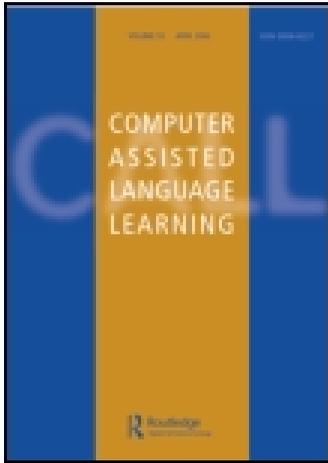


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In memoriam Jaclyn Ng Shi Ing

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EDITORIAL

In memoriam Jaclyn Ng Shi Ing



We dedicate this editorial to Jaclyn Ng Shi Ing, “JC” to her friends, a great colleague and promising lecturer—researcher at the Faculty of Psychology and Education of the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), who passed away in the tragic event of Flight MH17.

JC joined UMS on 19 September 2011. In the short span of three years she left an indelible mark as an inspirational and invaluable colleague in the HT06 TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) program, particularly her contributions to teaching and learning, research, publication, innovation, supervision and community outreach programs. Throughout her involvement in all these activities, she consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication and devotion in all her duties and responsibilities.

As a lecturer, she consistently secured a rating of “excellent” based on her students’ assessment of her as a lecturer – a feat not easily obtainable for a novice lecturer. She endeared herself to all her students due to her happy-go-lucky, down-to-earth and charming personality. To Elucia Yong, one of her TESL students, JC was described not just as a lecturer but also as a role model, “she was always there to educate, to challenge, to listen, to encourage and to guide.”

As a researcher, she has actively participated in various projects that were carried out both inside and outside Malaysia, among others the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) project in UMS; investigating the ICT needs of digital natives in the learning of English in public universities in Malaysia, and the UNICEF-sponsored evaluation study on Alternative Education Program for Refugees, Undocumented & Stateless Children in

Sabah, Malaysia. She has to her credit more than 20 academic papers published in international journals, book chapters and proceedings. JC was always attracted to CALL, and despite her tender years in the field, she left quite an impression of herself amongst CALL practitioners, so much so that she was made a committee member of the Organising Committee for the forthcoming GLoCALL 2014 Conference in Ahmedabad, India.

As a supervisor, JC was known to be “tough and demanding” by her students. She was critical, but she was also helpful and understanding at the same time. Not only was she able to guide her supervisees well, but she had also instilled in them the drive and spirit to persevere in adversity, to plan for continuity, and most importantly to believe in their own abilities. Grace Law, one of her supervisees, has these words to say: “I thank God for giving me the chance to be able to report to someone who has so much wisdom in this final year; someone who listens to my problems in handling the students, someone who challenged me to use my brain and my capabilities because she believes that I am able to do better than expected.”

JC was extremely focused, intelligent and diligent. She was highly motivated, and always had a keen eye for details in her pursuit of excellence. JC also taught her colleagues many things, particularly in applying Web 2.0 technologies in teaching and research. Many often wondered how she could manage so many things so well despite her busy schedule as a lecturer, wife and mother.

JC presented for the first time in 2010 in Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) at the GLoCALL conference and already discussed some possible PhD topics with us. She immediately made a strong impression, with this rare mixture of determination, humor and charm. In March 2014, we discussed the possibility of a double doctorate both at Kota Kinabalu and at Antwerp University, and this is why we advised her to submit a paper for the XVth International CALL Research Conference in Antwerp.

Her first reaction was that it would be impossible for her to come since her husband as a military officer was unable to take care of their son Ben. It was typical for JC to come up with the solution that she would take her sister as a babysitter for Ben. A tragic decision.

JC gave her impressive presentation before a full room in Antwerp. The topic was “Developing ‘reflection/application’ in pre-service teachers’ using cognitive apprenticeship through the construction of digital language learning material.” She left an indelible impression of a young scholar with a clear vision and an indestructible willpower. In the meantime, her sister Elisabeth took care of Ben in the conference meeting room. They were very soon well known and loved by all participants.

JC was for us an example of the perfect PhD student. She found the balance between personal life and professional goals. She was patient and worked out a strategy for achieving the best possible result in the long run. She combined passion with humor and sharp intelligence.

She will be missed as a dear friend and a great colleague. May she now rest in peace. May her memory be a source of strength, courage and faith for her husband and family.

As of 2015, the International CALL Research Conferences will award a prize for the best presentation by a PhD student: the Jaclyn Ng Shi Ing Award, so that she can continue to serve as an example for many years to come.

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