



Wujiajie Zhu in front of the display for the Internet+ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (2020)

Outstanding Student Nominee Wujiajie Zhu

By Brynn Kowalski

Wujiajie Zhu is a current senior with the HAITC program, holding his major in Tourism Development and Management. He has participated several forums and volunteer opportunities, including the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, and has competed in the China College Students' Internet+ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (2020), where his team won the Hainan Gold and Regional Silver.

Q. What was your major in the HAITC program?

A. My major is TDM.

Q. What is your favorite memory or course from the program?

A. ... [In] sophomore year, we have the course named Inclusive Community Development, and I think it's really interesting concept. Before we don't know this inclusive concept because living in China we don't have the opportunity to know the – what is inclusive. And in this, this course, we know inclusive is not just... it made us know what is equality and what is inclusivity, and I think it's very important. When we, in the international area, especially when we need to have intellectual communication with different countries, I think this course gave us interesting concepts, and moreover, in sophomore years, we also [had a] Community Services and Professions course. This course I remember Dr. Lu was so patient, and taught us how to do the career applying and the CV. I remember he also let us know how to update our LinkedIn and send our CV to the actual company to let us know how to find a good job or how to find an internship.

[In junior year we also had] a course named Sustainable Community, and this is also a course that gave me a lot of interesting models, especially the sustainable development model. Because I used it in another experience, this is an interesting experience. [The Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference] is a big forum in China, and we let a lot of companies and some universities to join together, and we talk for the society questions, social questions, and economic questions. I joined this forum and became a volunteer for the company named Sabic. It's maybe the world's largest sustainable materials company and in this experience, I used what I learned in the Sustainable Community course to give a speech in their booth because they... they

happened to teach me a lot, but what I learned in the course helped me to give an introduction for their products. So, I think this course helped me a lot.

Q. What experience do you feel impacted you the most during the program?

A. In junior year what I learned most is what is tourism and what does my major do. Especially in the Tourism Planning and International Tourism courses. Before [the] Tourism Planning course, what I learned is just, maybe, tourism is just about hospitality and it's about maybe [being] the tour guide [laughs].... But the actual situation is not, because the tourism industry is not so homogenous, it's diverse. I think after I have learned the Tourism Planning course, I know the diversity of the tourism industry. We can not only just become a tour guide after we graduate, but also, we can do the tourism planning, or the other career like that. They are back – they are not so, maybe, they will not have so much opportunity to [be] face-to-face to the other, but they do have, they make so much contributions to the tourism industry. And in the International Tourism [course], I learned a mode of thinking in tourism because Dr. Xu taught us so much about how we need to think in the tourism industry.... we need to think by the supply side and demand side. And the supply side is maybe – the demand side is about the market, and the supply side is about the resources side. I think it's really helpful to me and make my mind change a lot.

Q. What skills have you learned during your time in the HAITC program?

A. At first in freshman year, we just prepared for the English technique, because we needed to have the all-English teaching situation. So, we needed to just prepare for this, and I don't have so much experience because we just learned English in that year. But in sophomore year, what I have experience in is the public speaking course. ... In this course we learned public speaking skills, and I think it's really helpful for us, especially for us Chinese students. You know, what I learned in junior high school and senior high school, what we learned most is writing things and [preparing] for the test, and we don't have so much practice for the public speaking; and in the HAIRC program, especially what we have in Arizona State... the teaching situation, they so focus on – to practice our presentation and skills.

[Then in] senior year we learned a course named Assessment and Evaluation Community Services. Actually, this course is about the research methodology, and [in] this course, Dr. Xu [was] so patient and [taught] us how to, how to write a paper, and how to learn the methodology of the whole... the research. What I think, this shocked me a lot, before I just think, maybe, doing the research is maybe, maybe not so easy, see? But maybe not so hard. But Dr. Xu shocked me a lot because she is so patient and so smart and has so much knowledge and taught us.... After we have this course, I know we can use our knowledge to help the destinations and to help the other place where the economy is not so well. And they make their economy become better by the tourism and use our knowledge to make them – for example to make

tourism planning for them, or make another planning for them or something like that.

Q. Do you have a favorite real-world experience using these skills, such as during an internship, volunteer, or research opportunity?

A. ... I have another experience in a competition, the China College Students' 'Internet+' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, [that was] really helpful [for] the public speaking skills that we cultivated in the HAITC program. Because you know, in the competition, you not only need to have the great idea and great practice, but also you need to present it. A lot of Chinese students, and a lot of Chinese teams, they have a great idea but they can't present it so well. But in the HAITC program students, we, most of us have joined together and have a team, and we have a great – we won the Hainan Regional Gold Award and the National Silver Award in this competition, because we have this public speaking course to let us cultivate this ability as a team.

I used [my research methodology skills] in an internship and my graduate thesis research. Because my graduate thesis is not only just to write some paper by the literature review, but I tried to connect my graduate thesis research to the rural revitalization research in China, now. And we make the topic of our graduate thesis about the rural revitalization in Hainan, and what shocked me a lot is that during this experience when we talked to the villagers here, I think they are so respectful to us, because we have this.... We have

this knowledge and it's really helpful for them. I think they can feel it, and they say they are willing to help us because we have this ability to help them.

Q. What do you plan to do after you graduate?

A. Maybe I will just plan [on] working after my [graduation]. I decided to work in some tourism planning company because I am really interested in it, [and] I think what I learned can really help some place. Maybe their economy is not so well, and they can develop by the tourism industry and by the tourism planning, especially, for example, some rural areas, what I can do something by my knowledge, and because my family is not so [supportive of] me in this day and this year to go to the foreign country because of the COVID19. Maybe I will work for the tourism planning company for several years, and after the pandemic becomes lesser, maybe I will have the master's program in the foreign country, because you know most of the foreign countries' masters programs, they are, they do care whether or not you have the working experience, and I think having this working experience can make me know more about myself and what I – whether or not I am suitable for this industry.

Q. Is there anything else you wanted to share in this interview?

A. To give a whole definition to the HAITC program, I will choose two words: one of them is Intellectual Community, and the other is Inclusive. Because you know, in HAITC, the teacher, most of our teachers are foreigners, and we need to have the intellectual communication with them, and also, we need to

have this inclusive concept, and because of this, we can have respect [for] different cultures. I remember in the Intellectual Communication course, [one of my teachers and I] ... we talked so much about our countries, and he's respectful to my country, and I respect his country. After this course, he asked a question to us: "do you have any interesting questions for my country?" He is an Italian teacher, and I asked interesting question about the mafia. I was so interested because I had just watched a movie about the *Godfather*, [and] I think he's real interesting and cool. Maybe [the teacher is] not thinking like me, and maybe he doesn't know why I ask this question, and he just answered to me like "maybe this group is over principled, but the fact is [they are] also a crime group" and I think "oh, alright". I respect it, but I asked this question because I think it's really interesting. Then he told us Italy has many interesting things, not just the mafia [laughs]. It also has so much interesting and delicious food, and I think he is so proud of it, because he told us, and said maybe in the whole Europe, the Italians, he says, the Italian have the most delicious food.... And this intellectual communication experience is so interesting to me because we can respect each other, and we can talk to each other.