

## Sunset on CCU's Hill

When I first walked to my school's library from my dormitory, my attention was caught by a hill on the left side of the walking path near the library. The hill is a large lush green open space overlooking the small town of Minxiong, the area where my university is located, and my school's magnificent sports complex which the school community prides in. On top of the hill lies a big wooden bench where people usually sit. Some others prefer to sit directly on the green grass. Since my first day at the university, the hill has been my go-to place throughout every season.

Every time I feel stressed out over school, the hill always becomes a place of respite for me. I will just head out there to calm myself down. I usually put on my earphones and listen to my favorite songs while laying down on the wooden bench under the shades of the trees and staring at the clear blue sky. A gentle breeze usually blows and touches my skin as if mother nature knew how to comfort my overwhelming soul. I slowly close my eyes and usually fall asleep for a few minutes before waking up to the sound of the passersby's steps. I wake up fully recharged, ready to tackle whatever school or life challenges are thrown my way.

The hill is not only my go-to place when I have some rough days, but it is also a place where I get to create some joyful moments with my friends and celebrate together. One day, I and my friends built a small tent there to have a little picnic. We laid a picnic blanket over the green grass and assembled the foods we brought in the middle. We sat in a circle, had fun chitchats, and sang songs together to the tune of the music played through the guitar of our friend. On regular days, I frequently have a meet-up with my friends there to just enjoy the view whilst having a heart-to-heart conversation. The place has been the magic area where I got to know many of my friends better in person.

I would say the hill is a favorite place for many people to chill around and enjoy the companionship of one another. Couples, families, friends, students, and teachers like to spend time there and do some activities together. People reading books, people practicing Taichi, and people playing frisbee are some common sights found around the area. Out of the many views that I got to see there, there is a scene that still lingers in my mind. It was around five in the afternoon on a sunny day, and I was there by myself reading a book. Then, a family consisting of a father and three children climbed uphill from below. They run around together, burst into a laugh, sat for a while to take a break, and then run around again. It was such a delightful and

emotional view that made tears roll down my cheek. At that time, I realized that I missed home, my family, and especially my father who had passed away.

In spring, the area becomes a tourist attraction that draws hundreds of people from outside to visit and squeeze in along with the students. Next to the hill is a small walking path with trees on both sides. When it is spring, the buds of flowers start to bloom into beautiful yellow flowers that exude romantic feelings. If a couple is walking on the path, it feels like they were walking to the wedding altar. People wear their favorite outfits to take pictures from different angles with the flowery trees as the background. The seniors of my school bring their caps and gown to take their graduation photos or pictures with their friends. Seizing the moment, I also took some photos with my classmates there as a token of remembrance when I go home next year.

On top of everything, being able to watch the sunset from the hill is the major reason for my heartfelt attachment to the place. I cannot count how many times I have been there to just sit down and enjoy the bright orange and yellow sun that starts to set and seems to disappear between the trees that grow down under the hill. I always gasp, stand in awe, and feel emotional as my journey in Taiwan will conclude soon next year. I remember the complicated and rigorous procedures that I had to go through last year to come to Taiwan, and I do not expect that time flies so fast. The sunset on the hill always reminds me of a popular saying: “Sunsets are proof that endings can often be beautiful too.”

