

# PEKING UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014 | Issue 26



## Michelle Obama

Speaks on the Values of  
Educational and  
Cultural Exchanges

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北京大学斯坦福中心

**Lien Chan**  
Awarded Honorary Professorship of  
Peking University

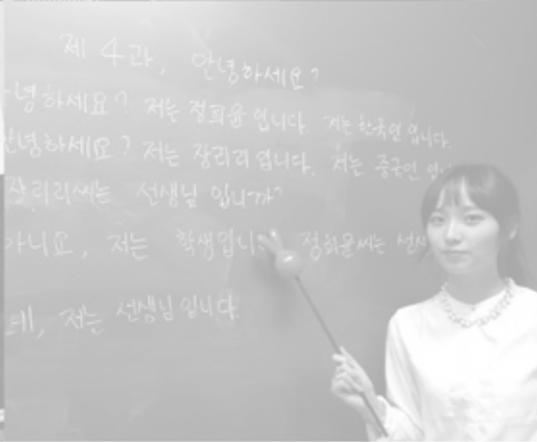
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## The U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama Speaks on the Values of Educational and Cultural Exchanges

Yang Linhan



way to spend a semester — it's quickly becoming the key to succeed in our global economy," said the first lady.

Strong academic performance is not enough for people who wish to get ahead in today's workplaces. It requires "having real experience with the world beyond your borders — experience with languages, cultures and societies very different from your own."

By quoting the Chinese saying: "It is better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books," Michelle Obama encouraged more young people to study abroad to shape the future of China and the U.S. and that of the world.

### The only way forward is together

In the global context of shared challenges including climate change and economic development, "no one country can confront them alone...the only way forward is together." Michelle Obama stressed the word "together" to highlight cooperation. She also noted that "we all have a stake in each other's success" by describing the possibilities of China and the U.S. sharing medical and technological discoveries, as well as architectural inspiration.

"That's when the connections you make as classmates or lab mates can blossom into something more." Michelle Obama took examples from both Chinese and American students who built relations with each other. "These lasting bonds represent the true value of studying abroad," she remarked.

The U.S. first lady Michelle La-Vaughn Obama paid a visit to Peking University on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 and addressed the importance of educational exchanges such as studying abroad, and the vital role of other cultural exchanges.

"In studying abroad, you're not just changing your own life...you're changing the lives of everyone you meet," said the US First Lady Michelle Obama in her speech to an audience of Chinese and American students from Peking University at the Stanford Center

of PKU.

### Better to travel 10,000 miles than to read 10,000 books

Focusing on the educational and cultural exchanges among young people, Michelle Obama first noted that "by learning each other's languages and by showing curiosity and respect for each other's cultures...all of you are building bridges of understanding that will lead to so much more."

"Studying abroad isn't just a fun

## Opportunities for all

"China is currently the fifth most popular destination for Americans studying abroad" and "the highest number of exchange students in the U.S. is from China." These numbers make one thrilled, "But still, too many students never have this chance," she pointed out.

As a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, the first lady shared her own story to highlight the necessity of more opportunities for students to study abroad.

"I came from a working class family...and it never occurred to me to study abroad, ever." She added, "Study abroad shouldn't just be for students from certain backgrounds." She explained that the announcement of the 100,000 Strong initiatives back in 2009 was a tremendous effort to "increase the number and diversity of American students studying in China."

This year the U.S. government will support more American students in China than anywhere else with the two countries marking the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations.

### A new era of citizen diplomacy

When highlighting people-to-people exchange, Michelle Obama viewed the time as "a new era of citizen diplomacy," which is a quote taken from Philmon Haile, an U.S. student studying in China.

"You don't need to get on a plane to be a citizen diplomat," she said, stressing the power of technology and the wonder of modern technology is granting people with open access to information and ideas.

She described the audience as "America's best face and China's best face to the world," and urges that "you keep teaching each other and learning from each other, and building bonds of friendship that will enrich your lives and enrich our world for decades to come."

America's best face and China's best face to the world, you keep teaching each other and learning from each other, and building bonds of friendship that will enrich your lives and enrich our world for decades to come.

In a brief statement, Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU, offered warm greetings to the first lady, and appreciated the tremendous efforts she has made to promote the China-US educational and cultural exchanges. He also introduced to the first lady a soon-to-launch academic initiative "Yenching Academy", which aims at making PKU a global hub of renowned scholars and students.

Following the speech, the first lady received a book entitled "The History of Chinese Civilization" from Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU council.

Michelle Obama also had a virtual educational forum with Chinese and American students from PKU and Stanford University in the Highly Interactive Classroom. Their discussion centered on the influence that technology exerts over the globalization of educational experiences. 

### ➤ Stanford Center at Peking University

The Stanford Center at Peking University (SCPKU) is Stanford University's headquarters for faculty and students engaged in research, teaching, training and outreach activities in China. The 3400 square meter center is designed as a resource for the entire Stanford community, providing collaborative spaces, offices and support services to facilitate the work of scholars and programs.

SCPKU represents a bridge across the Pacific for Stanford—a platform for education and research for faculty and students from all of Stanford's seven separate schools—bringing together East and West.



## Full Transcript of Michelle Obama's Speech at PKU

Ni-Hao. It is such a pleasure and an honor to be here with all of you at this great university. Thank you so much for having me.

And I'm here today because I know that our future depends on connections like these among young people like you across the globe. That's why when my husband and I travel abroad, we don't just visit palaces and parliaments and meet with heads of state. We also come to schools like this one to meet with students like you. Because we believe that relationships between nations aren't just about relationships between government or leaders... they're about relationships between people, particularly our young people. So we view study abroad programs not just as an educational opportunity for students...but also as a vital part of America's foreign policy. You see, through the wonders of modern technology, our world is more connected than ever before.

Ideas can cross oceans with the click of a button. Companies can do business and compete with companies across the globe. And we can text, email and skype with people on every continent. So studying abroad isn't just a fun way to spend a semester. It's a quickly becoming the key to success in our global economy. Because getting ahead in today's workplace isn't just about getting good grades or test scores in school...it's also about having real experience with the world beyond your borders — experience with languages, cultures and societies very different from your own. Or, as the Chinese saying goes: "It is better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books."

But let's be clear, studying abroad is about so much more than improving your own future — it's also about shaping the future of your countries and of the world we all share. Because when it comes to the defining challenges of our time — whether its climate change,

or economic opportunity, or the spread of nuclear weapons...these are shared challenges. No one country can confront them alone...the only way forward is together. That's why it's so important for young people like you to live and study in each other's countries. Because that's how you develop that habit of cooperation — you do it by immersing yourself in someone else's culture...by learning each other's stories... and by getting past the stereotypes and misconceptions that too often divide us.

That's how you come to understand how much we all share.

And that's how you realize that we all have a stake in each other's success — that cures discovered here in Beijing could save lives in America...that clean energy technologies from Silicon Valley in California could improve the environment here in China... that the architecture of an ancient temple in Xi'an could inspire the design of new buildings in Dallas or Detroit.

And that's when the connections you make as classmates or labmates can blossom into something more.

That's what happened when Abigail Colin became an American Fulbright Scholar here at Peking University. She and her colleagues published papers together in top science journals... and they built research partnerships that lasted long after they returned to their home countries. Professor NiuKe from Peking University was a Fulbright Scholar in the U.S. last year...and he reported, and I quote, "The most memorable experiences were with my American friends."

These lasting bonds represent the true value of studying abroad...and I am thrilled that more and more students are getting this opportunity. China is currently the fifth most popular destination for Americans studying abroad. And today, the highest number of exchange students in the U.S. is from China. But still, too many students



never have this chance...and some that do are hesitant to take it. They may feel like study abroad is only for wealthy students, or students from certain kinds of universities. Or they may think to themselves, "Well, that sounds fun, but how will it really be useful in my life?"

I understand where these young people are coming from, because I felt the same way back when I was in college. You see, I came from a working class family ... and it never even occurred to me to study abroad. My parents didn't get to attend college, and I was focused on getting into a university and earning my degree so I could get a job and support myself. And for a lot of young people like me who are struggling to afford a regular semester of school, paying for plane tickets or living expenses half-way around the world just isn't possible. And that's not acceptable, because study abroad shouldn't just be for students from certain backgrounds. Our hope is to build connections between people of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds, because it is that diversity that makes our country so vibrant and strong ... and our study abroad programs should reflect the

true spirit of America to the world.

That's why, when my husband visited China back in 2009, he announced our 100,000 Strong initiative to increase the number and diversity of American students studying in China.

And this year, as we mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of the normalization of relations between our countries ... the U.S. Government actually supports more American students in China than in any other country in the world.

We're sending high school, college and graduate students here to study Chinese ... we're inviting teachers from China to teach Mandarin in American school ... we're providing free online advising for students in China who want to study in the U.S. ... and the U.S.-China Fulbright program is still going strong with more than 3,000 alumni. The private sector is stepping up as well. For example, Steve Schwarzman, the head of an American company called Blackstone, is funding a new program at Tsinghua University modelled on the Rhodes scholarship.

And today, students from all kinds of backgrounds are studying herein China. Take the example of Royale Nicholson from Cleveland, Ohio who attends New York University's program in Shanghai. Like me, Royale is a first generation college student...and her mother worked two fulltime jobs while her father worked nights to support their family. Or her experience in Shanghai, she said, "This city oozes persistence and inspires me to accomplish all that I can." And then there's Philmon Haile from the University of Washington whose family came to the U.S. as refugees from Eritrea when he was a child. Of his experience studying in China, he said, "Study abroad is a powerful vehicle for people to people exchange as we move into a new era of citizen diplomacy."

"A new era of citizen diplomacy"—I couldn't have said it better myself, because that's really what I'm talking about...I'm talking about ordinary citizens reaching out to the world. And as I always tell young people back in America, you don't need to get on a plane to be a citizen diplomat. I

tell them that if you have an internet connection in your home, school, or library, within seconds, you can be transported anywhere in the world and meet people on every continent. That's why I'm posting a daily travel blog with videos and photos of my experiences in China—because I want young people in America to be part of this visit.

That's really the power of technology— how it can open up the entire world and expose us to ideas and innovations we never could have imagined. And that's why it is so important for information and ideas to flow freely over the internet and through the media. Because that's how we discover the truth...that's how we learn what's really happening in our communities, our country and our world. And that's how we decide which values and ideas we think and best—by questioning a debating them vigorously...by listening to all sides of every argument...and by judging for ourselves.

And believe me, I know this can be a messy and frustrating process. My husband and I are on the receiving end of plenty of questioning and criticism from our media and our fellow citizens...and it's not always easy...but we wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. Because time and again, we have seen that countries are stronger and more prosperous when the voices and opinions of all citizens can be heard. And as my husband has said, we respect the uniqueness of other cultures and societies. But when it comes to expressing yourself freely, and worshipping as you choose, and having

open access to information—we believe those are universal rights that are the birth right of every person on this planet.

We believe that all people deserve the opportunity to fulfil their highest potential as I was able to do in the United States. And as you learn about new cultures and form new friendships during your time here in China and in the United States, all of you the living breathing embodiment of those values. So I guarantee you that in studying abroad, you're not just changing your own life...you're changing the lives of everyone you meet. As the great American President John F. Kennedy once said about foreign students studying in the U.S., "I think they teach more than they learn." And that is just as true of young Americans who study abroad.

All of you are America's best face, and China's best face, to the world. Every day, you show the world your countries' energy, creativity, optimism and unwavering belief in the future. And every day, you remind us of just how much we can achieve if we reach across borders, and learn to see ourselves in each other...and confront our shared challenges with shared resolve. So I hope you all will keep seeking these kinds of experiences. And I hope you'll keep teaching each other...and learning from each other...and building bonds of friendship that will enrich our world for decades to come. You all have so much to offer, and I cannot wait to see that you achieve together in the years ahead.

Thank you so much. Xie—Xie. 🍷



# Lien Chan Awarded Honorary Professorship of Peking University

Sun Qisheng

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Lien Chan, Honorary Chairman of Taiwan's Kuomintang and Chairman of Cross-Strait Peaceful Development Fund paid a visit to Peking University and was awarded an honorary professorship.

It has been nine years since Lien Chan's last visit to PKU. He said that he was very excited to visit the university again after 9 years. His ties with the university go back to his mother who studied at Yenching University. Yenching University was based at the site where Peking University now stands. Lien Chan spoke here in 2005 during his first visit to the Mainland. He said the two sides broke the 65 years of estrangement and began their exchanges in many fields. He called on both sides to remember their common roots.

Professor Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the Peking University Council, met Lien Chan at Linhexuan. He said that Mr. Lien has been very concerned about the development and construction of Peking University, and Taiwan has received many exchange teachers and students from Peking University. Due to historical reasons, many problems still hamper the development of cross-strait relations. However, people on both sides of the strait have the same culture origin and vision, which contributes to mutual understanding and common progress. We need to work hand in hand to deepen cross-strait relations, promote peaceful development, and enhance the welfare of people on both sides so as to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Professor Zhu Shanlu also noted that Mr. Lien Chan has made great contributions to the peaceful devel-

opment of cross-strait relations with his wealth of life experience and pursuit of noble cause. It is Peking University's honor to award him the title of honorary professor. Zhu also introduced the vision of "Peking University in 2048" and Peking University's goal of becoming a world-class university around its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. As a well-known academic and cultural hub, and an important place for talent cultivation, Peking University hopes to make further contribution to the Chinese nation. Peking University, being in a critical stage of development, will further deepen institutional reform, seize the opportunity of innovation, and accelerate the pace of transforming itself into a world-class university with Chinese characteristics. It will also devote its efforts to enhance cross-strait cultural exchanges and educational cooperation so as to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Zhu

welcomed Mr. Lien to revisit during PKU's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hoped that PKU would establish more cooperation with universities in Taiwan in various fields.

Later, President Wang Enge conferred the certificate to Lien Chan and addressed that Mr. Lien is an excellent politician and an accomplished scholar in the field of politics in Taiwan. "Awarding him the honorary professor of PKU will definitely contribute to the development of cross-strait communication, especially in cultural, educational and academic fields between PKU and universities in Taiwan". Faced with new opportunities for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations, Peking University will continue to play an important role in the cross-strait educational, academic and cultural exchanges with its academic strength and influence, so as to enhance the sense of national pride, and strengthen the common belief of the rejuvenation of China.

President Wang also mentioned that Peking University has been attaching great importance to educational and academic communication and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait. Up till now, PKU has established various collaborations with Taiwanese University and other 16 universities in Taiwan. PKU is also





We are all members of Chinese nation and we share the same cultural tradition and national identity. Therefore, faced with this challenging world, the Chinese intellectuals should bear their due responsibilities and spread the Chinese culture to the world better.

amid the first group of Mainland universities to enroll Taiwanese students. At present, there are 468 Taiwan students studying at PKU for their degrees and around 100 PKU students are on exchange programs to universities in Taiwan every year. Peking University also looks forward to deepening collaboration with universities in Taiwan.

Mr. Lien Chan expressed his gratitude to PKU and said, "We are all members of Chinese nation and we share the same cultural tradition and national identity. Therefore, faced with this challenging world, the Chinese intellectuals should bear their due responsibilities and spread the Chinese culture to the world better".

Mr. Lien said that it is the common aspiration of all Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to seek reconciliation and dialogue for a win-win future. "We should put people first and give priority to people's well-being. This is supported by all Chinese people. We're paving the way and building a bridge, and the people will be glad to see Cross-Strait dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation, rather than confrontation or conflict."

Mr. Lien also pointed out that it is a historic opportunity to sum up the past lessons and build a common future for people on both sides of the strait. Both sides should seek more common

grounds while preserving differences and create a win-win future for all the Chinese people across the Strait. He also indicated that he will devote more personal energy in promoting the exchanges across the Strait.

