

## **Final Report**

Montgomery College in Macau, China  
Macau Millennium College  
Summer 2018

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### **Introduction / Overview**

The Montgomery College-Macau Millennium College partnership provides faculty members with opportunities for professional development and personal growth. I was especially pleased to discover that both part-time and full-time faculty members could apply for this international teaching opportunity, and I was overjoyed when Dr. Aida Martinovic-Zic informed me that I had been selected for one of the two summer 2018 positions. This document serves as my final project report to Montgomery College.

### **The Application Process**

In the final analysis, both the call for submissions and the online application process were straightforward and easy to understand. Initially, however, there appeared to be some confusion about the submission deadline (Good Friday / During Passover) and who could provide the required letters of recommendation (Immediate Supervisors, Deans, Etc.). I am glad that the application deadline was extended beyond the aforementioned holidays and that applicants received additional clarification regarding recommendation letters.

### **Passport and Visa Requirements**

I already had a valid passport when I applied, but I found some of the Macau information on the Embassy of China's website to be confusing, especially as it related to visa requirements for U.S. citizens. I would like to suggest, therefore, that Montgomery College include information about passport and visa requirements in the initial call for submissions/on the program website, so that applicants know the rules from the outset regarding 30-day tourist visas and the need for extensions that allow faculty members to complete the six-week teaching assignment in Macau.

### **Traveling Light**

On more than one occasion during the spring and early summer of 2018, I spoke with Prof. Maria Merkowitz, a part-time faculty colleague and a 2009 Macau Program alumna, and I read her final report from cover to cover. Because she stressed the importance of taking comfortable /casual/informal attire that was machine washable, I decided to heed her advice. I packed my belongings—clothing, shoes, hats, books, and one small umbrella, in a carry-on bag, purse, and briefcase. These items proved to be more than sufficient, since I did not do a lot of shopping while in Macau and nearby Hong Kong.

### Teaching / Class Activities / Reference Materials

I found the *English in Action* textbook, audio cd, and workbook (reference materials from Dr. Martinovic-Zic), “The Grammar You Need” cards (required for all EN 101 students in both sections), and the free online Language Arts Press materials (designed to complement the grammar cards) to be very useful when preparing the syllabus and class lessons. Even with 25 years of teaching experience at the post-secondary level and the successful completion of coursework in Cleveland State University’s TESOL Certificate Program, however, I found that I really needed to be flexible and spend a lot of time identifying supplemental web-based and library materials that would help some of my struggling students. The following were among the audio-video materials that I used:

- “How to Study Effectively”
- “How to Create Good Study Habits”
- “Learn English Via Listening” (Beginner, Series)
- “Learn Cantonese with Olivia” (Series)
- Short Video Biographies of Rita Moreno and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, two of the women profiled in the Language Arts Press workbook. We also discussed Justice Sotomayor, who is living with Diabetes, during class lessons (from *English in Action*) in the unit on Health.

I was also grateful for the opportunity to work with Prof. Vathany Say, a Montgomery College part-time faculty colleague with many years of experience teaching English to non-native speakers. It was also helpful to have access to the teaching portfolios of MC colleagues from previous years, albeit after we arrived in Macau.

### Preparing for the First Day

It would be helpful if the instructors could receive their individual class rosters before the first day of class, so that they can review the documents ahead of time, create spreadsheets / electronic grade books, practice pronouncing names, etc. Because this did not happen during the summer of 2018, I felt somewhat unprepared on the first day, and it seemed that the instructors were trying to figure out (in the presence of the students) who would be assigned to the two different class sections.

I would also like to suggest that MC and MMC try to **include more pre-departure planning time** for the instructors, and **make the reference and portfolio materials available to them at or before the orientation session in the USA**. If MMC is going to require faculty members to use a common syllabus **AND**, especially, a common final examination for all students, it would also be good to inform instructors of this requirement at the start of the term, so that all students can be exposed to the same resources, activities, etc. throughout the term, and no student is surprised by anything that might be discussed during the review sessions or anything that might appear on the examination itself. The instructors would, of course, still have full control over how they teach the content.

The preparation of detailed lesson plans before the trip would not be a bad idea, since instructors could always make adjustments as needed in Macau.

In order to facilitate the implementation of some of the above suggestions, I retained electronic copies of all in-class exercises, examinations and handouts, as well as the reference textbooks, workbooks, and information on links to useful websites, YouTube videos, and other audio-video materials. In addition to working with my MC-MMC teaching colleague to complete the final report, I will definitely make any and all reference materials available to other interested MC colleagues.

### **The Students**

My students ranged in age from 23 to 29 years of age, and the group was almost evenly divided between men and women. All of the students worked full-time, mainly in casinos and related businesses, and several had spouses and children. Every student was responsible and respectful. Although all of students had studied English at some point in time, some had only very basic “survival-level” speaking and writing skills. Two students (one from Hong Kong and one from Malaysia), however, were incredibly fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. I found that they were more than willing to work with students of all skill levels to complete group exercises, and their in-class presentations were always excellent.

Despite the fact that they had different skill levels, no student ever refused to participate in class discussions and other activities—including the videotaping of their first-day introductions for my “Getting to Know You” activities. I made sure that I called on every student in every class session, and the students always responded, even if the response included a request for clarification or a more detailed explanation of an activity.

