

PEKING UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2014 | Issue 28



Mulatu Teshome

Welcome Home,
Mr. President

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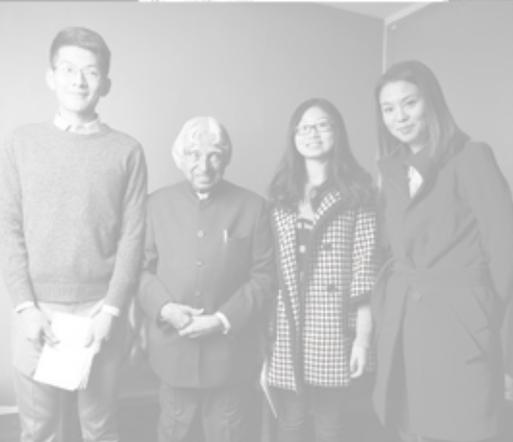
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Peking University Newsletter is a publication
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Newsletter Online

The Newsletter can be read online at:
www.oir.pku.edu.cn

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Welcome Home, Mr. President

—Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome Visits Peking University

Ou Kun



Mulatu meets his teachers and classmates at Peking University

On July 9th, 2014, Peking University (PKU) welcomed a special guest — Mulatu Teshome, President of Ethiopia.

Mulatu spent a fair amount of his youth studying in the beautiful campus of PKU. He started his studies in the Department of Philosophy in 1978. In 1984, he returned to further his education, this time in International Politics, with the help and support of the Ethiopian government.

With a doctoral degree from Peking University in 1991, the promising young man joined the Ethiopia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and served as the ambassador to China and Japan. Later, he performed well as Minister of Agriculture in 2001, and then as Speaker of the House of Federation from 2002 to 2005, during which Mulatu has been highly praised for his contribution to China-Ethiopia relations.

Mulatu's political career reached its peak in 2013 when he was elected by the parliament as the President of Ethiopia.

"I am very proud of Peking University."

On the morning of July 9th, Mulatu and his family were welcomed by Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of Peking University Council. "Welcome home, brother!" said Zhu. Since Mulatu was Zhu's senior by a year when they were studying in the Department of Philosophy thirty years ago, "brother" was the appropriate Chinese term for them to address each other.

Zhu expressed his hope that Mulatu will continue to show concern for PKU's development and more Ethiopian students will come to study in PKU. He shared with Mulatu PKU's achievements in the fields of scientific research and talent cultivation in recent years. When pre-

sending Mulatu's son with a gift of Chinese textbooks, Zhu sincerely invited him to consider studying in PKU, and build on the bond between Ethiopia and PKU that had been established by the previous generation.

Mulatu said, "Peking University is a school that has had a great influence upon my life." Looking back to the years when he, along with other African students, was sent by the government to study in China, Mulatu recounted that many of them chose engineering or medicine as their majors to meet the great demand of their

countries, Mulatu had his heart set on the Department of Philosophy and the Department of International Politics (now the School of International Studies).

"This," explained Mulatu, "was partly due to my own interest in the two subjects, and partly due to the encouragement of the government." On his fellow classmates, Mulatu noted that they "are now active in all fields and making great contributions. As a student of Peking University, I have never thought of being a pride of my alma mater. But I, indeed, am very proud of her."

Memories of a time gone by

Great attachment to teachers and friends cannot be erased by time. The precious moments Mulatu spent with those lovely people were still clear in

his mind. Peking University organized a reunion meeting for Mulatu and invited his old classmates and friends.

The meeting was hosted by Jia Qingguo, Dean of PKU School of International Studies. He led the audience through a journey of time as he presented a series of photos from the past. When the first photo appeared on the screen, laughter burst out in the room. Mulatu was standing on the left of the picture, young and handsome. Behind him was the Boya Tower, the Weiming Lake and the lush willows dancing in zephyr. The simple clothes of the young man and the timid smile on his face made everyone immersed in nostalgia of life back then.

"I don't have this photo myself." Mulatu was a little surprised. "I was very young when I first came to China. Far away from home, knowing little about the country, I couldn't have made it but for the help of the teachers, classmates and the administrative staff."

Then the wheel of time was turned back to 1978. On this year, Mulatu, a freshman, had just settled down in Building 26 near the south gate of the campus with his roommate, Chen Luosheng. Chen, a student from the PKU Philosophy Department, was assigned a special task—to be Mulatu's "buddy". This was under the buddy system started from the 1970s that paired Chinese students with international students to help the latter adapt to the living and learning environment in China. Today, many international students who studied at PKU during that period have expressed sincere gratitude to their "buddies" when looking back on their life in PKU.

In a photo, Mulatu and Chen were sitting side by side on a sofa in their dormitory. Recalling the years spent with Chen, Mulatu said passionately, "Chen helped me a lot. We were always together, in and out of classes. He helped me with my Chinese every day in our dorm." Chen, who is now a professor in the China Youth University for Political Science, recalled Mulatu as "restrained, calm, and rational, very different from other African students, who were more sensitive and outgoing." Mulatu didn't speak much,

but he was very diligent and eager for knowledge.

Wang Shouchang, Professor at the Department of Philosophy, was among those who were the closest to Mulatu. Having graduated from the Department of Philosophy, Mulatu followed Wang's suggestion and continued his studies at the Department of International Politics to prepare for his career as a politician. The friendship between the two did not grow stale because of Mulatu's change in academic discipline. In a photo taken during Mulatu's postgraduate years, Mulatu, looking a lot more mature, was sitting beside Wang and listening to his words.

"No matter which school I was in, Professor Wang was always willing to offer a hand whenever needed. He was not only my teacher, but also my friend," said Mulatu. When asked about Mulatu, Professor Wang, now with spotting white hair, said, "He was the most hardworking African student I have ever met."

An everlasting bond

Since Mulatu's graduation, Peking University has witnessed a huge progress both in scientific research and teaching standards. The progress is attributed to the efforts of PKU's faculty and students, as well as alumni like Mulatu.

Mulatu has attended many PKU activities over the years. In 2005, Mulatu visited PKU and offered many valuable suggestions to the university. In 2010, as a representative of the outstanding international alumni in China, Mulatu was invited by the Chinese government to give a speech at PKU on the 60th anniversary of the enrolment of international students in China.

Huang Daolin, Chief of the International Student Office of Peking University back then, recalled that during a visit to Japan in 1993 (when Mulatu was the Ethiopian ambassador to Japan), Mulatu invited him to his house where they made dumplings together. Liu Jiantong, Mulatu's old classmate, who is now a department chief in the Ministry of Edu-



President Mulatu Teshome

Mulatu was born in the town of Arjo in Welega Province, Ethiopia. He was educated in China, receiving his bachelor's degree in philosophy of political economy and doctorate in international law at Peking University.

He was appointed as Minister of Agriculture in 2001, and was also Speaker of the House of Federation from 2002 to 2005. He served as Ethiopia's Ambassador to China, Japan, and Turkey.

While serving as Ambassador to Turkey, he was elected as President of Ethiopia by a unanimous parliamentary vote on October 7th, 2013.

cation, shared his memory of a feast with Mulatu, who was the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Ethiopia, during a visit to Ethiopia in 2001. During the meal, they also concluded an agreement on education cooperation that is still effective today.

This time, Mulatu has come back to PKU as the president of a country, visiting the teachers and students here. PKU is honored and proud to have cultivated such an outstanding alumnus. 

Xu Yuanchong Awarded the FIT “Aurora Borealis” Prize for Outstanding Translation of Fiction Literature

Zhao Jiayin

On August 2nd, 2014, renowned Chinese translator Professor Xu Yuanchong from the School of Journalism and Communication of Peking University was awarded the FIT “Aurora Borealis” Prize for Outstanding Translation of Fiction Literature by the International Federation of Translators (FIT) at the FIT World Congress. Xu was the first Asian translator to be awarded the prize since its establishment in 1999.

The Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Fiction Literature is designed to promote the translation of fiction literature, improve the quality thereof and draw attention to the role of translators in bringing the peoples of the

world closer together in terms of culture. The prize is awarded to one translator once every three years.

“In an international environment in need of effective communication, Professor Xu Yuanchong has devoted his career to building bridges among Chinese-, English- and French-speaking peoples. He has translated Chinese literature extensively into English and French, as well as having translated major works from Western languages into Chinese.” the jury said in the prize announcement.

The jury also took into consideration the number of readers of English and French around the world who might be reached by Professor Xu Yuanchong’s translations, as well as those who might read his translations in Chinese from English and French.

Head of the delegation of the Translators Association of China (TAC) Wang Gangyi, who was present at the award ceremony, said that Xu was worthy of the prize. He said that Xu is a role model of the older generation of Chi-

nese translators, and has devoted his life to literary translation. Xu has made significant contributions to the promotion of China’s communications with the world.

The 93-year-old Xu did not attend the awarding ceremony due to health reasons. However, he said in a written statement, “I feel deeply honored to be the first Chinese translator to receive this award. I take this not only as recognition of my personal work in translation, but also more interest in Chinese literature. I have always taken great pleasure from translating Chinese, English and French literature. And I’m still translating at the age of 93. I simply love it.”

Professor Xu has dedicated decades to literary translation, with over 120 Chinese, English and French translation works published worldwide, including the Book of Odes, Songs of Chu, Three Hundred Tang Poems, Selected Poems of the Song Dynasty, Romance of the Western Chamber, *Le Rouge et le Noir*, *Madame Bovary* etc. In 2010, he received the TAC’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Translation. He is now working on translating the Complete Works of William Shakespeare. ▽



Advances Made in Selection of DNA-Encoded Small Molecule Libraries

Liu Zhaozhen

On September 15th, 2014, an article entitled “Selection of DNA-Encoded Small Molecule Libraries against Unmodified and Non-Immobilized Protein Targets” was featured as a

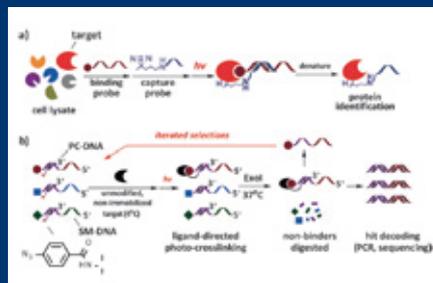
cover story on the *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*.

The article was based on collaborative research carried out by scholars from the College of Chemistry and

Molecular Engineering and College of Engineering at Peking University (PKU). The PKU researchers have developed a novel DNA-Encoded Library (DEL) and initially realized iterated se-

lections against unmodified and non-immobilized protein targets.

On the basis of a method called IDUP (interaction determination using unpurified proteins), Professor Li Xiaoyu and his co-workers showed that iterated selections of DNA-encoded libraries can be realized with unmodified and non-immobilized protein targets. The brand-new DEL selection strategy



requires little library redesign or re-synthesis. This advantage may

enables a rapid utilization of existing DELs to interrogate previously intractable targets.

The first author of this article is Ph.D. candidate Zhao Peng of the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering at Peking University. The research was funded by National Natural Science Foundation, Ministry of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Education of China. 🍷

11th International Conference of Asian Academy of Preventive Dentistry

Lewis Won Cheng Yi

The 11th International Conference of Asian Academy of Preventive Dentistry (AAPD 2014) was held from September 17th to 19th, 2014 in Beijing, China. This conference was organized by Peking University's School of Stomatology, with the main theme "Promoting Oral Health with Systemic Health".

