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The Return of a Venerable Alumnus: Premier Li Keqiang Visits PKU

by Huang Fangyuan & Wei Yuchen

On the afternoon of April 15, 2016, the School of Economics, Guanghua School of Management, and the School of Law were overflowing with cheering students. The enthusiastic students were welcoming a high-profile alumnus' return to PKU, a graduate from the School of Law's Class of 1977. His name is Li Keqiang, and he is the current Premier of the State Council of China.

"He gave me the feeling of an amiable elder," a student from the School of Foreign Languages described her first impression of the Premier. "It was definitely unforgettable." Kousuke Yamamoto, a Japanese student from the School of Chinese as a Second Language, said. When shaking hands with the Premier, the student said "Hello" in his awkward Chinese, to which the

Premier responded with a "Hello" in Chinese as well. Although he only had this short conversation with the Premier, "I felt moved and happy" he said. This also reaffirmed his confidence in learning Chinese: "I will keep working hard in the future. I hope one day I can talk about my own idea of Sino-Japan relations in fluent Chinese."

The Premier first visited the National School of Development, where he was given an introduction to the school's latest research achievements. Learning that the institute had created a new kind of economic index, the Premier said approvingly, "You have made unprecedented contribution to promoting a new economy driven by new energy. It is hard to maintain medium-to-high economic growth simply by relying on traditional forces of growth. A new economic

model can not only provide massive employment opportunities, but can also speed up the transition from traditional forces to new energy."

Premier Li then visited the School of Mathematics. More than 30 of its graduates have become academicians at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Learning that the number of students applying for mathematics major had been increasing in recent years, the Premier nodded with satisfaction. The Premier emphasized the importance of research in fundamental mathematics. He encouraged more young people to study fundamental mathematics, and he called for the establishment of a new mechanism of long-term support of fundamental research in order to provide researchers with a stable and reasonable income as well as a respected

“ You have made unprecedented contribution to promoting a new economy driven by new energy. It is hard to maintain medium-to-high economic growth simply by relying on traditional forces of growth. A new economic model can not only provide massive employment opportunities, but can also speed up the transition from traditional forces to new energy. ”

social status.

Premier Li elaborated on the capitation of scientific work, "The capitation of scientific research should not be controlled too tightly, otherwise it will be hard to attract first-class talents." When learning that the total amount of capitation only accounts for 30% of the expenses, Li explained that the key to fundamental research was having the best people, and he said developed countries set a good example for China. In those countries, the capitation of fundamental research constitutes as much as 80-90% in mathematics research.

After the visit to the School of Mathematics, the Premier attended the "Forum of Reform and Innovation in Higher Education" held at the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center. Lin Jianhua, President of Peking University, introduced the idea of future-oriented education, and stated that we should fully respect the importance of education, while deepening reform and breaking the bottleneck in development.

At around 6pm, the Premier proceeded to the Nongyuan dining hall to have dinner with students. A steamed bun, a dish of cold agaric, a dish of fried shrimp, and an angler-

fish were chosen by the Premier, which came to be fondly known as the "Premier Set Meal". After getting his food, the Premier spotted a familiar face. Her name was Li Minhui, a sophomore from the School of International Studies. Back in October 2013, Premier Li met with Li Minhui when he visited Thailand. Impressed by the achievement of China's Higher Education, Li Minhui decided to study in China, and she successfully passed the college entrance examination. She was one of two students in the whole northern part of Thailand to be admitted by Peking University last year. Seeing the Premier again, Li Minhui was still a little bit nervous. She habitually put her palms together devoutly. The Premier noticed and asked, "Are you a Buddhist?" She went on to explain that China and Thailand share a common belief in Buddhism and

Confucianism and that "all living creatures are equal." The Premier continued, "Buddhists believe that everyone can become Buddha after sudden realization of truth. You can also become Buddha." Li Minhui was deeply moved.

At the dining table, the Premier asked the students questions, ranging from food and accommodation to research and their studies. He quoted the famous saying "Great undertakings have small beginnings" by Laozi to encourage students to dream big and to do meaningful work. After dinner, the students gathered around the Premier and listened to him recall his unforgettable experience studying and living at PKU 40 years ago.

With the beautiful sunset as a backdrop, Premier Li walked out of the dining hall and waved goodbye to the teachers, staff, and students. As his car slowly drove out of the campus, students on the sidewalk sang *Love for Yanyuan*, a PKU song, to see Premier Li off. The sound of their singing rose and fell like waves and lingered in the air for a long time.



PKU-Yale Exchange Week

✎ Wei Yuchen

As two prestigious institutions of higher education, Peking University and Yale University share a common idea. After thirty-two years of cultural exchanges, PKU and Yale have attained significant progress in many fields, including talent cultivation and academic research. This spring, the PKU-Yale Exchange Week was kicked off with gorgeous performances presented by Spizzwinks, a cappella chorus from Yale, and an a cappella group from PKU.

On the evening of March 14, 2016, the joint performance of a cappella groups from PKU and Yale was held at the Zhonghua Convention Center of the Lake View Hotel.

The performances began with a Spizzwinks classic called "Somebody to Love". This was followed by the performance of "I Heard it through the Grapevine" and "Billie Jean", which was accompanied by interesting moves and steps, the evening event reached its peak when Yale's Spizzwinks and PKU's a cappella sang "Let it Be" and "Non-stop Love" in English and Chinese, respectively. Immersed in the melody, the audience could feel the cultural resonance between the two choral groups. "I am excited, amazed, and moved," a member from PKU described her feeling, "I hope there would be more musical contacts with Yale."

A cappella culture has been popular on both campuses. As one of America's oldest male choirs group, Spizzwinks is undoubtedly a pioneer in its endeavor to spread a

cappella culture. The a cappella group from PKU is also the first university a cappella club in China. The communication between the two outstanding a cappella choruses was truly remarkable. As Shen Xuesong, Deputy Secretary-General of the China Education Association for International Exchange pointed out, there are no better ambassadors of friendship than the youth from both countries.

A week later, Professor Peter Salovey,

President of Yale University led a delegation to visit PKU. The Yale



delegation included Fawn Wang, the Director for East Asia affairs in the Office of International Affairs, Dr. Anthony J. Koleske, Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, and Joy McGrath, the Chief of Staff in the Office of the President.

President Lin Jianhua and President Salovey signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), providing PKU medical students with exchange opportunities at Yale's medical school to undergo clinical training.

In addition, the two presidents also exchanged ideas about current issues and discussed international cooperation projects between the two universities. President

Salovey indicated that in-depth study of Eastern and Western culture is vital for the students' development. "Our students not only need to read Shakespeare, but Confucius as well.

Universities should concentrate on its role in educating and invest in scientific research."

After the signing of the MOU, President Salovey delivered a speech entitled "Emotional Intelligence: Is There Anything to It?" to students at the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center. Before becoming President of Yale University, Professor Salovey primarily researched emotional intelligence (EI).

