiences.

Looking back at that uncommon success, Sun believes that each member of the orchestra will feel satisfied whenever they recall all these in the future. They may say that the most crazy life in college is just what they have lived. And people who have watched their performances will appraise them and think how crazy those performers are. All these make what Sun has done significant.

Holding the idea that there are different opportunities in various places, Sun always settles in places which suits him. For example, he left his hometown to further his study in Suzhou, studied for a master degree in the London Political and Economic Institute of Great Britain, and now he is living in Shenzhen.

Sun likes to identify himself as a casual man as he has no long-term plans, which he tended to attribute to his disposition. Lately, his goal is to save money and to go to gym. Stressful as the life in Shenzhen is, Sun may worry occasionally when he can save enough money to buy a house. But that would never be a long-term matter since he could deal with pressures calmly. His optimism makes him look like a shaft of sunshine. He said with a smile that all his optimism came from his casual life style.

As for Sun, the most important thing is to be worthy of the heart. He said, "Do not over-compute yourself, but be a kind person and know what you want. If you don't want it, then don't force yourself. My ideal life is to live confidently."



### Turning Point

Zhao believes that studying for a master's degree in architecture at the University of California at Berkeley is a major turning point during her life. She once had intended to give up majoring in architecture. At the time, she had applied for schools of other majors in Australia. But after she got an offer from an Australian university, an unexpected thing happened---she met her boyfriend. Her boyfriend likes architecture very much. And he often takes Zhao out to see the buildings and tells her what he knows about architecture. What's more, the three mentors of Zhao during her senior year also helped her a lot. Under their leadership, her love for architecture seems to back to her again. It is not so much the guidance of the teacher and her boyfriend as her true love for architecture that makes Zhao never let go of the architecture. Four years professional learning as a college student changes her a lot. From the very beginning, she only considered the appearance of the building. But as time goes by, she begins to design the building as a whole, fully integrating buildings with cultural and social factors. As Zhao said, this change came from a workshop she joined in South Africa Cape, which was the experience that had impressed her most. At that time she was a junior. She went to South Africa with her team members and lived in the slums of Cape Town for two weeks. During these two weeks, Zhao needed to conduct a field survey to understand the demands of people in slums for housing, and to provide solutions with the local government. She recalled that there were two foreign students who could not continue the interview for they are shocked by the poverty of children in the slums. It is a big problem for local government to solve for their development.

After the experience in the workshop, Zhao realized that the most important thing for buildings is not only the coolness of their shapes and styles, but also the social responsibility they undertake. It was also this experience that made Zhao think about the responsibility of architectures and architects. She said that an architect should take into account both the design of buildings and the meaningfulness that buildings bring to people and society.

She was once again deeply impressed when she saw Luke Kang's design of the Salk Institute of Biology in California. She said that though studying this building first in her undergraduate courses and again in the postgraduate period, it was so wonderful to see and walk in the real building. Luis Kang was hailed as a poet in the architectural world, and his architectural works are often symbols of elegance and simplicity. The Salk Institute for Biological Research is the first work with which Luis Kang was satisfied. The central axis of the whole building faces the endless sea. The weather Zhao went to visit was very good. She said with a sparkle in her eyes that it was really amazing to see the true building instead of watching it in the picture.

This winter vacation, Zhao and her boyfriend went to see the SANNA-designed glass exhibition hall of the Toledo Museum. Zhao told us that it was the first glass pavilion designed by SANNA and did not amount to his masterpiece. If people aim to see the architect, they will definitely not look at this building. She decided to go to the scene after accidentally seeing a photo of the pavilion posted by her friends in Wechat. SANNA is very different from others in the circle of architecture. It seems that many architects like to use steel and cement to build thicker and more ceremonial



Zhe Zhao:

The more you like it, the more wonderful life is

Zhe Zhao, the 5th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2012 and majored in architecture. M. Ar in the University of California, Berkeley now, living in Berkeley, USA.

Zhe Zhao likes renting a car to go for a drive with her boyfriend around the city she is living. She especially enjoys traveling with no plans. On 14th May, she and her boyfriend drove along "American No.1 Road", which is said to be the most beautiful road in America. Due to the special geological environment, there are blue waters of Pacific on one side and steep cliffs on the other side. Sometimes, a vast area of grassland will suddenly come into your view. The scenery is a feast for eyes. Zhao said that No. 1 Road was everything she could ever ask for in a road. The landscape along the way is more than beautiful.

It is the first year that Zhao has pursued her master degree in America. She and her boyfriend have already driven to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Walnut Creek and San Diego. She is not only attracted by beautiful scenery along the way, but also enjoys visiting famous buildings. To her, love for travelling, architecture, dancing and music are all things that can bring joys to her life.

buildings, while buildings SANNA designed are lighter. He hopes that buildings he creates can give people a feeling of lightness. In addition, SANNA likes creating romantic space with large curved glass, which was Zhao's favorite architectural style. Now Zhao wishes that she could visit buildings mentioned in the history book one by one.

### The Longest-staying One

Staying in the art Association for four years, Zhao feels she was the one who stays in the art Association for the longest time.

Beginning to learn to dance from the first grade of elementary school, Zhao has deep feelings for dancing. She immediately joined the dancing group of Art Association when she knew the Association recruited new members. She hopes to take this opportunity to continue dancing in the university. The days she prepared for performances were the happiest and the most memorable time in her college. For Zhao, dancing is a way to relax after a day's tight and busy learning. When she doesn't want to draw designs of buildings, she will go to the dancing group. Every time thinking of dancing, she feels very excited.

On May 20th, 2013, the 5th election of head of the Association was held in the 2S Hall of the Foundation Building. Zhao was one among campaign list. Before the election, she had already been



the deputy head of the dancing group and president of a yoga club. Many friends persuaded her to give up the election. They thought that being head of the Art Association is so tired. They thought Now that Zhao is busy learning architecture, it's better for her to be just head of the dancing group. But Zhao still wants to have a try. She thought delivering a speech in public was a good opportunity for her to accumulate experience. To her surprise, she was successfully elected as the fifth head of the Art Association. She confirmed that she could do it well since both teachers and Association members had every confidence in her.

Although Zhao was elected as head of the Art Association, she spent most time on the dancing group. In Zhao's view, her responsibility is to manage the entire Art Association and coordinate the relationship between the small groups. Every small group is treated equally. As a result, this will not conflict with Zhao's r training in the dancing group. The tradition in XJTLU is that organizations are paradises for freshmen. From the second year on, lots of members of organization will no longer participate in any activities because of the busy and tight learning of their specialized courses. But Zhao loves the Art Association and the dancing group so much that she continued to practice dancing after being head of the Art Association. She gave chances of performing to freshmen. What impressed her most was a special activity only for the dancing group. On the eve of the activity, head of the dancing group suddenly asked Zhao to give a performance to the last but the most important dance. Hearing that the girl who should have danced hurt her foot, Zhao agreed without hesitation.

At that time, Zhao felt so honored and moved. She was still a member of the dancing group and can contribute to it when needed.

### The Power of Idol

Dance and music always go hand in hand. Besides dancing, Zhao also likes music. When asked her favorite singer, Zhao's first answer is always Jay Chou. From the second year in her junior school, Zhao's favorite singer is Jay Cho. On midnight of May 15th, Jay Chou released his new song "If you don't love me, it's fine". After the new song was launched for an hour, the number of comments was already 10w+. The lyrics are "Wear the helmet, don't let you fall down on the road of love; drive fast, you say no, love is not what you want. If you still want to rely on me..." Jay's fans joked that the lyrics were so obsolete. And Zhao has the same feeling. She and her boyfriend laughed at the lyrics all along the way. She said with a smile that she was a sensible fan of Jay. She will give fair comments of songs of her idol.