After the meeting, Mr. Lien Chan attended a panel discussion with PKU faculty members and students, in which he said, "As Chinese, we share common cultural traditions and ancestry. And the scholars in particular have a responsibility to make the Chinese culture prosper in the future. That will require effort from all of the professors and students here". Students of Peking University also discussed with Mr. Lien about issues they are concerned with most such as treatment of students from mainland in Taiwan, exchanges among students from two sides of Taiwan Strait, student social services and cultural development.

At the end of discussion, Mr. Lien stressed that today's ever-changing world is full of challenges, and we need to strive for a better future together. Although he has retired from teaching many years ago, he will still promote cross-strait exchanges and contribute in his own way. He hopes that he will have more opportunities to discuss with professors and students from Peking University in the future and work together with them for a better nation. ▾

### ▣ Lien Chan

Lien Chan is a politician in Taiwan. He was the Chairman of the Kuomintang (KMT) from 2000 to 2005. Upon his retirement as chairman in August 2005, he was given the title Honorary Chairman of the Kuomintang.

Lien Chan was born in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China as the only child of Lien Chen-tung and Chao Lan-k'un. His paternal grandfather, Lien Heng, was the writer of *The General History of Taiwan*, a book that is often cited for the quote, "Taiwan's sorrow is that it has no history." Lien earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from the Taiwan University in 1957 and a Master of Arts in International Law and Diplomacy in 1961. He received a PhD in political science in 1965 from the University of Chicago and married former Miss Republic of China Fang Yu the same year. Lien is also currently a Trustee Emeritus on the Board of Trustees to the University of Chicago.



## Jonathan D. Spence's Visit to China

Yuan Yating

During his tour in Beijing, he showed up in a series of activities held almost every other day. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, he delivered a series of fascinating lectures at Peking University. So popular were these lectures that the classroom has been changed from the one accommodated 180 people to the one that can sit 380 people, but yet fully crowded with people notwithstanding. On the evening of March 9<sup>th</sup> during his last lecture in Beijing at the Art Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Art, writer Wang Meng, poet Nishikawa and historian Li Ling are among the famous to attend the lecture. Other than such academic activities, some social events, including a discussion forum with entrepreneur Feng Lun on modern Chinese public welfare, were held. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, as the author of *Cao Yin and Kangxi*, he interacted cordially with the Cao Xueqin Society and left his calligraphy at the Cao Xueqin Memorial Hall in Beijing Botanical Garden.

The end of the Beijing events just heralds another stage of the month-long China trip. In the middle of March, he went to Chengdu and Xi'an, giving lectures at the Sichuan University and Northwestern University respectively. His wife, Professor Jin Anping, said that it was their first time to Sichuan and they were fond of Du Fu Thatched Cottage, especially those little herbs and flowers in it. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, he arrived in Shanghai. After the lecture at Fudan University, he took a flight to Taipei directly.

### Brief introduction: Jonathan D. Spence

Jonathan D. Spence is a British-born historian and public intellectual specializing in Chinese history. He was the Sterling Professor of History at Yale University from 1993 to 2008, and now, at the age of 78, he is one of the most well-known overseas sinologists in China. His major research interest lies in the history of ideas and culture in Ming and Qing Dynasty, as well as the relations between China and the West.

Professor Spence frequently uses biographies to examine cultural and political history. He usually uses what we think is negligible, such as the life of an ordinary woman in early Qing Dynasty, to obtain profound insight into that bygone era.

### Tour: across the country

Just before the publication of his new book, Professor Spence paid a visit to China, arriving in Beijing at the end of February and then began his month-long trip around the country.

### Lecture: Below the state

In the lecture on the evening of March 7<sup>th</sup> at Peking University, Professor Spence demonstrated his recent research results, unraveling the secret of the communication system between central and local governments which Emperor Kangxi and Yongzheng used during Qing Dynasty. In addition, he roughly classified people at the bottom of the empire into five groups. From those historical data he studied, the footprint of this crowd appeared in many provinces across the country. However, he also said that he was not sure whether what the historical data have indicated would be exactly consistent with the reality traced back at that time and whether such a classification would be too broad or too narrow.

Here is essentially what Mr. Spence described about the five groups of people "below the state".

The first category is traders and practitioners.

Statistics show that the two identities tended to be concentrated with people on the ground, who was also of great mobility during Yongzheng period. Peddlers, shuttling back and forth on the streets, usually sold their medicine and medical books together.

What interests Professor Spence most seems to be the fact that there was a large proportion of blind people among the practitioners. Although children who lost their eyesight could not get admission to a private school, their parents would hire someone to read books for them. In this way, blind practitioners learned the professional knowledge and the skills necessary for living. These people often have superior memory, and also undertook the mission to spread the novelty.

The second category is exiled prisoners.

At that time, the exile of prisoners was a highly effective system. The emperor would have access to the situation of the prisoners in several days or a week so that some of them might be exempt from charges once the political

we can draw a conclusion that the migrant population can be characterized as credulous, generous, critical and adventurous. They provided dwellers in cities and towns with various legends, among which were a lot of scandals about the Forbidden City.

environment changed. Besides, when they are stationed in the city at night, local residents, passers-by, officers and even prisoners would gather together, discussing political rumors.

The third category is monks and imperial examination candidates.

The large-scale imperial examination system during Yongzheng period left so many possibilities of promotion for literati that many landlords would subsidize them generously. Sometimes, if those poor candidates failed several times in a row, they would joined the group of flowing people as vendors trekking through the country instead, which showed the border among different social classes was not that distinct.

Monks, as wise as the candidates, were also part of such an intellectual group. Most of the time, they took a key role in keeping the documents scattered in the temples, which are valuable both then and now.

The fourth category is the owner of inns.

They often had some special knowledge, knowing the route and distance from one place to another. For this reason, these shopkeepers often bore some social responsibility, such as donating money to build public facilities, providing warm clothing for the passers-by in winter, or helping people who lost his way.

The fifth category is fortune tellers.

These people would sell your own information back to you. The data left

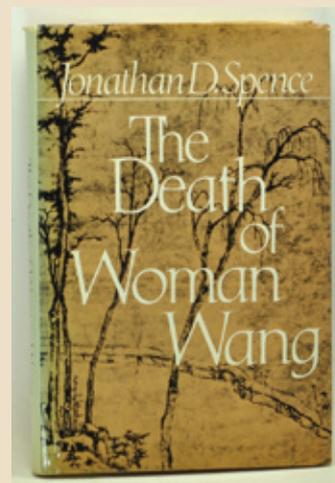
indicate that with great randomness, the price of fortune-telling was generally low. By observing the "mystical planetarium", they allegedly received some important information relating to customers. For most residents, if they could know some important information or warnings at the expense of very little money, that would be a good deal.

Most of these people appear in the crowded market or the central area of the city. Professor Spence pointed out that some details about divination could also be found in the confidential documents handed to the emperor directly.

Meanwhile, the emperor absorbed some information from the posts, which reveal what people thought in the form of 'signs of god'.

All in all, we can draw a conclusion that the migrant population can be characterized as credulous, generous, critical and adventurous. They provided dwellers in cities and towns with various legends, among which were a lot of scandals about the Forbidden City. And that made Yongzheng even more careful when governing the country.

Finally, Professor Spence said that Westerners have little knowledge about the relationship between these groups and the rulers. He believed that if we are able to pay more attention to these witnesses to history, historical scholars may have a better and clearer understanding of that era. 🍷



### ❖ *The Death of Woman Wang*

"Woman Wang," despite its title, is not the story of a single person or episode, but a picture of a poor rural county in Eastern China during the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Jonathan Spence began to compile material about T'an-ch'eng by reading a local history of the county, edited in 1673 by a man named Feng K'o-ts'an, who had earlier been a failure as county magistrate. The bleak picture of T'an-ch'eng in Feng's local history fascinated Spence, but it seems that he only decided that T'an-ch'eng merited a full book when he discovered that Feng's successor, Huang Liu-hung, had written a manual on local administration largely based on his years in T'an-ch'eng. Huang was a remarkable man, and his book provided Spence with detailed material on matters too unsavory to be approved for Feng's "official" county history. Huang is the real hero of "Woman Wang."

## Findings of Effects of International Trade on Climate Change Published on *PNAS*

Edited by Xin Qin, Translated by Won Cheng Yi Lewis

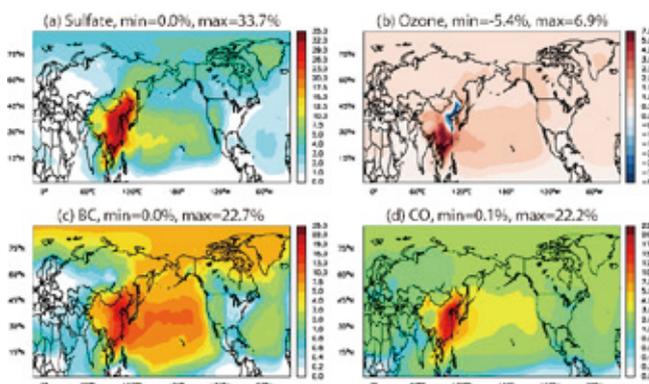
A research group jointly led by Professors Lin Jin Tai from PKU, and He Kebin and Zhang Qiang from Tsinghua University (THU) publishes findings of the impacts of China's international trade on regional air pollution and global atmospheric transport in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. Professor Lin and his undergraduate student Pan Da (now pursuing his PhD degree at Princeton University) are first authors. Professors Lin Jintai, He Kebin and Zhang Qiang are the corresponding co-authors.

Previous research on air pollution transport and source attribution has been based on a so-called production-based accounting approach, which fails to account for the adverse effects of international trade. The United States has a particular interest in understanding the impacts of trans-Pacific transport of air pollution from China and other Asian countries.

With the support from several research groups in Britain and the US, the research team analyzed the impacts of China's international trade on the

global atmospheric pollution and transport. The team examined the trade influences from the consumption perspective and calculated the emissions between 2000 and 2009 related to China's exports and imports through an economic input-output analysis and emission statistics.

The study revealed that, for 2006 alone, as much as 36% of sulfur dioxide, 27% of nitrogen oxides, 22% of carbon monoxide and 17% of black carbon in Chinese anthropogenic emissions was related to production of goods for export. For each pollutant, 21% of the export-related emissions were tied to China-to-U.S. export. The total amount of export-related Chinese emissions was larger than emissions in foreign countries related to China's imports by a factor of 4-6. Using a global atmospheric chemical transport model called GEOS-



Chem, the team further revealed that in 2006, 23-34% of sulfate particulate concentrations in the surface atmosphere of East China were caused by export-related emissions (Fig. 1a). The fractions were about 10-23% for black carbon and 12-23% for carbon monoxide (Fig. 1c, d).

The study concluded that analysis of the trade impacts on the global atmospheric environment with a consumption-based accounting would facilitate discussions of international collaboration in reducing global air pollution and trans-boundary transport. ▽

## A Breakthrough Made in Human Visual Perceptual Learning by PKU Researchers

Yu So-Jin

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, *Current Biology* published an article titled "Function and Structure of Human Left Fusiform Cortex Are Closely Associated with Perceptual Learning of Faces". This article is co-authored by Bi Taiyong and Chen Juan, PhD graduates of Department of Psychology of PKU

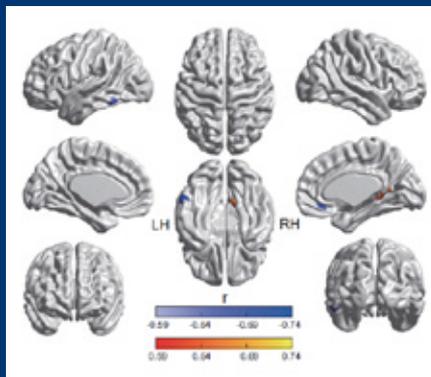
with Professor Fang Fang as the correspondence author. The co-researchers are Professor Zhou Tiangang of Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and He Yong, PhD candidate from the National Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning, School of Brain and Cognitive Sciences,

Beijing Normal University.

By observing the neural correlations of perceptual face recognition over a long time course with the use of functional and structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), researchers were able to unravel the neural mechanisms behind long-lasting improvement in human

perceptual ability. During the experiment, human subjects were trained to perform a face view discrimination task. Their behavioral performance and MRI signals were measured before, immediately after, and 1 month after training.

The researchers found that, across individual subjects, behavioral learning effects correlated with the stability improvement of spatial activity pattern in the left fusiform cortex immediately after and 1 month after training. They also found that the thickness of the left fusiform cortex before training could predict subjects' behavioral learning effects.



These findings are a remarkable contribution for suggesting that the improved pattern stability contributes to

the long-term mechanisms of perceptual learning. Furthermore, the findings also provide strong and converging evidence for the pivotal role of the left fusiform cortex in adaptive face processing.

The leader of the research team is Professor Fang Fang from the Department of Psychology who is also the executive associate director of the IDC/McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Peking University. His research seeks to understand the neural mechanisms of visual and cognitive processes by combining neuroimaging, psychophysical and computational techniques. ▶

## Research Team Led by Professor Deng Hongkui Contributes to Human Induced Hepatocytes

Gao Juyi

Obtaining fully functional cell types is a long standing challenge for drug discovery and regenerative medicine. Currently, Professor Deng Hongkui of the College of Life Sciences, Peking University, and his team managed to generate functionally mature human induced hepatocytes (hiHeps) derived from human fibroblasts through a groundbreaking strategy. The findings were published online in *Cell Stem Cell* in its February edition under the title of "Human Hepatocytes with Drug Metabolic Function Induced from Fibroblasts by Lineage Reprogramming".

Different strategies to generate functional hepatocytes have been studied. Human hepatocytes have been derived from human pluripotent stem cells by directed differentiation. However, researchers from PKU have shown that it was unable to obtain functional hiHeps by merely overexpressing the hepatic fate conversion factors HNF1A, HNF4A and HNF6, unless along with the maturation factors ATF5, PROX1 and CEBPA. Presenting important hepatic characteristics, hiHeps generated through this way exhibit comparable drug meta-

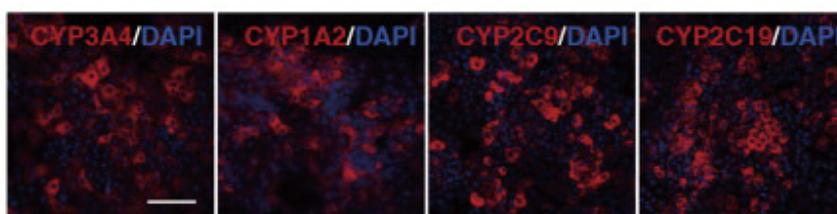
bolic activities and sensitivity to drug toxicity compared to those in freshly isolated primary human hepatocytes, which suggests that hiHeps could be a valuable alternative cell resource for drug development.

Furthermore, for the first time, hiHeps can robustly repopulate the liver of liver-damaged immunodeficient mice. Being able to secrete abundant human ALBUMIN continuously, this repopulated mouse is highly humanized and would provide a more reliable *in vivo* model for studying human hepatitis virus and drug metabolism. No tumorigenesis was observed long after hiHep transplantation. Moreover, the induced cells could be expanded on a large scale at an early stage with only a volume of blood-drop human somatic cells required to obtain human hepatocytes in numbers similar to those in

an adult human liver, which makes hiHeps a promising alternative for orthotopic liver transplantation.

Collectively, this work provides a novel strategy to acquire fully functional induced cell types through the combination of cell fate determination factors and functional maturation factors. It also furnishes a totally new source of abundant functionally mature human hepatocytes.

