



“冒险女王” 南君白 Adventure Queen Felicia Nan

她曾从美国飞到台湾，只为追寻音乐梦想，她的粉丝们亲切地称她为“冒险女王”。如今这段逐梦之旅已然落下帷幕，而她的冒险生涯仍在继续。今天，作为中欧国际工商学院的MBA学生，她正胸有成竹，准备迎接商业世界向她发起的每一项挑战。





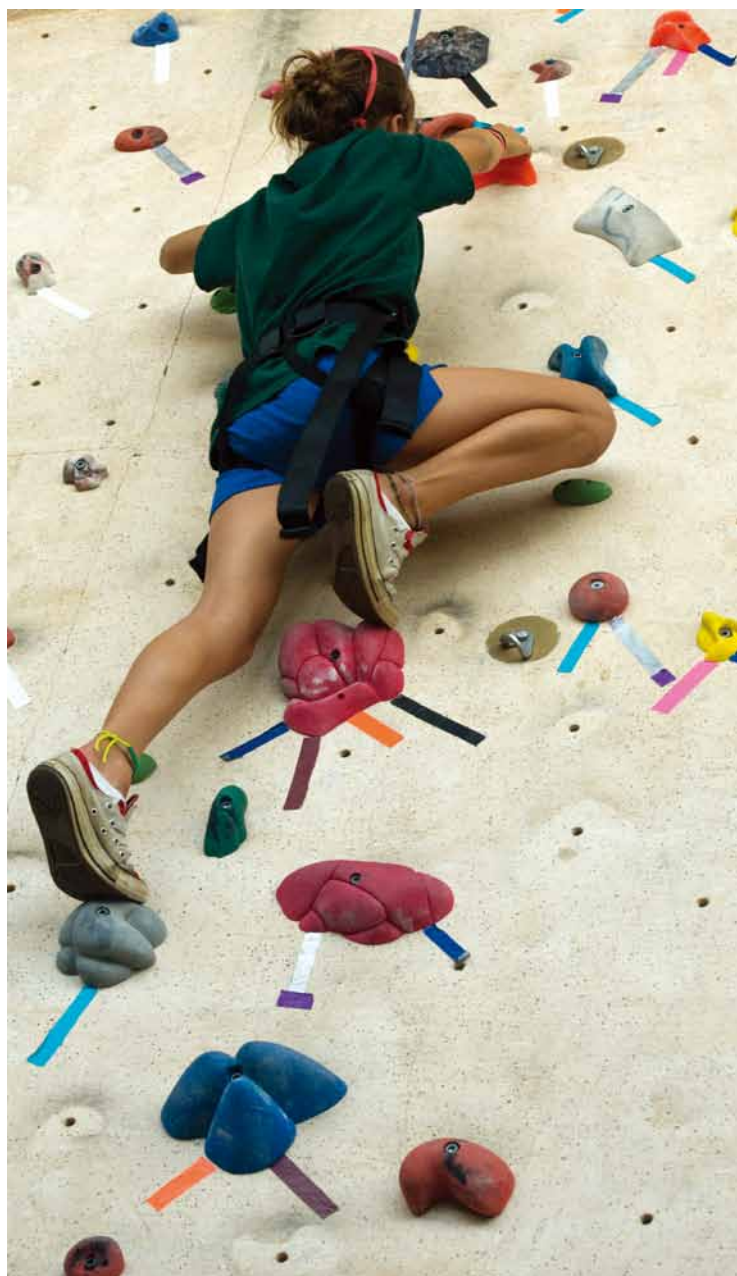
文/朱琼敏 By June Zhu

Her fans gave her the name “Adventure Queen” when she moved from the US to Taiwan to follow her dream of being a singer. That dream ended but her adventure continues. Today, with a CEIBS MBA under her belt, Felicia Nan is ready for anything the world of business throws at her.

