

Special Report on Excellent Teachers of the 2021 Academic Year

Chin Ting-Yu, Department of Bioscience Technology: Find your own way by being passionate about life and believing in yourself

With 19 years of teaching experience, Professor Chin in the Department of Bioscience Technology always treats her students as family, among whom her warm, caring personality has earned her the nickname of “Mother Chin”.

Adjust the ways of getting along with each other

Care about student needs

Professor Chin has a way of gradually building up a mutual sense of trust when faced with the changing nature of a new generation of students. She says, “Students in the past were more active; you could see their learning status clearly, and they were willing to talk about obstacles, such that a little advice would help them move forward. Although students nowadays are more passive, I have discovered that creating opportunities to work with them and to let them know that their professor cares about them, and asking about what assistance they might need, or providing advice about their education helps to create a sense of ‘I am always here for them,’ which helps to make them feel less worried about being freshmen at Chung Yuan Christian University.”

Professor Chin can be found participating in faculty events and weekly team gatherings. She believes that school life includes schoolwork, friendship, and extracurricular activities; she visits students renting houses outside the school when they become sophomores. Professor Chin said with a smile: “My intentions are to check up on the emergency exit and facilities, and to remind them about environmental spaces that they might need to be more careful about. Some students rent family-type houses together, living in a house together with their friends outside of the school. Some students keep cats, so we have a common interest and topic which makes it easy to chat while playing with the cats.” Professor Chin suggests that chatting with students in their personal spaces is more relaxing, and can help give them an opportunity to pour their hearts out without feeling stressed; this helps the professor get to know them better.

Reinforce soft strength

Confidence becomes the stepping stone for students to enter a career field

When students advance into their junior and senior years, Professor Chin alters her approach to guidance to let the students practice thinking on their own. She transforms

into a “mobile database,” where besides providing diversified teaching methods, she also shares about current career field trends. She organizes career planning forums while caring about students’ progress in school, provides opportunities for students to interact with seniors and lecturers from industry, and helps to clarify the paths toward suitable job opportunities. In the “last mile” of education in their senior year, Professor Chin conducts seminars to train students to organize data and hone their presentation skills. “The students double-check step-by-step what professional knowledge they have built during their previous three years. Presenting this knowledge in the form of a constructive data project will naturally transform into confidence. Subjectivity is very important in the career field! The first impression one gives in an interview is whether they have confidence or not. So it is important to make professionalism become the source of confidence for the students.”

Professor Chin discovered that students in the Department of Bioscience Technology show less confidence when they first arrive at Chung Yuan. She always encourages them to believe in themselves during her classes, and shares her own experiences with her students. Professor Chin believes that confidence can be enhanced by reinforcing insufficiencies. Being confident allows one to accomplish, discover a passion for work, and to live the life of their dreams. “In these years of teaching, I have accompanied a student who transformed from someone who was impolite with a bad attitude into a person who is willing to look inward and say what their heart thinks. I realized at that very moment that all my efforts are worthwhile. I am happy to be Mother Chin to students, and I appreciate that they always respond to my nagging with a smile...” The Department of Bioscience Technology moves slowly when compared to other departments, as abundant results all come from slow but sure efforts. Professor Chin believes that students will definitely embrace a beautiful and splendid future as long as they continue to be passionate about life!