PhD candidates Yuanyuan Du, Jinlin Wang, Jun Jia, Nan Song and Chengang Xiang of Professor Deng Hongkui's team tie for the first authors of this article. Professor Deng Hongkui, Lu Shichun, and Shi Yan are common corresponding authors. The research is funded by Major National Scientific Research Projects and National Science and Technology Major Project. ▶



# PKU Researchers Observe High Temperature Superconductivity in One-Unit-Cell FeSe Films

Yu So-Jin

In January, 2014, *Science* specially reported the important progress achieved by Chinese researchers including Professor Wang Jian of PKU in the section of Editor's Choice. The article titled "Direct observation of high-temperature superconductivity in one-unit-cell FeSe films" was originally published in *China Physics Letters*. It was co-authored by Sun Yi, post doctorate of PKU and Zhang Wenhao, PhD of Qinghua University. Professor Wang Jian of PKU, Professor Wang Liwei and Professor Xue Qikun of Tsinghua University participated in the work as corresponding authors.

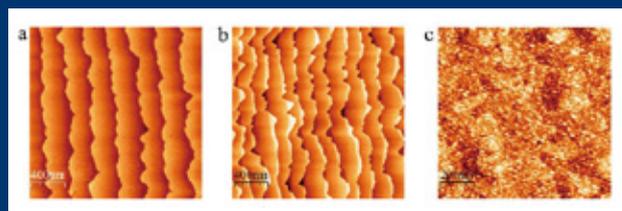
Heterostructure based interface engineering has been proved an effective method for finding new superconducting systems and raising superconductivity transition temperature (TC). In previous work on one unit-cell (UC) thick FeSe films on SrTiO<sub>3</sub> (STO) substrate, a superconducting-like energy gap as large as 20 meV, was revealed by in situ scanning

tunneling microscopy/spectroscopy (STM/STS). Angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) further revealed a nearly isotropic gap of above 15 meV, which closes at a temperature of around 65 K. If this transition is indeed the superconducting transition, then the 1-UC FeSe represents the thinnest high TC superconductor discovered so far.

However, up to date direct transport measurement of the 1-UC FeSe films has not been reported, mainly because growth of large scale 1-UC FeSe films is challenging, and the 1-UC FeSe films are too thin to survive in the atmosphere. With the support from Major National Scientific Research Projects and National Natural Science Foundation of China, the researchers put in more than a year of hard work and successfully prepared 1-UC FeSe films on insulating STO substrates with non-

superconducting FeTe protection layers. By direct transport and magnetic measurements, they provided definitive evidence for high temperature superconductivity in the 1-UC FeSe films with an onset TC above 40K and an extremely large critical current density  $J_C \sim 1.7 \times 10^6$  A/cm<sup>2</sup> at 2 K.

This achievement has obtained global attention from academic circle such as Institute of Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fudan University, Renmin University, Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Houston. The paper has enlightening meaning for it may contribute to enhancing and tailoring of superconductivity by interface engineering.



## The First Stage of Harvard and PKU's Co-Teaching Program of Landscape Architecture Successfully Completed

Yu So-Jin

From February 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 graduate students from the Department of Urban Planning and the Department of Design and Landscape Architecture, Harvard University, alongwith 13 graduate students of College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at PKU, successfully completed the first stage of 2014 Harvard-Peking University co-teaching program. This program was under the guidance of Professor Yu Kongjian from the College of Architecture and Landscape architecture, Professor Wu Honglin from the College of Urban

and Environmental Sciences at PKU, and Professor Adrian Blackwell from Harvard University.

Since 2010, Professor Yu Kongjian has



been taught at Harvard as a Visiting Professor of Graduate School of Design, and he currently works as a tutor for the course of Landscape Ecological Urbanism which is a studio for senior graduate students, together with Professor Adrian Blackwell. This studio is designed to provide students with rich opportunities to share information and exchange ideas with scholars from different parts of the world under the theme of "Urban Planning in Nanshahe, Haidian District, Beijing". In the studio, students from Harvard were required to group themselves into pairs with PKU students and put forward design schemes independently. Then after the

investigation of the site, students from both sides discussed their preliminary findings with each other, and deepened their understanding about the site so as to help improve their design schemes.

The studio mainly focuses on proposing new patterns for urban development in the towns of Shang zhuang and Xi Beiwang located in the northern part of Haidian District of Beijing. In 1990, the Beijing municipal government implemented the Grain for Green Project and promoted the urbanization of Haidian district which is noted for its educational resources, high-tech enterprises and scientific research developments. However, some problems have emerged as a result of major changes in this area, including urban flooding, water pollution, and the lack of basic services and infrastructure in urban villages.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the research activities were started with the support of Professor Yu and a grassroots leader from the Shang-

zhuang town. The students were divided into six groups and each group was given different survey tasks. From the activity, they obtained substantial research materials on water quality, historical context, demographic composition, infrastructure and landscape architecture of the site.

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, under the guidance of Professor Wu and Professor Blackwell, students carried out on-site investigation at Chongwenmen Commercial Street, Damochang Hutong, Dashilar Hutong, Yangmeizhuxie Street, the Grand Canal Ruins Park, and the Yu River. The team gained a profound understanding about the traditional urban texture and landscape changes in Beijing. Besides, their visit to 798 Art Zone, Beijing National Stadium and National Aquatics Center improved their awareness of Chinese contemporary architecture and art.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Ms. He Yong, Deputy Director of Planning and Research Office,

Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design, was invited to make a speech on the status of Beijing urban planning. In the afternoon, the students had a heated discussion about modifications to the original plans. The final scheme of each student's was presented with the presence of Professor Yu, Professor Blackwell and the judges composed of other famous landscape architects.

Students from Harvard and PKU expressed that they made great progress during the co-study and were looking forward to next teamwork assignment. Professor Yu is planning to visit Harvard to give a lecture for the course at the end of April. The final presentation of accomplishments during the studio will take place at Harvard in May. The cooperation between Harvard and PKU has been successfully developed over the past five years with PKU's internationalization level and teaching quality improving steadily. 

## Passing of the Torch – Kunqu Heritage at PKU

Heng Kang Wei

On February 2014, an "Appreciation of Classical Kunqu" class was conducted, unveiling a new chapter of the Kunqu Heritage program. It also symbolizes the kick-off of a new five year plan of the program. The formation of the PKU Kunqu Heritage and Research Center signifies the continuous effort made in the promotion of Kunqu heritage at PKU.

The first five-year plan of the PKU Kunqu Heritage Program was initiated in 2009 with the successful launch of the first ever "Appreciation of classical Kunqu" lesson and its promotion as an elective module. The launch of the Kunqu performance workshop further showcased the beauty of this art form. With the completion of the first five-year plan, PKU focused on building upon the experiences accumulated in the new five-year plan, improving the quality of the course, further promoting the workshop and bringing perfor-

mances into the school. In addition, the scope will expand beyond PKU to cultivate young talents in Kunqu. Efforts will be placed into modernizing the archives, including collaboration between the PKU Cultural Industry Institute and the PKU Library for the gathering and digitalization of local and overseas resources. This will facilitate the promotion of Kunqu on a global basis, and will serve as a platform for enthusiasts and researchers from all over the world to experience and interact over Kunqu.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014, renowned Chinese author Mr. Bai Xianyong officially launched the new five-year plan for the promotion of Kunqu study. He made use of new versions of "The Peony Pavilion" and "The Jade Hairpin" as examples to explain the fusion of traditional and modern Kunqu. Mr. Bai also shared his experience in producing the new version of "The Peony Pavil-

ion", and invited the cast to provide a live demonstration. Alongside Mr. Bai visit's to PKU was the Suzhou Kunqu Institute performance at PKU, which was met with overwhelming response from the students, proving the success of Kunqu promotion at PKU.

Other than the performance of the classic "The Peony Pavilion", acts such as "The Tale of the Leaping Carp" and "Washing the Silken Gauze" were also performed. This provided a stage for young actors to try out new roles and further improve their skills. This experience has also contributed to the progress in the standards of the actors.

The continuation of the Kunqu legacy falls on the shoulders of youth actors. They regularly visit veteran actors across the nation in order to learn from them, and to preserve the legacy. One of the key steps that have been taken is the introduction of the elective course which exposes more students to



the art. More importantly, performance tickets are free for these students and heavily subsidized for others, cultivating a large audience base for Kunqu, ensuring its continuous growth. With continued efforts, organizers have seen an increase in appreciation of Kunqu, and deeper understanding of the traditional art form among students. It is also heartening to know that the demand for Kunqu continues to grow.

Mr. Bai has once emphasized in his speech in 2013 during the commencement ceremony of the new five-year plan that "Youth today are part of the

exposed to Kunqu and to appreciate its beauty. I believe that once the seeds are sowed, it will continue to grow."

Professor Ye Lang, Director of the Cultural Industry Institute, emphasized, "The new age will lead us to revisit our traditional culture, and the rejuvenation of a race is the rejuvenation of its culture. In contemporary society, material life and spiritual life have lost its balance, with material life as the focus, and spiritual and cultural aspects are being neglected. This has generated many "one sided persons". The Chinese culture focuses on our spiritual health,

Chinese race. In their blood contains the spirit of 'communalism', a desire of recognition towards their own culture. They do not reject our classical culture. These undergraduates will be the driving force in constructing our culture. I hope that they can be

thus we should revisit the classics of our traditional culture."

There is still a long way to go in the promotion of the Kunqu heritage, with room of improvement in terms of the scope and depth of communication. As the sponsor of the new five-year plan, the Chairman of the America FCCF Foundation GuHuaijian emphasized "We hope that the PKU Kunqu Heritage will blossom and re-ignite the torch of its legacy. I look forward to this platform for likeminded individuals to come together."

PKU has gathered an outstanding team of scholars in the Kunqu Heritage project which enables students to engage in Kunqu and experience its aesthetic beauty. This provides a success model for PKU's counterparts in aesthetics education and passing on the legacy of Kunqu, an important aspect of the Chinese culture. From research, to archiving, to database building and to producing, the preservation of Kunqu and its modern interpretation have allowed it to shine. Kunqu will no doubt be an important cultural soft power of China. 🍷

## Nature: Is Longevity Predictable?

Gao Juyi

Is longevity predictable? The answer might be provided by a small mitochondrion. Pivotal to bioenergetics, free-radical metabolism and cell death, mitochondria has been theorized for decades as the biological clock of ageing since 1972 by Harman. However, the evidence is incomplete due to the limitation of biological experimental approaches.

Most recently, taking advantage of a mitochondria-located sensor protein, circularly permuted yellow fluorescent protein (cpYFP), Prof. Cheng Heping from the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Peking University, and Dr. Dong Mengqiu from the National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, have identified that the mitochondrial flash (mitoflash) frequency in day-

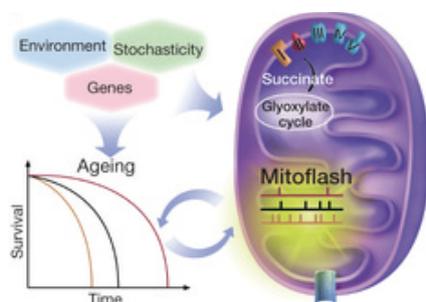
3 young adults could predict lifespan in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. The paper, under the title of Mitoflash Frequency in Early Adulthood Predicts lifespan in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, was published in *Nature* on line.

Previously in 2008, the research team led by Prof. Cheng Heping has observed quantal, stochastic bursts of superoxide production, namely the mitochondrial flash (mitoflash), by detecting the sensor protein circularly permuted yellow fluorescent protein (cpYFP) in the mitochondrial matrix. The mitoflash frequency is highly sensitive to oxidative stress and metabolic changes; it can therefore be exploited as readout of energy metabolism and free-radical production for testing MTA.

So, the question is that whether mitoflash is related to ageing? To study their correlation, researchers selected *C. elegans* as the experiment object, which is a common model used in aging studies due to its short lifespan of 21 days in average, along with its small and transparent body which is suitable for vivo observation. Mitoflash activity in *Caenorhabditis elegans* pharyngeal muscles peaked on adult day 3 during active reproduction and on day 9 when animals started to die off. A plethora of genetic mutations and environmental factors inversely modified the lifespan and the day-3 mitoflash frequency. Even within an isogenic population, the day-3 mitoflash frequency was negatively correlated with the lifespan

of individual animals. Furthermore, enhanced activity of the glyoxylate cycle contributed to the decreased day-3 mitoflash frequency and the longevity of *daf-2* mutant animals. These results demonstrate that the day-3 mitoflash frequency is a powerful predictor of *C. elegans* lifespan across genetic, environmental and stochastic factors. They also support the notion that the rate of ageing, although adjustable in later life, has been set to a considerable degree before reproduction ceases.

The findings support the mitochondrial theory of ageing (MTA) in



a general sense, that mitochondrion locates at the nodal point where genetic, environmental and stochastic factors co-regulate aging. Further study

is required for investigating the relationship between mitoflash and ageing of higher animals, and elucidating the detailed biological mechanism.

PhD candidates Enzhi Shen and Chunqing Song, from the College of Biological Sciences, China Agricultural University, alongside Yuan Lin from Peking University, are co-first authors of this paper. Professor Cheng Heping and Dr. Dong Mengqiu are the corresponding authors. The research is funded by National Basic Research Program of China and National Natural Science Foundation of China, etc. ▽

## The Ninth Peking University Centennial Physics Forum Successfully Held

Heng Kang Wei

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the PKU Ninth Centennial Physics Forum was held at the Sunshine Hall of the Yingjie Exchange Center. The forum comprised of two keynote reports: one from Nobel Laureate in Physics, Professor Gerard't Hooft, and the other was from the Fundamental Physics Prize Winner, Professor Joseph Incandela. Professor Gerard't Hooft's report was entitled "The Book Keeper of the Universe", while Professor Joseph Incandela's topic was "From the Higgs to the Realm of the Unknown". More than 400 people from PKU, Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academic of Sciences were present, and they were given the opportunity to interact with the scholars after the presentation. The forum was hosted by Professor Xie Xinchun, Dean of PKU School of Physics.

Professor Gerard't Hooft is a Dutch theoretical physicist and a professor at Utrecht University. He shares the 1999 Nobel Prize for Physics with Professor Martinus J. G. Veltman. His major contribution to the field is in the development of gauge theories in particle. Professor Hooft described the necessity of the theoretical existence of Higgs

Boson, and the problems it faces. His report covered the most fundamental and frontier aspects of Physics. Professor Gerard't Hooft is known for the depth of his thoughts, and his sharing was indeed an eye-opening experience for the audience.

Professor Joseph Incandela is an American experimental physicist, and a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. As the spokesperson of the CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) research team, he announced the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012 and won the annual prize of Basic Physics in the same year. In his report, Joseph

Incandela reviewed the experiments conducted in high-energy physics, especially the progress in CMS's research and PKU's contribution in CMS. He introduced the process that led to the discovery of the Higgs Bosons, as well as his expectation of high-energy experiments in the future.

Dr. Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, met with the two scholars before the forum, accompanied by Professor Xie Xinchun, Professor Zhao Guangda, Chair of the School of Physics Academic Committee, and Professor Liu Yuxin, Deputy Dean of the School of Physics. ▽



# Peking University National School of Development Organized A Conference to Review China's Economic Policy

Heng Kang Wei

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Peking University National School of Development (NSD) organized a conference at the Yingjie Exchange Center for the review of the the National People's Congress and the Chinese Political Consultative Conference ( NPC& CPPCC ) meetings. Scholars, students and alumni were invited to discuss key issues concerning China's economic development and reforms. The first half of the conference was hosted by Professor Huang Yiping, Deputy Dean of NSD.