“

她为在中欧遇到同道中人而欣喜——
他们看待世界的方式、他们想要完成的
梦想都很相似。

”



7月，当《TheLINK》杂志采访南君白（MBA 2015）时，她正在全球著名金融机构瑞银集团位于香港的办公室实习。在那里的每一天，她清晨7点20分准时到达办公室，一直工作到深夜才离开，但她对此毫无怨言——她拥抱这次挑战，将其视作一次全新的历险和学习的良机。

“毕业以后，我想换行到金融业。但是，我并没有学过金融，所以知道自己一定要努力。”现年28岁的南君白说。这次实习，连同她在中欧MBA课程的学习与她能广泛接触到的中欧校友网络，都将为她的职业转换增加筹码。那些了解她的人并不会觉得意外，多年来，南君白从来不曾让恐惧阻挡她前进的步伐。

南君白出生在美国的一个台湾移民家庭。她从小接受正规的美国教育，但她的父母也鼓励她学习普通话和亚洲文化。“小时候，我经常有机会去亚洲，而我对那个地方的兴趣也日渐浓厚。”南君白说。在哈佛穆德学院攻读工程学专业时，她终于在2005年获得前往香港大学交流学习的机会，得以在亚洲长住一段时间。“那时候，我发现除了美国之外，还有那么多美妙的人和物等待我去了解。在香港，我交到了五湖四海的朋友，有来自澳洲的、英国的，还有韩国的，等等。大约十年过去了，我们依然是挚友。”南君白说。她对这个地方如此情有独钟，在离开时告诉自己，“总有一天，我会再回亚洲。”

逐梦

2007年，从哈佛穆德毕业后，南君白加入全球医疗科技公司迈心诺。因为工作与医疗健康事业息息相关，让她觉得自己是在为人类谋福利，因此充满了成就感。可是，她的心头还有一个牵挂，一个年少时

When *TheLINK* caught up with Felicia Nan (MBA 2015) in July, she was capping off her CEIBS study with an internship at a downtown Hong Kong office of the prestigious global financing firm UBS. Her days typically begin at 7:20am and she works late into the evening. But she doesn't mind; she embraces this challenge as a new adventure and an opportunity to learn.

"I want to shift to the finance industry after graduation, but I know I have to work hard because I didn't come from a finance background," says 28-year old Nan. The internship, along with the classes she did during her MBA, and CEIBS' extensive alumni network that she can tap into, are all part of her plan to make her career switch. Those who know her are not surprised. Over the years, Nan hasn't let fear of change hold her back.

Born in the US to a Taiwanese family, she had the typical American education, but her parents also encouraged her to study Mandarin and learn about Asian culture. "I used to travel to Asia very often, and my interest in this region just grew," says Nan. As an engineering student at Harvey Mudd College, she finally had an extended stay in Asia when she was an exchange student at the

University of Hong Kong in 2005. "That's when I realised that there were so many fascinating things and people outside of the US that I wanted to learn even more from. In Hong Kong I made friends from Australia, Britain, South Korea, etc. Almost 10 years have passed and we are all still extremely good friends," Nan says. Fascinated by the region, she told herself, "Someday I'll be back in Asia."

Childhood dream

After graduating from Harvey Mudd in 2007, Nan worked with global medical technology firm Masimo Corporation.

It was rewarding, and she felt that she was contributing to the well-being of mankind. But she had another passion. Ever since she was a child, she had loved to sing and her dream of being a singer had simmered over the years while she dutifully applied herself to studying science and engineering. "I'm an outdoors person and I like adventure, I like to do things like skydiving and driving fast cars," she says. After three years at Masimo, that spirit of adventure led her to do something even "crazier" than skydiving: she gave up a stable job





就有的梦想。从小她便热爱歌唱，希望自己有一天能成为真正的歌手，但年复一年，她在科学与工程学上的刻苦钻研让这个浪漫的梦想变得越来越骨感。“我是个喜欢户外运动与冒险的人，我喜欢高空跳伞，也喜欢飙车。”在迈心诺工作了三年后，冒险精神蠢蠢欲动，让她不禁想做一些比跳伞更“疯狂”的事：放弃稳定的工作，离开舒适的生活环境，成为一名专业歌手。

