

Special Report on Excellent Teachers of the 2021 Academic Year

Lee Yi-Chen, Department of Psychology: Develop subtle influence with positive psychology to allow students to live with infinite possibilities!

Professor Lee from the Department of Psychology provides professional guidance about schoolwork. She is happy to listen to and respect students' thoughts regarding life and career planning. In order to train students with various key abilities, she makes connections between things learned in class and the careers her students might be considering. Through analysis and discussion, she guides students to consider things from multiple perspectives and to seek solutions to problems. To the students, she is not just a teacher for their four years of university life—she is a teacher of life who supports students with enthusiasm and optimism. Professor Lee is always caring and smiling, remembers students' names, and her friendly personality allows her to form a close bond with the students. She hopes to introduce students to a fulfilling and wonderful university life.

“Staged” interpersonal interactions

Students are brave to explore, face mistakes, and learn to be independent

Professor Lee gains a better understanding of students' adaption to life and schoolwork, family conditions, and future career planning using several approaches. These include lunch gatherings with small groups of students to develop a connection with each student in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere, while at the same time having the opportunity to observe each other's interpersonal support network. With encouragement from friends on the side, students are willing to bring up things that bother them and have discussions with Professor Lee. She also hosts office hours for students to visit freely for “afternoon tea time”. Professor Lee prepare snacks and drinks to enjoy while chatting, which is especially suitable for freshmen who have just arrived in a new environment. Some even invite their friends to come along.

“Individual discussion time” mainly targets unexpected interpersonal, emotional, or schoolwork issues, where students need to reach out for assistance. In the process, teacher Lee listens patiently to try and understand them before giving advice. Her goal is to provide students with additional perspectives to consider, allowing them to obtain emotional empathy and support through one-on-one interactions. She replies, “Interactions on different levels allow me to maintain a certain degree of familiarity and emotional connection with students, so I can keep up with their changes and growth every year.”

Professor Lee arranges her tutor time for the semester according to the learning and life exploration needs of students. This is intended to support students in various pursuits including schoolwork and life through thematic sharing and discussion. For the very first teacher's time after freshmen arrive at the school, students are asked to write a letter to themselves, and to include their hopes and goals for the next four years. She then hands these letters back to the students every year for review and adjustment. Professor Lee takes a picture for each student when they are a freshman, so they can later remind themselves not to forget about their original intentions if they feel they have lost direction while encountering obstacles related to studying, family, emotions, interpersonal relationships, and self-doubt. A student reflects on this experience: "This is learning about oneself, having a conversation with oneself, a way to guide oneself. This reminds me of the strength filled with anticipation I first had when I arrived at the university and which has accompanied me through times when I was feeling lost and lacking motivation."

The miracle drug for "happiness" for students from the Department of Psychology Sincere interaction is the approach to continuing with passion

In order for students in the Department of Psychology to have a good understanding of their post-graduation career options, Professor Lee invites senior students from all domains every semester to share their experiences studying in the school, as well as the exploration process they underwent when choosing their careers. Psychologists in active service are invited so that students can ask advice about clinical and consulting domains in which they are most interested, and to propose queries they have for discussion regarding work content. As for juniors who are faced with whether to take part in project-based learning or to continue with further education, Professor Lee provides consultations and solutions to their bewilderment and analyzes the conditions of society and employment to provide career development and suggestions. She devotes herself wholeheartedly to her students, to inspire and create more possibilities.

Students describe Professor Lee as treating people sincerely and thoughtfully. When talking about students from the Department of Psychology, her face lights up with a happy smile as she says, "They are a group of sweet and caring children, they show enthusiasm towards cultural care, and empathy as well as tolerance for classmates who are faced with life or emotional issues." There are lots of students that impressed her; for instance, one of them is a student from Malaysia, who treated Professor Lee as a close friend, and always kept her teacher in her heart even while was an exchange student in Japan, and who was happy to share what she saw, heard, and learned. As a

teacher, Professor Lee leads students to think, choose, and find out answers through multiple aspects with her broad life experience and perspectives.