332 representatives from eleven different countries and regions including China mainland, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, China, England and Japan attended the conference. Professor Xu Tao, Chairman of the Asian Oral Preventive Medicine, Guo Chuanbin, Dean of Peking University's School of Stomatology, and Professor Wang Xing, Chairperson of Chinese Stomatological Association, gave opening addresses respectively.

During the conference, more than 30 experts gave speeches and reports on the new technologies and developments in the field of preventive dentistry, and another one hundred representatives presented posters of their research.

Dr. Hiroshi Ogawa, Oral Health Official of World Health Organization, presented a report under the title of Prevention Strategy of Oral Disease and Non-communicable Disease, in which he noted that oral disease and non-communicable disease share many common hazards and many hazards are related with non-communicable disease. Thus the prevention of non-communicable disease should include the prevention of major oral disease.

Professor Xu Tao, Chairman of the Asian Oral Preventive Medicine, intro-

duced the status quo and development of treating Chinese oral disease and non-communicable disease in the recent three decades in detail through the analysis of relevant data. He noted that rapid economic development has led to major changes in Chinese people's lifestyle accompanied by increasing morbidity of non-communicable disease.

Compared with huge population, the number of professionals engaged in preventive dentistry still faces great shortage, and there are still obvious differences of the distribution of dental professionals among different regions. To meet the challenges, policy makers should pay more attention to the prevention work of oral disease and non-communicable disease and offer more opportunities for the public to access to various health education and training. 🍷

Zhao Mingwei Was Presented Golden Key Award by Chinese American Ophthalmologist Society

Liu Zhaozhen

On the 19th Congress of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society held between September 17th and 21st, Professor Zhao Mingwei from Peking University People's Hospital

was presented the Golden Key Award by the Chinese American Ophthalmologist Society (CAOS), for his outstanding achievements in the ophthalmology field in China.

The Golden Key Award was founded by the Chinese American Ophthalmologist Society in 1992, whose mission is to encourage Chinese researchers who

have promoted the development of Chinese ophthalmology with new theories and discoveries. The recipients are chosen by the Executive Committee of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society and the awardees present a lecture at the National Congress upon receiving their awards. Chairman of Chinese Ophthalmological Society Professor Wang Ningli nominated Prof. Zhao this year.

Against the background of greater demand for more theoretical and practical support in clinical ophthalmology, Zhao has made significant progress in the establishment and promotion of treatment technologies such as 20-gauge small incision vitrectomy, photodynamic therapy, central serous chorioretinopathy, and macular surgery for idiopathic macular hole in recent years. 🍷



First Baby Screened Using MALBAC Technology Born at Peking University Third Hospital

Lewis Won Cheng Yi

On September 19th, 2014, the first in vitro fertilization (IVF) baby screened with Multiple Annealing and Looping Based Amplification Cycles (MALBAC) technology was born at the Peking University Third Hospital, China. This signifies that China's expertise in the area of pre-implantation screening has kept up with international standards.

The father of the baby suffers from monogenic disease, which has resulted in him undergoing numerous surgeries in his life. Most monogenic diseases result in death, disability or congenital malformation, and only a few can be managed effectively with existing medical treatments. In order to ensure that their baby does not suffer the same ordeal, the couples arrived at Peking University Third Hospital on May 2013, seeking treatment. Through utilisation of the MALBAC technology, the chances of the baby inheriting monogenic disease has been greatly reduced.

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) is a technique used to select healthy embryos for implantation during IVF. MALBAC allows for the simultaneous detection of point mutations and chromosome



abnormalities with high accuracy. Furthermore, the procedure uses low depth sequencing, allowing for low-cost and fast PGD.

A total of 18 embryos at the blastocyst stage were obtained from the couple during an IVF cycle, and a few cells were biopsied from each of the day five or day six embryos. Genomic DNA was amplified evenly and accurately with the MALBAC method for the whole genome sequencing analyses.

Using MALBAC, the medical team identified three embryos with neither the inherited mutated allele nor chromosome copy number abnormalities. Finally, the team chose one healthy embryo to transfer into the mother. After successful implantation, the embryo grew normally. The baby was conceived at a healthy weight of 4.03 kg. Umbilical cord blood genome detection further confirmed that the baby is free of the mutated allele. 🍷

PKU Research Paper Accepted by Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages

Lewis Won Cheng Yi

A paper written by a team led by Xie Bing from Peking University's School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), titled "Summary-based context-sensitive data-dependence analysis in presence of callbacks", was accepted by the 42nd ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL). PhD. candidate Tang Hao from the research team led by Xie Bing is the first author of the paper.

POPL is a top academic conference in the field of computer science, with a focus on fundamental principles in the design, definition, analysis, and implementation of programming languages, programming systems, and programming interfaces. The conference is jointly sponsored by the two Associations for Computing Machinery Special



Interest Groups: SIGPLAN and SIGACT. The only other time a paper by researchers from Mainland China was accepted was during the 39th POPL.

Building a summary for library code is a common approach to speed up the analysis of client code. In the presence of callbacks, some reachability relationships between library nodes cannot be obtained during library-code summarization. In the paper, Xie Bing's team pro-

posed to summarize library code with tree-adjoining-language (TAL) reachability. Compared with the summary built with context-free language (CFL) reachability, the summary built with TAL reachability further contains conditional reachability relationships. The conditional reachability relationships can lead to much lighter analysis of the library code during the client code analysis with the TAL-reachability-based library summary.

Wang Xiao Yin from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Zhang Ling Ming from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas also took part in the research, which received funding from China's National Natural Science Foundation and Ministry of Science and Technology. ▽

Huang Zhuo Awarded Richard Stone Best Paper Prize in Applied Econometrics

Wang Runjian

Journal of Applied Econometrics, a world-renowned journal in econometrics, has recently awarded the 2012-2013 Richard Stone Best Paper Prize in Applied Econometrics to Huang Zhuo, Assistant Professor at the National School of Development, Peking University (PKU). Huang Zhuo published his paper "Richard GARCH: A Joint Model for Returns and Realized Measure of Volatility" in September 2012.

Richard Stone Best Paper Prize in Applied Economics was founded in 1991 and is awarded once every two years. It is one of the most significant academic rewards in applied econometrics, and only one Chinese scholar

has won this prize before.

Huang Zhuo introduced a new framework, Realized GARCH, for the joint modeling of returns and realized measures of volatility. A key feature is a measurement equation that relates the realized measure to the conditional variance of returns. It promises substantial improvements in the empirical fit over standard GARCH models that only use daily returns.

Highly valued by the econometric field, Huang's research has been cited by renowned financial and econometric journals for several times. It has already been introduced in many publications and textbooks, and applied by some Wall Street companies in their operations. ▽



Breakthrough in Organizational Behavior Research

Liu Zhaozhen

Dr. Lin Weipeng and Professor Wang Lei of Department of Psychology at PKU published their research in the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, one of the top journals in the field of management psychology.

Their study examined the moderating roles of conscientiousness in the relationship that work stressors (i.e., challenge stressors and hindrance stressors) have with employee psychological strain and job performance by using multi-source, time-lagged data collected from 250 employees working at two companies.

The results showed that both challenge stressors and hindrance stress-

ors were positively related to psychological strain. Conscientiousness moderated the relationship between both stressors and psychological strain, and the positive relationship were stronger for individuals with high conscientiousness. Conscientiousness also moderated the relationship between challenge stressors and performance, where the relationship was positive for individuals with high conscientiousness but negative for those with low conscientiousness. Altogether, the findings suggest that conscientiousness acts as a double-edged sword that both promotes performance and exacerbates the stress reaction of employees when they are



confronted with stressful situations.

The research is part of a three-year National Science and Technology support program led by Professor Wang Lei. Dr. Lin Weipeng, who had fully participated in the program, was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor of the Business School of Nankai University. ▶

Relationship between Cardiac Hypertrophy and Glycosylation Revealed by PKU Research Team

Wang Runjian

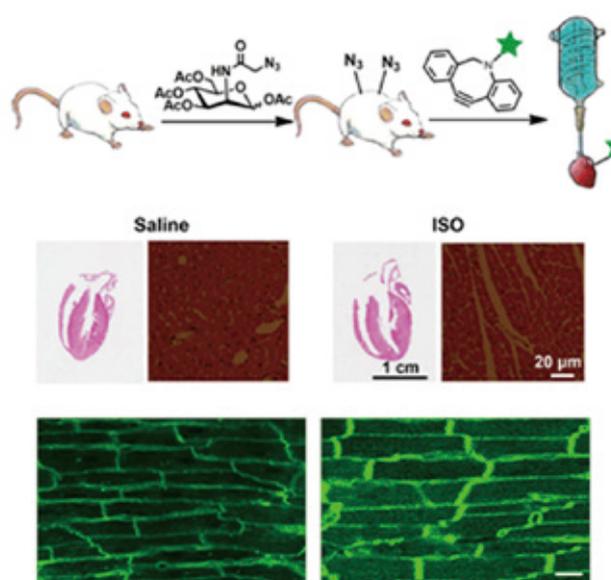
Heart failure is the last stage of many cardiovascular diseases, and is one of the leading causes of death in the world. Prolonged cardiac hypertrophy is known to lead to heart failure. How the heart fails as a result of cardiac hypertrophy still remains a question in its research field.

Recently, a research team led by Chen Xing, Professor at Peking University's College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, revealed the dynamic changes of cardiac glycosylation in the cardiac hypertrophy process by using metabolically labeling, glycan imaging and proteomic identification methods. The research was published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* on October 14th, 2014.

The research group pointed out that cardiac glycosylation was dynamically regulated, which remained challenging to monitor in vivo. During the

research, a chemical approach was taken to analyze the process. They metabolically labeled the cardiac glycan with azidosugars in living rats. Azides, serving as chemical reporters, were chemoselectively conjugated with fluorophores for glycan imaging, thereby allowing enrichment and proteomic identification of glycosylated cardiac proteins.

The research team demonstrated their methodology by visualization of the cardiac sialylated glycans in intact hearts and identification of more than 200 cardiac proteins modified with sialic acids.



They further applied this methodology to investigate the sialylation in hypertrophic hearts. They discovered an increase of sialic acid biosynthesis

in rats upon the induction of cardiac hypertrophy. Quantitative proteomic analysis revealed that multiple silylated proteins were upregulated during hypertrophy.

The research team said that the methodology might be further ex-

tended to other types of glycosylation. This research focused on the application of metabolic glycan labeling coupled with bioorthogonal chemistry, so it could be useful to research on functions of cardiac glycome during pathophysiological

responses responses, which has been focused on by the team.

This research is sponsored by China's Ministry of Science and Technology, National Natural Science Foundation, and Peking-Tsinghua Center for Life Sciences.

Research on Caspase-6 Published in Annual Review of Pharmacology and Toxicology

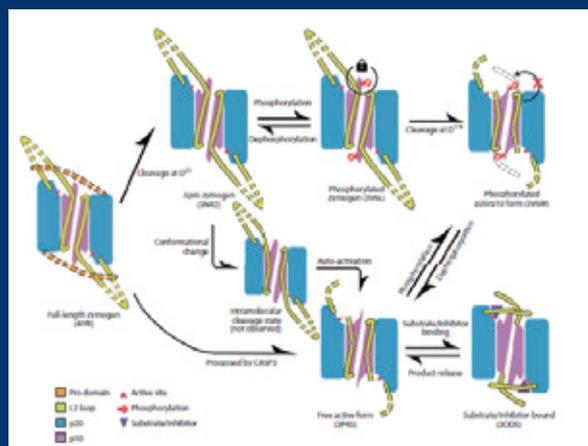
Liu Zhaozhen

On October 17th, 2014, the *Annual Review of Pharmacology and Toxicology* published an article online titled "Activation and Regulation of Caspase-6 and Its Role in Neurodegenerative Diseases". The paper was written by Professor Su Xiaodong's research team at the State Key Laboratory of Protein and Plant Gene Research, and the Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center at Peking University.

