

Special Report on Excellent Teachers of the 2021 Academic Year

Ni Ching-Wei, Department of Interior Design: See the blue sky See the rainbow

Generation-Z students are pampered as a result of widely-practiced “education with love” due to declining birthrates. However, this gentle treatment can act like a transparent glass shield, making it difficult for students to see the difference between the world inside the school and the environment in the external career field. Yet the truth is that their professional knowledge, ability, EQ, and tenacity are far from what is expected in the career field. Ni Ching-Wei, who calls herself a foolish teacher, believes that teachers should assist the students in clarifying the differences between reality and this glass shield, and should provide care and guidance to help students to see their strengths, while at the same time developing their potential and building up tenacity in order to walk out of the school to soar freely and successfully in their career fields. Although she has been teaching for more than 20 years, she can still speak to the advantages of teaching students of different generations!

Strangeness. Acquaintance. Gap. Opportunity.

Students in the School of Design are often more sensitive and pickier than students in other departments. These sensitivities may be enlarged in strange group life, leading to quarrels and discoordination for life in student dorms. Student fantasies of a wonderful group life with their best friends quickly crumble for seemingly trivial reasons: the light from a reading lamp at night, the temperature of the air conditioner, different times of getting up in the morning, not to mention differences in personality traits. However, it is these sensitivities that make up students’ uniqueness and which lead them to accomplish extraordinary things in their work. The company, care, and guidance of a teacher can help a group of students consider things from the perspectives of others, and help them learn to tolerate others and live side-by-side even amidst setbacks. Their tenacity is strengthened by experiencing the friction and gaps inherent to dorm life, which in turn can increase their achievement in school and the opportunity to succeed in their career fields!

Using different channels to guide students in building up dreams on a solid foundation

Through the annually-staged teaching, Professor Ni cares about students’ statuses, and organizes visits to help them grow. Her class visited the History Museum when they

first entered the university, where they became acquainted with Dadaocheng, CMP Village, Y.M. Mountain Lab, famous branded restaurants, the IKEA Taoyuan flagship store, and more. Through personal experience and observation, this experience helps students to put themselves in different positions and think about how they might solve issues and create their own designs. Moreover, during the pandemic when visits were not allowed, Professor Ni shared learning tips, provided quality podcasts related to growth, imported aptitude and career counseling exploration, and provided resources for studying overseas -- all via LINE groups -- which helped students to build dreams on a solid foundation bit by bit!

The black swan and rainbow on the path of learning

Not everyone's path to studying is smooth! When a giant black swan appears on the path, some people can find an alternate route in desperation, transferring to other departments and remaining optimistic. Others, however, get stuck in the dark swirl without knowing what to do. Professor Ni feels both distressed and gratified to see her students constantly devoting their time and effort in classes, designing drawings, and entering various competitions. Let students know and find their strengths, as they can only enjoy the hardships in sweat and tears when they advance toward a path where they can use their skills to excel! The halo of a designer is built up through such hardships.

As an alumna of the school herself, Professor Ni agrees with the philosophy of Chung Yuan Christian University, and strives to incorporate the idea that "Success is developing potential" into the principles of education. She implements this by assisting each student to learn about their potential in order to present and excel in learning and life, and hopes that this will guide them to see the rainbow and surmount limitations step-by-step. Professor Ni reflects that her heart always brightens when she sees the dimming light of a student rekindling amidst those dark swirls. Although these rays of light may not show right away in school, the rays from students in career fields who graduated years ago also make Professor Ni feel happy and blessed!