“时光一去不复返。如果当时我不追梦，总有一天我会后悔。”

ABC(出生在美国的华人)明星曾经一度在亚洲风靡，这让南君白下定决心奔赴台湾。“每个人面前最大的阻碍都是自己的恐惧。许多人不愿意冒险，只是因为他们惧怕不确定，惧怕可能的失败将导致的后果，而我尝试着不让恐惧左右我的人生选择。”她说。

她是个幸运的女孩。善解人意的老板破例让她连续几个月采用灵活的上班时间来追逐音乐梦想，也让她有时间做出最后抉择，看是否真的要为此离开迈心诺。最后，尽管公司很有诚意，她依然决定离开她的事业与家人。

在台湾地区，她的艺人生涯起始于一场风行全岛的歌唱大赛——“超级偶像”。上了半年的节目后，她吸引了众多粉丝，他们亲切地称她为“冒险女王”。她过关斩将、一路晋级，最终止步前20强。但是，这段经历并没有像当初她所期待的那样让她欢喜。恰恰相反，这场比赛让她完全确信自己并不适合做艺人。拥有着一颗自由灵魂的南君白发现自己并不想被当成一种商品，包装起来，放到市场上去出售。最终，她与自己和解，接受了无法实现童年梦想这一事实。

“这是我生命中最具挑战的一段日子。”南君白并不讳言。挫折与幻灭让她背负了沉重压力——她迷失了。她一次又一次问自己：“我到底在做什么？”她在台湾有亲戚，但初来乍到的她还找不到一个亲密的朋友可以倾诉心事，孤独感侵蚀着她的内心。语言障碍与文化差异也是一个问题，“我的中文还不流利，正在努力适应环境。我花了一段时间摆脱这些困境。”

天无绝人之路。当她正准备放弃希望、打道回府的时候，台湾领航资本管理

公司向她抛出了橄榄枝。南君白抓住了这次学习良机，这是六个月以来第一个让人欣喜的转机，使得她一扫梦想受挫的阴霾，“那时，我只是告诉自己，好好珍惜工作的每个时刻，尽可能地去学习。”在老板的悉心调教下，她最终克服了所有挑战。

中欧生活

在领航待满三年后，南君白决定接受另一项挑战：读MBA。她对公司外汇市场的相关工作很感兴趣，对金融业也产生了更多的期待，这让她意识到自己若想要在这个领域有所作为，就必须进一步深造。2013年，她来到上海并踏入中欧，她对这座城市一见倾心。“在我来到中欧后，我爱上了上海。它将国际化与中国文化那么完美地结合在一起。”南君白感慨道。

这回她又“变形”了，她不再是艺人或工程师，而是一名中欧新生，渴盼着从学习中汲取尽可能多的知识养分。和她的同学们一样，南君白被中国大陆广阔的市场所吸引。“对我来说，回美国读MBA意义不大，因为我对美国已经非常

and comfortable life to try and become a professional singer. “You can’t regain time once it’s lost. I knew I would regret it if I didn’t pursue my dream then,” she says.

At one time, American Born Chinese (ABC) stars were especially popular in Asia, so Nan decided to head to Taiwan. “I think the biggest obstacle for people to overcome is fear. Many people don’t take a chance simply because they fear uncertainty, or the consequences of a possible failure. I try not to have fear dictate my life choices,” she says.

She was lucky enough to have an understanding boss who gave her a more flexible schedule for a few months so she could pursue her musical dream and decide if she really wanted to leave Masimo. In the end, despite how great her team was, she decided to leave it all behind – her career and her family. She was 24 years old.