EI is the capacity to recognize one's own and other people's emotions, to discriminate between different feelings and label them appropriately, and to use emotional

“Our students not only need to read Shakespeare, but Confucius as well. Universities should concentrate on its role in educating and invest in scientific research.”

information to guide thinking and behavior. The theory divided the measurement of EI into four parts: accurately identifying emotions of people and symbolized by objects in pictures, using emotions and solving problems with emotions, understanding the causes of emotion, and being open to emotions and fusing emotions with thinking. A person with high EI can use feelings to motivate, to plan and to succeed. President Salovey used his first meeting with former president Bill Clinton as an example. His nervousness faded away when President Clinton looked into his eyes and

greeted him as an old friend. This little story demonstrated the high EI of President Clinton. The theory of EI has been applied to many fields, including business, education, and even our daily lives. The laboratory led by President Salovey had several teams conducting EI assessment tests, and they had put forward quantitative criteria as specific guidance on team building.

In the Q&A session, when asked about how EI theory worked in romantic relationships, he replied that couples with a high EI and a low EI were most likely to have a happy relationship. Hearty laugh echoed in the hall. A student commented that "He is humorous and energetic, it's unbelievable that a president of such a top university in the world could give a lecture in such an

approachable way. I felt truly impressed."

Following the speech, President Salovey met with Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of Peking University Council at the Luce Pavilion. Chairman Zhu suggested that the two universities should not only strengthen their friendship, but should also plan for shared development in the future. In the trend of inter-collaboration and communication, he was looking forward to a new round of win-win corporation. Zhu Shanlu emphasized that "New directions for further communication on the basis of deep friendship will promote the cooperation between the two nations and benefit the world."

In his response, President Salovey used four words to describe PKU: unified, innovative, accessible, and

excellent. He then looked back on the history of friendship between Yale and PKU. "Students of both sides have close connections, including various exchange programs. There are now 600 to 700 Chinese students studying in Yale, as well as Chinese scholars coming to Yale on a regular basis."

At the end of the meeting, Chairman Zhu extended an invitation for President Salovey to be an international consultant for the PKU 120th anniversary celebration, which President Salovey happily accepted.

PKU and Yale share a long history of cooperation. The PKU-Yale Exchange Week marked not only a milestone of the friendship between the two universities, but also an important step forward towards a better Sino-US relationship.



PKUNMUN 2016: A Feast for Youths with a Belief in Union

by Liu Xiya & Dong Rong



As everything is coming alive in early spring, PKU welcomed a large group of teenagers dressed in suits and ties who were ready to debate. This year, PKUNMUN2016 (Peking University National Model United Nations Conference for High School Students, 2016), one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in China, celebrates its twelfth anniversary. After a year of preparation, the four-day event was successfully held, brimming with innovative ideas and diplomatic passion.

The Opening Ceremony

The Conference began with the opening ceremony on March 24, 2016. A total of over 500 student delegates, over 100 student observers and volunteers, and teachers

from over 100 high schools in China gathered at the PKU Centennial Hall. Special guests including Danis Antoine, Ambassador of Grenada to China, Li Yansong, Vice-President of PKU, Yan Liang, Secretary-General of UN Association of China, and Nicole Huxley, International Communications Consultants of UNDP United Nations Development Program (UNDP) China.

Under the theme of "Global Governance: Collaboration and

Reform", PKUNMUN 2016 focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders on the 25th of September, 2015, at the United Nations for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which officially came into force in 2016. The SDGs aim to go further to end all forms of poverty and contain important global problems. The year 2016 presents an unprecedented opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the

“ PKUNMUN is one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in China, and has so far attracted more than 5800 participants. ”

world together to embark on a new path to improve the lives of people everywhere.

The ceremony kicked off with a warm welcome by Vice President Li Yansong. On behalf of Peking University, he expressed his gratitude to guests and participants from around the world. Looking back over the twelve-year history of PKUNMUN, he noted that PKUNMUN is one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in China, and has so far attracted more than 5800 participants. He mentioned that some delegates who participated in the conference as high school students would go on to be PKU students several years later.

Then, His Excellency Mr. Danis Antoine shared his own story of working as a UN delegate of Grenada and an Ambassador to China. Peace, development, and international cooperation are the basic values of the UN, which have been highly emphasized ever since the organization's founding seventy years ago. With tighter bonds forming among international communities and the growing complexity of international relations today, new problems have begun to arise worldwide. Youth are the future of the world, and will play increasingly bigger roles in global affairs. Therefore, according to Mr. Antoine an important reason for having the MUN is to encourage teenagers and young adults to offer solutions and make changes given they have the special advantage of their young perspective. "The world will be yours," he said to the audience with great passion.

Following Mr. Antoine were the speeches given by Yan Liang, Jia Qingguo, and Wang Yiming. They spoke highly of PKUNMUN and

expressed their sincere wishes for a successful conference.

Finally, Liu Xinyu, a junior at the PKU School of Economics and Secretary-General of PKUNMUN 2016, delivered the opening address. Holding on to the core principle of "academic, independence, and creativity", PKUMUN is dedicated to engaging every participant through interactive experiences and empowering them to take responsibility for their future and make an impact.

A Glimpse at the Debating Sessions & Preparation Process

This year, delegates took on the

roles of diplomats from countries or organizations, elaborated their standpoints and solutions for issues such as responses to national security threats in the cyber-era, protection and settlement of asylum seekers, and the construction of a better health system in the post-Ebola age, amongst other topics. Nine relevant committees composed of 5-10 chairs held the debating sessions. Delegates from top high schools in China tried their best share their ideas, while the reporters from "Main Press Center" recorded and commented on the debating process. The four-day conference left everyone with a meaningful experience and memories.



Beijing Sunsets and Beijing Rains: A Profile of Foreign Students at PKU

▣ Jean-Francois Maurice

Beijing Sunsets

I could not buy dumplings. I was trying but the shop lady did not understand me. Then I left and tried finding a bathroom because I had to go, but none of the bathrooms had toilet paper. I had to head back to the hostel, hungry, rushing for the bathroom and utterly defeated.

Foreign students in PKU all have similar stories, moments of their lives in China when home feels too far away and everything feels too different. Being one of them and surrounded with peers that are quite different from me, yet undeniably similar, I wanted to know how those around me felt about everything. I wanted to know how they live in Beijing, how they smell the scent of morning steamed buns, and how they look at the sun setting over Xiangshan (Fragrant Hills Park). We may eat the same steamed buns and go about our lives beneath the same sun, but our senses and experiences all differ. My interviewees and I have shared sunsets, beer, and food either at Weiminghu, in restaurants at Wudaokou, or sitting among the chaos that is lunchtime at the Nongyuan cafeteria. Most of all, we shared stories and, while listening to them, I tried to capture the essence of their "China experience" and what it means to be a foreigner here.

Journey to the Jing

Some came following their dreams or family members; while others came following their guts or their sense of pragmatism.

Leaving for China is relatively

simple: purchasing a plane ticket, a lot of walking and waiting, and then boarding a plane. For some, the plane ride seems like a never-ending one, when home is far away but dreams are bigger. But from places such as the warm Galapagos Islands, where fishermen throw their lines while enjoying the slowness of the afternoon with some tropical fruits, Beijing is the absolute unknown. Preparation for the trip is often cloaked in a thick fog of false preconceptions and lack of

may have been just another notch on a travel checklist or it may have seemed like a fascinating case study as the home of the game of Go or the motherland of interesting painters. For a Korean student in Seoul, going to Beijing may be as uneventful as a walk along the Han River or visiting a neighbour – except that people rarely stay at their neighbour's for over a decade.