Caspase-6 is classified as an apoptotic effector, and it mediates nuclear shrinkage during apoptosis, but it possesses unique activation and regulation mechanisms that differ from those of other effector caspases. In the article, the current progress of international research on the role and structure of caspase-6 was summarized, and the

findings of the team's systematic study on the relationship between caspase-6 and neurodegenerative diseases over the past eight years were reported. The evidence relevant to the role of caspase-6 in neurodegenerative diseases was discussed and its activation and regulation mechanisms were summarized.

In doing so, they provided new insight into potential therapeutic approaches that incorporate the modulation of caspase-6 function for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.



The research was primarily carried out by Wang Xiaojun, Liu Xiang and Cao Qin, Ph.D. researchers who have graduated from PKU. Wang Xiaojun is the first author of the paper.

Neural Stem Cells Help in the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease

Lewis Won Cheng Yi

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system. The motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease result from the death of dopamine-generating

cells in the substantia nigra, a region of the midbrain. PD is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease and affects approximately seven million people glob-

ally. The mean age of onset is around 60 years old, although 5–10% of cases, classified as young onset, begin between the ages of 20 and 50.

With a combination of high-per-

formance liquid chromatography and carbon fiber electrodes, the team at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Peking University (PKU) demonstrated that grafted neural stem cells directly release dopamine in the damaged striatum in vivo and partially rescue a Parkinson's disease (PD) model. The paper was published on October 20, 2014, on *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS).

"Embryonic stem cell-based therapies exhibit great potential for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) because they can significantly rescue PD-

like behaviours. However, whether the transplanted cells themselves release dopamine in vivo remains elusive. The research team has recently induced human embryonic stem cells into primitive neural stem cells (pNSCs) that are self-renewable for massive/transplantable production and can efficiently differentiate into dopamine-like neurons (pNSC-DAn) in culture. pNSC-DAn grafts release and reuptake dopamine in the striatum in vivo and alleviate PD symptoms in rats, providing proof-of-concept for human clinical translation," stated in the abstract of the article.



Kang Xin Jiang from Institute of Molecular Medicine, PKU, is the first author. This research is funded by National Key Basic Research Program of China and National Natural Science Foundation of China.

PKU Researchers Developed Large-Field High-Resolution Two-Photon Digital Scanned Light-Sheet Microscopy

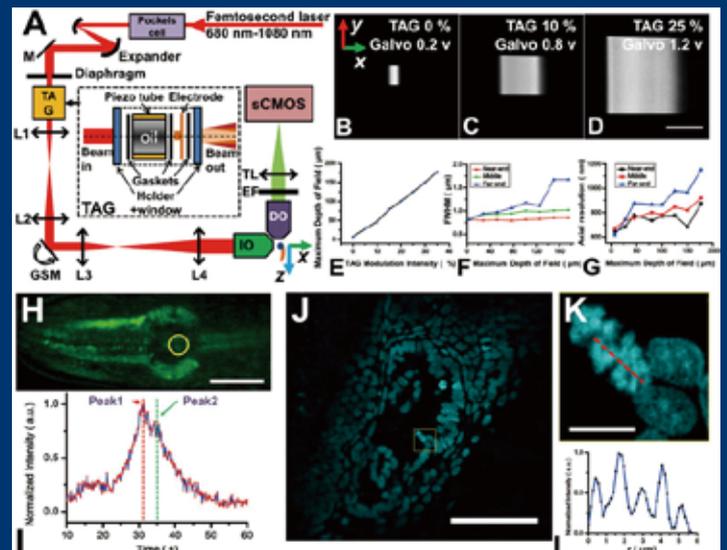
Lewis Won Cheng Yi

A research team from Peking University (PKU)'s Institute of Molecular Medicine has developed a novel two-photon three-axis digital scanned light-sheet microscope (2P3A-DSLM). To achieve high axial resolution (thin light sheet) and large field of view simultaneously, it employs a technology based on ultrafast axial scanning of illumination focal spot with a tunable acoustic gradient (TAG) index device. 2P3A-DSLM is able to achieve minimal photobleaching, high axial and temporal resolution with deep-tissue imaging. 2P3A-DSLM demonstrates its superior performance by resolving subcellular structures and tracking single-mitochondrion dynamic processes in live model organisms.

This new technique provides a sub-micron axial resolution, a large field of view of $170 \times 170 \mu\text{m}^2$ in deep tissues, and a high temporal resolution limited only by the detection camera. In vivo imaging with 2P3A-DSLM resolved subcellular structures and dynamic processes in small organisms. A TAG lens uses acoustic wave to radially excite a fluid-filled cylin-

drical cavity and produce continuous changes in refractive power that enables rapid change of its axial focal plane within 10 μs .

Due to the small size of chromosomes, resolving chromosomal segregation during cell division in cultured single cells or at the earlier stage of embryo development usually requires high-NA, high-magnification objectives. Using 2P3A-DSLM, it is able to visualize hundreds of nuclei in the heart of a day 3 zebrafish simultaneously. Chromosome structures from a few dividing cells could be well resolved due to the extremely thin light sheet, low background and



high contrast provided by the new imaging method.

The first author is Zong Weijian, a PhD candidate from the Institute of Molecular Medicine, PKU and the Academy of Military Science. Professor Liangyi Chen from the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Sun Yujie from Biodynamics Optical Imaging Center are corresponding authors.

The World As Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Sees It

Zhang Zuyue

With classic silver hair and a grandfatherly smile, at first glance Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, looks like any other aging man. Once you talk with him, however, you will be astonished as you find yourself interacting with a man who possesses rich knowledge and a benevolent heart.

Profile of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam

Born on 15 October, 1931 in a Tamil Muslim family in India, Dr. Kalam had a stressful childhood try-

ing to make ends meet. He started working at an early age to support his family with jobs such as distributing newspapers. Kalam studied physics in college, taking an interest in aerospace engineering. After graduation, he worked in several scientific institutions including the Defense Research and Development Organization and Indian Space Research Organization. Kalam is popularly known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology.

Kalam won the 2002 presidential election and became 11th President of India. During his presidency, he was affectionately known as the People's President. In 2009, he decided not to compete in the presidential election again. When asked why he decided to retire, he replied, "I love teaching. Teaching is something I am willing to do as a lifetime career."

Though he is no longer the President of India, he still plays a significant role in the Indian society. He has written a book entitled *India 2020*, in which he advocated to transform India into a knowledge superpower and a developed nation by the year 2020. He also launched a mission for Indian youth in 2011 called the What Can I Give Movement with its central theme being to defeat corruption in India. When asked for his perspective of corruption in India and China, Kalam said "corruption is a big problem for every country. The officials must understand that what you can take depends on what you can give."

A visit to PKU

During his three-day visit to China, Kalam delivered three keynote speeches in Peking University, focusing on rural development utilization of space solar power, and innovative leadership.

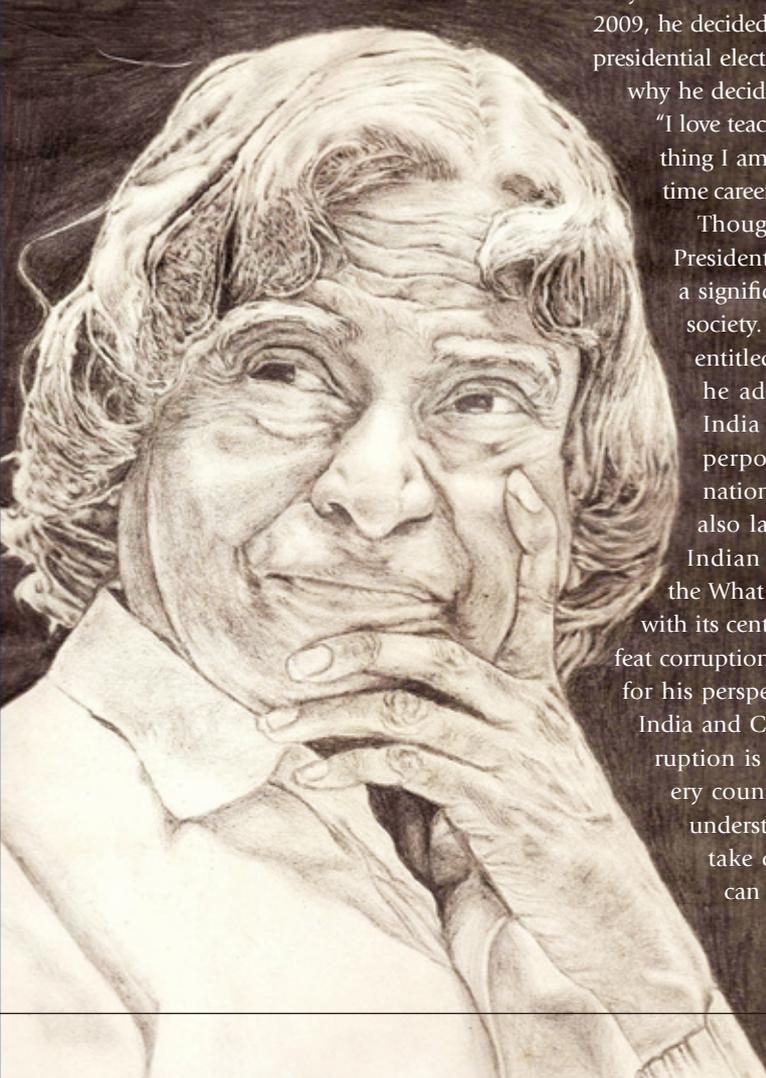
India bears resemblance with China in many ways. As populous countries and two of the world's fastest-growing economies, India and China are the main consumers of fossil fuels and both have large impoverished rural populations. Unlike Japan and South Korea, the cultural products from India are not so popular among Chinese youngsters, which is one of the reasons why youth in China know little about India.

When asked for his opinion of the competition between China and India in aerospace technology, Kalam said that China and India both are very competent in this field. China has sent several spacecrafts into space, while India now can map the details of the Moon. But the best way for both countries to grow in the aerospace field is to work together. He expressed his desire to enhance the cooperation between India and China, not only in the field of aerospace, but also in other fields as well. One such field that he has stressed on many occasions is rural development.

PURA – Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas

Dr. Kalam introduced a new substantial development pattern in India's rural areas called PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas). PURA was envisaged as a self-sustainable and viable model of service delivery via an implementation framework among different stakeholders involved, namely local people, public authorities and the private sector. The aim is to achieve four kinds of connectivity, namely physical connectivity, electronic connectivity, knowledge connectivity and economic connectivity.

PURA is also a way for youth today to pursue their dreams. Youth in both India and China possess the desire



Youth is a power. Let's use this power for the good of all. Let's work for more humane, cooperation, and peaceful civilization. The world has now become ONE FAMILY.

to ameliorate the world. On the one hand, if one chooses to remain in the lab to do scientific research, one's achievements are hardly able to benefit the people directly. On the other hand, if one chooses to devote oneself to social work, there will be little chance for him or her to make a radical change to the world.

