

In Memoriam – Ka Ming Joe Tsang

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our MAES graduate Joe Tsang (2015-17), after a valiant fight with cancer.

He was always buoyant, inquisitive, responsive and generous to everyone around him. We recall Joe's quirky sense of humour and dedication to his work on the MA programme and beyond. He often got himself in a twist, as he delved into the philosophical ramifications of certain ideas like cross-culturalism or postmodernism, and he wrote prolifically in his essays about critical theory with which he enjoyed engaging. He always looked beyond the text and, sometimes, even beyond our universe!

Joe's queries about language and communication brought him to do a dissertation project on integrational linguistics and 'the language myth'. Even though his doctors advised him to take a break from research during his treatments, he heroically decided to finish it and submitted the dissertation on time. With the same determination, he also decided to keep working at his school half-time; he was a teacher with a true calling. In early September 2017 he wrote to his MAES supervisor:

'I have already comforted my parents that teaching my students is a mission set by our Lord and we should hold our faith in him. Therefore, I would also like to ask for your support in trusting me to choose my path of living in an ordinary way despite feeling really a bit tired.'

Despite the difficult times he was going through, he never lost his sense of humour, his love of learning or his affability. For the last taught class of 'Global Fictions', as students were about to go into individually supervised dissertation projects, Joe brought a massive pyramid of macaroons, to the delight of everyone. Students and teacher toasted, congratulated one another, and looked back on the MA journey with a good dose of nostalgia and humour. And it is with this impression of Joe that we wish him peace.

Our thoughts are with his parents at this difficult time, and also with his MAES friends, who like us, deeply feel this tragic loss.

The School of English

and especially his MAES teachers:

Haewon Hwang, ENGL6079 World Modernism, and ENGL6081 Global Fiction

Adam Jaworski, ENGL6075 The Politics of English

Julia Kuehn, ENGL6073 Introduction to Cross-Cultural Theory

Adrian Pablé, ENGL6056 Cultural Semiotics, and Dissertation Supervisor

Paul Smethurst, ENGL6085 Travel Writing and Culture

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