From "Confession balloon", "Waiting for you" to "If you don't love me, it is fine", Jay Chou sang in a more and more self-indulgent way. Though Jay's songs have been criticized by netizens, Zhao still likes Jay Chou. She likes not only Jay's songs but also Jay himself and Jay's attitudes towards music. In her heart, Jay Chou is her idol. When she doesn't want to study, she begins to watch dramas. But as she thinks of Jay's pursuit of music even if he is so famous, she will immediately let go of the drama and go on studying. That's the power of an idol. To some extent, it is Jay's determination for music drives Zhao forward.

Zhao likes Jay Chou's "Rice aroma" most. The first part of the song is very special because it is a combination of hip hop and folk songs. Besides, the lyrics are very positive. Zhao thought her as a positive girl too. Therefore, she will never be afraid of difficulties. This kind of personality gives Zhao abilities to deal with problems independently. She is very grateful to people she has met, including her teachers and friends. Followings are some lyrics of "Rice aroma":

Too much complaint of this world  
Too afraid to move ahead if falls  
Why so fragile, why so frail  
Open your TV and see  
How many people are striving for a happy life  
So we have to be content  
Cherish all even have nothing  
Still remember, you home is your only castle  
Run along river, with air full of barley aroma  
Smile and recall the dreams in childhood  
Never cry, escape with the light of firefly  
Home folk is always for you to rely on  
Back home, back to the beautiful days in the very beginning  
...

It's the song to which Zhao listens every time she stays up to study. Leaving her home so long, Zhao misses her families very much. She decided to return to China to finish her internship on this summer vacation. She does not make up her mind about whether she should pursue a doctor degree after master graduation and go back to China or stay in America. Having to make so many decisions confused her a lot. She said that she did not think about so much before. The only thing she had to worry about before was study. She thought her as a decisive woman, but after majoring in architecture, she is more and more dilatory. She hopes to be effective next semester.



# Xiaofan Wang: I'm Both Ordinary and Extraordinary

**Xiaofan Wang, the 6th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2013 and majored in civil engineering. M. E.A in the University of Melbourne now, living in Melbourne, Australia.**

Xiaofan Wang likes to say that she is an ordinary person.

In the summer of 2013, Wang was enrolled in the civil engineering major of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, achieving the transformation from an inexperienced high-school student to an undergraduate. Like other numerous undergraduates, Wang's four years were slipped by while she was busily acquiring knowledge, joining organizations and working in internship.

However, Wang is also an "extraordinary" person.

In September, 2013, Wang joined the Art Association's host and recitation team of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, starting her rich and splendid organization life. Over twenty activities presided by Wang both in and out the campus during the four years in college witnessed her growing from an obscure rookie to a famous "star host". For Wang, the Art Association saw her transforming from ordinary to extraordinary, provided opportunities for her to pursue her dream, and made her know that "actually, I am also a splendid person!"

## Meaningful Loneliness

On February 20th, 2018, Xiaofan Wang took a flight from Shanghai to Australia, and embarked on a one-year postgraduate life in the University of Melbourne. When interviewed, she was just finishing the last examination of a compulsory course in the first semester. Wang majored in civil engineering during undergraduate time, but considering personal interests and future career, she boldly shifted to business administration in postgraduate period. "On the one hand, I am outgoing and tend to communicate with others, so such academic majors as civil engineering may not fit me very well; on the other hand, I plan to start my own business in the future, so I want to learn some courses about administration in advance," Wang said: "This may be the most humanities oriented major in engineering. Currently, my courses are also half engineering and half business, which is more attractive for me." At first, Wang was not used to the life in Australia thinking it's very different from that in China. "I feel that I have much more



time than before," said Wang. While in Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, although many a time wasn't belonging to her, Wang enjoyed it very much. "I like spending time in organization activities, and chatting, eating and working with friends. But in Australia, I have few friends as well as activities. So in comparison, I prefer the life in China," said Wang.

However, life forces Wang to make some changes. She writes down her favorite remark on a paper and attaches it on the window, which says: "high-quality solitude is better than meaningless social contact." She hopes that through this she can motivate herself to do more meaningful things and things that can improve himself during solitary time.

Now, Wang pays more attention to her own life in free time. For example, she starts exercising and learning cooking. "I might spend too much energy staying with friends in the past. But with the growing of age, I gradually feel that I have overlooked my interior development. I need to calm myself down and try to improve myself." It is for this reason Wang appreciates that she can have this chance to live alone in a foreign country and have enough time to face herself, muse and improve herself.

## The Possibility of Pursuing Dream

As for Wang, her biggest dream ever since childhood is to become a host. While the Art Association just provides her the possibility to seek it.

"As a fervent stage lover, I like hosting, dancing as well as myself with full confidence on it. Therefore, it's nature that joining the host team and the dancing group becomes my biggest wish after attending college." Wang still remembers clearly that the first application form she submitted in college was to enter her name for the "Golden Microphone Contest" held by the Art Association. Later she successfully joined the host team of the art Association. "Those days in the host team make me know that there is such a stage in life that permits me to show myself. Meanwhile, I can meet a number of friends with the same aim and idea. Together we can shine on our own little stages."

Being a person with extremely wide hobbies, Wang also likes watching drama, listening music in concert, singing and catwalk, besides hosting and dancing. As a result, she was active in all kinds of literary and artistic activities within campus in her freshman year. In addition, through the chance of hosting different activities, she became acquainted with a lot of friends from the Art Association or other organizations, and saw many possibilities of cooperation and creation. Meanwhile, she was deeply aware of the significance that art Association played in the artistic life of people in XJTLU, which is the very reason why she bravely competed for the head of art coupe during transition.

"For me, it's not only a possibility and chance, but more a responsibility. I hope that, together with many friends who have dreams and love the stage just like me, we can help this young team to create a more energetic stage." The result of the competition is not surprising at all, as Wang who is fervent and responsible successfully became the sixth leader of the Art Association.

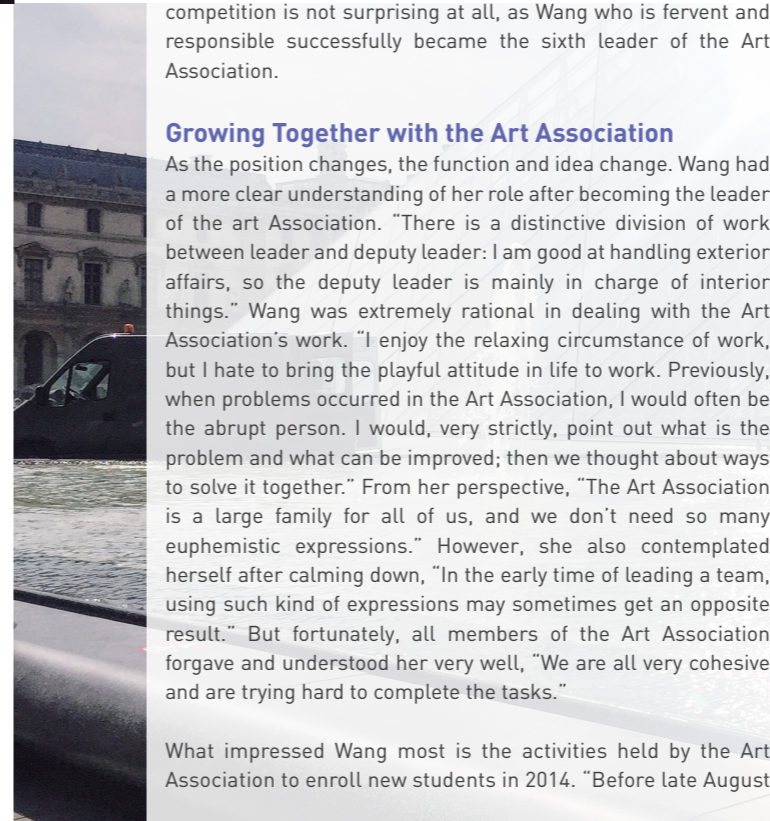
## Growing Together with the Art Association