Fresh off the Plane

Fear, joy, or blind indifference: foreigners arrive in China with feelings that depend on their reasons for coming and their expectations with regards to what they are getting themselves in and for how long.

The plane is crowded. The airport is crowded, and the metro is crowded as well. But, eventually, the city goes quiet and one is left al

“China is welcoming and quite tolerant, often letting foreigners feel like they can live a more carefree lifestyle than back home. Symbiosis with the Middle Kingdom implies that foreigners be as equally welcoming and open-minded.”

information, a tricky mix that can mislead one into not packing enough warm clothes for winter or failing to book suitable accommodations until the start of the semester.

For others, China

ne in her room. There is a numbing pain that comes with solitude, like biting in a thick grain of Sichuan peppercorn, except that it numbs one's thinking rather than the mouth: "What am I doing here?" "I feel like I will die". Sichuan peppercorn may be harsh and hit hard but it does not make one cry like the feeling of being lost in a strange city.

Not any strange city, either: Beijing is a giant concrete jungle, with enormous buildings and webs of streets and alleyways, as well as a giant population — over twenty-one million people. It is a city of an enormous beauty, where the culture overwhelms newcomers who may find themselves lost, more in the excitement and diversity of what there is to discover than in their own solitude. The initial or episodic solitude, although part of the adventure, does not stand a chance against Beijing, where there is both China and the world to discover.

Foreign Bubble in the Middle of the Kingdom

Beijing is international enough that it becomes easy to forget about China altogether and to isolate oneself in a "foreign bubble". Besides, most foreign students share traits like openness, curiosity, and ambition. As outsiders, they can afford to be themselves and not to care about "belonging to a group". Foreign students tend to become fascinated by their peers and their rich, diverse backgrounds. It is also much easier to belong to a community of foreigners than to the Chinese community, an interviewee summing it up, saying: "Sometimes, I just need to have a conversation with friends without having to think about cultural differences and how to express things in a foreign language."

Fellow foreigners, similarly to clothes, coffee, or chocolate brought along in one's luggage, provide support and ease. Home, conceptually, can mean a scent, a type of humour, a flavour or a particular day with amazing weather, and great friends. Weekly dinners or drinks with

foreign friends may help create a home away from home, and then it becomes part of those things that a person cannot give up on, even in China, things such as religion and church community, music, books, or hobbies. Those things make it easier to be away from home, easier to get through common challenges of life such as watching someone we love disappear in the crowd heading towards security at the airport, illness or death of relatives back home, or the distance that grows between friends over time.

"It's Great Support but it's not Great for Learning"

Many came to China in a quest for understanding. Some sought a sort of objective truth, an experience to counterbalance misinformation and ignorance felt at home. Others came under more straightforward considerations, such as the fact that "it would be pretty nice to be able to communicate with 1.3 billion people".

After stepping out of the "foreign bubble", being an outsider provides the luxury of distance and allows for a potentially more critical and objective look at culture, politics and plenty of other phenomena. How to learn, how to understand? Great emphasis was placed on one simple rule: not to compare. China is China. China is welcoming and quite tolerant, often letting foreigners feel like they can live a more carefree lifestyle than back home. Symbiosis with the Middle Kingdom implies that foreigners be as equally welcoming and open-minded.

At the end of the drink or meal, as the conversation finished, one

invariable conclusion appeared: as foreigners, we have incomparable luck and our experience here depends entirely on us. "It is what you make of it." Beijing may remain just a place of interest or a case study for some; others may not even like their time here at all. Yet, some will never properly "arrive" in China because they were always there, thinking rather "I have found my country", an immense body of people and culture to mirror what had been within them all along. Others will start feeling lost in Beijing and end up falling in love, adopting it as a home and taking pride in this city, even though it may "sound strange to actual Chinese people that a foreigner would say that".

Beijing Rains

There is obviously a bit of home in the regular faces we come to know in our neighbourhood, the parks that we visit, the cool gales coming from the Northwest, and Beijing as a great Northern city with an uncompromising, captivating spirit. There is also home in the small complaints we can have about living here: neither romanticizing nor stereotyping this place, our concerns stem from genuine care and sense of belonging.

To me, there is nothing comparable to rainy days in Beijing, when things get slow and quieter. Those are similar to moments of peacefulness one can feel when any sentiment of perplexity or foreignness vanishes, replaced by the quiet feeling of having found normalcy in what is new and different. That, in itself, is a feeling of home.

Peking University Center of African Studies: Considerations of Post-Ebola China-Africa Cooperation

Joseph Olivier Mendo'o

On April 1, 2016, Feng Yong, the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Health, held a lecture at the Peking University's Center of African Studies on the topic of "Post-Ebola China-Africa Medical Care and Health Cooperation". The lecture, moderated by Professor Liu Haifang, Deputy Director of PKU's Center of African Studies, provided an avenue for in-depth discussion among all the attendees.

Feng Yong graduated from Beijing Medical University in 1993, and has worked at Peking University First Hospital for 8 years. Currently in the National Health and Family Planning Commission, Mr. Feng serves as Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Division, responsible for cooperation with African countries. With Ebola's out-

break in West Africa in 2014, he was the head of a Chinese medical team in Sierra Leone, working together with the local government to fight the Ebola virus. His present work focuses on strengthening cooperation with African countries in the field of health care, and he is responsible for the drafting of medical and health cooperation documents.

Feng Yong's lecture outlined four components: The health situation in Africa, medical and health work in China and Africa, the difficulties and challenges faced by medical teams in general, and the Ministry of Health's expectations for PKU.

"The health situation in Africa has considerably improved since 1990", Feng said. But it remains far from optimistic. Africa still has the highest rate of malaria and yellow fever cases, including the largest area of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Angola and other West Afri-

can countries.

China has established the "South-South Cooperation" fund to support developing countries, and to establish numerous projects in Africa to help countries of that area to establish their own public health system. Feng Yong stressed that although China has become the second largest economy in the world, China is still a developing country, thus must establish long-term friendships with other Southern Hemisphere countries for a better understanding of each other. China needs to show its responsibility in assisting other countries in need.

On top of that, he also mentioned that the Chinese medical teams were currently in more than 50 countries around the world, mostly in Africa. This promotes pharmaceutical cooperation between China and African countries like Mali, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, and others.

But he also stressed that China-Africa health cooperation has three principles: "African needs, African agreement, African leadership". With full respect of African countries' rights, wishes, and autonomy, China medical teams will only be sent to African countries who have requested and agree to receive China's support. The Chinese medical teams work consists of helping African governments to establish a full medical and health system, and



it indeed should not be seen as a substitute for the role of the local government.

Feng also mentioned that the establishment of the public health service system in these countries is a

cal population.

Despite past successes, the Sino-African medical and health cooperation is also facing many challenges; the lack of medical experts is an important issue. Amo

As for PKU

At the end of the lecture, Mr. Feng put forward his own expectations. Due to the small number of medical personnel, the further development of the Sino-African health cooperation needs to be supported by Peking University.