Professor Justin Lin Yifu, Honorary Dean of NSD, delivered his speech first which focused on GDP growth targets, a top concern among the public. Professor Lin argued that the goal of 7.5% GDP growth in 2014 is necessary and achievable. China is currently undergoing a deepening of reform while maintaining its moderate growth rate. Future development will continue to rely on investment that should be directed towards industrial upgrades and civil projects. At the same time, Professor Lin put forward his suggestion that the People's Bank of China should empower local governments to issue bonds. This move will allow local governments to borrow from a commercial bank instead of a shadow bank. Furthermore, it will also promote the market-oriented reform of interest rates.

Director of the Center for Population and Labour Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Cai Fang, then analysed China's future economic growth from the perspective of labour growth. Professor Cai emphasized that the shrink of the "population dividend" and the onset of an age-



ing population are possible challenges to China's economic growth. To tackle this problem, China should explore ways to improve overall productivity. At the same time, as China upgrades its industry, she will face a skills glut as the lowly educated labour market will not have the necessary skill set to fulfil the markets' demand. Thus, the average length of education for the workforce will need to increase.

Next, Professor Li Ling from NSD delivered her report, which focused on the building of long term infrastructure and medical reform. Her view was that in order to simplify the government's role, a well-maintained mechanism will have to be put in place. As an expert in medical reform, Professor Li Ling also raised the issue that medical reform should be built upon the improvement of the management mechanism. China will need to address the overreliance on medication, equipment and check-ups to sustain the medical field. In addition, China should also use case studies of successful medical reforms to serve as guidance.

Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Studies, then took the stage to analyse the diplo-

matic aspect of the meetings. Professor Jia noted that a relatively stable global environment is the reason why China is able to reap the benefits of 30 years of reform and opening up. For further reforms, China will need to rely on a more peaceful and stable global environment. The focus for China should be still on reform and the transition from a centralized economy to a market-orientated economy. If China wants to become an important global power, it should be more forward-looking in its foreign policy.

The issue of financial transactions on the Internet was brought up by Associate Professor Xu Jianguo from NSD. He did a special topic reviewing the background, status quo and future trend of online financial transactions. Professor Xu believes that the upsurge of online financial transactions was due to the lack of supply provided by the financial sector and current regulations. The progress in marketing channels means that online financial industry will have a unique advantage and a bright future ahead. Unsatiated financing demand of small and medium sized enterprises will bring vigour to the field. For its long term sustainability,

Professor Xu argued for closer links between interest rates and exchange rates so as to achieve marketization of these rates.

This year, the conference invited an alumnus from the NSD's EMBA programme, Mr. Liu Erhai, who served as the Managing Director of Legend Capital. Based on his wealth of experience in venture capital investment in China, Mr. Liu analysed China's future development from the perspective of technological advancement. With difficulties in export and urban reforms in its nascent stages, raising the technological capabilities of its enterprises will be able to help drive China's economic development. Mr. Liu shared a few successful cases of his company's investment which provided a realistic example for participants to reflect upon China's economic progress and the role that technology played in the process.

The last report was delivered by Professor Song Guoqing from the NSD. He provided his own forecast on the overall growth of the Chinese economy in 2014. He pointed out that based on current statistics, market expectation of the real GDP growth rate may be lower than the target that has been set. Based on his observation, China's potential for growth in the coming decade is declining. With regards to the issue of investment, while Professor Song did not deny the existence of housing bubble, he hopes to remind the investors of the possibility of a negative bubble. With a lower economic growth rate, it is important to look into raising the efficiency of investment.

Since its formation, NSD has placed strong emphasis on the analysis of China's development. It has organized annual review sessions following each year's "Two Committee" meetings. NSD hopes that these sessions will allow it to play the role of a think tank so as to communicate ideas, interpret relevant policies and promote social development. ▀

## PNAS Published Research of Professor Piao Shilong from the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences

Heng Kang Wei

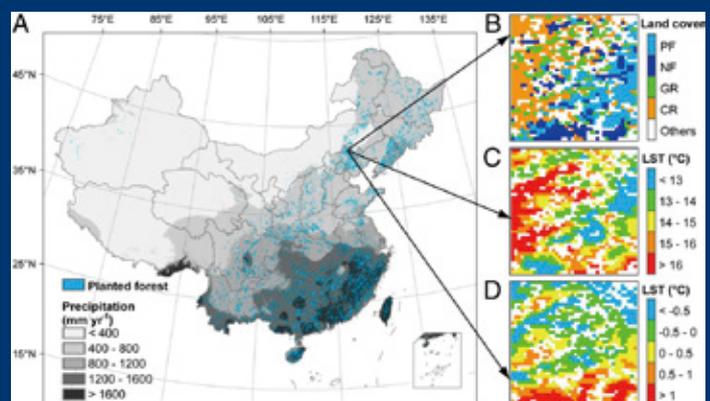
The *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* recently published the results of the latest research conducted by Dr. Peng Shushi and Professor Piao Shilong from the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences on the effect of afforestation in China on global warming. In the paper entitled "Afforestation in China cools local land surface temperature", the researchers were the first to report on the impact of afforestation on regional ground temperature.

For the past 30 years, the Chinese government have implemented a series of important projects in the field of forestry, with a strong focus on programmes including forest conservation and afforestation. The series of initiatives have made China one of the fastest growing countries in terms of forestation area. The initiative have also contributed to the role of the forest ecosystem as a carbon sink. The question then is whether or not the large area of afforestation has a significant impact on land surface temperature (LST).

To answer this question, Professor Piao Shilong and his research team collaborated with academics from Europe and the U.S. Through the use of remote sensing, plantation inventory and meteorological data, the team systematically analysed the mechanism and impact on land surface temperature by afforestation in

China. The research concludes that the afforestation process had on average lowered the LST by 0.4 – 0.5 degree Celsius. The study also revealed the difference of the impact across different time and area. In Southern China, where there is a higher average rainfall, afforestation main impact is on lowering daytime LST, with less impact at night. However, in arid and semi-arid area, LST is increased at night due to the forest blocking the cooling through surface radiation. This offsets the cooling in the daytime, thereby causing an average rise in LST.

The result of this research is not only a comprehensive study of the impact of afforestation on global climate change, but will provide important scientific evidence on how to establish the greatest positive impact on climate cooling through afforestation. The first author of the paper is Dr. Peng Shushi of the Ph.D class of 2012 (He is currently doing his post-doctorate studies at France's Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement). Professor Piao Shilong is listed as the corresponding author. The research was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. ▀

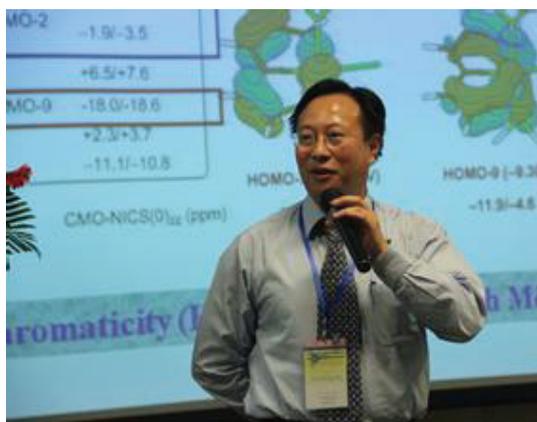


## Professor Wu Yundong Awarded 2014 Fukui Medal by APATCC

Translated by Won Cheng Yi Lewis

In recognition of Professor Wu Yundong's outstanding contributions in the field of theoretical and computational chemistry, he was awarded the 2014 Fukui Medal by Asia-Pacific Association of Theoretical & Computational Chemists (APATCC).

APATCC, founded in 2004, is currently chaired by Professor Leo Radom from University of Sydney. The International Conference on Theoretical and Computational Chemistry is organized by APATCC every two years, and is the most important meeting of the theoretical and computational chemistry community in the Asia-Pacific region. This conference is currently in its 6<sup>th</sup> year running. In recognition of Professor Wu's international stand-



ing, he was elected Vice Chairman of APATCC in 2012.

APATCC awards the Fukui Medal and the Pople Medal to deserving researchers who have made huge contributions in the fields concerning theoretical and computational

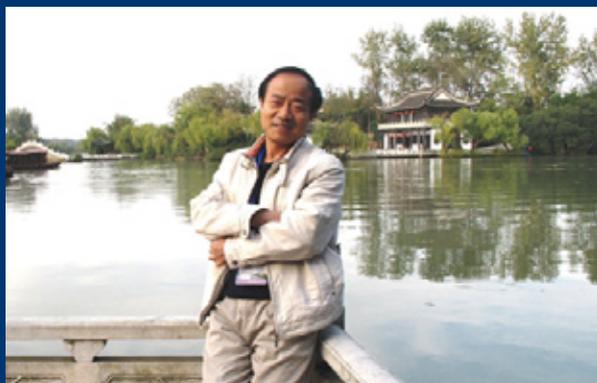
chemistry on a yearly basis. The Fukui Medal is granted to scholars who have made significant contribution in the field of theoretical and computational chemistry, and Pople Medal is awarded to a young scientist aged below 45 whose research stands out in these fields. Fukui Medal is named after Kenichi Fukui, the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, and deserving candidates are leaders of the international theoretical and computational chemistry community, such as Professor Keiji Morokuma, Leo Radom, Kimihiko Hirao etc. Professor Wu is the first Chinese scholar to be awarded this medal.

## Professor Zhan Xiaowei Elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Yu So-Jin

Recently Professor Zhan Xiaowei of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering at PKU, was conferred as Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC).

The Royal Society of Chemistry



(RSC) is a learned society (professional association) in the United Kingdom with the goal of "advancing the chemical sciences". Established in 1841, it is the oldest chemical community in the world, the largest chemical society in Europe, and one of the most influential

international academic organizations. RSC owns over 30 academic journals, such as Chemical Society Reviews, Chemical Science and Chemical Communications. At its inception the Society had a combined membership of about 49,000 in the UK and abroad. The organization works to

shape the future of the chemical sciences for the benefit of science and humanity.

Professor Zhan's research interests focus on organic and polymeric optoelectronic materials and devices. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious academic journals so far. He is among Essential Science Indicators "Highly Cited Scientists". Besides, one of Zhan's papers was listed in "Top 100 Most Influential Chinese Papers Published in International Journals in 2011". Professor Zhan was also a member of the "Hundred Talents Program" of Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as "Distinguished Young Scholars" of Natural Science Foundation.



## Professor Chen Xiaoming

His Perspective on Contemporary Chinese Literature

Aria Gan

**I**ntroduction: Professor Chen Xiaoming is from the Contemporary Literature Teaching and Research Section in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature of Peking University. His research focus lies in the studies of contemporary Chinese literature and post-modernism theories.

**Q:** Why did you choose contemporary literature as your research area?

**A:** Actually, when I was undertaking postgraduate and doctorate study, my research area consists in artistic theories because I took a fancy to them, and had researched on them earlier on. Turning to contemporary literature was out of coincidence. At that time, contemporary literature was not well looked upon. A friend of mine was working on contemporary literature reviews from very early. We discussed some of the works together and he was surprised at some of my opinions. Then he insisted that I should work on reviews. Later I read an article of which he discussed avant-garde novels. He was really very bright, but I had different opinions from him on many issues. So I wrote a long letter to discuss with him and eventually, published my own article on post-avant-garde novels about a new terminology. Naming the term roused up my cognition of the alteration to contemporary literature, and I further divided the new period into two, in order to have a deeper understanding of the differences.

**Q:** In your opinion, what is the most important and most difficult part

of researching on contemporary literature?

**A:** The most difficult part is to grasp the general picture. You have to make it precise and convincing. I have instructed my students majoring in contemporary literature studies to form an opinion of microcosmic contemporary history. Each decade, like the 80s, the 90s and the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century, has gone through some alterations and even within these decades there were also huge differences. The way we talk about the Glorious Age of the Tang Dynasty, the Mid Tang Dynasty and the Late Tang Dynasty is based on a macrocosmic view of history. For example, the Glorious Age of Tang Dynasty has a rather long duration and there are numerous changes within it. You will not be able to summarize them with only one title. A macrocosmic view takes all of that into one. As for forming a microcosmic view, you need to differentiate the changes within each decade as if you have lived through the decades. Speaking of literature, you need to know how the year 1985 is different from 1989, and year 1992 is different from 1990. Of course, literature does not have that direct link with history, but our understanding of every single piece needs to be put into context of such historical backgrounds.

Another difficulty lies in the perception of art, which is in some way a birth right. Some people are numb in such perception, partly due to his childhood habits. The forming of artistic perception requires long-term cultivation. Some people today complain

that there aren't any good pieces of literature. I have two doubts: whether they have read carefully and whether they possess such artistic perception. People do have different opinions, as there are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people's eyes, but people can also have acute perception of art. Some people can embrace numerous types of art, while some people only one. A good perception of art is critical in studying contemporary art and literature, or you may not recognize the greatness of many works. Some critics tend to put their own opinions on a higher ground than the literary works, considering themselves more correct than others and repelling other works, which is absolutely wrong. I appreciate some western critics like Trilling, who expressed that works weigh more than perspectives. Our current perspectives of criticism cannot embrace new works completely. Each of the new works should be understood as a new trial. We should inspire the exquisiteness, the complication of the work rather than judge it with fixed opinions.

**Q:** Which, of the historical background or the literary value, weighs more when appraising the value of a certain work?

**A:** It will be hard to evaluate many contemporary Chinese works if you distinguish the two, because Chinese works are quite different from western ones. We're closely related to history. We praise and criticize some works depending on whether they express a certain historical view. Western writings have been focusing on humanity since the age of romanticism, by means of writing about interpersonal relations and psychological factors. But Chinese writings tend to write about people's fates under important historical events. However, when it comes to judgment, the artistic value comes first. There are numerous works describing the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of China. Some are outstanding, like Chen Zhongshi's *Bailu Plain*, Mo Yan's *Big Breasts & Wide Hips*, Tie Ning's *Stupid Flower* and Wang Anyi's *Song of Everlasting Regret*. Some are paid less attention to, because they



Each of the new works should be understood as a new trial. We should inspire the exquisiteness, the complication of the work rather than judge it with fixed opinions.

expressed too much of the same things. The good works are exquisite in their characterization, structure, plot, as well as description of the locality. So a work is not valued by how well it describes the history, but by how well it expresses art.

**Q:** Do you think the quality of Chinese literature has declined after the 1985s?

**A:** No. On the contrary, the peak of Chinese literature was after 1985. What you have said is a mainstream opinion that I am against. There are many excellent works in Chinese contemporary literature. After the 1980s, our literature has just begun to mature. We say there was a trend called 85 in the 80s, but we also notice that many writers were young when they reached their prime, like Lu Xun, Guo Moruo and Cao Yu. Many writers today, like Mo Yan, have exceeded those earlier writers in the excellence of their works, because many of the earlier works are out of imitation. Cao Yu's *Thunderstorm* is close to Eugene O'Neil's *The Emperor Jones* in structure and characters. It is not difficult to understand. Before Mo Yan won the Nobel Prize, we lacked confidence. Mo Yan's success gave us a rise in spirit, and granted us with a more objective view on contemporary literature.

**Q:** You mentioned that earlier writers reached their prime when they're quite young, around their 30s. What

about the writers nowadays?

**A:** There is a trend that a writer becomes mature in a much later period of his life. The time when a writer becomes famous at a young age has gone. There is a higher starting point for literature. It is great work if you can write a novel. The reason why the writers born in the 1970s cannot become that great, is that writers of the 1950s and the 60s run ahead of them. The high starting point exists in the west as well. Alice Munro, who was the Nobel laureate of last year, wrote *Runaway* in her 70s. Margaret Atwood, who is now in her late 70s, wrote many of her great works in her 60s and 70s. Oe Kenzaburo had a novel written in his 70s published in China last year. So the maturity of writers nowadays is quite different. I did write an article on this. Many writers are in the trend, probably only just started up in their 30s and 40s, and gained more influence till they reach the age of 50. Oe Kenzaburo once told a famous Chinese translator that China now has a group of writers in their 50s that is very precious in the world. The Chinese literature is not to be looked down upon.