As the position changes, the function and idea change. Wang had a more clear understanding of her role after becoming the leader of the art Association. "There is a distinctive division of work between leader and deputy leader: I am good at handling exterior affairs, so the deputy leader is mainly in charge of interior things." Wang was extremely rational in dealing with the Art Association's work. "I enjoy the relaxing circumstance of work, but I hate to bring the playful attitude in life to work. Previously, when problems occurred in the Art Association, I would often be the abrupt person. I would, very strictly, point out what is the problem and what can be improved; then we thought about ways to solve it together." From her perspective, "The Art Association is a large family for all of us, and we don't need so many euphemistic expressions." However, she also contemplated herself after calming down, "In the early time of leading a team, using such kind of expressions may sometimes get an opposite result." But fortunately, all members of the Art Association forgave and understood her very well, "We are all very cohesive and are trying hard to complete the tasks."

What impressed Wang most is the activities held by the Art Association to enroll new students in 2014. "Before late August

when freshman formally started their term, we had to organize two large activities: the artistic show on the opening ceremony, and the variety show of the "enroll week", of which the latter was a totally new event. And we also need to enroll new members." These left the newly formed management team at a loss, and pushed Wang to the verge of breakdown. "Firstly, we hadn't organized any huge activities together by that time, and the team was far from mature. Secondly, all the preparations were done during the summer vacation when we were dispersed in different places, so communication and rehearsal were both big problems."

But finally, Wang and her group members endured the pressure. "Fortunately we have the same goal, so we become a tacit understanding after working together for a while. Since we may not walk as fast as others, we decide to set out earlier." Since July, Wang has led members responsible for the activities to publicize the recruitment in post bar. She still remembered that the group leader for calligraphy and painting designed many posters by himself, while other groups also helped to collect many reference materials and photos for publicity, and were in charge of the freshman's QQ group. Everyone was very active. When it came to the middle of the August, before new students registered, they successively came back school in advance to prepare the rehearsal. Finally, they successfully accomplished the two important tasks: opening ceremony and evening party to welcome newcomers.





Looking back, she reckons that "That period of time is composed of both painfulness and happiness." It is such kind of process during which a team works together to achieve its goal helps her gradually discover a better way of managing teams and grow with the art Association, as well as obtain friendship.

### Finding the Most Comfortable State of Life

In daily life, Wang is a fervent travel lover. From her perspective, the greatest meaning of travel is to broaden her horizon and to enjoy different local customs and practices. I always believe that horizon is a very important thing, which is the reason why I choose to go abroad for further study. I feel that I need to jump out of the former comfortable circle of life, go to a totally strange place, make new friends, adapt to new living environment and start a new life. It will improve me a lot."

"I extremely like Australian's family life which is very comfortable, but it may not be suitable for a person in his/her 20s, such as me." Wang believes that working hard in a vibrant and modern city like Shanghai or Hangzhou is a better choice for her, and living in Suzhou or Chengdu may be another aim when she grows older. "Your state won't remain as your age changes, so you may want to go to different cities and enjoy various living styles."

Currently, Wang has already made a plan for her future job: she will find a satisfying job in Shanghai after graduation from the University of Melbourne. Her job will consist of two directions: either major related like building company, engineering company or consulting firm in which she will find such an external work as public relation or activity planning, or some advertising media companies. In her mind, the biggest feature of the job that fits her is that it can combine what she has learned with her avocations.

In the past, Wang would usually concern about others' comments, yearn for their approval as if the whole world is running around them. But now she believes the most important thing is to live her own life well as long as she herself feels no guilty. "I don't think I have an interesting mind, nor do I want to become a funny person in others' eyes. I just want to be my true self. Perhaps I'm such an ordinary person, but I can make a progress and have my shining point. It's enough that friends around you know this.

Wang rarely envies others' life. In her ideal life, she can perform her favorite job from Monday to Friday, and after work, or in weekend, she has lots of leisure time. "I can explore some interesting stores together with my best female friends. Such kind of life is full, yet it also allows me to have my private life.

Wang said: "Although the current living model isn't the one that I like, but I will try to accept it, and find the most comfortable style in it."



## The 7th Art Association: Three People Support Each Other

**Ruru Wang, the 7th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2014 and majored in accountancy.**

**Yuxin Fu, the 7th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2014 and majored in international business, now living in the U.K.**

**Yang Nan, the 7th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2014 and majored in international business & Spanish, now living in Suzhou.**

A team cannot exist without cooperation.

The development of the Art Association has never been based on a single person to open up the world. Its harvest and achievements stem from the cooperation of the entire team. Not only the head but also the deputy head and every member of the association have paid the sweat for it.

This was particularly evident in the development of the 7th Art Association. Not only did the head of the group Ruru Wang work hard for the association, but the deputy heads Yuxin Fu and Yang Nan also played a vital role.

### Ruru Wang: Head Capable of Clear Division of Labor

The 7th Art Association was the first applying the election mode. Prior to this, each head was elected by Li Yuan, the faculty leader of the Art Association, and the head of the previous squad and the heads of the various squads, while the heads of the squads were elected through internal elections.

Xiaofan Wang, head of the 6th Art Association, found that the time for the change of each squads and the association were different. Many squads were re-elected at the end of the first semester, but the head of the art group was in May in the second semester, which made me unfamiliar with the heads of squads. They took office first, then I took office, and recruitment was the first event we held together. We didn't have time to learn about and get familiar with each other. It was really very difficult to hold such a large event together immediately after you took office." Therefore, she decided to change this situation from her session. Not only was the election time unified, she also made bold reforms in the election method.





"I feel that if the Art Association wants to become an official school-wide organization, the election must be open and transparent. I request that the squads be renewed in March, and the method should be public elections, just like other large-scale organization elections. Each association will have two candidates and all members of the entire Association participate in the voting."

The advantages of such method are obvious: "Firstly, the leaders are selected by all the members. The members are sure to be convinced, so it will be more convenient to manage. Secondly, through election, the heads of each squad will be more familiar with each other and members will know more about them." Wang says.

Wang is the first leader who was successfully elected through such a new type of election. In Xiaofan Wang's impression, "There were six candidates for the head of the association. Ruoru's advantage was that he had multiple roles at that time, having worked in three teams, so he knew more about each team. He was also very active, talking to the squad heads in advance and doing a lot of homework, so he had a big advantage in the election."

In the eyes of the deputy head Nan Yang, Ruoru Wang, is a person with a very clear division of labor. "He works very hard and the division of labor is clear. He is mainly responsible for external affairs, contact sponsors by himself, and we mainly manage things inside the group."