"Peking University has 6 affiliated hospitals and many experienced medical experts," Feng pointed out. It also has a large number of training medical talents resources, but none of them have participated in the China medical team. Firstly, Peking University can encourage medical experts with rich experience to be involved in Chinese medical programs in Africa so as to support African medical system. Secondly, Peking University can train more medical personnel from African countries through the use of its own rich teaching resources.

“With full respect of African countries' rights, wishes, and autonomy, China medical teams will only be sent to African countries who have requested and agree to receive China's support.”

systematic series of comprehensive work, with the participation and support of China provided to African countries. These works include infrastructure improvement, industrial construction, clinical services, and public health services, which may provide greater help to the lo-

ng many experienced doctors based in Africa, there is a lack of working experience in Africa and other developing countries. Also, the lack of cooperation with local NGOs and international organizations constitute an obstacle to develop medical and health services in the area.



Peking University's Turkish Community

by Jessie Gammon

Although Turkey officially recognized the People's Republic of China in 1971, contact between the Turkish and Chinese people goes back much earlier, to the times when traders carried precious Chinese cargo from southern China across the Gobi Desert to the last land stop on the Silk Road – coastal Turkey. Now, with the development of the “One Belt, One Road” program and China's expanding investments in Eurasian nations, Chinese and Turkish people are finding themselves collaborating more and more often. Many Turkish students at Peking University came to study in China over the West because although Sino-Turkish relations are becoming increasingly important, Turkish people with Chinese expertise are few and in high demand.

When Dr. Ali Aydin arrived at Zhejiang University in 2004, he was the first international student

the school had ever enrolled. Without knowing a word of Chinese, his professors improvised a pre-university language program for him while waiting for Chinese textbooks to arrive in the mail. Dr. Aydin had decided to come to China after only hearing about a hometown friend doing business in China, who described to him the amazing business and academic opportunities available there. Dr. Aydin had his passport and visa taken care of, and the day after uprooted his life to board a plane to China. Now, twelve years later, Dr. Aydin is the first and only Turkish person to have finished his bachelors, masters, and doctoral degree all in China, and is now a professor at Peking University's Turkish Language and History Department, which was established in 2013. At PKU, he teaches about twenty undergraduate students. One of his students, Cai Yuxuan from Yuanpei College, decided to study Turkish language and history

partly because of her interest in religious studies. She writes that the religious and ethnic diversity of the Ottoman Empire is fascinating, especially the conversion of churches and mosques throughout history.

Yuxuan's interest is not unusual, as Turkey is a diverse country and is widely considered one of the most striking meeting places of East and West. Many Turkish students have noted similarities between the Eastern elements of their culture and Chinese culture. Ali Karakaya, a student in the School of International Studies, thinks that two of the biggest similarities are family and food. Like Chinese, Turkish people also emphasize the importance of family. Moreover, Hamza Ucar, a student of Yenching Academy, said that the large Chinese courtyard houses where several generations live together remind him of traditional houses in the Turkish countryside. Ali said that food as well is an extremely

important part of Turkish culture, just as it is in Chinese culture, but there are a few key differences. The first is that Chinese people talk and laugh over a long dinner, while Turkish people first enjoy the food and then chat over after-dinner tea or coffee. Hamza said that all important family meetings are held over the dinner table. Another important difference, according

and the Tongyuan Canteen next to the building of the School of International Studies is especially designated for Halal food. At the Tongyuan Canteen, many Turkish students, who I interviewed, have gotten to be identified themselves as local Hui Chinese or other international Muslims, with whom they bond over Halal food and their common religion. Other cafeterias

China.

Peking University is a melting pot of international cultures, where students from all over can share their diverse experiences. Esat originally planned on becoming a film director, but after coming to China and studying at Peking University, he became interested in pursuing a career in academia instead. He finds Peking University an excellent place for intellectual and cultural exchanges, and believes that an academic is similar to a director in that they both have “valuable things they would like to share in artistic ways,” and PKU “represents a very good start of an academic career”. Turkish students such as Esat, as well as all international students at Peking University each contribute a small bit of diversity to the campus. With China placing more and more emphasis on international cooperation, we can expect more students from Turkey and all over the world to come to China and participate in intellectual exchanges at Peking University.

“ Turkey is a diverse country and is widely considered one of the most striking meeting places of East and West. ”

to Hamza, is breakfast. When asked about what he misses most about Turkey, Hamza says “A lot of things, but mostly... Breakfast.” Chinese breakfast can not compare with Turkish breakfast, according to Hamza, which includes a variety of olives and cheeses, and is meant to be savored. Despite these similarities, many of the Turkish students experienced culture shock when they first arrived. Ali says that the unfamiliarity of Beijing really struck him when he first arrived, and Hamza related a story about sitting in a noodle shop for hours trying to eat with chopsticks for the first time. He failed, he told me, and took the noodles home to eat where he could find a fork.

Many of the Turkish students at Peking University are Muslims and eat Halal food, which is rather convenient in Beijing. Beijing is home to a very old Muslim community, the majority of which are ethnically Hui Chinese. Nongyuan Canteen has a Halal section,

on campus are often crowded, but Hamza enjoys that Tongyuan is a quiet and intimate place where it is much easier to get to know people. Hamza claims that in Europe he has never seen a Halal canteen on a university campus, and that he appreciates the support PKU has offered to Muslim students. Ali and Esat Saglam, a student from Yuanpei College, regularly attend Friday prayer at the nearby Haidian District Mosque. Also, Ali told me that for him, attending prayers is to meet people and join a new community brought together by Islam, which has an extremely long and colorful history in



The Growth of a Band

▣ Fu Jiayu

The stage was crowded for all seven people of us with all the instruments, and we were extremely nervous during the performance. Then the audience began to sing with us as the music came to the high point. At that moment, I felt very moved and very proud." Lily, a student from Department of Chinese Language and Literature depicted the scene of her performance at "Thai Party" with excitement in her eyes. In 2014, seven of PKU's international students formed a band called Double Cheese. The band's size has recently been reduced to only six members as one member, from South Korea, is currently

serving in the army. The remaining six members, all of whom are from Southeast Asia, include: two guitar players: Randy Ho from Malaysia, and Michael D.W, from Indonesia; one keyboard player, Choo Yan Ning, from Malaysia; the lead singer, Lily, the drummer, Ken Zhang, and the bass guitar player, Apidej Posirisuk, all of whom come from Thailand. These days they practice two hours a week, rehearsing for the show of next month's "Thai Party."

The night before their very first performance, they gathered at McDonald's and discussed naming the group. Drawing inspiration from the evening's discount on double

cheese burgers, the group reasoned, "When we take photos, we smile and say 'Cheese.' We would like to bring double pleasure to our audiences with our music, and this is how we arrived at the name Double Cheese for our band," said Lily.

Similar to the name of the group, its formation also sprang from coincidence. In 2014, Randy, Michael, and Ken participated in the PKU IDOL Contest. It was here that the three met, and amid fierce competition, built strong enough rapport with one another to form a band shortly thereafter. "Watching the video of our show on the PKU IDOL, I thought, Ouch! We look so stupid on the stage!" Ken la

ughed, "However, if it were not that show, we wouldn't have known Randy, and there wouldn't be Double Cheese now. So we really appreciate that chance."