How to strike a balance between scientific research and social work? Kalam answered "PURA is a mixture of scientific research and social research. What experiment you do in a lab today will be applied to the reality tomorrow." He cited the example of clean energy. He said that China is doing well in her exploitation of solar power which is an important element of rural substantial development. "Both China and India have large impoverished

rural areas and we are both seasoned in dealing with rural problems. We should share our experience with the world in order to improve rural life in other countries." Kalam noted.

Youth as leaders of the future

Dr. Kalam attached importance to youth as well. Before his first speech, he shared some messages that India youth wrote to him.

"The moment man landing on Mars, we will be united by "Earth" in the address of our passports... Now we have the experience, energy, and opportunity. Let's strive to make food, peace and science accessible to every young man. We can then sleep in peace."

"Youth is a power. Let's use this power for the good of all. Let's work for

more humane, cooperation, and peaceful civilization. The world has now become ONE FAMILY."

"Let's put the determination of billions into building a strong and sustainable future for humanity. Together we can."

Dr. Kalam inspiringly said "Youth around the world is a force. You are the leaders of the future. You have the energy to build a better world". I feel comfortable in the company of young people, particularly high school students. Henceforth, I intend to share with them my experience, helping them to ignite their imagination and preparing them to work for a developed India for which the road map is already available." He also treated students of PKU kindly and provided them with much advice. "The best way to improve is to ask questions. Don't be afraid of that. Ask questions and find answers. You will learn more in this way."

Brain drain is a severe problem in both China and India. But Dr.Kalam is not worried about it. "No matter which country they choose to devote themselves to, they are all contribut-



PKU student reporters with Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam after the interview

ing to our world. If they invent a new medicine abroad, China and India can also benefit from it. As long as they are endeavoring to human development, their nationality counts for nothing."

Harmony

Dr. Kalam is not only a professor and a politician, but also a believer of Confucius. When being asked about how to judge the prosperity of a country, he said "A good country should focus on every individual. People should seek humanity in themselves. When there is harmony, there is prosperity. When people seek humanity in their hearts, they will form connection with others. With this beauty in character, we can achieve harmony in the whole world." He quoted the well-known saying of Confucius several times.

"Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character.

Where there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home.

When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the Nation.

When there is order in the Nation, there is peace in the World."

He said the best evidence that people are connected in heart is Confucius and Gautama Buddha. Though these two men never met before, they have quite similar perspectives of how to realize harmony around the world. That is by the power of humanity. This is also the goal we should pursue today, when the world is filled with venality.

Talking to Dr. Kalam is like reading an encyclopedia. But the theme of this encyclopedia is not on facts, but on humanity and harmony. What makes a man great is not his achievements in science or politics but his moral sentiments.

Inside the dream of Dr. Kalam, there is a world where rural and urban areas develop coordinately, where youth is the mainstay of the society, and where there is righteousness in the heart, beauty in the character, harmony in the home, order in the Nation and peace in the World. ▾

Xu Mingjian: Ten Years to Compose Original Campus Music

Zhou Jin



[Editor's note] Another graduation season is coming. Graduation season is always filled with songs and one of the classic graduation-themed songs is Forever. "What people hear from my music is the most precious and beautiful thing I have felt on this campus." Xu Mingjian, a young teacher at the Academy of Opera, Peking University, is committed to the writing of campus music, expressing students' emotions during graduation. Graduating from Peking University himself, Mr. Xu truly understands the feelings of a graduating student. "I was very confused and entangled when I first began to work. Looking back, the most successful thing I have ever done in the past decade is I never lost myself." Stepping in the shoes of Mr. Xu's, we can experience his decade-long musical journey together.

Not every student in Peking University has heard of Xu Mingjian before, but almost everyone here has heard his songs.

During the decade between 2004 and 2014, songs written by Xu Mingjian accompanied students in Peking University going through their youth, and thus his songs have become the symbol of everyone's youth on this campus.

Many people first recognized his talent in music due to the popular song titled *Forever*, which is also the first song he composed in Peking University. However, it was not the first time that Mr. Xu displayed his flair in music. When he was just nine, he had a strong interest in music and joined the Youth and Women's Choir Attached to China National Symphony Orchestra, which was established by renowned conductor Professor Yang Hongnian.

Since then, Mr. Xu has found his love for music from the bottom of his heart, and felt the beauty of harmony in chorus and the beauty of music.

When he was in his second year of senior high school, he became the leader of the chorus in Beijing No.4 Middle School, and composed the first original song *the Flying Heart* in his life. At the end of 2004, Xu was invited by his senior high school's teacher to compose a song for the graduates. He spent his winter vacation in his dormitory and finally finished writing the song *Forever*. This marks the beginning of his musical journey.

Creation that appeals to emotions

From 2004 to 2014, Xu Mingjian wrote a lot of good original music, and some of the most well-known ones



Promotional image of Xu Mingjian's album

including *Nearly Youth*, *Wave Goodbye*, and *Goodbye times* have become the best memories for many students of Peking University.

"People have asked me why I haven't write a single love song, even though I have written so many songs" Xu Mingjian said with a smile, "It is not because I cannot write love songs. I just want to use my limited time to do things that, to me, are more meaningful." According to Xu, our times never lacks wonderful love songs, but songs which describe the life on campus are still limited, and there is still huge space for our talent to shine. Hence for young people there is nothing more touching than writing down things about their youth. The soul of any art should be defined by the life of the creators; otherwise all the things will just be filled with utilitarian skills.

A musician from China, Li Jian, once said, "My music is for those who are willing to appreciate". Xu Mingjian agreed with him, "What students hear from my music is what I cherished and thought to be the most beautiful things on this campus. Maybe different people have different understandings, but what I want to do is purely put all my experience and feelings into my music and show it to everyone else. If you have the same emotions towards

the school with me, then you can feel it from your heart."

Xu Mingjian said the favorite of his song is *Nearly Youth*. Wherever it plays, it causes resonance among different people. It has been sung by students in Peking University for many years, and been played in the middle schools where PKU students have served as volunteer teachers. Xu's friend has

heard it being played in a chess room in Guangzhou. The boss of the chess room has heard of this song on the internet and really loved it, so he downloaded it and played in his chess room. Xu said, "The song is not only about my youth, youth of all Peking University's students, and even everyone's youth. Songs like this are very powerful!"

Spreading good feelings to my listeners

In this age where shallow reading and fast-food consumption is so popular, people get fickle and are easy to become bogged in nihilism and desires. "The age is so restless that an introvert person can hardly live well, and it is easy for people to be lost," Xu Mingjian said, "I am an introvert and sometimes I really feel that life is very difficult and it is very difficult for me to adapt to this busy and noisy world. So, in such an environment, we need inner peace. The reason why I choose to be with music, on one hand is because music is the best shelter where I can escape from the noisy world tentatively. On the other hand, I wish to spread the good feelings in my heart to all my listeners."

Currently, Xu Mingjian teaches at the Academy of Opera in Peking University, while serving as a producer

for operas and conductor of a chorus. When talking about his different identities, Xu confessed that, "I felt confused and entangled when I first started work because I imagined that there would be so many things to face. Fortunately, I adjusted myself to the new environment and gave up on the things that did not belong to me. In a word, the most successful thing I have ever done in the past decade is that I never lost myself."

Xu said that he was very proud of the fact that after so many years, he remains committed to his original dream. "The meaning of life for people only depends on themselves. For me, I only want to continue on the road of music and go as far as I can. I believe that my happiness is there. There will be pain, but I will choose to only remember the happiness."

Set off for a new journey

In 2008, Xu Mingjian released his original campus music album with the title track *Nearly Youth*, to serve as a review for his music achievement.

2014 is the tenth year since his first original song came out in Peking University. Xu Mingjian has released his new campus music album *The Act of Youth* to officially mark his decade-long music journey. Some songs included in this album are already popular in the campus, and wildly acclaimed by the students. The album also contains some remixed songs and new songs, aiming at providing his listeners with a brand new experience.

"Although I have composed many songs, I have decided to only include ten songs in the album. These ten songs are not categorized by different eras, but by themes and styles." According to Mr. Xu, "I did not mean to make this as a memory for myself. Strictly speaking, I am just a transmitter transforming the emotions and thoughts of the lyricist into music and choosing the right singer to convey the emotions to the audience. I hope that these songs can trigger your memory about the good old days." 🍷

Celebrities in Peking University

Zhang Chunxiao

Lei Sheng: Always in Control of His Life

On the court, he inspires fear and awe from his opponents. In the classroom, he is a quiet and hard-working student. No matter where he is, Lei Sheng is always in control of his life, knowing exactly where to go and what to do.

When our memory about him remains at the time when he, an undergraduate at the School of Journalism and Communication at Peking University (PKU), won a gold medal in men's individual foil at the 2012 Olympic Games, Lei Sheng uses his actions to tell us that he has moved on. Now a first-year MBA student at PKU's Guanghua School of Management, he was appointed to be the flag bearer for China at the Opening Ceremony of Incheon 2014 Asian Games.

A quiet and humble student

One of the most shining points of Lei Sheng is his humility. As an Olympian in PKU, he does not think too much about his competition achievements, but chooses to be a hardworking student just like anyone else.

After delivering a speech in the 2012, he was swamped by students who crowded outside the classroom clamoring for his autograph and to take photos with him. Though he is very busy, he has never refused these requests.

Staying up late for upcoming exams, struggling to complete group projects, chatting on his bed with his roommates...Lei Sheng does the exact same things as any other PKU student would do. In the University, he does

not rest on his laurels as an Olympic gold medalist, but always thinks there is still room for him to improve.

Self-discipline both in games and in the classroom

There are few sportsmen who can balance training and studies like Lei Sheng. When he was still an undergraduate, he had to commute from China's fencing training base and PKU campus on a daily basis. Lei Sheng was clearly aware of his weak academic foundation, and therefore studied harder than everyone else around him.

Lei Sheng is passionate about learning, and enjoys sitting in classes

that he is interested in. As a fan of Professor Zhou Qiren, dean of the PKU National School of Development, he would attend Professor Zhou's class faithfully every Saturday morning. If he happened to miss any class due to training, he would ask his roommate to send him a recording of the class. On the journey between the training base and the campus, he would listen to the recording earnestly. With his commendable attitude towards learning, he soon adapted to the pace in PKU.

Now a MBA student in Guanghua School of Management and preparing for the next Olympic Games, there is little doubt that Lei will continue to excel in all his endeavors as he always does. 🍷



Hou Yifan: A Pisces Girl Likes Imagination

At the first glance, Hou Yifan is just like your university classmate. It is hard to imagine that she is the Women's World Chess Champion, the youngest ever to win the title, as well as the youngest female player ever to qualify for the title of Grandmaster. Until December 2014, she is ranked as the No. 1 girl player and the No. 2 female player in the world.

"A full-time student"

Hou sees herself as a full-time student, and insists that she is treated with no difference in PKU—she has to fulfill the same academic requirements as her classmates do. She can ask for a leave of absence for competitions, but even during her competitions she always carries her textbooks with her. Thanks to her efforts, she is able to do well academically in PKU.

Hou, a student at the PKU School of International Studies, enjoys courses relating to humanities and social sciences, as they are, in her words, "more stories-based and interesting". At the same time, she admits that she is having difficulties in courses that are more theoretical in nature.

A kind-hearted young lady

Hou has joined one of the biggest clubs in Peking University, the Loving Heart Society, to offer voluntary community service. She has picked up sign language and enjoys practicing it. In her limited spare time, she serves as an assistant coach for the PKU International Chess Team. Needless to say, there are always



many students coming to her class to catch a glimpse of her.