**Yuxin Fu: Be Real, Kind, and Brave**

"At the time, joining the association was purely out of interest, but the two-year experience had an unimaginable impact on me." From the initial admission to the Art Association Administration Department as a small officer, to the deputy head of the 7th Art Association, Yuxin Fu organized and co-organized various activities including the Welcome Week Party, XJTLU talent show, and dozens

of activities of different scales like special squad performance. She said, "In organizing various special events, I exercised my organizational skills and improved my communication skills."

In addition, in the two years with the Art Association, Yuxin Fu also made a lot of good friends and gained a lot of good memories. What impressed her most was the special art festival held by the administrative department in the second semester of freshman year. In the preparation stage of this art festival, she did a lot of work with all the team members, such as contacting the performance members of each squad, determining the program list of the event, organizing personnel to participate in the rehearsal and so on. These small and trivial things occupied Yuxin Fu's life, making her very busy.

"The day of the art festival was my birthday, and I remember that I took the Spanish exam that afternoon. Immediately after the exam, I rushed to the rehearsal site for assistance, until the end of the evening at 10 o'clock." At that time, Yuxin Fu, who was exhausted, had completely forgotten her birthday. She just wanted to take off her high heels and go back to the dormitory to have a good night's sleep. To her surprise, "My good friend Zhou Yue suddenly took my hand and ran to the stage. The friends took a cake out from the background. On the cake it said: wish Yuxin forever young. At this time, the students who put the music replaced the background music with a song I really liked. At the time, I was really moved to say nothing. It has become one of the most special birthdays in my university time."

Fu has always kept the touch brought by her friends in mind. Perhaps it is exactly because she has gained too much encouragement and help from her friends that she always tells herself that she should "be a real, kind, brave person" in her life. In the fourth year of the year, Yuxin Fu was a resident advisor at the University of Liverpool's dorm. She always tried her best to help her students solve problems. What impressed her the most was that, "When I was on duty, the security guard called and said that a girl had broken her head and told me to go there immediately. When I arrived at the scene, blood was all over the girl's hair and face. Because she was drunk, she didn't feel the pain and kept saying that she was fine. I was really scared at the time, but I immediately called the ambulance and stayed with her until the doctor came. Later, I strolled in the dormitory with my colleague and met this again. Girl, I said at the time, wow, you look familiar. She replied, that day it was you called the ambulance for me." A casual statement made her consider: "If I had believed her that night, thought she was fine, and let her go to sleep, maybe I accidentally pushed a person's safety to great danger, and the consequences may be too dire to think about. At that moment, I understood my responsibility. Every decision I made could affect the people around me. This also made me value my current job."

In her heart, "Everyone needs help. When others need help, I will not hesitate to help them, because I have been helped by others. Let us pass this love together, we all need a friend to be our backing."

**Yang Nan: Discovering Unlimited Possibilities**

Since childhood, the love of art, especially of broadcasting and hosting, was the most important reason why Yang Nan wanted to join the Art Association. Meanwhile, the dance and reading programs at the opening ceremony made Nan curious about this all-round team. After registration and interview, she successfully joined the broadcasting and hosting squad of the association and became a part of this big group. In May 2015, Yang Nan was elected as the deputy head of the 7th Art Association.

As the deputy head of the Art Association, the special events held by each squad were all unforgettable experiences for her. Nan always remembers, "As deputy heads, it means that we were the rear support of the 10 squads of the association. When we encountered problems, we needed to consider the development of squads." Until now, she still remembered the details of the events. For example, the drama squad needed to arrange enough grips to quickly change the props. The anchor choir needed to check the sound and power of each microphone, and arrange many members to play in an orderly manner, as well as paying attention to the model etiquette and dance group's pre-props preparation and scene lighting regulation and so on. These extremely small things often become the key to whether an event can be successfully held.

In Nan's view, "Every special event that seems to be ordinary is full of challenges for every one of our staff, far more difficult than just a few minutes of performance on the stage. Every special performance requires that the director group does not let go of every detail that affects the effect of the program while controlling the whole program. Behind each program is the communication and coordination between the staff, the performers' diligent practice, as well as the enthusiastic help and support of other squad members."

Two years of work experience has greatly improved Nan's ability to communicate and coordinate, and also taught her the way to live. "There were many activities and trainings in the Art association, especially many performances. There was a high degree of tacit cooperation between the performers and the behind-the-scenes staff. Through the performances, I gradually learned how to plan activities, how to communicate effectively with others in the shortest time, how to create a good team atmosphere."

At the same time, as a host, she hosted countless evening events and activities in the association. "My ability to host has been developed and exercised. It is the art group that cultivated me." In

this sense, she was extremely grateful for the opportunity offered by the association. She also thanked XJTLU for letting her discover the infinite possibilities.

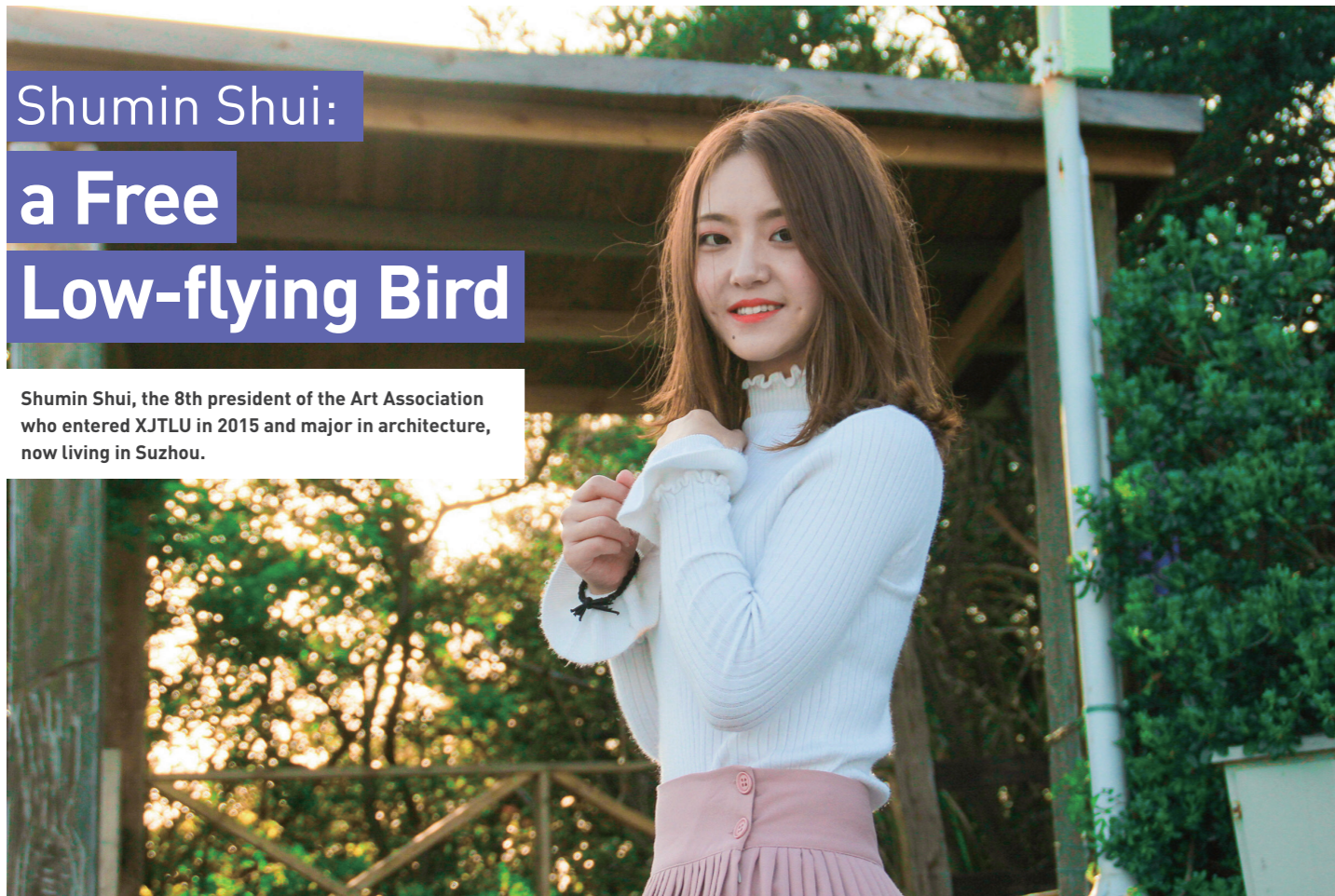
Nan said, "I used to be an introvert. After I came to XJTLU, especially after joining the Art Association, I found that I don't need to be limited to my previous role. I am a brand new myself. No matter what I do, everyone will accept me, encourage me, support me, so I feel that life is full of possibilities. Whether in academic research or in career development, everyone has unlimited possibilities, which keeps inspiring me to try something new."