Although Double Cheese currently participates in many activities, such as the Thai Party, the PKU International Cultural Festival, and even in some New Year's celebrations in various PKU schools and departments, they were not always so confident about their musical abilities and performing experiences. "We didn't know how to play the instruments until we were in university," said Michael. "I hadn't played bass guitar for a long time before university," said Apidej. "I used to play classical piano instead of keyboard, so I felt stressed when I first joined. They were so brilliant and they learned so fast. I couldn't help worrying about my own ability," said Yan Ning. "But

each note correctly. You need to entertain the audience with your performance. Besides, it's very important to adjust your instruments and microphones and make sure the sound is neither too loud or too weak." Ken recalled, "Last year, we consistently played the notes wrong on our last rehearsal before the Thai Party. This is because we were too nervous, and it in turn made us feel more worried about our show. Luckily, the show turned out to be a success." "These performing experiences taught us how to tackle accidents," said Lily. "Right, we all found that we performed much better in Thai Party 2015 than the first time in 2014," said Michael.

In order to maintain the band, they feel that they need to practice together frequently, but it was not always easy to do so. Before the establishment of the New Sun Student Center, they would take a bus

to a rehearsal room off campus every week. As they set aside time and energy for rehearsal from their busy lives as PKU students they also attempt to deal with creative disagreements.

The challenges bring them what they called "growth." The growth is about how to control their lives. "We learn how to strike a balance between the devotion to this band and our daily lives," said Randy. The growth comes from teamwork. "Our devotion to this team, at first, is out of interest.



Then, out of passion, but now it's more about responsibility. We learned to be responsible to this team," said Lily. The growth also comes from the vast opportunities PKU offers them. "We are very lucky to have so many opportunities to perform, such as the International Cultural Festival and the New Year's celebrations in PKU, which grant us chances to meet new friends," said Michael and Yan Ning. "I also become stronger by carrying the heavy drums long distances," Ken joked.

They all agree the biggest benefit of being in this band is the trust and unity among themselves. Each member of Double Cheese has a love for music. If it were not for the support and care they receive from their friends in this band, they might not have had the chance to improve their musical skills and enjoy many amazing experiences. Their growth is not only focused on music. As members of this band, they have each grown as individuals as well.

“

When we take photos, we smile and say 'Cheese.' We would like to bring double pleasure to our audiences with our music, and this is how we arrived at the name Double Cheese for our band. ”

they are very nice people, and I feel good working with them. It makes me relaxed." After much practice, as well as so many opportunities to perform, they have made great progress in their musical ability. As for the performing experience, Lily said, "It's not just about playing



From “Chinese Bridge” to “One Belt, One Road”: A Bengali Alumnus’ Story at PKU

Yu Wufei

Sixteen years ago, he arrived in China for the first time; 11 years ago, he stepped onto this magic campus for the first time. Now, Kishore Biswas, from Bangladesh, is a Bengali teacher in charge of the Bengali part of the “One Belt, One Road” language program in the Sc

Chinese more native sounding. Among all the events he has been involved in, “Chinese Bridge-Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign Students in China” is the most impressive.

In 2009, he bravely filled out the application form for the second “Chinese Bridge-Chinese Proficien-

2nd place, winning the Gold Prize.

Aside from the contest on stage, while chatting with plenty of foreign students he got to know that several of them were studying traditional Chinese arts like calligraphy and Peking Opera. He soon became interested in traditional Chinese arts. So after winning the prize, he had a go with calligraphy and he also became interested in Chinese cuisine and kung fu. “I was moved by the profound and extensive Chinese culture,” he said.

Friends and Family

Kishore greatly appreciated the companionship of his friends and teachers when he was a student at PKU.

From 2005 to 2008, he majored in Applied Technology in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. During the Computational Linguistic Institute’s Fragrant Mountain Closed-End Program, he got along well with his advisor Sun Bin and classmate Liu Pei, with whom he worked together in the lab. Aiming at developing an information-catch software used in Chinese, English, and Bengali websites, they lived in a hotel in the Fragrant Hill Park for a month. Kishore spent all day programming with his advisor and classmates. Liu Pei discussed in detail how to make the program better and tackled the problems Kishore’s ran

“The Boya Tower and Weiming Lake embody the special features and spirit of PKU. While walking in the campus, happy memories of old friends and events always flow back immediately.”

hool of Foreign Languages. When the conversation comes to his experience as a student at PKU, he could not help but to share unforgettable details and express his affection for this campus.

Proficient Chinese

When I met Kishore for the first time, he greeted me with “Ni Hao” and surprised me with his fluent Chinese before we switched the interview to English. When he first entered PKU in 2005, Kishore had already become fluent in Chinese through consistent practice. However, he was still not satisfied and was always seeking opportunities to communicate with Chinese people and enter competitions to make his

cy Competition for Foreign Student in China” and buried himself in studying Chinese idioms, sayings, and films. “I regard this competition as a chance to get a closer look at Chinese culture,” he said. He not only learned the usage of those words and phrases, but also learned about their historical and cultural context. Furthermore, he has made many close relationships with Chinese people. “Though, I live in Zhongguanyuan Global Village, I spent most of my time dinning, chatting, and having fun with Chinese friends. Even sometimes we lived together,” Kishore said with a smile on his face. Because of his proficient language skills and outstanding understanding of Chinese culture, Kishore ended up in the



into with patience. “Besides doing the research and programming, we sometimes climbed mountains and had picnics together,” he said, “and that’s the happy old days of our struggling and having a nice time with friends.” While working on his Information Science Ph.D. in the Department of Information Management from 2009 to 2014, under the guidance of his advisor Wang Huilin, Kishore published two notable Chinese theses. His friend Liu Dan, who once worked in publishing, helped Kishore to deal with the language part, and also his formulation of ideas to make the article clearer and more coherent. Her suggestions helped Kishore to improve his Chinese professional writing skills. As a teacher, he can handle paper-writing with ease now.

What should definitely be emphasized is that Kishore met a Beijing girl at PKU and they got married in June of 2011. They have settled in Beijing now and have an adorable one-year-old baby. For Kishore, he regards her as the emotional foundation of his study and work, as she is always encouraging him to be better every day. They met each other in the summer of

2006 in the PKU library, when he was checking out books at the front desk. He kindly lent his campus card to this girl from Minzu University of China with an armful of books but no PKU campus card. This moment changed Kishore and his life. The girl promised to thank him for his kindness and they started to study together and to go on dates. Aside from emotional support, Kishore’s wife has been devoting herself to improving Kishore’s Chinese writing. She always offers her advice and is always the first person to read his work. Kishore told me, “Whenever a sentence is too long to express meanings clearly, I always enquire her and as a native she always read earnestly and make the article more intelligible.”

Choose to Stay

Though Kishore has studied in other Chinese universities, PKU is a place that changed his life and still defines him today. He said that there are two features that attract him the most: the sense of belong-

ing this charming campus brings and the rich and colorful activities always going on at PKU. He feels like home here at this campus full of traditional old yards and spectacular modern buildings; he loves to take a walk in the northern part surrounded by trees and grass. “I really like the style of this campus. It makes me feel warm as if I’m at home,” he commented, “The Boya Tower and Weiming Lake embody the special features and spirit of PKU. While walking in the campus, happy memories of old friends and events always flow back immediately.”