In her daily life, she behaves just like any other girl. She admits that she is into reading horoscopes. She sees herself as a typical Pisces that is fascinated with imagination and romance. When she needs to dress up for a big event, she will ask her roommates and friends for advice, and learn how to do make-up from them.

With her kind-hearted and amiable personality, Hou is popular among her friends and gets along well with people around her.

Despite being "celebrities", we see that both Lei and Hou show humility in all that they do. Although faced with the arduous task of balancing training and studies, they are able to manage their time well and pursue their interests in other areas. We wish them a fulfilling time in PKU, and a bright future ahead. ▽

On September 23rd, 2014, Huan Qingzhi, Professor at the School of Marxism of Peking University (PKU), was invited to deliver a public speech at Martin College, University of Oxford, which is part of an international symposium on Climate Ethics and Climate Change Policy. Professor Huan analyzed China's participation in global climate governance from an ethical perspective, primarily centering on its history and prospects.

Professor Huan argued that there are three reasons for China to take action on climate issues, namely its high emission levels, calls to do so from western developed countries and the ever-increasing environmental awareness in China.

Conceptualizing China's participation in global climate governance: its policy and ethical dimensions

Professor Huan first presented the different historical stages of China's participation in global climate governance:

From 1972 to 1992, China was commonly excused for her high emissions levels, as there was little ground for countries to blame China politically or legally for prioritizing development over environmental protection.

From 1992 to 2012, according to the Kyoto Protocol, China, as a developing country, only has a non-binding obligation to reduce industrial emissions. However, as a rapidly-rising economic power, China increasingly experienced considerable pressure from the international community to shoulder active responsibility. In a way, China was a passive participant back then, compelled by others to take up moral and political responsibilities.

After the failure of the 2012 Copenhagen climate change talks to achieve substantial progress, together with the

China's Participation in Global Climate Governance: Reflections from an Ethical Perspective

Yuan Yating



Professor Huan Qingzhi speaks at Oxford Martin School

spill-over effect of domestic opinion, it seems that China has formulated a new strategy. Instead of rejecting complying with international treaties outright, China is an active participant in constructing a post-Kyoto system, which calls for full responsibility in moral, political and legal aspects.

How to interpret the significance of the Copenhagen Summit for China

"What underlies the intense dispute between China and the West is China's unique way of understanding the global environment and development," Huan said, "For China, the issue is

not only about the world's ecological security, but also its historical development rights and long-term economic competitiveness in the world of globalization." From the history of western developed countries, we see that they also have gone through a period of intensive pollution and rapid economic growth.

"As a result, together with other developing countries, China staunchly defends her development rights. This allows for China to grow as a world economic power, but neglects its mission of leading the protection of environment for global 'good'."

Professor Huan stressed that the crux of the issue is not determining

the exact year that China will peak its emissions, but rather, whether China decides to join an international climate system. "This regard is problematic for both China and the West: the latter is eager to realize such integration but the former is reluctant to do so."

"From the perspective of environmental politics," Huan concluded, "Copenhagen has both positive and negative significance for China. China realizes that it can defend its conventional interests with a traditional approach, while it also acknowledges that a new strategy must be formulated in dealing with the new politics of climate change."

Evaluating China's current efforts moving towards a new stage of participation

"In the short run, China is unlikely to dramatically reshape its current international strategy and enthusiastically promote a stern system of global climate governance. In the long run, however, there is great potential for China to reposition herself in global climate governance." said Professor Huan.

"Domestically, Chinese government is facing ever-stronger pressure to effectively resolve its deteriorating environmental problems by strengthening the consistence of national and international policies. Internationally, China increasingly realizes that the best way to protect its own interests is to maintain the ongoing negotiation of a post-Kyoto plan as a UN-led regime rather than a West-dominated one." ▽

Chief Economist Forum Held at PKU

Yuan Yating

On September 12th, 2014, Chief Economist Forum: China's Development Outlook and Reform Agenda, sponsored by Peking University's National School of Development, was held at Peking University's Wanzhong Building. The forum provided us with enlightening opinions on the world we live in today.

Kaushik Basu

World Bank Vice President & Chief Economist

Mr. Basu classified China's economic development under different periods. He stated that future challenges for China include the transition of investment driven growth to innovation driven growth, internationalization of RMB and the issuance of government and private debts that have already constituted 250% of GDP.

Vincent Koen

Head of Division Three for Country Studies, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Mr. Koen believes that structural issues are key factors that influence China's economic growth. To promote innovation, China needs to invest more capital into basic research and increase patent quality and quantity. In addition, he recognize China's great progress in deregulation, but China still has a long way to go, especially in the financial sector.

Lin Yifu

Former World Bank Senior Vice President & Chief Economist

Professor Lin argued that the fluctuation of the Chinese economy prior to 1978 was due to prioritizing political targets ahead of economic ones, while China's 30 years of sustained rapid economic growth after 1978 resulted from a strict adherence to its competitive advantage. The slower growth rates that China is producing recently can neither be simply tied to internal structural issues, nor can it be taken as evidence of China's

economic collapse. The main reason, according to Lin, is external factors.

Frank Packer

Head of Economics and Financial Markets of Asia and the Pacific, Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Mr. Packer discussed the concept of a financial cycle, which can last for 15-20 years. Evidently China is in the upper boom stage of the financial cycle, but there are signs that this stage will soon end. The BIS summarized some early-warning indicators for a Chinese banking crisis that demonstrate China's relatively precarious position.

Markus Rodlauer

Deputy Director of the Asia and Pacific Department for IMF

According to Mr. Rodlauer, China's economic growth relies heavily upon economic policy. Reforms and rebalancing of the economy and reform may result in a negative impact on growth. China needs to move away from linking GDP growth with government promotions, to a new model that can realize higher quality growth.

Peter Petri

Professor of International Finance at Brandeis University

Mr. Petri made several points about the progress of China's negotiations on international trade agreements. While the process has not been without challenges, the negotiations have yielded positive results. He also noted that there are many political factors that can impede international trade agreement negotiations, for example, protestation by trade unions and NGOs.

Peng Wenshen

Chief Economist at China International Capital Corporation

Peng Wenshen noted that China's



low inflation indicates that demand factors contribute more to its relatively slow economic growth. In the long term, threats to demand include aging population and income inequality. Currently there is an over-reliance on government investments to stimulate demand, which may increase the income gap and exert a negative impact on economic growth.

Huang Yiping

Vice Dean at the National School of Development, Peking University

Professor Huang held the view that China's financial restraints are unsustainably high, compared to both middle-income and high-income economies. Financial liberalization will stimulate economic growth but may also lead to capital outflows, increasing financial risk. ▾

President of Xinhua News Agency Speaks at PKU on Media Integration

Xu Rui

On the morning of September 23rd, 2014, President of Xinhua News Agency Li Congjun delivered a speech at PKU on the promotion of integration between old and new forms of media. Yu Hongjun, deputy Party secretary of Peking University, chaired the event.

Xinhua News Agency is the official press agency of the People's Republic of China. Xinhua is a ministry-level department subordinated to the State Council. Its president is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Li, who is Xinhua's president and party secretary, is a member of the 18th Central Committee.

Li Congjun spoke about the development of the new media and its impact on traditional media. As the world enters the information age, media has undergone tremendous changes in a variety of areas, including its target audience, and the direction, means and approaches of its communication. Consequently, new media poses a challenge to traditional media not only in quantity, but also in quality. In the face of such a crisis, he believes that it is essential for traditional mainstream media to be fully aware of the existing challenges, stay alert, and constantly innovate.

Li Congjun noted that it is essential for traditional and new media to integrate and grow together, and traditional media has three ways of realizing its strategic transformation, namely "importing", "grafting" and "conversion". Taking Xinhua's own transformation as an example, Li shared that since 2008 Xinhua has gradually transformed itself in three different aspects: from traditional news production to modern multimedia

The relationship between traditional media and new media is not a zero-sum game. Through competition and integration, both are likely to grow in a positive direction and lead to the vigorous development of the entire media industry.

news production, from a media-oriented focus to an audience-oriented focus, and from domestic-centric development to increased international participation.

Li illustrated that Xinhua has strived to take full advantage of new media technology by using a variety of multimedia tools to allow its readers to grasp the event easier. Meanwhile, people can now conveniently read and share information from Xinhua on their phones, tablet PCs or computers. Besides, Xinhua provides readers with additional material in the form of data analysis, visual information, historical flashbacks, webpage games and questionnaires. Xinhua's transformation has proved popular among the public, and is essential for its future development as well.



Li Congjun concluded his speech by offering his predictions on the development of media in the future. He believes that although traditional media is facing serious challenges and enormous pressure, it is possible to overcome these problems. China's state media, for instance, will no doubt continue to play a leading role in shaping and revealing public opinions, but it also needs to acknowledge the trend of media convergence and to promote the process of integrative development.

The relationship between traditional media and new media is not a zero-sum game. Through competition and integration, both are likely to grow in a positive direction and lead to the vigorous development of the entire media industry. ▽

APEC Workshop to Promote Innovative Collaborations in Mental Health

Zhang Wuyan

The APEC Workshop to Promote Innovative Collaborations in Mental Health cosponsored by Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) of APEC and Peking University (PKU) was held at Yingjie Exchange Center of Peking University from August 20th to 21st, 2014.

Representatives from 17 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) mem-

bers, as well as experts from the World Health Organization and China's National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), met to discuss the prevalence of mental diseases amongst the populations of the APEC economies, and to exchange research findings and information. It was hoped that communication among the government officials and scholars across nations would lead to constructive solutions improving the health and overall well being of the peoples of the APEC member nations.

At the workshop, Peking University's Vice President Li Yansong commended this innovative form of cooperation, and announced the plan to establish the APEC-PKU Health Science Academy. The APEC-

PKU Health Science Academy is expected to pioneer a new phase of cooperation between international organizations and the academic circle. It is hoped that this would lead to more innovative health policies in the near future.

Vice President Li highlighted PKU's participation in the cooperation of institutions of higher learning as well as international organizations. He emphasized that PKU has a duty to utilize its comprehensive resources across multiple disciplines to contribute to international development.

Through its alignment of international, interregional and interdisciplinary efforts on the improvement of mental health, the workshop was a milestone in APEC's pursuit of coordinating economic development and well being of population of its member nations. 



PKU Launches Overseas Intern Program with Japan's Sumitomo Chemical Company

Dong Xinran

The representatives of Japan's Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd and Peking University (PKU)'s College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE) met at PKU on September 4th, 2014 to discuss the establishment of a joint internship program.

An agreement was reached to send CESE students to Japan for an internship program that would be specially

designed for CESE students and carried out in cities such as Ehime, Chiba, Osaka, and Oita.

Academic research projects such as the "Hazard Assessment of Chemical Substances" and "Environmental Impact, Human Health Impact and Exposure Assessment" were agreed upon. All expenses incurred during the program will be covered by Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd, on top

of the monthly internship salary of 150,000 Japanese Yen.

This internship program is part of a series of measures taken by the CESE to cultivate interdisciplinary talents in the field of environmental studies that are equipped with a global perspective and leadership capabilities. Earlier in July this year, 10 CESE students participated in the Beijing-Copenhagen Urban Challenge Program in Denmark,



co-organized by Copenhagen Business School, Technical University of Denmark, and the CESE. The participants conducted in-depth studies on the various development plans adopted by different European cities, in particular that of Copenhagen to build a “Zero-Carbon City” by 2025.