**Q:** In an earlier interview, you described your book on the history of Contemporary Chinese literature as probably the hardest one. Why?

**A:** There are about 70 or 80 books on the history of Chinese literature, but only few are written individually. In

my book, I introduced the idea of modernity in order to have an overall view of Chinese contemporary literature, to understand it as a phenomenon of modernity, as the radicalization of modernity. The writing after the Cultural Revolution has leaned towards openness, infected with western modernism, which can be viewed as the exchange of modernity. Instead of explaining a certain piece of work, my book tries to discuss its aesthetic value and philosophical meaning. So in a way it is more complicated.

**Q:** Do you think readers care more about foreign works than Chinese works?

**A:** Not exactly. Currently I am teaching a course on foreign contemporary short stories. Now the major, once called foreign literature in the Chinese literature department, has become comparative literature, which may not have a deeper view on either foreign or Chinese literature. University students today do not read foreign works that much. The writers in the 80s were so mad about foreign works, especially western ones. Our students today read little because they spend too much time online. I do not regard the writings online as useless, but they're out of a stereotype, the value of one piece is close to that of a hundred. We should spend our limited time reading the classics, the well-known ones, with careful selection. ▾

# Professor Zhou Yingchen

## An Advocate for Original Chinese Musical Drama

Guo Danyang

Professor Zhou Yingchen, Director of the Ethnic Music and Musical Research Centre, has made great efforts in the promotion of original Chinese musical drama. She grew up in a family of teachers. Her parents and elder brother are all teachers, who taught her what it means to have an ideal life.

In 2012, Professor Zhou's first production "Red Lantern" ran at the Beijing Tianqiao Theater. This is a musical drama in a typical Chinese style. "To fuse Chinese folk music and foreign musical drama harmoniously is an academic question that I have been studying during my years of teaching," Ms. Zhou said. She was confident that in the future, original Chinese musical drama will utilize elements from traditional Chinese music in its descriptive and narrative pattern. "This will be an inevitable route for the maturing period of original Chinese musical drama." After 30 years of accumulation, the academic circle has formed a clear understanding of this young art form, and has conceived new thoughts and concepts. "The field has reached its turning point" and this is the point of adopting Chinese elements in the musical drama. Professor Zhou mentioned that San Bao's "Gang de Qin" is a very brilliant attempt at giving the ancient elements new vigor. "The folk music is a vast ocean for the original musical drama to absorb nutrients."

As "Red Lantern" is the first demonstration of Chinese folk musical drama, there are plenty of difficulties in the creation process. The production team first found a Taiwanese musician who grew up in an English-speaking environment. However, after 3 months of communication, including flying



between Taipei and Beijing for several times, Professor Zhou gave up modifying the semi-finished music products. "The feeling flew out from the musician's heart; the color and the tune that he was good at were not what we want." The problem is the temperament. Luckily, Professor Zhou chanced upon another musician. "It was pure luck for me to find him." Although time was limited after three months were being wasted, the tacit and consistent understanding between him and Professor Zhou was the secret in their high working efficiency.

"Red Lantern" was a specific presentation of the Chinese aesthetic style. "Although it may be imperfect,

at least we knew what we want and what is reasonable to expect from ourselves, and with further practice and modification the following road be wider."

The following production "Cao Xue Qin" will be even more challenging in its presentation, for it originates from Chinese classical literature, which is even more unique. Choosing this theme to present in musical drama is a very brave and meaningful attempt, as the theme is difficult to be conveyed to the general public, but Professor Zhou has made up her mind to do it.

It is true that Professor Zhou regards the artistic value as the most crucial aspect of a work, "Maybe we are too

To fuse Chinese folk music and foreign musical drama harmoniously is an academic question that I have been studying during my years of teaching.



stringent”, said Ms. Zhou, “it is our advantage, but is also our limit.” She said that scholars are always persisting on pursuing the artistic value in a production. Since there are enough commercialized works in the market to entertain the public, scholars believe that their value is to offer high quality works and competitive productions, focusing on aesthetic value and deeper cultural meaning inside it. “No matter what, we are still an academic team. It is our mission and responsibility to produce works of high quality.” Professor Zhou’s team is like an oasis of academic specialty in the desert of commercial market.

But this does not mean that Professor Zhou despises the commercial value of a production. To her, the ideal situation is the fusion of artistic value and commercial value, forming a win-win relationship. The final target is to increase the public’s awareness of this art form. “It should be deemed a failure if a show cannot survive under the market scrutinize.”

The biggest problem is the public’s misunderstanding on musical drama. This concept is easily confused with opera, which are totally two different subjects that emphasize distinct aspects. “Opera’s lifeline is music, while that of musical drama is drama. From aesthetic value to the descriptive method, every aspect of those two art forms is different. It is ridiculous to mix up these two completely different subjects.” Since the public

respect and appreciate operas from a distance, people also stay away from musical drama, in spite of the fact it’s being easier to approach.

This has form a tough condition for the promotion of musical drama. Professor Zhou and her team have promoted the musical drama to the best of their capabilities.

With every possible resource being integrated, Professor Zhou and her team began the preparation of Zhong Guancun Musical Drama Festival, which met a lot of difficulties during the process. “From 8 a.m. in the morning to 12 at night, we kept on working with that schedule for one whole month. The layman had no idea how heavy the work was.” When the festival was finally launched, it was aimed at conveying the message and the precise meaning of musical drama to the university students and white collars around. “If even they do not appreciate musical drama, how can we keep on our work?” Luckily, the result turned out to be gratifying. All the efforts had been worthwhile. Professor Zhou has received help and assistance from numerous aspects during the preparation process and after the festival, which sustained her will of carrying on the following promotion of musical drama.

The starting of musical drama class can also be attributed to Professor Zhou’s work. As the education of musical drama is still lacking, Professor Zhou and her team started the class

from the spring of 2012 to offer students with opportunities to be exposed to musical drama. Every semester, the class will offer about 100 slots for students to learn high-quality musical drama. “We invite famous and professional teachers for our students, because we want them to know the best that is to offer.”

The class has gained a great reputation due to its high quality. Even post-graduate students and students from other cities were attracted by its fame. However, due to the limitation of classrooms and teachers, a lot of students who signed up were not able to be enrolled. The class is designed completely for public welfare, according to Professor Zhou. It was only supported by her research funds. “Public welfare requires one’s complete self-consciousness, but not transfers the responsibility to the others.” So Professor Zhou did not seek additional resources from the school. She believed that they should do as much as they can within their capability.

Professor Zhou cherishes the encounters with her students as they provide her with new inspiration. She cherished everything that she has. As time goes by, she formed a deeper understanding of her responsibility as an educator that is to reach out and give. That is the concept that keeps her on this road. “No one can force you to do that. It is because of your love that you persist. The process is tough, yet happy and worthwhile.”

# Niu Qiankun

## Filming as A Redemption in the Absence of Expression

Li Feiyue

*This article is based on an interview with Niu Qiankun, the founder of Motion Picture Creation and Production Association (MCPA) at Peking University. From an amateur who started screenwriting, directing, filming and editing all by himself, to the president of MCPA where high-quality micro-films are being produced on campus, Niu Qiankun shared his story with us.*

One Hundred Years In Waiting, an upcoming motion picture created and produced by MCPA has become a representative work in the history of PKU's student-made films. It depicts the story of two PKU students looking for the truth of a mystery about May Fourth Movement in 1919 with clues from the notes they accidentally found on a book in the library. It is exactly the seeking for PKU spirits and the resonance of campus life among all PKUers that distinguishes the work of MCPA from others.

Why do PKUers value and cherish the May Fourth Spirit so much that they continuously write stories and produce films about it? During that time, PKU had a great impact on society as college students were seen as leaders of thought and social movements. Compared with the information age we live in today, there was barely any media to spread information other than magazines and newspapers. Many outspoken PKU students were very active contributors to these newspapers, writing editorial and reviews to promote the idea of science and democracy.

However, people today seldom read newspapers and find it increasingly hard to express their ideas. This is one of the reasons why PKUers constantly reminisce about the May Fourth Era. According to Niu Qiankun, that is also the reason he loves making films. To him, films are a way of redemption in the absence of expression. While literature "tells" people things, films "show" people things. Therefore, an incisive article posted on-

line might be clicked and shared thousands of times, but soon vanishes out of people's horizon, while an impressive film can linger in the viewer's mind for a long time.

"Motion picture can preserve emotions." Said Qiankun, "Even after 20 years, I can still recall the sentiment in the film the moment I see The Next Station." The Next Station is his first successful work, a love story between two young people falling in love in high school and encountering a series of real life problems as they make the transi-

tion from high school to college as well as from a teenager to an adult. It resonated with students at PKU and enjoyed a small following even in China. On Youku website (a popular Chinese video website), this video has gained more than 1.1 million views.

The production process was never easy. As a math student from Yuanpei College, without any experience related to motion picture production, Qiankun learned everything from scratch by reading books on filming, scriptwriting, scenes designing and film editing. The touching film that brought many people to tears resulted from constant correction to the script for more than 30 times, his endeavor of editing the film for entirely 2 months with 10 hours staring at the computer screen every day, and most importantly, his passion of making a film to provoke people's contemplation.

Admittedly, there are a lot of successful and popular micro-films online produced by college students, most of which feature funny stories and dramatic performances. "These films make you laugh, but they can only make you laugh. I want people to think." said Qiankun. What he aims to achieve when making films is to produce meaningful pieces of work for viewers.

"Creating is addictive." Qiankun's eyes sparkled when he said this. The firm faith of expressing sincere thoughts and the unstoppable desire of creation drive him and MCPA to continuously produce inspiring motion picture that captures people's eyes and hearts. 





## Gary Locke's Farewell Speech

Yang Linhan

*His Excellency Mr. Gary Locke (Luo Jiahui), the first Chinese American served as the US Ambassador to China, resigned his post on March 31<sup>st</sup>. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, he delivered his farewell speech at the American Center in Beijing, where several students from PKU listened to his speech.*

*He summarized his work in the tenure of office, reiterated that the United States welcomes the peaceful rise of China and the Asia-Pacific rebalancing policy is not intended to restrict China. Gary Locke also thought that mutual trust of both sides in his term had been strengthened.*

“Strengthened, but not by a lot strengthened,” Mr. Gary Locke said earnestly, when he compared Sino-US relations between when his first took office in August 2011 and today. However, at the same time, China and America have enhanced mutual trust. Especially within the context of the long run, he said, the relation of both sides was more intense than it was 35 years ago, when China and America first built diplomatic relations.

When Gary Locke first took up his post, Sino-U.S. relation was recovering from a cold winter period.

Soon after assuming office, Gary Locke indicated that the Sino-U.S. relations have progressed into the best stage since the two countries established diplomatic ties. In the farewell speech, he thought that China-U.S. mutual trust has been further reinforced after President Xi and President Obama’s two-day meeting held in California.

### From taking the office in Beijing in 2011 to leaving in November, 2013

In order to rejoin his family in Seattle, Mr. Locke declared his resignation in early 2014. The analysts agreed, apart from a few contingencies, that Sino-U.S relations were relatively stable during his tenure. Mr. Locke also has a well-deserved reputation for emergency handling.

“I will leave Beijing with a sense of accomplishment,” Mr. Locke said at the

beginning of his farewell speech. Mr. Locke emphasized that the US-China relations is the most important bilateral relations of the United States. With the introduction of the concept of the “New Model of Relations”, China and the U.S. can better avoid strategic rivalry. Mr. Locke believes that the mission by diplomats of both countries had been to find new way to expand quality and quantity of the ties between the two powers.

At the same time, however, Mr. Locke noted that Sino-US Relations “is not a zero sum game, as the success of United States is linked to success of China, and vice versa. A strong China is in the interest of the U.S.”

While some may claim that U.S.’s pivot to Asia-Pacific was in response to China’s rise, Mr. Locke stressed that “it is simply not the case”. He explained that “The Asia-Pacific is home to more than a billion of people. The region is important politically, economically and socially, and is especially critical to address every international challenge.”

Mr. Locke elaborated that the issues that are of significant concern to both countries include the situation at the Korean Peninsula and Iran, as well as the issue of climate change. “The world looks towards the leadership from both

China and the United States. These are problem which we simply cannot solve alone, and it depends on both countries acting together."

And indeed, Mr. Locke emphasized on the multiple visits by the President and Cabinet members to China for discussion of these issues. The strengthening of the relations between both countries can also be seen from the military aspect where there are more interaction and cooperation between the United States Army and the People's Liberation Army.

As for specific achievements, the former U.S. commerce minister first talked about his work at simplifying the visa application process for Chinese to visit America so as to encourage more Chinese to come to America for business, vacation or study purposes. The figures are obvious testaments of Mr. Locke achievements, where visa application is shortened from close to 100 days to 2 days, and a 75% increase in number of applicants.

Mr. Locke especially focused on the educational aspect. He believed that it is important for more students from each country to spend some time studying in the other country, and then they can better understand their respective culture which contributes healthy exchanges and dialogue between the two powers. During his tenure, he have overseen more American students coming to China to study, and he sees it as a positive trend that should be supported.

In addition, having been a lawyer, Gary Locke also indicated that China has a promising future, but needs to build neutral, transparent and respectful judiciary, which was also addressed in his final speech in Renmin University of China in January, 2014. He mentioned that "China has a great future, but the way forward is reverence towards the rule of law, respect for the constitution, and well-informed citizenry to build a stable and progressive future."

During the Questions and Answers session, Mr. Locke took on some sensitive question, including one from a former Chinese ambassador to the WTO, who reminded him that as a senior government official delivering a pub-

lic speech, there are some things that should not be talked about in public. However, Mr. Locke responded to the accusation with grace and affirmed that "Close partners may not agree on everything, this is a sign of mature relations when both countries can be frank in their disagreement."

Proud of his Chinese American identity, Gary Locke said, Americans have a tradition of public discussion of differences. When he was urging China to solve some problems, he was standing in the angle of hoping China to

become better.

Over the two years and a half of his tenure, Mr. Locke have visited all of the provinces in China except for four, and interacted with Chinese people from all walks of life. He said "I intend to be back often. Chinese people are remarkable, full of dynamism and energy. They desire to do well for themselves, their family and for China."

After the farewell speech, Locke also held a press conference at the American Embassy in China before his departure. ▾

## Henry Chang-yu Lee: Make the Impossible Possible

Zheng Zihui

*On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, world famous Chinese detective, forensic expert Dr. Henry Chang-yu Lee arrived at Lang-run-Yuan at the invitation of National Development Research Institute of Peking University (BIMBA). Dr. Lee made a speech under the title of "making the impossible possible". Many are familiar with this saying, especially sports brand consumers. However, only when Dr. Lee shared his life stories, can we truly understand the significance of this saying.*

**A**bout the speaker: Dr. Lee is the Emeritus Chief for Scientific Services for the State of Connecticut and an occasional lecturing professor of Forensic Science at the University of New Haven, where he has helped to set up the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science. Dr. Lee is also a visiting professor at the East China University of Political Science and Law.

### Self-awareness

Dr. Lee said frankly that as a boy his dream was to be a basketball player. However, since he is not tall enough, he soon understood that



the dream is unattainable for him. That was the reason why he chose to enroll in the police academy, where his career as a forensic scientist began. Lee concluded that one must have a good recognition of oneself first in order to accomplish more or contribute more.