Kishore also loves the diversity of PKU. It allowed him to communicate more with Chinese students and inspired him to visit other provinces to create a more well-rounded view of China. From 2006 to 2011, he has never missed an International Culture Festival, where he can enjoy different kinds of food and culture, and make new friends. The trips offered by the International Students Division at Office of International Relations





is another event he participates in and it has allowed him to experience regional cultures and as diverse places as the Tibetan Plateau, Dunhuang, and Shangrila. "I see the regional difference and spectacular spectrum of Chinese culture through communicating with local residents," he added.

Invited by Professor Wei Liming and his friend Yang Weiming, Kishore joined the "One Belt, One Road" foreign language program and began his teaching career. Also, he is

helping his undergraduate advisor Sun Bin to develop a Chinese-Bengali-English electronic dictionary. In this way, he can continue in his computer science research.

For this brilliant youth from Bangladesh, Peking University is a unique campus, and with all the friends he has met and the pleasant experiences he has had. With all the activities and wonderful scenery that PKU offers, it is a magical place that changes lives and offers exciting opportunities for the future.

more serious and tried not to stand out too much. Another thing that was very hard for us to adapt was using politer words when talking to older classmates. This is a part of culture in Japanese society that starts in middle school. We suddenly couldn't casually talk to our older friends anymore; it was like an invisible wall that suddenly appeared!"

To learn Turkish and to get to know one of their "halves" better, the sisters moved to Gaziantep, a traditional and rather conservative city in southern Turkey. Back then, their language proficiency was at the self-introduction level. It was during that time, that they experienced their first real 'culture shock'. The Turkish are very warm and welcoming people, different to the polite and more introverted Japanese culture. "I often misinterpreted their words and jokes. I thought they were ridiculing me," Filiz says laughingly. "During our first half year there, I got offended by so many things - all because of cultural differences."

During their stay in Turkey, the sisters had to get used to a completely different society, which made it feel like they had to learn everything from zero. "Everything I did seemed wrong, I felt like I even had to relearn walking!" Stricter rules in clothing, more conservative views on relationships between boys and girls and the close relationship to teachers are just a few examples of cultural divergence.

One of the biggest impacts on their life in Turkey was religion. Turkey is a mostly Muslim country, where religion is deeply involved in people's daily lives and affects the value system of the society. For Deniz and Filiz, it was the first time



to really get in touch with their religion and they both agree that Islamic culture has made a huge positive impact on their lives. The Muslim values have taught them to be more genuine and honest, to express their opinions more directly and to never talk behind people's backs. There's also a beautiful habit of saying "Please forgive me" to each other when parting for a longer period of time, to maintain a pure relationship.

To sum it up, it is a simpler and genuine social structure than what the sisters had experienced in Japan, where politeness and fitting in take

up a big space in social life. Turkey has taught Deniz and Filiz to think more like "What is my opinion" instead of "What is their opinion of me".

Even though the sisters had experienced cultural differences and confusions in their early years, their life in China is what shaped them into the women they are today. After finishing high school, the sisters split up to study at different universities - Deniz at Tsinghua (THU), Filiz at PKU. The multinational environment at the universities gave both of them the perfect platform

Lean In(to) a Multicultural World: Cultural Confusion, Powerful Women, and Self-Discovery

✎ Hannah Yingying von Minden

When you meet Deniz and Filiz Unal, the first thing you will notice is that they are twins. Then you'll wonder where they come from (Xinjiang maybe? But why is there a slight Japanese accent?), and once you start talking to them, you will feel like you are talking to friends you have known for a long time.

When it comes to topics concerning different cultures, these twin sisters might be the best sources of information: Ethnically speaking, they're half Turkish and half Chinese,

who were born and raised in Japan, then transferred to Turkey for high school for two years, followed by the rest of high school years and university studies in China. Due to their multicultural background, it seems hard to connect them with one particular culture.

Both of the girls, current graduate students at Peking University, have stopped trying to fit themselves into one of their three cultures long ago. Filiz usually introduces herself by explaining where her parents come from, but never refers to one particular country.

Even though the sisters grew up in Japan, they started noticing differences between them and Japanese people at an early age. "I was a really outgoing child with many of my own thoughts, but soon I noticed that teachers did not like too much individuality. Whenever I expressed an opinion that was different from theirs, I would have been criticized," Deniz recalls. Filiz had similar experiences. The twins started observing their classmates' behavior and slowly adjusted themselves to the Japanese society. "Outside of our family life, we were



for self-discovery, especially due to the many foreign exchange students that have a similar multicultural background. It was the first time that they did not feel like they had to adjust to one society: "Because of our parents, we look like Chinese people from Xinjiang, so we were never recognized as foreigners in the first place. Secondly, there were many foreign exchange students at PKU, so there wasn't one

na in the beginning: "During the International Culture Festival, I was representing the Turkish booth. As I stood there I suddenly asked myself: Can I really represent this country? Am I Turkish?" She tried behaving Japanese with her Japanese friends, Turkish with her Turkish friends and Chinese with her Chinese friends, until she came to the conclusion, imitating others was not the right way. "At one point I just stopped

“ Cultural differences can cause many prejudices and misunderstandings that can be easily overcome by simply talking to people from other countries! It is so interesting and fun to exchange different views. ”

trying - and started simply being me." The sisters soon realized that a person's identity does not necessarily have to be connected to one particular country, culture or society, but has a closer relationship with how children are raised by their parents. Filiz explains, "I used to think that I couldn't make close friends with people from western countries, due to their different culture and religion. However, when I started educating myself on Christianity and Buddhism, I

specific culture we had to get used to." Deniz realized that she had a closer connection to students with a similar family background - "third culture kids", as she calls them. Filiz on the other hand was still caught up in trying to find a feeling of belonging to Japan, Turkey, or Chi-

na in the beginning: "During the International Culture Festival, I was representing the Turkish booth. As I stood there I suddenly asked myself: Can I really represent this country? Am I Turkish?" She tried behaving Japanese with her Japanese friends, Turkish with her Turkish friends and Chinese with her Chinese friends, until she came to the conclusion, imitating others was not the right way. "At one point I just stopped

realized that these religions also had a great message. Why do we always have to deny others, in order to prove ourselves? Our family life has always been pieces of different cultures that made up our own culture. That is what has affected our personalities the most."

As a part of the multicultural 'society' of THU and PKU, Deniz and Filiz have engaged themselves in events of cultural exchanges. At the annual International Culture Festivals of their universities, they both shared their Turkish culture, for example by performing belly dances or preparing Turkish Food. They have also hosted several school events that were focused on portraying different cultures. To further involve cultural exchanges in their daily student lives, they joined many student associations such as the Western Student Union and the European Society of Peking University. "Cultural differences can cause many prejudices and misunderstandings that can be easily overcome by simply talking to people from other countries! It is so interesting and fun to exchange different views", says Deniz, smiling.

Since their road of self-discovery was not only about finding their positions among different cultures, but also about being the best version of themselves and thriving as two young "powerful women", there are two associations that have been very important to the sisters - "Lean In" and "International Talent".