In a world plagued with increasingly serious environmental problems, such programs are especially important in contributing to the cultivation of experts in environmental studies who are familiar not just with research but also with the business world. The new internship program with Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd is expected to increase international cooperation, with the hopes of benefiting not just students and academics but also the entire human society. ▾

PKU Delegation Visits Thailand’s Chulalongkorn University

Zhong Xue

A delegation, led by Zhu Shanlu Chairman of the PKU Council, visited Chulalongkorn University from September 24th to 28th, 2014.

The delegation met with Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Chulalongkorn University President Pirom Kamolratanakul as well as Thai entrepreneurs to discuss greater cooperation between PKU and Chulalongkorn University in the fields of nanotechnology and Chinese language education.

HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who had contributed greatly to the development of the Confucius Institute in Thailand, emphasized the importance of the Chinese language to Thai science students. The two sides reached a preliminary agreement to support science talents from Chulalongkorn University to further their studies at PKU, with a heavy focus on developing their profi-

ciency in the Chinese language.

In addition, a proposal to establish an international nanotechnology center under the name of HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was raised. It was proposed that the center would run double degree programs for PhD candidates.

The delegation members also attended the 10th anniversary gala event of the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University which was established jointly by Chulalongkorn University and PKU back in 2007 and was named as an “Outstanding Confucius Institute” for its contributions towards the promotion of Chinese culture and language in Thailand.

In his opening

speech, Zhu commended Chulalongkorn University and said that increased collaboration between the two universities was to be expected in the future. Zhu also expressed appreciation towards the Thai entrepreneurs whose long-term support for PKU has contributed to the university’s higher quality of education. ▾



PKU-Harvard Ecological Urbanism Collaboration

Xin Yuan

The signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding for PKU-Harvard Ecological Urbanism Collaboration was held on September 26th, 2014.

This was the first time the two universities collaborated in the form of a joint laboratory, which also marked Harvard University's first joint laboratory established overseas. The Ecological Urbanism Collaboration is founded on the basis of sustained collaboration between the two universities over the years.

As one of China's key universities, PKU has the responsibility of developing the field of ecological urbanism so as to help the Chinese society achieve a higher level of sustainable development. It is believed that the PKU-Harvard Ecological Urbanism Collaboration will con-

tribute greatly to interdisciplinary research as well as enhance the collaboration between PKU and Harvard in other areas.

The joint laboratory will be set up on PKU's campus, and will be a center for international research on ecological urbanism. Under the Collaboration, experts in the field of ecological urbanism will conduct research under the supervision of an academic guidance committee chaired by PKU Vice President Chen Shiyi.

Peking University was represented by Professor Yu Kongjian, Dean of PKU's School of Architecture and Landscape Designing at the signing ceremony, while the Harvard representative was Professor Mohsen Mostafav, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. ▽



PKU Young Volunteers Association is one of the most organized and influential volunteer associations on campus. The association is responsible for recruiting PKU students to take part in all kinds of volunteer activities. One of the most important services that the PKU Young Volunteers Association provides is for the China Open.

China Open is an annual professional tennis tournament held in Beijing. First launched in 2004, China Open now can host the tournaments of the three international tennis organizations (ATP, WTA and ITF), and it ranks as the most important tennis tournament which only second to the Grand Slam Tennis. It is held every October, and attracts top tennis players from all over the world.

Since its inauguration, volunteers have played very essential roles in the China Open. With the rising standards and scale of China Open,



PKU Student Volunteers at China Open

Zhang Kexin

the volunteer team has expanded to 1600 people, serving eight executive departments of the tournament and taking on ninety-four different jobs. Over ninety percent of the volunteers come from universities in Beijing. These young people work in every corner of the National Tennis Center during the tournament, generously offering their help to players, coaches, spectators, broadcasters, and all the other staff.

Ever since China Open chose Peking University to be a partner in 2010, the PKU Young Volunteers Association has taken charge in organizing students to work as volunteers in the China Open. This year, there were over fifty PKU students serving for the event.

"I have been a volunteer at China Open for the past two years," said Zhang Xiao, a senior at the PKU School of Journalism and Communication. "It was really interesting and meaningful experience for me." Zhang had volunteered at the

Broadcasting Department and had also worked as a Venue Assistant. His job was to help the cameramen manage the cables and to put on microphones for the coaches. Because of his duties, Zhang Xiao was able to be on the court during the matches, and could view the games from a very close distance. "Many people think I'm so lucky to get in such close contact with all of the best players in the world, but my job is also very challenging. I have to focus on for hours to make sure the cables stay where they should be to avoid tripping the players." Zhang noted.

"Sitting on the court for hours without moving was very hard. We couldn't make any big movement that could distract the players. In the night it was so cold," said Zhang Xiao. "What's more, many coaches refused to wear their microphones. In this case, we need to think of a good way to persuade the coach. It could be hard but I had to obey the

rules and complete my mission." The work that we do behind the cameras makes it possible for millions of people from all over the world to watch the matches through television or the Internet."

Volunteering at the China Open is a valuable opportunity for many PKU students. For tennis lovers like Zhang, the most amazing thing is to get physically close to top players. "My favorite tennis player is Novak Djokovic, who is NO.1 in the ATP ranking. There were other great players that attended the tournament like Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Serena Williams and Maria Sarapova. They are all the best in the sport. Watching them training and playing was really the most thrilling thing for me." Zhang Xiao was also present at Li Na's retirement press conference this year. "Many people have followed news of Li Na's retirement. She's really very impressive for achieving so much and popularizing tennis in China," Zhang said.

This year, five volunteers in the broadcasting department are from Peking University, and they worked with volunteers from other universities and staff from the China Open. Zhang was appointed leader of the Venue Assistants group. He said, "I was the most experienced since it was my second time serving at the China Open, but I would never have completed my work successfully without my team members. It was my responsibility to allocate and manage their work, but they inspired me a lot as well. All of us have become very good friends after the tournament. It felt good working in a team."

Xiong Wei, a freshman and a member of the PKU Young Volunteers Association, had an important job that is the "volunteer of all

the PKU volunteers". "For my job, I need to take care of everything related to PKU volunteers, from clothes distribution to liaison between volunteers and tournament organizers," Xiong shared.

Xiong Wei's work was especially challenging. "Arranging buses for volunteers was really exhausting. The organizing committee offered buses for volunteers but I had to make sure that every volunteer wouldn't miss the bus." The challenge was amplified because different departments had different working times. As a result, she had to wait till the last volunteer ended his or her work. "Sometimes the match could last for hours into the night, which means I had to stay there too. I had already been used to getting back to school at midnight," Xiong said. "I knew my job would not be easy but I never thought of giving up. I was the one that volunteers could turn to when they encounter problems. So I had to be reliable and did my best to make sure that their interests were protected. We are not just volunteers at the China Open, because when all of us come together, we represent PKU."

Xiong's hard work paid off, guaranteeing the outstanding performance of the PKU volunteers. She expressed that as volunteers, everyone had to sacrifice something, be it their rest time or having to take leave from their classes. However, they knew clearly that it was their responsibility to ensure that the whole tournament was in good order.

"None of us can deny that we enjoyed ourselves a lot when we witnessed the results of our efforts." "Our work was hard at the beginning," Xiong conceded, "However, on the last day of the two-week tournament, we didn't want it to end. I think many students will choose to be a volunteer again next year." For the PKU students who volunteered at China Open this year, their biggest take-away was probably the friendship that they had forged during the event. 🍷

Breathing Life on Stage

- The PKU Drama Association

Zhou Huiying



Drama and theater in China have experienced significant development since the Chinese cultural market opened up in the 1980s. In Peking University, enthusiastic drama lovers actively engaged in creating their own dramas. In 1980, Ying Da, who is now a renowned actor and director, established the Drama Association in PKU. At that time, people had not been exposed fully to theater yet. As the founder of the Drama Association, Ying Da worked hard to gather students who have the common interest and eventually succeeded in popularizing the association on campus.

Upon graduation, Ying Da continued to follow his interest in dramaturgy and eventually made his mark in sitcom productions in China. Now, Ying is regarded as a role model for aspiring drama lovers who wish to follow his path. As a leading figure

who has devoted himself to the arts for decades, Ying continues to be an inspiration to the PKU Drama Association, which is still running strong today.

During the thirty-four years PKU Drama Association has gone through, its members have always been exploring, pondering on and creating drama, meeting frequently to rehearse for their plays. From the fall of 2010 to the spring of 2014, they have put up several excellent dramas such as *Anna in the Tropics*, *Cosmic Stallion*, *Cleansing* and *Henry IV*.

In the spring of 2014, the Association was even invited to Greece to participate in an international drama festival, where they performed *Oedipus Rex*. By incorporating their own understanding and reflections into their rendition of the story, they managed to interpret the classic Athenian tragedy from a new perspective. After



winning the widespread praise of the audience, the Association staged *Oedipus Rex* at the Beijing Fringe Festival this fall, and was once again greeted with acclaim.

Over the last few years, PKU Drama Association has held theatre workshops and seminars featuring various professional theatre artists such as Shu Yi and Luo Jinlin. The Association also organizes members to watch a variety of plays, after which it encourages its members to pen reviews with some already having their own columns in magazines related to the performing arts industry.

Today the PKU Drama Association continues to attract talented and promising young people to pass on the tradition of theatre culture. There are no prerequisites, and they welcome anyone who is passionate about drama and enjoys drama to be part of their life.

An engaging script is at the heart of all good dramas. The association gathers their inspiration from many sources. After the script is written, they will invite actors to voice their opinions before finalizing the structure of the play. Every show from the association begins with this process.

The performance of *Fool's rebirth* in 2011 was widely regarded as one of the drama association's best performances in recent years. Its success could be largely attributed to its director Xu Shangxian. Xu, a student from South Korea, was president of the PKU drama association from 2009 to 2010. He sought to develop the actors' potential and unleash the energy of their emotions by introducing collective creation and improvisation training into the association.

Apart from the director, any drama production can hardly be successful without the stage producers and backstage crew. While a director's work is heading the direction of the performance, the stage producers are in charge of stage choreography, production, continuity and other matters. The close cooperation between the stage director and producers is one of the keys to a successful performance.

And finally, the stage is where a play ultimately culminates. When the curtain goes up and lights come down, actors take over from the hands of the screenwriter, director and the stage producer, and bring the play to life.

Despite the different roles that the students play in the formulation of a play, they have one common goal in mind – to put up a good show. Members of the association have laughed, cheered and cried together, and in the process created enduring drama pieces that are popular with teachers and students at PKU.

Generations have come and passed since the inception of association decades ago. Many things have changed, but one thing is certain – members of the PKU Drama Association never cease to question, contemplate, and challenge conventions and their own limits. Through their constant attempts to improve and innovate in their rehearsals, they succeed in bringing different facets of life on stage. When they finally bid farewell to the association upon graduation, they do so with a light heart, knowing that they have forged memories of a lifetime through their contributions to drama at PKU. 🍷



Learn to Read Life

– An Introduction to the English Novel Module

Wang Ju

During the first lesson of *English Novel*, the professor asks his students: “What is life? What do we live for? What do we do to become complete?” Yes! A fascinating adventure in English novels has just begun!

The module – *English Novel* is offered by the English Department for junior students and is taught by Professor Donald Stone, a senior American professor at Peking University. The lecture mainly focuses on English novels of the Victorian era, including Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, William Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, and Charles Dickens’ *Little Dorrit*. At the beginning of the semester, Professor Stone tells his students upfront that this course is not about novel theory, but about people’s stories. He hopes that upon completion of the module, students can gain a better understanding of the world that they live in.