Having graduated from International Business and Spanish, Nan is actively preparing to study in Spain. In her words, "I want to see the world outside as much as possible."



## Shumin Shui: a Free Low-flying Bird

Shumin Shui, the 8th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2015 and major in architecture, now living in Suzhou.



Freedom is Shumin Shui's most yearning state of life. In her studies, she is loyal to her love, and finds her own pleasure in the boring design; in her life, she is generous, and likes to travel around. In her words, "I don't want to be framed."

Having the same first name with a famous writer Shumin Bi, Shui is often asked if there is any relevance. "Absolutely no, and I don't like reading at all, but I love buying books." It has been the third year since Shui entered college and her roommates often complain about her, "You have not yet open the books even bought two years ago." She smiled and told me, "I don't know why I bought them. I just love it. It's fun."

### A "Romantic" Trip to Turkey

Fun can fully arouse the interest of Shui, in everyday life she hardly miss any chance to get fun. She majored in architecture and often had a variety of design tasks, "If I have a DDL to do, I have to stay up almost all week." Every time she finished DDL, she went out with her roommate to have a big meal. Her WeChat Circle of Friends is full of pictures of delicacies, hot pots, snacks,

desserts and milk tea in Suzhou restaurants. If you don't know where and what to eat someday, her circle of friends will give you an answer." Because of her love to photography, every picture she took on food looks so appetizing. "Especially late at night, these pictures are really irresistible. What's more, a lot as she eats, she doesn't get fat", which her friends envy very much.

Shui likes traveling very much. Junior winter vacation, because of "Take You to Travel" the hit song, she decided to go to the romantic Turkey alone. "I want to see what the romantic country looks like."

When I first made this decision, my family and friends all objected, "How dangerous a girl go so far alone!" But Shui was very stubborn, "I want a journey that belongs to me myself. In this journey, you will see different scenery, hear others' stories, and make different friends. The experience is different from going out with family or good friends." Finally, at her insistence, her parents entered her for a tour group, and she set off on the romantic trip to Turkey.

This trip brought her to know a lot of lovely people. "They would help me a lot and take care of me very much when knowing that I

went out alone. I had gained treasured friendship in the tour. In retrospect, it was really a particularly sweet and unforgettable experience. The only pity was that even waiting for two days in Cappadocia I had no chance to take the air balloon due to the bad weather. But it is all right because I will be there again."

### Never Regret Joining Art Association

Although Shui loves to play, she takes her work very seriously. In September 2015, she joined the Art Troupe as the head of the copywriting team of the Ministry of Administration. "In fact, the publicity of many activities has to rely on the copywriting team to write some WeChat tweets to promote them online so as to attract the attention of students. The work in the copywriting team not only greatly improved my expression ability but also made me learn some different ways of propaganda."

A year later, with a "competitive heart", Shui was elected to the eighth president of Art Association. One of the things that impressed her most in the two years in the association was preparing for the 2016 Welcome Week party. At that time the summer vacation approached, the handover of some things was not smooth. Just in office for a short time, she had not only to prepare for the Welcome Party but also to consider the recruitment of the new semester. "I have to think of the way to attract new students to enroll in the Art Association. They might know more about the nine small art groups, but few about the department responsible for co-ordination and administration, which was a very troublesome problem at that time." She got too busy for the association instead of relaxing during the holiday.

"We had established a lot of QQ groups, WeChat groups and Baidu Tieba in order to give publicity to the Welcome Party and been acquainted with many new students before coming back to school. When hearing that they were going to take part in the activity, Shui felt excited and a sense of achievement." She recalled this period, with a smile on her face.

The venue of the Welcome Party needed to be arranged in the afternoon, but there were not enough people. Shu-min Shui asked the new students in the group if they would come to help. What moved her was, "they didn't hesitate to come right away. They spent the whole afternoon carrying tables and chairs and had no time for dinner until the party is over." She still remembers that it was the most watched event she ever held. "We used to run an event with about 300 audience, but that time there were nearly 1000 people. The whole venue was full of freshmen, and our chairs were not enough. Many of the freshmen ran to other classrooms to carry chairs, some sitting directly on the ground, and others standing on the back tables to watch the performance. I didn't expect so many people here." At that moment, she felt that all the efforts were worth it.

From total ignorance to the ability to organize a bunch of people to do a real event, she was surprised by such a huge change of herself. "I met all kinds of difficulties when running into activities. In fact, for a lot of times I thought about giving up. I was really tired. But in the end, I kept it up, maybe because I want not to let others down or make myself regret it by doing it well."

As she said, "the two years in the Art Association really affected and added a lot of glory to my college life. Every time I look back on it, I feel like, um, I really have never regretted joining this big family of Art Association."

### Tired but Happy

Influenced by the experience in the association, Shui will persevere with her goals in life until she achieves her best." To outsiders, architecture is a very hard-working major, but she doesn't think so. "I was very interested in interior design since I was a child. Though tired, I felt happy." She had even slept for only one or two hours every day for a week in order to catch up with her design work. But in her own opinion, "after finishing it, you will feel a sense of accomplishment and it is all worth it." So she never thought of giving up. She will go abroad for further study later, still majoring in architecture.

People who have acquainted with Shui are easily affected by her openness and vivacity. Among friends' comments on her, "funny" and "gentle" are the two most mentioned words. "Probably it is because I have inbred fun." She laughed covering her mouth by the hand. In her eyes, "gentle" is the most basic politeness when getting on with others, which may have something to do with her easy-going character, so she always has many good friends around. "I feel very happy with her." One of Shui's friends said.

"I hope I can do my own design in the future. It doesn't matter if I have to stay up late or get very tired, as long as I am doing the thing I like. In my spare time I can go out on a trip with my camera and keep the most beautiful moments of my family and friends." This is Shui's most yearning for life. "It may be hard to achieve, but I will work hard to become better and better, then closer and closer to my."

Tagore once wrote in his poem: there is no trace of birds in the sky, but I have flown. Shumin Shui is like this free bird. Now she wants to fly hard.





Yimin Lin: Happiness Is The Most Important Thing.

# Yimin Lin: Happiness Is The Most Important Thing

Yimin Lin, the 9th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2016 and major in digital media & technology, now living in Suzhou.