**Rome was not built in one day**

Dr. Lee earned his master degree and doctor's degree in a year. He said that all this goes down to his arduous efforts. He began his preparations for his PhD research subject more than 10 years ago. Dr. Lee could not speak a word in English when he first arrived in the USA, but now he is a prolific writer with more than 40 works. His accomplishments interpret that Rome was not built in one day.

**Have a dream while having a sense of responsibility**

"Dreams are what makes the impossible possible," says Dr. Lee. It was his passion and love for his field of expertise that made him decide on obtaining a doctor's degree in forensic science at New Haven University and kept him from giving up in difficult times.

**Work ethics: speaking with evidence, taking a high responsibility towards history**

Dr. Lee shared his insights on several cases he managed to solve, including the famous Kennedy Assassination, O. J. Simpson murder case, Carpet shop murder case and the Chen Shuibian Shooting accident. During the investigations, Dr. Lee had to endure public rumor and political pressure, but his open and upright working style ensured relatively smooth work for him.

Dr. Lee's speech evoked a warm response among the audience. After the speech Professors Zhang Li and Yang Zhuang, Dean of BIMBA, presented souvenirs and extended gratitude for Dr. Lee's inspirational ideas. 🍷

# Paul Adolph Volcker: The Implementation of Volcker Rule

Sun Qisheng

*On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, Paul Adolph Volcker, former Federal Reserve Chairman, was invited by the National School of Development, Peking University to deliver a speech themed "the Financial Order After the Volcker Rule".*

“ The reason behind implementing the Volcker Rule is to help governments restrict banks from making harmful speculative investments. A functioning commercial banking system is essential to the stability of the entire financial system, for banks to engage in high-risk speculation created an unacceptable level of systemic risk. The vast increase in the use of derivatives, designed to mitigate risk in the system, has produced exactly the opposite effect. Therefore, the government needs to prohibit commercial banks from carrying out proprietary trading, which is the key of Volcker Rule.

However, even if governments around the world approve the Volcker rule, they may meet many difficulties in implementing the rule. If the rule is only adopted by the US government, large commercial banks will not take it seriously, for they can conduct speculative proprietary trading in the financial markets in other countries. Therefore, international cooperation is imperative. Over the past two years, the U.S. government and the British government has established cooperation in this regard, because the United States and Britain are two large global financial markets, and the euro zone is also working with the United States. Implementation of the Volcker rule is not easy but has made some progress.

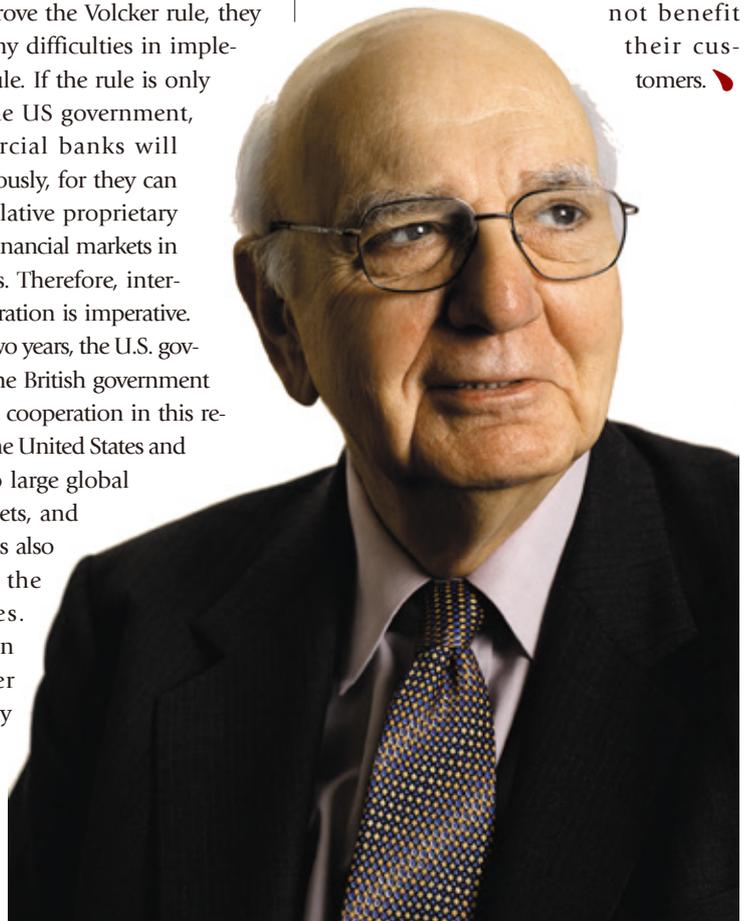
I am optimistic and hope

that China will join us in the promotion of this financial regulatory rule. ”

**Background Information:**

Paul Adolph Volcker is an American economist. He was Chairman of the Federal Reserve under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan from August 1979 to August 1987. He is widely credited with ending the high levels of inflation seen in the United States during the 1970s and early 1980s. He was the chairman of the Economic Recovery Advisory Board under President Barack Obama from February 2009 until January 2011. Paul Volcker puts forward the Volcker Rule to restrict United States banks from making certain kinds of speculative invest-

ments that do not benefit their customers. 🍷





## Jeffrey Sean Lehman: Internationalization Strategy for Peking University

Sun Qisheng

*On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Higher Education Planning in Asia Conference was held at Peking University. Jeffrey Sean Lehman, founding dean of the Peking University School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, delivered a keynote speech during the conference.*

“ International strategic planning varies among different universities. Universities should look for their own way of internationalization according to their own history. In Peking University’s efforts towards this goal of establishing itself into a world-class university before 2020, it should pay more attention to its history and its close association with Chinese culture, politics, and society because it is the best place for the whole world to know China as a country with 5,000 years of ancient civilization. Peking University does better than many counterparts in its pursuit for freedom but it should not be contented with the status quo. What Peking University should focus on is how to make some breakthroughs and lead this nation into a brighter future because Peking University represents Chinese history and culture. ”

### Background Information

The Higher Education Planning in Asia Conference was founded in 2002 by institutions in Asian and the Pacific Region. The conference’s goal is to provide a platform for the interactions and networking among university planners and administrators. The first forum was held at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in 2012. The theme of the 2012 forum is “Building a World-Class University — The Role of Planning Professionals.” The second forum was held at Kyung Hee University, Seoul, which focused on “Towards Excellence: From Plans to Reality”. The next HEPA Conference will be held in Singapore.

Jeffrey Sean Lehman is an American scholar, lawyer and academic administrator. He is currently serving as Vice Chancellor and CEO of startup joint venture New York University Shanghai. Known as an advocate for a proactive role of universities in globalization, he previously served as Chancellor and Founding Dean of the Peking University School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China, President of Cornell University, Dean of the University of Michigan Law School, and Chair of the Board of Internet2, a non-profit computer networking consortium. ▽



## The 111 Project at PKU Achieves Great Success

Zhu Xuanhao

Initiated in 2005 by the Ministry of Education, together with the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, the Overseas Intellectual Introduction Project for Disciplinary Innovation of Chinese Universities, also known as the ‘111 Project’ in China, is a national program that aims to draw about 1000 leading overseas scholars and researchers from top 100 world universities and research institutes to build 100 innovative bases for disciplinary development and research in China (the three key words 1000 100 and 100 constitute the origin of the ‘111 project’). With a long history of introducing overseas talents, Peking University is one of the 23 universities that first joined the 111 Project. A variety of urgently needed overseas experts were brought in through projects such as 111 Project at Peking University with the development of research bases.

Dr. Li Yansong, Vice President of Peking University, introduced the status quo of PKU’s talent-introducing process when the delegation of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and the Ministry of Education visited Peking University in March. Ms. Zhang Yali, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs spoke highly of the efforts that PKU had made to enhance its internationalization through the introduction of high-level professionals and the expansion of its international influence.

There are currently four research bases established at Peking University

covering life sciences, basic medical sciences, molecular sciences, and regional ecology and environment. Taking the project of life sciences as an example, according to its director Professor Gu Hongya, the members of the project published over 30 SCI papers as the first author every year since 2006. Having attracted a number of top experts and researchers in the field of life sciences, the project bore fruitful results with its summer sessions on Plant

Molecular Biology attracting 300-500 young researchers and professors across the country each year, promoting the development of their respective research subjects.

Peking University endeavors to push its talent recruitment project forward through effective channels. Besides, the scale of high-level international collaboration is extended to pioneering interdisciplinary fields with the advancement of '111 Project'.

## PKU and UCLA Updated Cooperation Agreement

Zhu Xuanhao

With the visit of Peking University (PKU) President Wang Enge to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) at the beginning of March, Peking University updated its cooperation agreement with UCLA, deepening cooperation in the field of student and faculty exchange. President Wang Enge met with Professor Gene Block, Chancellor of UCLA, signing agreement to further enhance collaboration with UCLA. It was their second meeting after attending the 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting for Presidents of Association of Pacific Rim Universities held at Russia in 2013. The two fruitful meetings pushed the cooperation of two sides a step further.

The cooperation between PKU and

UCLA dates back to 1980s. In 2006, the two universities joined the 10 + 10 Alliance, a partnership between ten of China's leading public research universities and the ten campuses of the University of California system. Under this framework, the PKU- UCLA Joint Research Institute for Science and Engineering was established in 2009, which marked the milestone of academic communication and personnel exchanges between the two sides.

The beginning of 2013 witnessed the establishment of the PKU/UCLA Integrated BS+MS Program. The latest update of the bilateral cooperation will further enhance collaboration in various aspects.



### Introduction of AIMUN

The Asian International Model United Nations (AIMUN) is a comprehensive research symposium organized by Peking University, with delegates consisting of college students from all around the world. AIMUN has a strong academic foundation, extensively utilizing Peking University's rich and highly accredited academic resources. Renowned professors are invited to act as academic consultants for the conference, and to offer advice for AIMUN members on the design of committees and the selection of discussion topics.

### AIMUN 2014

Peking University's AIMUN 2014 officially kicked off with the opening ceremony held at Wenjin Business Hotel along Chengfu Road on the morning of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This year saw more than 550 delegates from 120 universities gathering at Beijing to discuss issues of a global nature.

The theme for this year's conference is "Building a harmonious global



## Sparking Thoughts Meet Here at the Asian International Model United Nations 2014

Liu Susu

society". As the Academic Directors of the conference explained, "We are witnessing a rise in non-traditional security threats around the world. Thus it is important for delegates to ponder on building cooperation and reaching consensus among nations in order to tackle these challenges."

Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Studies at Peking University, emphasized on the importance of the United Nations system in the current international political system, with its crucial role in conflict resolution. He explained: "While we are unable to let the youth take charge in the real UN directly, the Model United Nations conference is a good replacement to prepare them to become leaders of tomorrow."

Then Mr. Liu Zhixian, Vice President of the China United Nations Association addressed the delegates. Mr. Liu elaborated his take on this year's theme. He believed that people from all nations and cultures have the same goal, which is the common pursuit of security and prosperity. This is in line with the goals of the UN. The dialogue among civilizations has never been so thorough through the UN. Though it is far from perfect, he

firmly believed that the younger generation will step up to the task.

Following the two speeches, Ms. Joyce Msuya from the World Bank Institute delivered the keynote address on the opening ceremony. She is especially impressed by the energy exhibited by youth in China and all around the world. Ms. Msuya challenged the delegates to reflect on how they can contribute towards the development of their own country. She also shared her personal experience, both as a youth and as a professional working with the youth. "I have realized that there are more in common than differences. Youth around the world actually asked similar questions." She hopes that youth from different cultural backgrounds can take advantage of the mutual interest and step up to the role as global citizens.

H.E. Mr. Ralph Thomas, Ambassador of Jamaica to China, and Mr. Zamir Awan, Counselor at the Embassy of Pakistan in China took turns to address the delegates, sharing their rich experiences as diplomats. Ambassador Ralph Thomas explained on the importance of reaching consensus in conflict management. They tracked the unique con-

tribution to the development of peace made by the United Nations, including actively involved in conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

The Secretary General for AIMUN2014, Ms. Wu Biying, a junior student from the School of International Studies, addressed the guests and delegates. She reiterated on what she hoped that delegates will achieve and learn during the four day conference. She then declared the conference officially open.

### PART 3 Interview with Ms. Joyce Msuya

The keynote speaker, Ms. Joyce Msuya, is the Regional Coordinator for East Asia& Pacific of the World Bank Institute.

An exclusive interview was conducted with her after the opening ceremony. The following is an excerpt of the interview.

**Journalist:** Can you talk about your view on MUN in general as well as its popularity in China?

**Joyce Msuya:** Yes. When I think of the China MUN, I think it's an absolutely timely and splendid platform. For three reasons: No.1 is that it brings students from different parts of China and give them the role models; No.2 is that it exposes students to global issues; No.3, China is now the second economic power after the US and it's powerful in many aspects. The more you get in the youth, the better. And I think the MUN platform is the right platform for that purpose.

**Journalist:** What suggestions do you have for youth today?

**Joyce Msuya:** I would say three things.

#### **Dream your dream!**

I have traveled almost all over the world. And sometimes I feel that for young people who have not seen what the world is like before computer. Sometimes you take for granted what you



have with the phone and TVs and so on. It was the same when I was young. My parents said they didn't have radio for me to imagine. So, firstly, I would say to the youths is that it is your moment. You are with energy and ideas. When you are young you can dream.

**Curious!**

Secondly, I would say, to be curious. To ask questions instead of accepting and saying it's okay. Be curious and passionate. For me that's what is driving me. You can do it because you really have all the resources.

**Learn and Learn!**

No.3 is to keep learning. Because I think your future would be much more competitive than ours. I've been [in] the bank for 16 years but I still learning. The world is changing so fast. Try to learn other things. You really need to broaden your horizon.

**PART 4 Hot Topics**

The following are some topics discussed at the Conference.

**TOPIC 1 Different Reactions to the Crisis-----GA and SC act against pandemic crisis**

The crisis began in the morning of March 21<sup>th</sup>, 2014, when a virus termed "V1" attacked the Middle East and the region of Pakistan, causing a

great stir worldwide. After receiving the news, General Assembly (GA) and the Secure Council (SC) worked with each other to act on the problem immediately. Delegates were supposed to draft a crisis resolution in 20 minutes.

GA responded to the crisis positively and tackled the emergency effectively. The delegates were all eager to reach a consensus, but priorities varied when it came to concrete solutions. The delegates of Japan and Liberia appealed for mutual compromise from all countries in order to achieve a solution as soon as possible. USA and Japan were both asked for their position on the issue since they always play a vital role in assisting foreign counties in need. Delegates represented the two counties promised a full and timely support from their countries.

**TOPIC 2 UNICEF: For all of the children**

On March 21<sup>th</sup> 2014, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) started its second session, with delegates representing 36 different countries divided into 6 groups before the conference. Under the topic of "Child Recruitment by Armed Forces and Militants", delegates from each group were asked to come up with a Country Program Document

(CPD) for a particular country, using the limited financial resources they have at hand.

Group Five, which included the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Central African Republic, Brazil and Switzerland, had come up with a clear plan for the Central African Republic. The creative yet cautious plan included three well-thought aspects. Firstly, they demanded the international law on the child soldiers, using the power of law to protect the children's rights. Secondly, from the financial aspect, Group Five called for budget from UNICEF and international donations. Last but not least, from a long-term angle, this plan called for cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and some Governmental Organizations. In addition, the countries suffering from the child recruitment by Armed Forces and Militants need support from UN.