Professor Donald Stone, affectionately called by his students as “Grandpa Stone” in Chinese, received his education from UC Berkeley and Harvard University, and taught at Harvard, Queens College and City University of New York for 16 years. At the invitation of a Chinese visiting scholar at Harvard University, he delivered his first lesson in China in 1982. Since 1997, he has been visiting China almost every year and giving lectures at various Chinese institutions. In 2006, the professor retired in the United States and was invited to join the English Department at Peking University (PKU) as a senior professor. He once joked in class that he was nominated as senior professor because he was the oldest in the De-

“As we learn to read novels, we learn to read life. The novels of Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, George Eliot (among others) show us the importance of empathy, of trying to understand one another and the world we live in, of learning to comprehend what Eliot (in Middlemarch) calls ‘that roar which lies on the other side of silence.’”

-- Prof. Donald Stone



partment.

Other than his contributions in teaching, Professor Donald Stone has donated many art pieces from his own collection to the Sackler Museum at PKU, including pieces from masters such as Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall. He once shared, “I eat in the student canteen, I do not buy new clothes, I take the subway instead of the taxi, all because I want to save any bit of money I can to buy more art pieces for the museum and the students here”.

Peering into life through novels

Why do we read novels?

A novel deals with ordinary people

that we laugh and cry together with, and in them we recognize ourselves. Through a novel we see life as it is. A novel is not only for entertainment, and does not merely involve happy and positive things – sometimes, it reveals the dreadful side of reality. Professor Stone commented that novels do not “make us better people, but wiser people”.

When we read about the lives of others, we feel sympathy for them and resonate with them. We realize that we are not the only ones suffering; there are other people that have made through worse situation. The kindness, optimism, persistence, and bravery described in novels inspire and empower us. We find strength and support



in novels, because we know there are many people by our side as we march towards the future. We are not alone! Just as Horace Walpole, an English art historian in the 18th century, said, "This world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel". A novel endows us with the ability to both think and feel. Novels "make us aware of different people", Stone commented, "and help us imagine ourselves from others' positions".

"A novel transforms people", Stone says, "When you finish a good book, you are different from who you were before." He continues to illustrate a very interesting perspective, "When we look at a great piece of art, we think we are looking at it, but

actually they are looking at us." It is perhaps true that a novel witnesses its readers' spiritual growth and internal development.

Stone says, "If we learn to read a book, we learn to read life. And if people learn to read life, the world is not that dangerous to live in. Evil is the absence of imagination – imagination of others' suffering". When you read about the lives of others, you realize that the world is so much bigger. You learn to understand others, to put yourself in the position of others, and to be thoughtful and considerate.

"Grandpa Stone"

"He is very dedicated and modest, he loves his work so much, and although he has achieved a high attainment in literature, he is simple, approachable and touching." said Chen Haoran. "You do not get bored in his class", Zhang Xinyu says, "His ideas are original and very interesting. You just follow him and time flies". Professor Stone arrives nearly half an hour earlier for every class, enjoying informal interaction with students.

"Professor Stone opens up the literature and art world", commented Guo Yinghan. "His constant quotations of other literature works showed me how big and rich the literature world is. It is through the connection between works that you have a better understanding", remarked Jin Di. From poetry to art, from Homer to Shakespeare, from Dickens to Yu Hua, from the Greek mythology *Oedipus* to contemporary TV shows like *House of Cards*, Professor Stone takes us through history in his class. Even though his class is about English novels, there are no boundaries in Stone's literature world. As long as it reveals the truth of life and touches its readers, it is a great work.

"His encouragement and consideration for his students make me want to be even more hard-working", said Zhu Yihong. Stone treasures students' original reflections and is never stingy

with his encouragement. "Interesting", "extraordinary", "excellent" are words that he often used when he comments on students' work.

Chen Beier says, "In contrast to other classes, you feel relaxed in Stone's class. You do not have to constantly scribble notes, because what Professor Stone teaches us is not theoretical knowledge that you have to memorize for examinations, but the knowledge about life". That's true. Instead of technical or specialized knowledge or skills, students learn to understand others, to care about others, and to get along with the world they live in. It is through such classes that universities do not become merely a place where workers are trained, but also a place where humans get in touch with their inner soul. 🍷





Leading the Zen's Way of Life

- PKU Zen Association

Chen Xiaojian

Experiencing the Zen's way of life

From 10 to 23 July, 2014, PKU Zen, a student association in Peking University (PKU) that focuses on Zen, attended the 2014 International Seminar on Life and Ch'an in Kaohsiung, Taipei, along with their counterparts from universities all over the world.

From 3 to 8 August, 2014, PKU Zen members were involved in a meditation camp at Qinghai together with students from other universities such as Renmin University, Fudan University and Wuhan University. Having assisted in the running of the meditation camp with Beihai Chan Monastery for the past seven years, it has become a routine for PKU Zen members to spend their summer holidays beside the beautiful Qinghai Lake discussing Zen.

Multi-disciplinary exploration of Zen

Zen is a school of Mahayana Buddhism that developed in China during the 6th century and has spread to Japan, Korea and other countries. Zen emphasizes insight into Buddha-nature and the personal expression of this insight in daily life, especially for the benefits of others. Zen aims to help people resolve confusion and lead to a more relaxed life. The study of Zen

is akin to studying traditional culture, with a combination of both theoretical thought and practical application. As the time spent on studying Zen increases, one will not only encounter less confusion but also develop a more peaceful mind. The most common method of studying Zen is to be exposed to it systematically through seminars before developing your own insights as time goes by.

Founded in 1991, PKU Zen was the first organization in the university to study Zen. PKU Zen provides a platform for students to learn about Zen, and helps students deal with the

perplexity of their daily lives through practicing the principles of Zen. PKU Zen dedicates itself to exploring and explaining Zen from the perspective of philosophy, history, sociology, art, religion, natural science and other disciplines.

Organizational structure

Having recruited almost 300 freshmen this semester, PKU Zen is becoming an increasingly large organization. It consists of several teams. The Operation team handles specific tasks such



MOOC

I got to know about the MOOC in Prof. Gu's class from the DV lens which follow her in every lecture. When her lecture is over, she will thank us, as well as her MOOC audience. She always encourages us to register a MOOC account.

After registering my MOOC account, I was able to find all the videos recorded about Prof. Gu's class, and this has become a staple way for me to review whatever I have learnt in class. One of the cleverest designs of MOOC is the pop quizzes in between the videos, which require you to select the correct answer before allowing you to proceed to the next video session. The accomplishment of tackling every task and getting full score really encouraged me to make an additional effort in learning.

Nevertheless, the aim of the MOOC goes further than providing single-way absorption of knowledge. The most valuable part lies in its online forum, where everyone, who is enrolled in this course from various psychical and academic backgrounds, can get together to discuss relevant issues. By interacting with all these amazing classmates, it has helped me know more beyond a single subject.

Although I seldom voice my own opinions in the forum, I have gained a lot by reflecting upon the opinions of my classmates. And of course, where there are communications, there will be contradictions. I remember on one occasion students have fevered debate about transgenic food in the forum. From my perspective, we should encourage such

arguments and embrace the freedom of academic speech, as long as we respect each other and the rules of the forum. Some theories don't have a defined conclusion yet, and even those do have one, the process of free debate helps bring in new angles and new ways of thinking.

Prof. Gu's MOOC on Biological Evolution has opened a new window of the miraculous world of MOOC to me. After this session, I hope to continue to study on this online stage, "evolving" into a better self. I also welcome you to join Prof. Gu's MOOC course, and here is the warning: you will be massively fascinated!

Interview with Ms Ban Li

OIR: PKU's MOOC still has its flaws in its diversity of audience when compared with MOOCs in western countries, such as Introduction to the Communication Science by the University of Amsterdam. As far as you know, what can we do to improve this situation?

Ban Li: On the one hand, we can arouse the interest of various students in PKU, and on the other hand, proper advertisements aiming at learners of different backgrounds is a good choice.

OIR: Is language another barrier? Many universities in non-English-speaking countries have MOOCs taught in English as well.

Ban Li: It is indeed a barrier. Chinese has yet to win its worldwide appeal as a second language. We can try to arrange English subtitles or English lectures with our professors when it's necessary and possible. ▽



I slept during the whole return trip on the plane. Sleep seems like an escape, but I found myself in Beijing suffering from hot temperature in summer with the coat for autumn tightly wrapping my body. Three weeks is not very long time, but the jet lag and temperature difference have affected my memory. The summer spent in Britain is just like a sweet dream. When the journey ended, I found it difficult to tell whether I was awake from the dream, or just back to the dream.

I have thought for a long time on how to pen down this journey. A simple timeline seems to suffice, but it is not easy to split the essay into two parts, in York and Edinburgh, as they are inseparable from each other. This



The Experience of Beauty

– Travel Notes in York and Edinburgh

Written by Wang JingSi Translated by Zhou Jin

program of “Western Art History” lasted for nearly a month, combining two summer sessions of York University and Edinburgh University. During the program, we enjoyed short trips to lakes and plateaus, London and Liverpool. Although the dates and the places staggered, the theme throughout the journey remained the same.

Immersing in the baptism of arts all day long, accompanied by mentors and friends, I felt that this twenty days of journey is a complete experience of beauty. From the primitive simplicity and quietness of York, to the bustling night view of London during the weekends, or the jubilant festival atmosphere of Edinburgh, I found myself yearning for more, con-

tinuously lingering in the memories.

I would rather describe the journey as going to various museums and galleries, instead of being just in a summer school. In just three weeks, we visited all the exhibitions we could with our professional tutors, watched dramas and listened to concerts. Though the schedule was packed, it was a feast for my ears and my eyes, as well as for my heart.

The two weeks in York was quiet, yet fulfilling. The lectures were given in the morning, and it was followed by afternoon tea. The three featured lectures were all delivered by professors from York University and developed around the theme of Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, the architectures in the oil paintings of the Renaissance

period in Italy, and the history of York.

The classes mainly focused on discussion and writing. The writing part was called Ekphrasis, which is originally used for visual descriptions in the text and speeches. However, its meaning here is expressing our own thoughts and opinions about specific artistic work. The professor always shows us a piece of unknown or unacquainted painting, and wants us describe it or write down the story behind it according to our imagination. It does not mean that you have to know a lot about this work, because what really matters is imagination itself and how to express our imagination freely. I used to be shy to express myself because I was afraid of



making mistakes, but courses like this one have allowed me to understand that there is no right or wrong answer in arts. The true value and meaning of arts is whether you are touched by it and is willing to stay for it.

Other than the classes and lectures, there were many fieldtrips when we could visit churches and galleries to learn. The most valuable thing I have gotten during this trip was the chance to visit the exhibitions with their organizers, and listen to them explaining the paintings. I have ever been asked about what it means to visit an exhibition. I do not think that it is a proper question anyway. I am still unable to give a satisfactory answer, for it is really difficult to describe the emotions running through my mind when I immersed myself in these works of art, much like the difficulties in explaining what we like about certain music.

What I remembered the most is the exhibition in the National Gallery entitled "The Architectures in the Oil Paintings during the Renaissance in Italy". The organizer of this exhibition met with us and gave a lecture

about the topic in York. On that very weekend, we travelled to London to visit the exhibition with the organizer. The original paintings, unlike the images which were shown to us during the presentation, provided us with a lot of inspiration—we were free to say what we think of, and did not need to worry about our ignorance. The experience was different from staring at pictures on an electronic screen, as our emotions are fully stimulated when viewing the painting right in front of us. The paintings do have the power to make us stop and think.