"Do whatever you want, as long as you are happy." That is what Lin said most frequently, as well as the driving force and criteria Lin struggled for the things he loved. As a key figure in the 10-year development of the Art Association, he has always insisted that "I must fight to do the best what I want to do."

## Support from Parents

Parents are the most influential people on Lin's way of growing up. "My parents have always been very lenient with me and they want me to do what I really like." Because of that, with the support of his parents, Lin has been persevering on the things he loves since childhood.

When he was in high school, his grades were not very good, so he came up with the idea of going abroad for study. "At that time, I thought the classmates going abroad were very happy." It was also the reason why he chose XJTLU, a Sino-foreign university. "Originally I was planning going abroad, and the major of Digital Media and Technology happened to arouse the interest in me." However, it was the first year of the establishment of this major. "Most of the parents of my classmates were against it, but my parents' attitude was, 'do it if you like'." Looking back now, Lin is very grateful to his parents.

Instead of the grades, Lin's parents concerned more about the diet, the daily routine, as well as when their son would go back home. A screenshot of the recent dialogue with his mother on WeChat was posted on his Friend Circle by Yimin Lin.

This short message reads: "my son, I hope we will always understand and respect each other. I want to share all your happiness, your pains and your frustrations as you grow up. And mom don't like you hold back unpleasant information sincerely." Seeing the message, the idea of going home at once again occurred to Lin in the middle of the night.

Unlike other adolescent boys, Lin has never quarreled with his parents. In the eyes of his parents, he has always been an obedient and sensible. "It seems that I've never had a rebellious period," Lin said with a smile. The relationship between Lin and his parents is more like friends. "They understand my behavior, and I also consider something for them."

## Practice in the Art Association

Yimin Lin was originally a member of the Council's copywriting department, mainly responsible for pushing WeChat. After two weeks of writing, he became actively involved in the work of various departments. "Whatever the task was, I would do it."

"XJTLU Talent Show" was the first event Lin was involved in since joining the Art Association, and it was also the most influential event for him. At that time, the Art Association was extremely

Yimin Lin: Happiness Is The Most Important Thing.

lack of staff. "Even the first promotional material was made by the old president's boyfriend." It happened that Lin initially wanted to join the Propaganda department and he wanted to learn PS design. But no one taught him, so he learned to by himself every day until two or three o'clock in the morning. As a Virgo, he was very strict with design. Seeing the design by new members was not good enough, he would make another by his own and send it to the group, and asked, "Do you think this version will be a bit better." After that, he and two other partners took on almost all the promotional tasks.

In addition to making promotional materials, he often went out for dinner and chatted with his partners of the Planning department. "We only talked about work, lasting for three to four hours until 11:00 or 12:00 pm. Just for work, everyone is reluctant to leave." It's not enough to have a meeting only on Mondays, so Lin and other members took a lot of spare time to discuss the details of the event, such as gifts preparation, raffle sessions, the rules of the rematch, selection of contestants, and so on. Every process and detail took a lot of their attention. Since then, the relationship between the members of the Art Association has been particularly close. For the first time, the Art Association made Lin feel like home and want to stay here."

The New Year Concert was the first time that Lin had led the council as a general manager. "New Year concert is a big event in our school, and many senior leaders including the head of the Keyboard Group, the Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra will all attend." Lin's pressure can be imagined. As the general manager, he had to coordinate the time with each of the heads. It was also an opportunity for him to communicate with the old leaders. He became more aware of what the heads needed and what the council could provide, which laid the foundation for a later architecture of the Council.

A little interlude happened in the New Year Concert –there was not enough time to pull out the chair during the event and the scene was a bit chaotic. He blamed himself for it but "after that, a lot of leaders WeChat me and said, 'you've done a great job', which moved me a lot." The countless moving moments made him more and more inseparable from the Art Association.

## Unexpected Transformation

Lin had not imaged that the time in the Arts Association would completely change him. "I used to be a very introverted person." He did not participate in any club in junior high school and dislike collective activities very much. "I am very afraid to walk around in crowded places." To avoid embarrassment, he used to pick a trail in campus. "I'd rather pretend I didn't see them," he said, "I was so afraid of meeting a half-acquaintance to greet me." He never expected that he would make so many close friends in the first year in college, not to mention becoming the director of the Art Association Managing around 300 people.

Recalling the election process, Lin confessed that it was the old president that had been urging him to sign up. "We all get on well and there is no hierarchy, so it doesn't matter who the president is." But when writing the campaign paper he cried twice. Unlike others', he wrote almost all about his experience last year. "There were a lot of difficulties that I felt impossible to accomplish, but I survived. So when I look back, I feel sour in my heart." Finishing his campaign paper, he secretly decided, "I want to take this position, I want to make the Art Association better."

Finally, Lin was elected president of the 9th Art Association. "The pressure was really great. After all, it was only two votes



higher than the second contender, and so many people looked at me. I had to prove myself with my strength." It turned out that he did it.

During his tenure as president, the Art Association gained a lot of fame. "We thought of a lot of ways to promote the Art Association. Even if it was an activity by some small club, we would highlight it was an event organized by a group under the Art Association." Thanks to the efforts of the entire team, the number of participants in all Arts Association's activities has doubled since last year. Yuan Li, the director of the Art Association said, "This is the first year the new system operating that Yimin Lin could only rely on his own efforts, seriousness and modesty to build up the current pattern of Art Association. It was really not easy."

In Lin's view, cohesion is the core of a team. So he insisted on the principle of three words-"Home, Unity and Order". To him, the Art Association is a family. "We are not afraid of contradictions or quarrels, but work is nothing but work, in daily life we are still friends." The second is Unity. "If there is no unity between the leaders, then how do you set an example for the members below? Only if the leaders are united, the whole Art Association of 300-400 people will have a kind of centripetal force." As the largest official art organization in XJTLU, Lin demanded to achieve the highest standard in any activity. This is order, which is what he thought "the Art Association is supposed to look like."

#### Expectations for Future

"Don't be afraid to let others down, what's most important is not to let yourself down." This is the first sentence that Yimin Lin said to the next president after he took office. In spite of the change, it was hard for Lin to put it down." The celebration of the Art Association's 10th anniversary is about to come, and I believe the new president is under a lot of pressure. I'm always worried like the mother, so whenever I get a chance I want to have a chat with him."

Perhaps it was this worrisome character that made him accustomed to thinking too much about others and less about himself. "My friend said I was too inconsiderate at times, and I also think it is not good." He would like to try to make a change. After the transition, Lin had more spare time. He watched animation, played computer games and listened to music as usual. Recently, he spent a lot of time studying photography, "you have a nice picture in your hand, you have an expectation of it, and you know the final effect you want. So when you have a goal, you will go crazy figuring out how to achieve that. You have to spare no effort to achieve your goal." Photography is just one of his hobbies, and in the future he needs to find a job to make a living. It has been confirmed that he will go abroad to study, but which country, which university, which major, he cannot give a clear answer now.

"I don't want to get involved in a very complicated life. To be simple, with my own family and like-minded friends is enough," according to Lin, "the couple with one child and one dog in a door" is his ideal life.

In his 2018 New Year message, he wrote down three simple words: Love, Independence and Be-myself. "It is also the feeling that I got in the Art Association." During this period of time in the Art Association, Lin gradually learned how to give, how to take care of others, and how to listen to others, which brought him many sincere friends. During the time as president, he learned to take responsibility instead of relying on others. Most importantly, he will never forget to stick to his own principles in the face of any problem. In the future, he just wants to "care about the people he wants to care about, do what he wants to do. Happiness is enough."



