

II. Develop School Features

Wenzao adopts the Laurel Method to establish a teaching paradigm and cultivate students with holistic qualities.

Resembling the emblem of the school, the Laurel Method takes root and grows stronger in the land of Wenzao, integrating both the tradition and innovation!

In addition to continuing to apply the Laurel Method initiated the year before last in the teaching, we created a concrete evaluation method this year to assess the effectiveness of the Laurel Method. With the Laurel Method, we further promoted the philosophy of Ursuline Education and improved our administrative staff's abilities in solving problems at work.

We organized camps and workshops to promote the five conceptual steps of the Laurel Method, which are Serviam, Hope, Above All, Togetherness, and Lead A New Life. We also offered courses to teach our faculty and students how to use the Laurel Method in teaching, research, learning, administrative services, and counseling in a timely and appropriate manner, so that our faculty and students could practice the method in the workplace and their daily life.

We have been promoting the Laurel Method for over two years. This year, we invited some of our faculty and staff members to demonstrate how they had applied the method in the three aspects of **daily issues, administrative affairs, and teaching plans**. Our teachers generously shared how they had used the Laurel Method in English teaching, the preparation of the adulthood ceremony, and the planning of single courses. Our administrative directors and staff also shared how they had used the Laurel Method in the preparation of remarks for seminars, the design of morning assemblies for the junior colleges, and the preparation of commencement ceremonies and graduation investitures. Teachers from the Center for Ursuline Education also made videos to show how to use the five steps of the Laurel Method to reflect on key issues in daily life. It was expected that the sharing and discussions of the applications of the method in different aspects would enable our faculty and staff to refine their skills by using the method.

We also optimized the design of "little laurel tree," a craft kit for the teaching of the Laurel Method. We learned from the past courses and workshops that the use of craft kits as a teaching aid not only made the concepts of the Laurel Method more concrete, but also brought to it a touch of individuality, thereby strengthening the motivation and effectiveness of learning. The redesign allowed for the richness, completeness, neatness, and aesthetic appearance of the craft kits. The design of the workshops and courses enabled participants to focus on making their own unique little laurel trees under the guidance of lecturers.



(Pic./ The use of little laurel tree craft kit in a corporate education program)

Wenzao offers Chinese, English, second and foreign language teacher training programs to help students develop their secondary expertise.

Wenzao makes a major breakthrough for Taiwan's Chinese language teaching in the U.S.!

We have long been well recognized for our work in Chinese language teaching and were subsidized by the Taiwan Huayu BEST Program of the Ministry of Education in 2021. With our outstanding performance in the promotion of Chinese language teaching, we worked with the University of St. Thomas in Houston, the U.S., to establish **Taiwan's first ever Chinese language center in the U.S.**, setting a milestone in Taiwan's history of Chinese language teaching.

This August, we stationed two of our teachers at the University of St. Thomas and Southern Illinois University Carbondale, respectively, to teach the Chinese language. We recruited American students to come to Taiwan to learn the Chinese language under Taiwan Huayu BEST scholarships. We also visited schools of all levels across Taiwan to help with the teaching of English. Moreover, we organized Chinese language proficiency tests and developed online Chinese language teaching materials to help brand Taiwan as a destination for a quality Chinese language education.

In addition to promoting Chinese language education, we have also been working with National Sun Yat-sen University on the two-year **Project of Southern Region Higher Education EMI Resource Center and Taiwan Huayu BEST Resource Center**, which covers 14 private / public universities and vocational and technological colleges in Kaohsiung, Pingtung, and Taitung. The aim is to provide universities and colleges in southern Taiwan with EMI training courses and resource networks. Through resource sharing and cooperation mechanisms among partner schools in the region, we aim to help create an environment where university and college teachers can improve their skills in using English as the medium of instruction.



(Pic./ Delegation celebrates the establishment of the Mandarin Center of the Universities of St. Thomas and Wenzao Ursuline)

Wenzao creates a zero-distance strategy for international exchanges and strives for opportunities for cooperation in the post-pandemic era.

Wenzao integrates physical and virtual environments to break the predicaments in the post-pandemic era.

To promote the exchanges and interactions between local and international students, the Office of International and Cross-Strait Cooperation organized the first **Chinese and Foreign Language Singing Contest**. Divided into the two categories of foreign language songs and Chinese language songs, the contest was open to international students, students from the Chinese Language Center, and local students for registration. The contest was well-attended and well-received! There were 18 groups shortlisted. The contestants were evaluated based on their pronunciation, singing skills, and how well they presented their performance on stage. We will continue to organize the contest and plan to work with local radio stations to expand the scale of the contest to discover more Wenzao talents.

In terms of international academic exchanges, we organized the Wenzao Ursuline International Conference on Southeast Asian Studies (Wenzao Ursuline ICSEAS). This year with the presentations of **41 papers from 57 scholars and experts from 9 countries**: Belgium, the U.S., Russia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we integrated both physical and online solutions to make the conference this year a hybrid event. We adopted in-person / live-streamed presentations and physical / online publications of papers, creating a new type of platform for the dissemination of academic research and exchanges among scholars. The theme of the conference this year was Southeast Asia Under Stress: COVID-19, Geopolitics and Domestic Challenges. We invited Professor Chin-fu Hung from the Department of Political Science of National Cheng Kung University to give a keynote speech titled COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Vaccine

Distribution, Geopolitics, and the Emerging New U.S.-China Cold War. The conference enjoyed fruitful results with the participation of 169 scholars, experts, and students on the scene and 155 viewers online.



(Pic./ Professor Chin-fu Hung from the Department of Political Science of National Cheng Kung University delivers a speech)