**PART 5 From the eyes of the Secretary-General**

Liu---Liu Susu (journalist from PKU OIR English Press Team)

Wu---Wu Biying(Secretary-General of AIMUN 2014)

**Liu:** Can you share your personal experience during the whole conference with us?

**Wu:** This is my third and last year in AIMUN. From an Assistant Director in HSC (Historical Security Council) when I was a freshman to today's Secretary-General of such a big conference, I have learned a lot from AIMUN. To me, AIMUN is not only a four-day conference, but also a significant and insuperable part of my life. My roommate calls me "AIMUN Daily", because I almost have to do things of AIMUN every day during the past year. But I really enjoy this wonderful journey. It is my great honor to work with such a strong team, to have such an enthusiastic group of friends, and to meet hundreds of outstanding delegates in AIMUN 2014.

**Liu:** What is the topic that attracts you most? And, can you briefly tell us your own opinion towards that?

**Wu:** I am very interested in the topic of General Assembly: Terrorism and Global Cooperation. As you know, General Assembly is always the biggest and most important committee in a Model UN conference. Hence, we are especially cautious when we select topics for GA. Different from the past, AIMUN 2014 aims to reevaluate the impact of globalization in international politics. We have witnessed significant changes in international politics for the past few years. It has brought about new changes and new problems, especially in the area of non-traditional threats. Undoubtedly, terrorism is one of the thorny issues. The challenges call upon the global community to come up with innovative and sustainable solutions. Therefore, to bring GA more in line with international situation, we choose this topic at last.

**Liu:** Could you give a brief summary of the conference?

**Wu:** During the four days, members of organizing committee of AIMUN, members of committee dais and volunteers have worked so closely to bring forth a stimulating, enriching and truly unforgettable Model United Nations experience. Besides, I really want to say thank you to all the delegates and faculty advisors for their active participation. I remember that the delegates of the General Assembly were still discussing the crisis at 12:30, long after the session should have ended; For example, MPC (main press center) produced all the daily newspaper and wonderful video clips for all to know what the other committees are doing. Not to mention, our dear Ambassadors from the Ambassador Program who have participated actively in the liaison system. I am certain that everyone who has attended AIMUN 2014 will be able to take away something from this conference, from friendship to fond memories of conference.

*(Original resource from Peking University AIMUN Daily)* 🍷

## A Heated Exchange: PKU Varsity Debate Tournament

Chia Wai Kian

On the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the semi-finals of the Peking University Varsity Debate Tournament were held at the Yingjie Exchange Center at Peking University. The Peking University Varsity Debate Tournament is an annual event organized by the Peking University Student Council. After several rounds of vigorous debating, four teams eventually made it to the semi-finals. These four teams fought for the right to enter the Grand Finals of the Debate Competition, striving to bring glory to their team. School of International Studies (SIS) was drawn against Guanghai School of Management (Guanghai) while the School of Journalism and Communication (SJC) was up against the School of Foreign Languages (SFL).

The first half of the competition saw SIS and Guanghai debating on the topic "Should we encourage young people to venture into large cities". Since the reform and opening up began in 1979, China's cities have undergone rapid modernization. As a result, many young people leave their villages in search for better opportunities in large cities. SIS, which was the proponent in the debate, won praise from the judges for making their case effectively and shrewdly. SIS thus became the first of two teams confirmed a place in the Grand Finals. Nevertheless, Zhen Jianyu from Guanghai won the Best Debater Award for the session.

After a short adjournment, the competition continued to enthrall the audience as SJC and SFL entertained with wit and verbal deftness against the other. The motion for the debate was, "There are more pros than cons when it comes to regulating discourse on the Internet." As the lead judge acknowledged, this was indeed a topic close to everyone's life. China's tight control



on Internet use and electronic publishing has ignited much controversy. After a heated round of debate, SJC, the proposition, was judged as the better of the two teams, with Li Yanliang from SJC bagging the Best Debater Award for the session.

With the conclusion of the semi-finals, SIS and SJC are now slated to meet on 20<sup>th</sup> April for what promises to be an exhilarating and adrenaline-filled exchange on the topic "The scrapping of the streaming system in the Gaokao, College Entrance Exam, brings more pros than cons".

Meanwhile, we were delighted to have the opportunity to interview Ding Beichen and Zhou Jin after the semi-finals. As freshmen from SIS and SJC respectively, this is the first year in which they are representing their faculty in the tournament.

**OIR:** Tell us about how you felt when you first heard that your team won.

**Ding:** I was happy of course, but perhaps not as excited as I imagined myself to be. I think it is because we still have a difficult stage in front of us—the grand finals.

**Zhou:** I felt really lucky. Compared to traditionally strong teams like SIS

and SFL which probably did not encounter much difficulty in reaching the top four, SJC has only managed to reach the top eight in previous years. The fact that we got into the top four this year is already surprising enough, not to mention that we actually managed to fight our way into the grand finals this time!

**OIR:** As a freshman in your team, what do you think your role was in the team? Did you face any particular difficulties?

**Ding:** As a freshman, I still have not garnered enough experience or knowledge in debate. I'm really grateful to the seniors in the team who decided to give me this chance to rack up experience. There were times when I had the nagging feeling that I was simply being a parasite in the team! Fortunately we won ultimately, and I must attribute that to the serious preparation that the team went through.

**Zhou:** Some people may think that I must be really impressive to have been fielded as a freshman. However in reality, there are many seniors in the team who are so much better than me. Their decision to field me in the semi-finals was a very brave one indeed. While I really appreciate the trust they had in me, it also gave me a fair amount of stress because I was afraid to squander the precious opportunity. Inexperience

is one difficulty that I also faced. I was also quite nervous during the debate because I was fearful of letting the team down.

**OIR:** Tell us more about your team's preparation process.

**Ding:** We hold nightly discussions that more often than not, carry on way past midnight. Before each round of the tournament, we will conduct four full mock debates within the team so that we can be fully prepared for whatever the opponent team throws at us on the day itself.

**Zhou:** We went through the same process as any other team did. We had nightly discussions and mock debate sessions. We did intensive research and constantly practiced, picking up and patching loopholes in our arguments as we went along.

**OIR:** How do you view your team's odds of winning the grand finals?

**Ding:** It is difficult to say for sure. It is the last stretch now. Our team will continue to prepare hard and hope for the very best.

**Zhou:** I think all we can do now is prepare extensively. After all, this is the first time we have the opportunity to contend for the championship. As long as we try our best, we will have no regrets regardless of the outcome. SIS is a very strong team. 🍷

## Language, Culture and Future Brought Them Together

*Chen Runxi*

Mid-term exams are around the corner, but classroom 425 in Second Classroom Building is as crowded as usual, with around eighty students singing Three Bears (a Korean childhood song) together. The teacher, Shin Ji Yun, is a Korean sophomore from the Department of Chinese, Peking University.

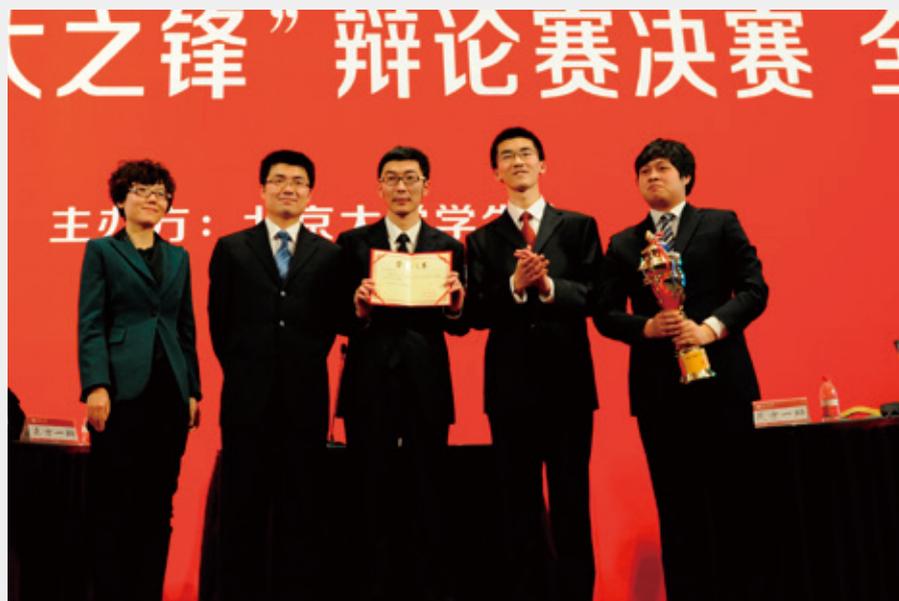
This Saturday night's Korean class is one of the two routine classes held weekly on campus by the Peking University Korean Students Club. This one caters for beginners, while the other class is for advanced Korean learners.

Unlike many language training services or other skill-oriented training services held by clubs on campus, this Korean class does not accept any payment save for material fees. This may explain why the class is so popular with such a large audience.

"We have compared this class with the one conducted by Xin dongfang (a renowned private education provider in China)," said a student who would like to be known as Gang. "This class is definitely worthy, for each group has a dedicated tutor, which makes it like a VIP class at Xin dongfang."

As a "student" from outside campus, Gang was introduced to this class by his colleague. He currently attends the class on a weekly basis with his colleague, his wife and his wife's friends.

This indiscriminate recruitment of the class makes itself different from other clubs on campus, which only recruit members with a PKU ID. This is because the aim of this club is to allow foreigners to know more about culture through the teaching of Korean language. It was with this goal in mind that the Korean students in China founded the Korean Language Education Center, and later the center cooperated with the China-ROK Exchange Association, Peking University



to conduct the class.

Students are also attracted by the pedagogy. The first part of the two-hour class is led by only one Korean student, who will instruct the class as a whole. In the second hour, the Chinese students are split into groups ranging from three to ten people. More than a dozen of Korean students, who sit among Chinese students in the first hour, now take over the teaching, albeit now in a small-group setting.

"I prefer them to Chinese teachers," said Iki, a junior student from the School of Foreign Languages, Peking University who currently attends the class. "The Korean students are native speakers, so they are able to teach us precise pronunciation. Besides, they can teach us the buzz words in Korea right now." When asked to compare the Saturday class and the official Korean elective module conducted by Peking University, IKI told me, "The school course takes too much time and credits, while this class is shorter and more funny."

Chinese and Korean students come here for diverse reasons. For Iki, she likes Korean operas and wants to make friends with the Korean students on campus. "I love their exuberance," she said.

As for Gang, who lives far from campus, his reason is more than picking up language skills and friends. "They (his wife and friends) love Korean language, so I come here to join them." Other than this, "I also come here to experience the ambience of Peking University and also sort of out of admiration for it."

Apart from the club's vision to showcase Korean culture, Korean students come here too for the purpose of having fun with Korean and Chinese students.

For the Korean students, this class is a big party. More than a dozen of Korean students sit at the back of the classroom, cheering and singing songs with the Chinese students. When asked for his reason for coming, Kim Min Hoi, a sophomore from the School of Art, told me plainly—"to have fun." (His girlfriend is the lead teacher of the class this time.)

Through the teaching process, Korean and Chinese students forge deeper friendships. "I made my best friend here," said Shin. "I was her tutor last semester and we became good friends. I



visited her last winter break in her hometown Guizhou."

The class also shatters the barriers in communication between Korean and Chinese students. By teaching Chinese students the Korean language, they get the chance to reach out to Chinese students and interact more with them. This relationship is mutually beneficial. "I enjoy talking with them," said Gang.

After the class ended, the Korean tutors gather to have a short debrief session. They also often, after a night of hard work, hang out and go for a drink. This Saturday night, they celebrated the birthday for one of their members with a cake and a Happy Birthday song.

This class is also loaded with dreams of the teachers. As a lead teacher of the class, Shin has a special love for the class, which is mingled with her dream of becoming a teacher.

"I want to be a Chinese language teacher in South Korea," she told me with her beaming eyes in her Korean-accented Chinese.

She was introduced by her Korean friend to teach here. She is excited because this teaching experience is making her dream come true.

However, she is still beset with many difficulties, the biggest of all being the language barrier. Despite having studied Chinese for three years, language is still a stumbling block when she communicates with students. Fortunately, there is always English to fall back on if both do not understand each other.

In addition, she spends five to six hours a week preparing the materials for the class. Sourcing for interesting materials is also a tough task. "Recently, Chinese people are obsessed with the drama

My Love from the Star. So I try to find resources like this to teach them."

Despite being confronted with so many difficulties, she said she is "very satisfied with the class." "I teach them Korean. When they successfully pick it up, I get a great sense of achievement." But the most important thing for her is that she is now able to realize her dream of becoming a teacher. "I feel like I am living my dream."

Other than this Korean language class, a Cantonese class is also held weekly on campus. The class held by Exchange Students Club every Sunday morning, is taught by students from Hong Kong.

"The part I enjoy most is that through teaching Cantonese, I know more about my mother tongue," said Wong Ming Hong, the lead teacher for this class, a Master student from Hong Kong in the Department of History, Peking University. For him, language barrier is nonexistent, but this job is still challenging for him since he has to learn many things from scratch. "In order to teach them, I taught myself Wade-Giles system (a romanization system for Chinese). I listen to Cantonese songs so that I can sing with them, which is not something I used to do often."

Unlike the Korean class, this Cantonese class is more skill-focused. Many students come here either because they plan to go for exchange programs or apply for graduate schools in Hong Kong in the future. It could also be for the love of the culture and food of Hong Kong. "My friend studies in Hong Kong, I want to learn Cantonese so that I can communicate with her better," said Amy, a freshmen from the School of Economics, Peking University. ▽



## Light A Lamp in Your Heart

A brief introduction to  
“The History of Chinese Buddhism”

Wang Yawen

I am attracted to online open courses because of the diversity of the classes offered. Science, philosophy, psychology, politics, literature, art; you name it, you have it. There was once that I came across a lecture named “An Introduction of Old Testament” taught by Professor Christine Hayes from Yale University. I was deeply attracted, beyond my initial expectations, by the stories told by the professor. As my knowledge in Christianity increased, I realized that Christianity is an integral part of western culture. In fact, I would say that in order to grasp the essence of western culture, the study of Christianity cannot be ignored.

Similarly, for a foreigner who is interested in Chinese culture, it is highly recommended to study Buddhism. In this regard, foreign students at PKU can look to a popular high quality course that PKU offers —the History of Chinese Buddhism. Both foreign students and Chinese students will find that there is much to learn from the course.

As the name suggests, the course aims to introduce the history of Chinese Buddhism, starting from the Han Dynasty to modern times. Lecture content covers historical events, important theories, as well as different schools of thought within the period. One may be inclined to think that the course is serious and thus, boring. However, the adjective “fun” is often heard when students were asked to describe the course. This can be attributed to Professor Zhou Xuenong, who is adept at explaining recondite theories in a simple, explicit way. For instance, when he explained the Buddhist theory of universal connection, he did it through a joke, “Even an act such as your dinner box dropping to the ground can change the structure of the world.”

In spite of his humor, Professor Zhou can be described as a prudent person. There is a saying, “Buddha dharma is like a sea. Only if you believe in it, you can comprehend it and get rewarded.” Thus I asked Professor Zhou if he advocates conversion in his class. The answer is no. “The aim of the course is not to preach Buddhism. On the contrary, I always try to avoid taking that stance. The course is set up to introduce the Buddhism tradition in China objectively, without the injection of any personal preference or inclination. It is important to understand a traditional culture as accurately as possible, and analyze it from a neutral perspective. As to whether one chooses



to embrace the religion, it is a personal choice and cannot be forced upon anyone,” explained Professor Zhou.