Apart from that, we were given free time to go through every street and do some shopping, or to enjoy the coffee dessert of Betty's following the direction of "York's sweet story". While learning more about the history of arts, I grew in love with this quiet and unique town.

Compared with the thoughtful and meticulous York, Edinburgh is the embodiment of freedom – much like the Scottish personality as they interact with their northern natural purity. The city held an art festival in August and thousands of people came here to see the live show. We listened to Schoenberg's work in the concert even though we were not very familiar with his work, and saluted while watching performance by the military band in the wind on top of the mountain. The leaflets and posters on the streets made us feel that art is just next to every one of us. At this moment, the beauty of art is unbounded, and everyone can enjoy it fully.

My notebook is filled with the tickets of exhibitions and performances. Randomly picking one out, it was the ticket for the International Art Festival. The logo of the crossed black and white hand in the

middle, reminded me of a cloudy afternoon in Edinburgh. That afternoon I entered an unknown church and there was a performance by two old men on the piano. The sound of the wind was loud outside the church, but I was mesmerized by the piano. The arch ceiling of the church amplified the sound, while sunshine leaked in through the window occasionally. This picture lined with bright and gentle melody in my heart.

I was reminded of an article written by Zhou Yunpeng which was titled *Why are there so many churches in such a small city*. One sentence impressed me — "You need not believe in God, but you cannot reject beauty." This is the power of art.

I often find that it is art that makes people friendly, no matter is it York or Edinburgh, and it has provided me with the feeling of goodwill from the strangers everywhere – the hands which open the doors for you when you enter a store, the maps marked out by people who asking for directions, the greeting of "good morning" by the bus drivers, the frequent words of "thank you" that filled our ears and so on. I fondly remember the stranger who has led us to the main road when we got lost, thereby missing his bus after the performance. I also recall the lead singer in the A-Capella performance we met at the Edinburgh Art Festival. When we encountered her in a shop after the performance, I approached her to express my love for her performance, and she took out a autographed CD of her band and gave it to me. Music transcends language, conveying message of love, and the same goes for art.

I believe in the words of Marcel Duehamp that living is art and every breath is a piece of work. They are invisible without imagination. Life is a long and ordinary journey, but also one filled with beautiful things and moments within every breath. We can sense it if we immerse ourselves in the moment. 🍷

Experiencing Borderless Freedom in “Stiff” Germany

Written by Wu Daiwei Translated by Pan Guanwei

During the final lecture, Professor Bauer asked us to share some stereotypes toward Germany from the perspective of a Chinese, and I half-jokingly responded with “extremely strict”. Indeed, one of the most common responses I had received from those who heard me going to the summer school there was “Germans always conform strictly to regulations, right?”, and some even used the word “stiff” to describe the social norm and the character of the Germans as a whole. Nevertheless, when living in the society where everything is clear and in good order, I finally realized that all of the seemingly stiffness was actually the outer shell protecting its internal freedom and vitality.

On the very first lecture, Professor Bauer asked each of us to do a self-introduction, and come up with a topic that we are interested in or a specific field that we are adept at. At first I thought Professor Bauer wanted to get a general grasp of our fields of interest, but much to my surprise, all of the topics that were brought up were touched upon in the subsequent lectures.

It is proper to say that the entire syllabus of the summer school was tailored to our interests, instead of being restricted to the teaching plan. The planned topic of the course was “Studies into EU”, but neither the lectures nor the viewpoints we brought up were confined to the frame. Instead, European-American Relations, Russo-European Relations, Ukrainian Crisis, Sino-European Cooperation and even the Chinese political system, and anti-terrorism were discussed in detail. We were free to voice our opinions, and even cast doubt towards the design of EU political system or the underlying ambitions of Germany and France.



Throughout the learning process, those from the School of International Relations would give us detailed introduction to the background, students from Guanghua School of Management would compare Chinese solutions with European ones when we talked about unified market and European Crisis, while peers majoring in history would analyze the causes and effects of particular phenomena.

Originally, I had merely a rough comprehension of the European Union. But as the courses progressed, I gradually gained in-depth understanding of EU, including its economic background, political framework design, forms of culture and even the core spirit of EU, and was able to make comparisons with the current situation of Chinese society accordingly. I found myself enjoying



tremendously because of the atmosphere of academic freedom.

Actually, it took no more than a second for the term “European Union” to transform from an unattainable terminology into a down-to-earth existence. On our first weekend, Universität München organized a field trip to Salzburg for us. As we traveled on the highway, I originally expected seeing the border line between Germany and Austria and border security checkpoints. But the fact is that I knew I had crossed the border through a reminder sent from the teacher accompanied us, asking us to respect and abide by local customs and regulations.

The unimpeded journey and the variety of license plates in sight signified free flow of vehicles and personnel throughout EU, which granted us unprecedented experience of freedom. When the benefit of giving up some of the member countries’ sovereignty was displayed in our presence, we could not help but admire the aspiration that Europeans hold for freedom and well-being. After traumatic wars, geographical and political boundaries were abandoned, and the concept of “supranational” turned into reality. Instead of imposing bur-

den on residents, EU offered each inhabitant in the region the pleasure of unconstraint. In Germany, there is no ticket-check system in public transportation, and I myself did not encounter so-called random inspection. Everyone bought ticket conscientiously and took public transportation toward respective destinations freely on the basis of trust. Everything seemed so simple and natural.

On my way to a German town called Metzingen, I bumped into a German who was an enthusiast of Chinese culture and also an expert in water project. He applied to aid in the construction of Xiaolangdi Dam more than 10 years ago to have a genuine taste of Chinese culture. He mentioned the scene when he first arrived at the construction site at Xiaolangdi, describing the hot and sour soup he tasted and reflecting upon the friendship between him and the foreman Zhao at that time. When he had another taste of hot and sour soup in a Chinese restaurant in 1999, he took a plane to Xiaolangdi without hesitation, only to have a second look. He said with pride, “When I arrived at the construction site alone in the evening, they were having dinner. They couldn’t be more astonished to

meet the blonde German again!” Asking about the current situation of the Yellow River, he remarked sincerely, “It’s not too late yet. You have always requested too much from the Mother Nature. I would like to go back to Xiaolangdi again.” Everyone is free to choose his own lifestyle and pace. This is the very freedom of life.

When it comes to the shock I had encountered other than freedom, it would undoubtedly be their attitude toward history and nature. On the spires of churches in Munich, Berlin, Salzburg and Prague, I witnessed the trace of history imprinted on the historical sites; along the remains of Berlin Wall, I saw the portraits of East German youngsters who had sacrificed themselves for freedom; in the museum of Munich, authentic regret and reflection on Nazism could be seen. History is always there, no matter you admit it or not. Even if sensible objects perish, thoughts will live forever.

Returning to Beijing on August 31st, the pollution haze made us immediately miss the azure sky and water in Munich ten hours ago. Being one of the most famous industrialized regions, the reform of the Ruhr region is a perfect example for environmental-friendly industrial upgrading. What is more admirable is the emphasis the entire nation has laid on environmental protection.

I vividly recall the solar panels and windmills along the highway to Berlin, and the clumsiness I met when I first used a bottle recycler. From lush mountains in Central Europe to the boundless azure sky in Northern Europe; from the glittering River Voltava to the crystal Baltic Sea, we have so much to learn from European countries in terms of environmental protection.

The summer school not only left me picturesque photos, but also a genuine longing towards the vast world and deeper understanding of my own surroundings. This summer, in Germany, Austria, Denmark and Czech, I had a genuine taste of freedom, both mentally and physically. 🍷

Donation from Sinar Mas Group in Support of Boya Professor Program

Liu Susu

On June 25th, 2014, a donation agreement signing ceremony was held at Linhexuan, where Huang Zhiyuan, Chairman and CEO of Sinar Mas Group, announced that Sinar Mas Group would donate 500 million yuan to the PKU Boya Professor Program in support of its projects over the next 10 years. Chairman of the PKU Council Zhu Shanlu and PKU President Wang Enge attended the ceremony.

As an outstanding alumnus of PKU, Mr. Huang Zhiyuan shared his personal story at the ceremony and remarked that one of the most important lessons that he learnt at PKU was always be brave to strive to be the best. He hoped that his donation will help PKU to attract more top talents from around the world, and their relationship will enable Sinar Mas Group and PKU to join hands for greater achievements on the road towards the realization of Chinese dream. ▶



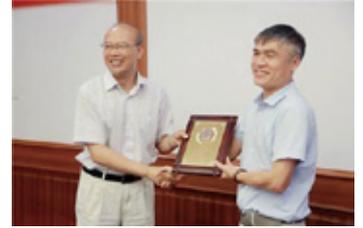
Donation from China Western Holdings Co., Ltd in Support of College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture of PKU

Liu Susu

On August 11th, 2014, a ceremony was held at Linhexuan to mark China Western Holdings Co., Ltd's donation of 200 million yuan to the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA). PKU President Wang Enge, President of the Board of China Western Development Holdings Co., Ltd Chen Yuandong, Chairman of the Board Li Xiping, and Dean of CALA Yu Kongjian attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, it was announced that the funds would be used for the construction of the school building, improving teaching resources, enhancing academic research, and strengthening international collaborations.

On behalf of the faculty members and students, Dean of CALA Yu Kongjian expressed heartfelt thanks for Li Xiping's generosity and hoped to use the fund properly so as to fasten the speed of constructing a world-class design discipline in PKU. ▶



Establishment of the PKU Golden Meditech Foundation in Support of PKU's International Exchanges

Liu Susu

A ceremony was held at Linhexuan on September 30th, 2014 to mark the establishment of the PKU Golden Meditech Foundation. Mr. Gan Yuan, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Golden Meditech Co., Ltd, and PKU President Wang Enge signed the agreement at the ceremony. As a symbol of PKU's appreciation and gratitude, Mr. Gan was presented with the PKU Educational Contribution Award.

President Wang expressed his gratitude to the Golden Meditech Foundation. He pointed out that international exchanges and collaborations are pivotal for driving developments in the education landscape. As the leader of China's institutions of higher learning, PKU plays an active role in activities with its counterparts around the world. The newly established foundation will no doubt contribute to the expansion of international exchanges.

Mr. Gan Yuan said that as the first medical group entered the umbilical cord blood industry, Golden Meditech Company received a lot of help from PKU, especially the close cooperation with PKU Peoples' Hospital. The foundation was the first attempt in education had ever made by Golden Meditech Company, and the company hoped to carry out more cooperation and create more chances for learning and communication. ▶



How to Give

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Luce Pavilion

Luce Pavilion, commonly known as the island pavilion, lies on the island in the middle of Weiming Lake. It is an octagonal pavilion with wooden structure. The pavilion has a pagoda-shaped roof and a foundation made of octagonal stone terrace over one meter high, with a basement beneath and corridors around.

The island pavilion was donated by Mr. Henry Robinson Luce to honor his father Mr. Henry Winters Luce, who once served as Vice President of Yenching University.

In 1998, on PKU's Centennial Anniversary, Henry Luce Foundation donated money to renovate the island pavilion and renamed it as Luce Pavilion. Originally functioned as a meeting place for faculty members and students' associations and then changed into a library for the Labor Union of PKU in 1966, Luce Pavilion now is used as a reception room for distinguished guests conferences.



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