In Taiwan, she began her career as an artist by participating in “Super Idol”, a singing competition. After about half a year on the show, she had built up a fan base that had dubbed her “The Adventure Queen” and she ended up in the Top 20. But the experience didn’t make her as happy as she thought it would. In fact, it left her 100% sure that she wasn’t cut out to be an artist. A free spirit, she also

found herself uncomfortable with the feeling of being a commodity packaged for the industry. She finally accepted that she had failed to live up to her childhood dream.

“This was the most challenging time ever in my life,” admits Nan. Frustrated and disillusioned, she was stressed, and lost. Again and again, she asked herself, “What am I doing?” She had relatives in Taiwan, but she didn’t really have any close friends when she first moved there. The language barrier and cultural differences were also a problem for her. “My Chinese wasn’t yet fluent, and I was still trying to get used to living in this new environment. It took me a while to tough everything out,” she recalls.

But just as she was planning to give up all hope of being in Asia and going back to the US, she got a job with Navigator Capital Management Ltd in Taiwan and seized it as an opportunity to learn something new. It was a welcome distraction during the six months it took her to gradually shake off the gloom that came with failing to achieve her musical dream. “At that time, I just told myself to make the best of every moment on the job and learn as much as possible,” she recalls. With guidance from her boss, she eventually mastered all the challenges she

had to face.

Life at CEIBS

After 3 years at Navigator, Nan decided to take on a new challenge: getting her MBA. She loved working with the FX market at Navigator, but her aspirations to see even more of the financial industry made it clear that a higher level of education was necessary. From the moment she landed in Shanghai in 2013 to enrol at CEIBS, she was fascinated by the city. “I really fell in love with Shanghai after I came to CEIBS. It’s a city with the perfect combination of internationalisation and Chinese culture,” says Nan.

She had transformed herself yet again. She was no longer an artist, or an engineer, but a fresh-faced CEIBS student eager to obtain as much as possible from her MBA study. Like many of her fellow students, Nan was attracted by the vast market that mainland China has to offer. “It didn’t make any sense to me to go back to the US to do an MBA, since I’m already familiar with the states, and it wouldn’t help me develop a career in Asia. In addition to its reputation, I chose CEIBS because I wanted to get a better first-hand understanding of China,” she



南君白是“中欧好声音”MBA组三强选手(上图); 南君白在“台湾之夜”晚会上表演
Nan during a singing contest (top) and performing for Taiwan Night.

熟悉,在那里读 MBA 并不会为我在亚洲发展事业带来优势。我选择中欧,是因为仰慕它的声誉,更是因为我想更好地获得有关中国的第一手信息。”她解释道。中欧领先的国际排名、强大的校友网络和彼此互助的友好氛围吸引了南君白。“在我看来,正是这三点让中欧卓尔不群。”

从办公室到教室的转变也并非易事。为了完成教授布置的作业,她常常晚上睡不足五个钟头。“我知道我一定要在短时间内学到尽可能多的东西。”她说。但是,她也深知要劳逸结合。在班级同学共同完成项目的过程中,在讨论和聚餐中,她和他们相识相知。她为在中欧遇到同道中人而欣喜——他们看待世界的方式、他们想要完成的梦想都很相似。南君白喜欢取人所长,“我的许多同学都有创业经历,我非常钦佩他们。”在不断学习的过程中,她也与 MBA 办公室的工作人员、对她倾力相助的校友导师颜守俊(EMBA 2006)以及 EMBA 学员建立起了良好的关系。

纵然 MBA 课程繁重,南君白也会在学习之余抽空娱乐。她在 MBA 学生会中担任社交活动部长。她成功地组织了 2013 年盛大的“上海之夜”晚会,而在第二届“中欧好声音”大赛中,她勇夺 MBA 组前三甲。她还自告奋勇,负责指导第二届全国 MBA 龙舟邀请赛 18 位中欧参赛选手,并担当鼓手这一重任。“在洛杉矶,许多人都喜欢划龙舟,而我十几岁时,就已经敲鼓划桨了,因此,我能够

为队伍提供建议。在比赛当天,我们表现出强大的团队精神,只在一起训练了一小时左右,就夺得了冠军!每一个人都团结在一起,这种感觉无以言表!”在中欧,她还开发了一种新的兴趣——户外攀岩。