Lean In is an organization that is "committed to offering women the ongoing inspiration and support to help them achieve their goals". It was founded in 2013, named

after the book "Lean In: Women, Work & the Will to Lead", by Sheryl Sandberg. As the organization grew, more and more "Lean In" communities were founded all over the world, Lean In Beijing being one of them.

After attending a Lean In Speech in 2014, Deniz started to go to the monthly events regularly, mostly speeches by successful women or sharing of inspiring movies, followed by asking and discussing sessions. The goal of these events is to encourage, inspire, and motivate women to follow their dreams, without giving them particular instructions how to achieve their goals. Even though gender equality has become more common in many parts of the world, most leadership positions are still led by men, and women's wages are often lower. "It's great to learn from women who achieved their dreams and to be reminded that we will find our own way, even though we have times of insecurity", the sisters agree.

Inspired by Lean In Beijing, some students of PKU founded Lean In PKU in 2015. Their motive is the same as their 'big sisters', simply more focused on topics that are relevant for university students, like internships, relationships, or post-university plans.

"International Talent", on the other hand, is a Chinese-English magazine that again focuses on cultural exchange, by portraying important personalities from different countries and their achievements. The chief editors visited PKU last year at the PKU International Culture Festival where they approached Filiz and a few other students. They extended their magazine with a section called "World Speaking" and were looking for participants. With "World Speaking" they wanted to include young, multi-national people, and their views on different topics concerning China into their magazine. The participants would have a monthly discussion meeting and the results of every discussion

would be published in the magazine. Deniz and Filiz have both been participants since then and enjoy the vibrant talks that help the participants, as well as the readers of the magazine to understand and learn more about this multi-cultural world. They hope to influence a broader audience with their experiences, since the interaction of different cultures will become more and more common in the future due to globalization.

My last question to them was, whether they have a message they want to share. Filiz wishes for everyone to hold on to their dreams, to step out of their comfort zones and to make a lot of mistakes. "Instability in life is what makes it exciting and rich, don't worry too much about what society expects from you, do what you really want to do." Deniz adds: "Everyone is unique, so accept each other as individuals, get rid of prejudices, and never stop exploring."



Author Joy Chen Speaks About Women's Development

✎ Anastasiia Ilina

March 7, 2016, marked the visit of an important pop-culture figure in the development of women's image in China. Joy Chen delivered an inspiring speech about building the career of your dreams and shared insights on

being a woman in China. Joy Chen, former Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles and now author of the book *Do Not Marry Before Age 30*, visited PKU as part of her tour around the country and spoke about the role of women in modern day China and provided valuable advice to

PKU students on how to build the career of their dreams. Ms. Chen shared with the audience some parts of her biography and how she had passed through many life-changing career choices. Her path started as a real estate developer in Los Angeles, a job she was very passionate about, until she unexpectedly received an offer to become Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles. This position brought her into the new world of public service. When asked by an audience member what project as deputy mayor she is most proud of, Joy told us about her program, which helped parents with low literacy skills to fill in application scholarship forms for their children to go to college, stating that it was the most rewarding project of her political career.

The end of her term as deputy mayor presented a new change in her career. Instead of returning to real estate development, Joy accepted an offer to work in human resources, becoming an elite corporate headhunter, a job in her own words that she would not have imagined herself doing. Ms. Chen continued telling the audience her story, as she remarks that "We are transitioning to a world where everyone needs to be a player," emphasizing that you need to be flexible and prepared to make changes in your career to succeed. Many of those present in the audience reached out to Joy for ad-

vice on their career choices, hesitant to make certain decisions about their next steps. Ms. Chen reassured all of them that although "the perfect job doesn't exist", to our benefit that means that no decision is wrong nor permanent. No matter what we choose there will be issues and obstacles that are necessary to overcome and we should accept them as a learning experience for the future.

During her headhunting career, Joy Chen was headhunted herself to become a writer. It all started with a blog that she created for Chinese women living overseas, especially in the United States, sharing her experience of growing up as a child of immigrant parents and the challenges in the workplace that she faced. The blog rapidly gained popularity until the point of when she was offered a book contract, which was the beginning of how *Do Not Get Married Before Age 30* came to life. The topic of the book focuses on the recently developed concept of 'leftover women' in China, debunking the idea and empowering women to unlock their potential. The widely accepted definition describes 'leftover women' as women who are not married by their late 20s. And what caused such a trend and such a name to be given to these women? Statistics show that most women in China tend to be married by the age of 30 and the other fraction who are not married are looked down upon in society as those who have not fulfilled their predefined role to start a family. The reasons can be traced back to the implementation of the one-child policy in China. The strong preference to have a son caused many families to conduct

sex-selective abortions creating a disproportionate sex ratio in the country. An article published by the *Global Post* explained that China has the "worst-ever, man-made gender gap" with 122 boys born for every 100 girls as opposed to the natural ratio of 106 boys for every 100 girls. It comes as no surprise that as a result the gender gap creates stereotypes that women are to stay at home and become wives and mothers, reviving the beliefs in

traditional gender roles. The Chinese saying "Nan Zhu Wai, Nv Zhu Nei" commonly translated as "men belong in public, women belong at home" defines the gender roles for men and women in China. The reinforcement of traditional beliefs is the direct cause to discrimination in the work place, as women are considered not belonging at work rather than at home with children. Recent research published by the All China Women Federation in 2016





giving men more leverage and power in the relationship.

The concept of 'leftover women' will exist as long as we accept the notion. The stereotypes of society control the minds of many women in China, bringing them to decisions that they would not have made on their own. The tendency to marry later in life is a logical continuation in the rise of education level for women. The majority of women who consider themselves 'leftover' are coming from developed urban cities with education and employment opportunities. China still has a long way to go towards gender equality, but 'leftover women' is a man-made phenomenon and the concept is only kept alive in the minds of women, as it forces them to believe they do not have a choice. In an intimate discussion with some students before her official talk, Ms. Chen stated that "women in China today are faced with choices that they never had in history and rested assured that their future is in their hands and their hands only".

analyzed reports from 60 cities across the country asking thousands of women questions about their satisfaction with their workplace. The findings are disturbing: 50% of women questioned stated they suffered gender discrimination, 47% suffered occasionally and only 3% have never experienced it. Pressure of society forces career women to lose hope of building a family and leaves them regretting the choices they have previously made whether it was for their career or for other reasons. Nonetheless, Chinese women are successful, for example,

China has the highest number of self-made female millionaires in the world and yet the media continues imprinting in their minds the thought of being 'leftover'. As a result, some of them have hastily left their careers for the sake of marriage and settling down. Some economic arrangements are the basis for inequality in marriage,

“ Women in China today are faced with choices that they never had in history and rested assured that their future is in their hands and their hands only. ”

An Interview with Alice Su —“Future Leader” or Not?

▣ Liu Xiya

The first time I heard the name of Alice Su was at the lecture by Professor Yuan Ming, Dean of the Yenching Academy. Alice is a student from Yenching Academy, and was invited as a guest speaker expressing her perspectives towards global governance. What had struck me during her speech was the sentence in which she spoke “future leaders of the world—Oh, I hate that term.”