## Wenlong Li: We, as a Unit, Be the Best

Three days before the 2018 Art Festival, Li changed his WeChat avatar into a logo, image with a clear word "Art Festival" and the time and place of the event. He always spared no effort to promote any event organized by the Art Association.

**Wenlong Li, the 10th president of the Art Association who entered XJTLU in 2017 and majored in economy, now living in Suzhou.**

This was the last special event Li hosted as the director of the Art Association. He fought and pursuit all the time with the courage of a cavity blood to progress. For him, "The expectation of everyone is the driving force behind my progress." said Li.

On March 28, 2018, Wenlong Li was elected the tenth president of the Art Association. In this key milestone in the development of Art Association, as president, the pressure on his body can be imagined. In the eyes of many people, Li is the best candidate for president, while in his own eyes, "I am not the best. Neither are you, and nor is him. The best must be us, us as a unit."

#### Independence

Went to school at 6 a.m. and came back home at 11 p.m. that was Wenlong Li's timetable in the second senior year of high school. Unlike most parents who took the best care of their children, Li's parents didn't do that. "My parents were still asleep when I went out for school, and they have already gone to bed when I came back in the evening. I had the three meals outside." said Li lightly. He was not dissatisfied with his parents at all. Instead, he would feel "extremely uncomfortable" if his parents were with him all day.

Li's attitude toward parents is related to his living independently. When he was a child, his parents were so busy with work that they had little time to take care of him, so he spent most time alone at school. "I even lived in kindergarten for a year." When in high school, he separated from his parents. He studied in a boarding school in Hefei, while his parents worked in their hometown. In the three years of high school, he had little opportunity to meet his parents in addition to winter and summer vacations.

It is the experience of independent life that has made him look more mature and stronger than his peers since he has developed the habit of facing difficulties by himself since he was a child. He once returned to a hospital in Hefei for surgery and stayed in hospital for a week because of a muscle infection. Except the first visit that his mother accompanied him to hospital, he went back and forth to Suzhou and Hefei by himself. While in hospital, he still remotely helped the troupe's members with his ideas on the run-up to the dance troupe even if not in his own right. This is just a trivial matter in Li's eyes. He seldom mentioned it to others, nor did he delay his work because of illness. "I think it is nothing special for a person to do that," Li said.

#### Carefulness

Li's independent life experience not only forced him to think about everything himself, but also gave him a keen sense of what was going on around him. In his friend's remark on him, "careful" is one of the words mentioned most frequently. The first time Li

felt his own carefulness was in an interview in high school.

Thanks to the high school president's educational philosophy of "Building a college-like high school", teachers focused more on developing students' comprehensive qualities than their academic performance. Every year, the school selected some of the students in senior two to help teachers with the management of the freshmen. "The number of applicants is very large, and the success rate is about 25 percent." What impressed him most was the first question of the interview, "what would you do if you found a student was not in the dorm in an evening?" Unlike most people's first reaction, "telling the teacher directly," Li's answer took into account a variety of possibilities: "he may go to the toilet, or go to another bedroom for chat before the lights are out. At least you should ask his roommates what he's doing." It was the careful and thoughtful personality that helped him get through the interview, which not only boosted his confidence, but also made it easier for him to deal with problems in college community activities.

As a member of the Art Association, Li thought that it would be all right to do a good job of the president's account, but when he became the president, he had to be more careful when thinking about things. In April 30, a capacity crowd of 300 people was at the council house for the command performance of Dance with Heart, which was played by the dance club of Art Association.

He arrived early, greeting his close friends and communicating details with other students. Not until the performance officially began did Li sit down, but his mind never stopped. The opening song If not If brought by the Voice club attracted warm applause from the audience who were deeply immersed in the pleasant singing. But Li did not. As the singer turned to the chorus, he noticed the singer's voice was "not quite right", and at once he told the staff on the sidelines that there was something wrong with the microphone" and asked them to change that. Even though he was sitting in the front row, he could see at a glance that there was some problem with the light, "the whole stage was dark and there was no focal point of light." This kind of small problem could only be obviously noticed by the people in the back row, but Li found that and immediately went to the backstage and pointed out this problem to the dimmer. Halfway through the performance, a dancer needed a coat, and immediately Li helped her get the coat after he heard that. After the show, he volunteered to clean the venue with the members of dance club.

Throughout the performance, Li did not appreciate any program in his position from start to finish. His eyes kept looking around every corner of the venue, to be aware of the problem in advance, or to be ready all the time to deal with any unexpected situation that occurred in the performance. Li said, "That is what I should do."

### Unity

Wen long Li was always stressing that the Art Association is a unity. He had an indescribable unease and anxiety in the face of the inevitable decline in enthusiasm of the members and the lack of close ties among the ten groups. "Actually, new members first joining the Art Association are most likely to form a close relationship," he explained, "it is an opportunity for students who just entered college, don't know anyone and eagerly want to make new friends. You are not embarrassed at that time. You will not feel embarrassed until you form your own circle. The concept of unity should be formed among the members of Art Association at this time. The reality is that we are a unity, but the division of labor among the various regiments is too clear."

In the large group of Art Association, any achievement is by no means the result of only one person's effort. The annual art festival is approaching, which is the most significant year-end party and award ceremony for the Art Association in a year. All the members of the Art Association started preparation two months in advance: the Planning department took charge of planning, the Liaison department took charge of soliciting sponsorship, the Propaganda department took charge of the online and offline publicity, and the clubs were preparing for the performances. "Everyone was involved, and what I was going to do was, to think of what else has not been done and to remind them of what they have to do next. If something was not done well, what was my Plan B?" Throughout the process, he always thought who was really hard were the very "them" who were always working hard every day.

When recalling the reason I chose to stay in the Art Association, Li said, "I like this group, I like the feeling of working in this group." It is the 10th year of Art Association, Li and his staffs have already begun to plan and organize related celebrations. In addition to the drive from pressure, more importantly, "I want to



do a good job." He hopes that in the tenth year, the Art Association will become more united as well as more talented. As he said, "In the tenth year, ten groups working together is perfect in every way."

### Buddha-like

Li loves to say that he is a person with a low bottom line, which can be summed up by a popular phrase: Buddha-like youngster. In the online world, Buddha-like youngster usually refers to people who pursue a mild and calm way of life.

In real life, he never would like to argue with others. In his opinion, everyone has their own ideas and there is no need to argue, so he always chooses to back down. "Everyone would think I was so easy-going before, but when I became a leader, I felt that sometimes I had to be tough and I couldn't give in to everything." In his view, he used to represent only the individual, but now represents the interests of the whole group. The change of identity makes him no longer act according to his easy-going character all the time. Although most of his spare time is sacrificed because of his work, Li well coordinates. In the eyes of Yimin Lin, the former leader, Wen-long Li was a very responsible person. "I feel from the bottom of my heart that there is no need to worry about anything I arranged him. His commitment has convinced me that he can shoulder this burden."

Li prefers to be called "Little Black Bean" or "Little Azure Dragon" rather than "President". "The former is because of my black skin, and the latter is because I have dyed my hair with indigo color." He said with a smile, "I feel very kind to be called that. It's nothing special as a president. Everyone is the same freshmen." He never cares about strangers' comments, but hears his friend's advice patiently. Once in a while, when he is in a bad mood, Li will talk to his friends. "They just need listen. In fact, it will be much more comfortable just to say it out."