“我有个朋友是攀岩发烧友。他曾组织一支队伍去临安和阳朔的山中攀岩。”说到这里,她的兴奋之情溢于言表。

乡愁

或许,她目前所面临的挑战要比攀岩更为艰难:远离家人,想要与他们时时保持联系并非易事。在网上搜一搜,也许你能找到一个名为《聚散》的音乐视频。这是南君白为纪念她的祖父——弘扬中华文化的大师南怀瑾先生而作的。“我甚至都没有读过他的书,因为它们多数都是中文的,”她的言语间充满愧疚,“我一定会努力跟上。”她也因远离家乡而备受煎熬。每年,她都会回美国一两趟,去探望家人,但这并不足以抚平心中的乡愁,尤其是当母亲在西藏度假时发生车祸受伤之后。“我和我妈妈非常亲近。我十分难过自己不能花更多的时间和她在一起,”南君白说,“像这种时候,我就会问自己,为什么我在中国?当初离开家乡、独自漂泊是不是正确的选择?纵然如此,我还是会牢记自己已经有了一个清晰的目标,一个未来的规划,我们一定能再次相聚。”正是这个信念让她重获力量,再一次勇敢踏上冒险之旅。

explains. CEIBS, with its global ranking, strong alumni network, and people who are always ready to help, got Felicia's attention. "For me, those three points are what makes CEIBS so great," she says.

The transformation from work life to the classroom was challenging. To keep up with assignments she often had to get by on less than 5 hours of sleep per night "I knew I had to learn as much as possible within a relatively short period," she says. But it wasn't all work and no play. She got to know her classmates as they worked together on projects, during group discussions and over shared meals. "Those moments are really sweet and truly valuable," says Nan. She was happy to meet like-minded people at CEIBS – they were similar in the way they look at the world, the things they want to accomplish. "Many of my classmates have entrepreneurship experience, and I admire them so much," says Nan who loves to learn from people around her. She's also forged strong bonds with MBA staff, her very supportive mentor and CEIBS alumnus Albert Yen (EMBA 2006) and EMBA students.

Despite the heavy MBA course load, Nan carved out time for fun while studying. It was part of her role as Social Activities Director for her MBA

class' Student Committee. She led the team that successfully staged the annual Shanghai Night in 2013 and she was among the MBA's Top 3 in the CEIBS Voice singing competition organised by her peers. She also coached the 18-member team and worked as drummer in this year's National MBA Dragon Boat Race. "Many people in Los Angeles love dragon boating, and I have been drumming and paddling for years, so I was able to help advise our team. The day of the competition, our team exhibited strong teamwork and after practicing for only an hour or so, we ended up being the champions! Everyone worked together so well. It felt incredibly good!" she says. Now she's also found a new passion – outdoor rock-climbing. "I have a friend who loves rock-climbing. He put a team together to climb mountains in Lin'An and Yang Shuo," Nan says excitedly.

Family focus

Her next challenge is even more difficult than scaling mountains: it's hard to remain true to her roots and keep in touch with her family when they're so far away. An online search may lead you to a music video called

““

I knew I had to learn as much as possible within a relatively short period.

””

"Meeting and Parting". It's Nan's way of honouring her late grandfather, the highly-regarded proponent of Chinese culture Nan Huaijin. "I haven't even read his books, since most of them are in Chinese," confesses Nan guiltily. "I will definitely make the effort to catch up." She's also torn about being so far away from her family. She visits them in the US one or two times a year, but feels that's not enough, especially after her mother was injured in a bus accident while vacationing in Tibet last year. "My mother and I are very close, and I'm so sorry I can't spend more time with her," says Nan. "At times like that I ask myself why I'm here in China and if it was right to leave my family back home. But then I remember that I have a clear goal now, I have a plan for the future and we'll be together again." That gives her the energy she needs to be ready for her next adventure.