From the start, one student seemed woefully unprepared for the course. He also worked long hours at a restaurant and fell asleep during every class—despite his best efforts to keep up and remain awake. He was the only student who completed all course required yet failed to earn a passing grade.

With the exception of one student who stopped attending because of a family medical emergency and one student who remained on the roster but never attended, class attendance was excellent.

### **Housing**

My dormitory-style apartment in Macau was more than adequate. It was a three-bedroom unit with a community living room, and I was the only occupant. I appreciated the fact that the apartment had a refrigerator, microwave oven, washer, bedroom furniture, and linens for the twin-size bed.

I must say, however, that I found the hard mattress to be very uncomfortable, and I could never sleep for more than three hours at a time, which meant that I had to come home and take a nap between the morning and evening classes, and I usually had a backache. In the future, MC faculty members may want to consider bringing (or purchasing in Macau) an inflatable mattress or, perhaps, a mattress pad. I don’t believe, however, that it would be reasonable to ask MM to purchase better bedding for the guest rooms

### **Local Travel in Macau and Hong Kong**

I always enjoyed the 15- to 20-minute walk to the college, and I also walked to the library and local tourist attractions. The weather, as I expected, was hot and humid, but I learned to pace myself and drink lots of water.

My co-teacher was a “foodie,” and I enjoyed visiting nearby (affordable) restaurants with a gourmet world traveler like her. I also enjoyed meeting –and trying to keep up with --her friend and travel mate, who met Prof. Say in Macau and then spent the day with us in Hong Kong.

In addition to the coffee shop that is just a block away from the college, and the beautiful park that is across the street from the college, my favorite tourist attracts were Ned Kelly’s Last Stand, a jazz club in Hong Kong, the Ruins of the St. Paul Church and College, and the gardens adjacent to the Macau Museum. When I was not working on class-related activities, I spent a lot of time just “chilling” and editing a book manuscript, and the aforementioned spots provided lots of time and space for that.

### **Travel to Macau and MM Staff Support**

I travelled to Macau via Korean Air. The flight was long and pleasant. Based on some incorrect information that I received about the schedule for the ferry from Hong Kong, I booked a flight that would take me directly to Macau. Unfortunately, that flight arrived around midnight, and it was a little inconvenient for an MMC staff member (Mrs. Nana Wong, Office of the Registry) to meet me at the airport. I am grateful, however, that she and other staff members were very helpful and supportive throughout our stay in Macau.

### **Insurance / Liability**

Because the program takes place during typhoon season, and because emergency situations can arise during domestic and international trips, I am convinced that program organizers and participants should have a very frank pre-departure discussion about travel insurance--perhaps with a representative from the Office of Risk Management at Montgomery College.

The importance of this type of insurance became crystal clear when, following the issuance of a level-8 typhoon warning on the afternoon of the final examination, Macau officials ordered the closing of all offices. Although President Fok convened a special meeting to inform both MC faculty members that they should remain indoors during the storm (if a storm actually occurred), he also informed us know that **MMC would not be liable for any injuries that we might suffer, because we, “were not supposed to be there!”**

I don’t see any harm in letting program participants know that they are traveling on tourist visas AT THEIR OWN RISK in order to participate in life-changing professional development activities. It seems to me that all reasonable faculty participants will understand the importance of securing and maintaining their own insurance policies.

After booking my flight, Darlene Hunt at Globetrotter Travel put me in touch with an agent at AIG Travel, and I purchased the insurance policy described below for less than \$100. It included, among other things, \$10,000 for Accident and Sickness Medical Expenses and

## \$100,000 for Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation of Remains.

Below is important information regarding your travel insurance plan for your upcoming trip. Please Click the Description of Coverage link above for a complete Description of Coverage for the plan you purchased. If you have any questions, please contact our World Service Center at 1-800-826-4919. A Travel Guard service representative is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you.

Thank you for your trust in Travel Guard. Have a safe and enjoyable trip!

TRAVEL GUARD POLICY # 927825332		Coverages & Benefit Limits	
<b>Basic</b>		<b>Standard Packages</b>	
MD7838 P1 1/2015		ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS MEDICAL EXPENSES	\$10000.00 Per Insured
Coverage effective date	07/06/2018	Deductible Applies - See DOC	
		BAGGAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS	\$500.00 Per Insured
		Deductible Applies - See DOC	
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$97.00</b>	BAGGAGE DELAY	\$100.00 Per Insured
<b>TRIP DETAILS</b>		EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND REPATRIATION OF REMAINS	\$100000.00 Per Insured
Departure date	07/06/2018	LIVETRAVEL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	Included Per Insured
Return date	08/18/2018	PERSONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE	Included Per Insured
Trip deposit date	05/25/2018	TRAVEL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	Included Per Insured
		TRIP CANCELLATION	100% Trip Cost Per Insured
		TRIP DELAY	\$500.00 Per Insured
			\$100.00 Payout Limit Per Day
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>		TRIP INTERRUPTION	100% Trip Cost Per Insured
<b>REGENNIA N WILLIAMS</b>		TRIP INTERRUPTION - RETURN AIR	\$500.00 Per Insured
		WORLD WIDE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE	Included Per Insured