Li do not have a particularly lofty ambition. Instead, he yearns for an idle life, "a satisfactory job with fine salary, more time to spend time with the family, and occasional travels are enough." As he said, "I love my life. That's enough. It is all so unnecessary to show your own life to others, and nobody will remember you forever."





Ms. Gong first introduced students to folk art on campus.

Teacher  
**Yu Gong**

I still remember that the Art Association in 2011 was a dynamic but confused young team with so many possibilities, so many ideas as well as so many difficulties.

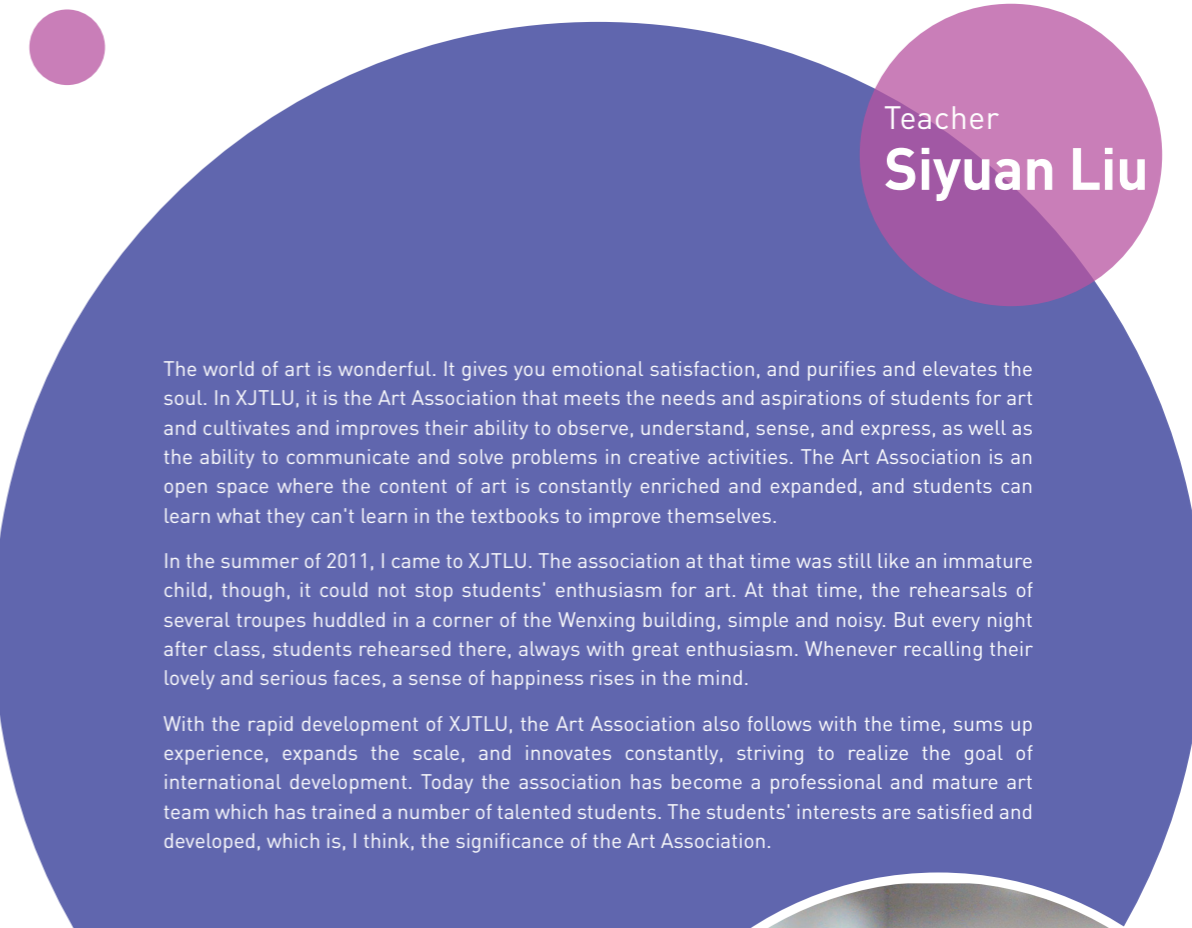
At first, the Calligraphy and Painting Team had only one team member—Peng Yun, two, as it were, if the instructor included. We had no space and no resources, but a crop of unconstrained ideas.

Then we listed the activities, organized courses in the open space on the 2nd floor of Wenxing building, and bought a pile of easels and stools, then like a start-up, carried them, pounded the nails, decorated the space, all by our own.

Afterwards, we began to hold the exhibition. We bought a wooden plank as heavy as a door and planned to use it as the display board. However, I was unfortunately hit by the very 2-meter-high display board one day, buzzing in my head.

Next was the publicity. Once the poster was put up in the wrong place, so Ms. Li and I had to climb up to FB's elevator mouth to carefully uncover the poster, while the other teachers coming and going behind us.

Time rolls on faster than I have realized. Now we have our own studio, professional tutoring team, brand activities, salons and a stably mature system. We are able to support various activities of the school, the high-education area and even the entire city of Suzhou. It is ten years old, still with so many possibilities, so many ideas, and so many difficulties. But it doesn't matter, to the next decade, we are still looking forward.



Teacher  
**Siyuan Liu**

The world of art is wonderful. It gives you emotional satisfaction, and purifies and elevates the soul. In XJTLU, it is the Art Association that meets the needs and aspirations of students for art and cultivates and improves their ability to observe, understand, sense, and express, as well as the ability to communicate and solve problems in creative activities. The Art Association is an open space where the content of art is constantly enriched and expanded, and students can learn what they can't learn in the textbooks to improve themselves.

In the summer of 2011, I came to XJTLU. The association at that time was still like an immature child, though, it could not stop students' enthusiasm for art. At that time, the rehearsals of several troupes huddled in a corner of the Wenxing building, simple and noisy. But every night after class, students rehearsed there, always with great enthusiasm. Whenever recalling their lovely and serious faces, a sense of happiness rises in the mind.

With the rapid development of XJTLU, the Art Association also follows with the time, sums up experience, expands the scale, and innovates constantly, striving to realize the goal of international development. Today the association has become a professional and mature art team which has trained a number of talented students. The students' interests are satisfied and developed, which is, I think, the significance of the Art Association.



Ms. Liu first gave a lecture for models in etiquette.

Art in XJTLU has brought me a lot of congenial friends.  
--Mingyue Zhang

Art in XJTLU has improved my communication, organization and management capabilities.  
--Yue Zhao

Art in XJTLU makes me believe the possibility of dream and gives me the courage to my dream.  
--Xiaofan Wang

Art in XJTLU has improved my communication skill and brought me the treasure friendships.  
--Yuxin Fu

Art in XJTLU has given me a period of youth stick to dream, indefatigable and regretless.  
--Yiling Zhu

Art in XJTLU enables me to deal with all kinds of things confidently.  
--Ke Yan

Art in XJTLU has given me the courage to try to find the infinite possibilities.  
--Yang Nan

Art in XJTLU has taught me to persist in and never give up.  
--Shumin Shui

Art in XJTLU has provided me with all kinds of opportunities I am grateful for even today.  
--Yan Sun

Art in XJTLU has cultivated my speaking abilities, organizing as well as taught me more efficient time management.  
--Zhe Zhao

Art in XJTLU has made me learn to strive for my responsibilities.  
--Yimin Lin

Art in XJTLU has helped me find my interest and do it best.  
--Wenlong Li