It is said that being consistent with the mantra “let it be” in Buddhism, the manner in which Professor Zhou evaluates students’ essays is also “unexpected”. There is a legend that once a student handed in a blank sheet for his final essay, with great confidence. He explained, “Everything is empty, so I am now handing in you a blank sheet.” Professor Zhou smiled and replied without batting his eyelid, “If everything is empty, you should hand in nothing.” Even now, students still take great delight in talking about it. The professor said about grades, “As for grades, you should let it be rather than cling to it. At birth we bring nothing; at death we take away nothing. Your grades are no exception.” As a matter of fact, Professor Zhou is quite judicious and responsible in evaluating students’ essays. “First of all, I expect clear understanding of the matter being analyzed. Secondly, I value independent thought. Thirdly, I want to see logical and articulate expression. These are the top three things I look out for when grading students’ essays. I do not demand professional work, because it’s too hard to do so for beginners who are delving into Buddhism for the first time.”

The History of Chinese Buddhism is so popular that even though the class is held at a big lecture hall, it is often packed to the brim with students and others who sit in. Amongst them included a nun in her robes. She was extremely attentive in class, taking frequent notes. “She may want to know the differences between the courses on Buddhism at PKU and those conducted in her nunnery. Anyway, the door of my class is always open; everyone is welcome to come in.” Professor Zhou said.

“Light a lamp in your heart, the lamp of wisdom.” Professor Zhou once said. Plain clothes and a pair of glasses constitute my first impression of him. But after sitting in his class, you will discover a rich and abundant inner world underneath his obscure appearance. 



## The Original Fire Comic Club

Zhang Kexin

### Background

The Original Fire Comic Club is the only students' association at PKU founded by fans of comics and animations. "The Original Fire" stems from the idea of "a spark of the original fire can start a prairie fire." First initiated by some comic book lovers, the club has become an established association after 15 years of development. The Original Fire Comic Club now is a comprehensive comic fans club with a variety of activities in the areas of comics, animations, video games, cosplay, and fan arts.

### The Original Fire Comic Club

The Original Fire Comic Club was founded in October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998, aiming to offer opportunities for comic fans to interact and have fun with one another. Within ten years, The Original Fire has become a well-established club and won its place amongst the "Top Ten Outstanding

Associations" due to its excellent organization culture as well as its distinctive and interesting activities.

In 2007, the Original Fire went through a series of changes, allowing it to mature into a better organization. At present, the Original Fire has different departments catering to different Comic sub-fields.

Cosplay culture is a special one in which comic fans dressing up and imitating characters in cartoons. In the Cosplay department, members can choose to dress the costumes of the character they love. They prepare the costume, accessories and make-up themselves. Students attend outdoor photo shoots, cosplay shows, and cosplay stage plays, and they enjoy every bit of it.

In the Hands-On Department, the club organizes the members together to create cartoons or comics. This provides chances for beginners to learn from other students who have abundant experience. Furthermore, there are also animation screenings and baseball trainings held regularly for those who are interested in the Japanese culture.

In the Communication department, the Original Fire gives lectures related to comics regularly. Famous artists from Japan are invited to deliver lectures, in which they share drawing skills, personal experiences and their understanding or unique ideas on comics and animations. The Original Fire also cooperates with Meiji University as well as the Department of Japanese, PKU, inviting professional creators to attend the Comic High-end Lectures. These lectures are also very popular among students.

The Anniversary Party conducted by the Original Fire is one of the most famous and popular activities on campus each year. It is a tradition that all the members or alumni

work together through the preparation process. Not only do they get a great chance to keep in touch and share ideas, they also learn valuable lessons of teamwork.

Members also have the opportunity to improve themselves and pick up new skills in the association. For instance, the publicity and advertising materials are all designed by club members and students also have the chance to learn Japanese if they decide to continue their education in Japan in the future.

According to Dai Meng, a sophomore from the School of Journalism and Communication and the director of the cosplay department, said that the Original Fire is a big family full of love. The rehearsal of cosplay shows, for example, often went past midnight. The students are willing to sacrifice countless hours for the final show, which only lasts for ten to thirty minutes. "We do it out of love," she said, "we enjoy ourselves a lot in the association, and we are all happy to contribute. That's because of love." The relations between the members are also harmonious and friendly. As Dai put it, "The seniors are just like our elder siblings; they may be strict with us at times but they are also very friendly and helpful, giving us patient guidance whenever we need." At the end of the interview, Dai said, "We may have occasional differences in opinion, but every time we come together, it really feels great because we have a common goal to strive for." 🍷



## My View on the Peking University Girls' Development Association

Yue Dai

*This is the speech delivered by Ms. Yue Dai, the Chairwoman of the Peking University Girls' Development Association, during its official founding ceremony. The speech provides a unique perspective to highlight the society's empowerment of girls at Peking University.*

Respectable teachers and dear friends,

Good evening. Thank you for taking time off your busy schedule to attend the founding ceremony of Peking University Girls' Development Association and the first report of "Weiming Forum on Women". I am Yue Dai, a junior student and the chairwoman of Peking University Girls' Development Association. It is a great honor to stand here on behalf

of the Association, and all of our sponsors and staff who have devoted their efforts during the preparation process, to share a girl's dream of growing together with everyone.

Last year, I served as the Director of the Department of Female Students in the PKU Student Council. During my term of office, we held a ball, named "Fei Cheng Wu Rao" party, for freshmen, the mirror mounting on Girls' Day and other activities. I hope that this activity was able to bring joy and warmth to the girls of Peking University. The activities of this kind received warm responses from students, which made me very proud. However, once the hustle disappeared and the fascinating lights waned,

these activities prompted introspection on girls' inner dreams: Did the party's toast give us a stronger power of self-confidence? Did the polite greetings on the party give us wings to chase our own dream? Did the simple mirror make us see our real desires in our heart? To tell you the truth, during the preparation process of those activities, what I considered more is whether the activities can attract students to participate, and whether they can make a difference to the campus. The long term meaning and social values of the activities were ignored. When I was alone looking back and summarizing my work for the past year, I always had some frustration and regret.

If I could have another chance to do something for the girls in Peking University, I will not only focus on the recreation activities, but also focus more on whether these activities can affect and contribute to girls' future development. Even a little bit of contribution will fill me with content.



In October, Ms. Zhang Lixin, Secretary General of the PKU Student Council, discussed about our consideration and worries of the situation of contemporary women development. I deeply agreed with Ms. Zhang's worries, and hoped to offer my help. With Ms. Zhang's guidance, I thought about my position once again, and reflected on what girls were lacking, what their dreams were, and how an association can help.

I find that girls of Peking University are independent, brave, ambitious, firm and persistent. They are eager to gain achievement and win respect through their own efforts. However, behind the strong appearance, they also have fragile, helpless hearts that need people to take care of. We need someone to give us a pull when we are confused, and we need company on the road of chasing dreams. Due to these facts, an association that leads girls to improve themselves, develop themselves and strive for independence is required.

Over the past few months, with Ms. Zhang's continuous support, Peking University Girls' Development Association was finally founded. We will invite famous speakers to discuss girls' anxiety and tackle the difficulties together. We will utilize the abundant training resources to build a platform for girls' self-promotion. Furthermore, we will explore overseas resources to broaden girls' horizons and enrich their experience. The mission of our association is not to help girls make great achievement and gain high position, but to achieve extraordinary things in the most ordinary position.

I hope that with the help of our association, girls can not only forge friendship, but enhance themselves and gain precious opportunities and platforms to show their real beauty. I believe that the association will be the most faithful partner and assistant during girls' way to their dreams.

Peking University Girls' Development Association is looking forward to having more positive and confident girls to join! 🍷

## Debating: Love Mingles with Pain

Zhou Jin



*Zhou Jin is a journalist at the Peking University Office of International Relations News Team. Here she shares her experience of being part of the debating team of her faculty and the challenges of being a student debater.*

### The most important decision

After a long and painful thought process during the whole winter vacation, I have made the most important decision which may cast a far-reaching influence on my four-year-life as an undergraduate or, to my whole life. That is to stay in the debating team in my faculty and improve my debating level till I can match our Peking University's Debating Association. For the first time in my life, the word "stay" has given me a sense of assurance, as I have decided for myself to be a debater.

Reminded of the memories of debating in my first semester, the experience cannot be defined simply by the sweat or hardship. I was confused when I could not clarify a definition or when I could not pro-

pose a standard to compare the advantages and disadvantages of a motion. My energy was sapped when I need to discuss with my teammates till three in the morning, and still need to wake up before seven for morning classes. I am stressed when I need to "fight" using my mouth with seniors who seem to be much more talented than me, and I felt helpless when I cannot answer my schoolmate what I have achieved during this painful and tedious process of preparing for competition. I could not even answer a very simple question: What is debating?

On numerous occasions, I have thought of giving up, but when I reflected upon debating, I managed to come up with a vague definition: debating is something that makes you have to stay up all nights to prepare, but you just cannot stop loving it.

With this new feeling, I stayed. As a freshman, I wanted to explore this new field just like a baby who has just come to the world, and I hope to get better understanding of the whole process of debating.

## PKU Varsity Debate Tournament

Every spring semester, PKU Debate Association holds the most popular Debating Competition on campus — the PKU Varsity Debate Tournament. This spring semester is no exception.

After half a year of preparation, our faculty team grew larger, with about seven students in my grade staying on in our team. Our seniors have said that we will fail to qualify. However, it seems that luck is on our side this year. Till now we have achieved three rounds of victories and have earned the ticket to the semi-final competition. It is the best result we have ever achieved since the team was established. Although some of us thought of leaving because they felt that they could not debate at all, and one even lost his voice that left him unable to speak. Once, an excellent debater in our team needs to quit due to a liver operation. We were really worried because it seems that nobody could take over his role at that time. However, with collaborative work, we finally made it. No matter how disadvantaged we were, we did not give up, but kept encouraging each other. It is the unity of the whole team that makes us who we are today.

### An impressive conversation between my senior and me

All debaters cherish the camaraderie among the team, the debate circle.

In our team, we have experienced debaters and newbies, and the experienced debaters always felt obliged to help the newbies improve their skills. For this reason, our seniors could also be considered as our mentors.

The day after we won the third round of PKU Varsity Debate Tournament, I had a conversation with one of my “mentors”, who I admired and appreciated very much. The words he said to me touched my heart.

“What do you love most about debate?” I supposed that his answer would be about the improvement of critical thinking and logical ability, or the friendship between his friends and him, but he said, “Debating is persuading. I love the reaction of the judges and the audience when I am trying to persuade them



and communicate with them, either the looks in their eyes or some subtle actions reflected by their body gestures. Thus, after you have debated for several years, you have seen different propositions, different opinions and you need to find a way to accept them and explain it to others, and you will find yourself to be more lenient towards others.” This point is so thought-provoking that I have savored it for a whole day.

As a veteran in debate circle at PKU, he also shared with me some ideas about debating. He said, debating exerts a positive influence on every debater. First, the propositions can broaden your mind. We think beyond our own profession, but from humanities to astronomy, from media communication to economic issues. All of the phenomenon happening in our life will be discussed during a debate. Secondly, the competition provides us with pressure. The desire of winning makes us think deeper and deeper. We have to make a point that cannot be easily defeated by others. So during this process, we reflect upon our own ideas, avoid any weak points and then make up our arguments. Last but not least, debating improves our language ability. We started speaking in short sentences during the fierce competition. In the long term, our communication ability will improve.

When talking about the tournament, he thought there was a trend at PKU: There used to be traditional strong teams that always win. But now, every school

has the possibility to win. The advantages of the traditional teams are disappearing and the strength of each faculty is reaching a balance. It signifies that the culture of debating is developing at PKU. Everybody in PKU can realize their dreams of debating, and showcase their talents on the platform.

### KFC as our meeting room!

I know you are curious about the subtitle and feel a little surprised by it. But that is truth. Every week you can see students debaters crowded around a table at the KFC right outside the school gate to discuss about our propositions. When we do not have spaces for training and discussion at night, the KFC becomes our classroom. Although the space is narrow, the environment is noisy, and the air is filled with the smell of food and drinks, we attained great progress in the fast food restaurant. It is difficult but we are able to make do with whatever we have.

So what is debate? Why we love debate? Is it worthwhile? I am unable to explain the details to you in brief words but I am fortunate enough to experience debate and I have years ahead of me to continue debating.

Maybe debate seems to be weird in others’ minds. To me, however, it is something I continue to pour my passion in. 

## Donation from Yilida Group in Support of Financial Law Research

Chia Wai Kian

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a ceremony was held at Peking University Law School to mark Mr. Li Kui's donation to Peking University (PKU) Financial Law Institute. Mr. Li Kui, chairman of Yilida Group, will set up a research fund in his name for talent development, academic publications, and academic exchanges of the PKU Financial Law Institute.

Professor Wu Zhipan, Executive Vice President of PKU, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Li Kui and all the other donors for their generous support of the Financial Law Institute. He noted that such donations were not only beneficial to talent development in financial law area, but also greatly helpful to the spread of knowledge in financial law in general.

As a symbol of PKU's appreciation and gratitude, Mr. Xie Jianhua, the initiator of the fund, and Mr. Li Kui were both granted with PKU Educational Contribution Award.



## Donation from Mr. Lin Zhenfang in Support of Sinology Research and Talent Development

Chia Wai Kian

On February 26<sup>th</sup> 2014, a donation ceremony was held at Ying Jie Exchange Center of Peking University (PKU). Mr. Lin Zhenfang, Chairman of Shenzhen Hangpeng Marine Environmental Service Co. Ltd., contributed to the National School of Development (NSD) at PKU for teaching, research and infrastructure development purposes, which also includes the expansion of academic exchanges among doctorate students and the development of a Sinology academic publication. Mr. Lin will also set up a "Lin Zhenfang Scholarship" to award outstanding doctorate students in the fields of History, Philosophy, Archeology, and Chinese Language and Literature.

In his speech, Mr. Lin expressed his excitement of being at PKU and meeting everyone present at the ceremony. He declared that sound development of education is the fundamental guar-



antee of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and he is willing to do all he can to push forward the cause of education in China.

## Donation from Luen Tai in Support of International Exchanges

Chia Wai Kian



On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, a ceremony was held at the Chen Shouren Conference Centre of Peking University, to mark Luen Tai International Group Ltd.'s support of PKU.

Through the agreement signed at the ceremony, Luen Tai pledged to donate 15 million Yuan (RMB) to set up the "Chen Shouren Education Fund" for the purpose of subsidising international exchanges of PKU students, and supporting the development of Peking University Education Foundation (PKUEF).

In his speech, Mr. Chen Shouren, Chairman of Luen Tai, reminisced about his deep history with PKU since 1998. He noted that his children were also very supportive of his efforts to give back to society, and that they would do their best to ensure that this tradition of community service will continue to flourish.

Mr. Chen Hengli, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Luen Tai, was also invited to come on board as an honorary trustee of the University. In his speech, Mr. Chen Hengli described the appointment as a "huge honour", and expressed his willingness to contribute to the development of PKU, as well as the greater education cause in China.

### How to Give

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## Archives of Peking University

The Archives of Peking University is located near Peking University's West Entrance, south of Peking University's Administrative Building. The original Archives of Peking University was set up on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1958. It was further expanded to be the Comprehensive Archives of Peking University in December 1982, and was renamed the Archives of Peking University in 1993.

The Archives of Peking University has fonds of 5 separate universities, namely Peking University, the Southwest Associated University, the occupied territories of Peking University, Beiping University, and Yanjing University. It holds rich and varied collections of records, which can be classified into the following categories: the Communist Party and the government, school census, scientific research, infrastructure, publications, accounting, audio-visual materials, personage and objects. These holdings reflect the establishment, transition and development of Peking University over the past one hundred years or so.

Administratively, the Archives of Peking University is divided into three separate departments: collection of archives, management of archives and technology application. It has an Archives Reading Room on the first floor, which provides inquiry services for users.

In recent years, the Archives of Peking University has made great efforts in digitalising its archives. Thanks to the advancement of the Internet, students now can have access to various archival materials easily through the Archives of Peking University web portal.



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