My curiosity quickly arose in that moment. The next time I met her was a couple of months later, during which I asked her why she said so. Looking back, she laughed with a little bit sarcasm, and said

to me, “It sounds that someone’s going to rule the world, without actually connected with what’s really happening in the world. On the contrary, some of them seem to be totally irrelevant to the ‘practical things’, what people’s life really like in some regions.” As for herself, in order to be “down to Earth”, Alice Su had spent her two years in Jordan as a freelancer writer, which, according to her, “is just the beginning.”

Born in a Taiwanese family, Alice had moved back and forth between China and the US before she attended university. Alice was admitted to Princeton University, where she majored in public policy

and international affairs. While she had intended to focus on China-US relations when she first chose her major, something unexpectedly changed her mind.

“It was the Arab Spring in 2010”, she told me. The Arab Spring is a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests, riots, and civil wars in the Arab world. Beginning with the Tunisian Revolution on December 18 2010, it quickly spread throughout the countries of the Middle East and its surroundings. This was once a heated international issue with wide international impact for a long time, which also received Alice’s attention.

“I think the Middle East is a place people usually don’t understand very well, which is quite similar to the way that some Western people perceive China—the prevalent ‘China is rising, we’re having economic crisis...’”, Alice told me. In her opinion, when a lot of people think of the Middle East, they automatically think of things such as deserts, wars, terrorists, among other stereotypes.

Alice first gained knowledge about the situation of Middle East from the press, which caused her to begin thinking about the role of journalism. “You can see that, there’s not much coverage about daily life of normal people there in the mainstream media. Most reports are conducted from a diplomatic





or military level." In fact, Alice had been interested in journalism since she was in university. At Princeton, she started writing for the University Press Club as well as a local newspaper in New Jersey. She had also interned at the *New York Times Shanghai*. In her point of view, the best thing about journalists is that they can more easily get diverse information from people, which can differ from the official posts." Just prepare some good questions and ask. Beside, you can learn things, while not necessarily being an expert beforehand", she laughed.

Therefore, encouraged by her parents and mentor, and with a

scholarship offered from the US government, Alice embarked on her journey as a freelancer in Jordan. Jordan is a comparatively stable place in the Middle East region, and it takes in a huge number of refugees every year, which Alice hoped to know more about. However, she was surprised when she first arrived there. "I thought I would be working with refugees in camps." But things turned out to be that most refugees were outside the camp, leading normal lives just like others.

"Not all of them are living in extreme poverty as we previously imagined", she said, "that 'lying on the ground waiting for food' image

is however a one-sided view." She told me that the first refugee she met was a Syrian girl the same age as her. The girl was a finance student at the University of Damascus planning to work in a bank, but the war smashed her dream. "She's just like one of us back home, the only difference is that the war happens to her." She repeatedly emphasized, that most locals are 'perfectly normal people', who also have hope and dreams just as everyone in other countries do, and could have pursued them if their homeland weren't ripped apart.

Despite this, constant political unrest has led people to even great-

“

It's a world that stands as one. Young people should look beyond ourselves with global vision, and eventually become a real global citizen.

”

er social conservatism. "Only when I really was there, did I finally realize how comfortable it was in the US." Back then in Princeton, according to Alice, students tended to expect a default that where they live will be safe and stable forever, whereas it's completely different in Jordan. "People were dreading the future, which made them always prioritize survival instead of personal development." She lived with a Jordanian girl, who once said something to Alice that she would never forget, "Alice, you're lucky because you're a foreign journalist. If a war happens, then you'll be excited, because you have something to report on. And if things are really getting serious, you could simply leave", Alice slightly paused, and I somehow felt that her voice trembled a little bit, then she kept on reporting what her Jordanian roommate said to me, "but for us, there's never a way out."

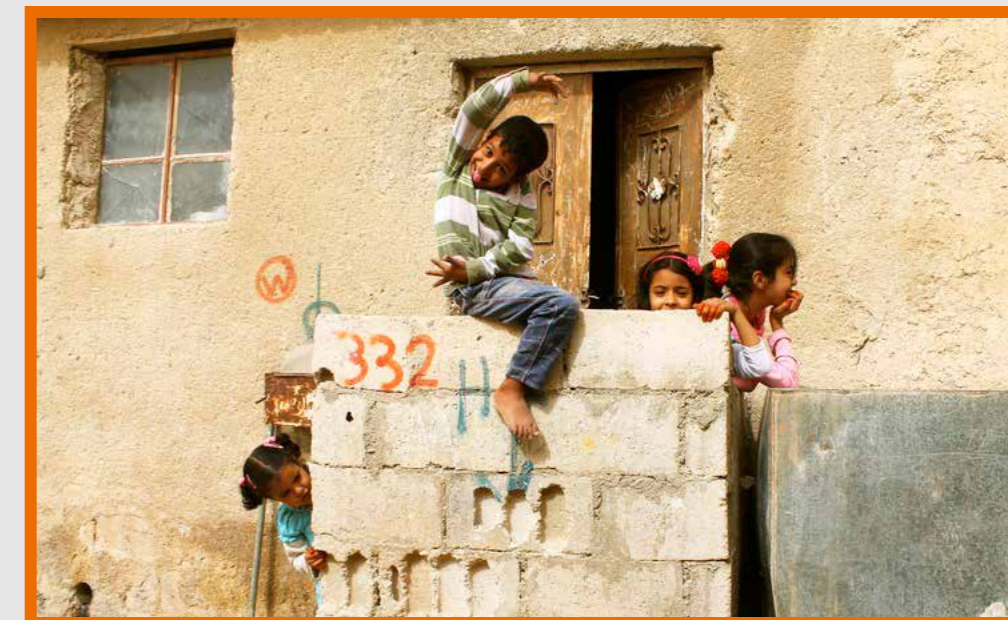
"Yeah, I was privileged there, as a foreigner", said Alice. There were obstacles in her journalism work as well. Some people refused to be interviewed. "They were worried that their words could be used to pose a threat to their families back in Syria." To solve this problem, she tried to conduct all the interviews with local people in Arabic

to gain trust, and keep them anonymous. She once reported on Iraqi refugees being stuck in Jordan for nearly ten years. Their files should have been processed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

for further allocation as soon as they fled to Jordan, but there was always no answer back. The day after the articles were published, Alice got a call from the UNHCR, in which the officials blamed her for deliberately stigmatizing their image. "I told him everything, everything that really happened to those Iraqis throughout the years." She stated firmly, "as long as my reports are accurate, it's the right thing to do."

"So, just like I've said, it's only the beginning to know how things really are and do things not only

for personal benefits. And it's still far away from becoming a 'world leader.'" After two years in Jordan, she decided to come back to China to 'take a break'. Alice had grown up in China, and viewed Peking University as the place with the most active and open-minded students in China. Given China's rapid rise on the global stage, Alice also wanted to witness and even promote what China sought for global governance. She did not stop her involvement with the situation of the Middle East, and she co-initiated a program called "CAMEL" (China-Arabia Multicultural Exchange Link) along with two students from the PKU School of Foreign Languages. Aiming at raising awareness of PKU students to the situation in the Middle East and providing a platform for their further involvement on that, the first CAMELers took a journey to the University of Qatar last winter, during which students from both sides heatedly discussed current international affairs and frequent social





ration to me.”

From the US to Jordan and to China, from student to freelancer and to student again, she gradually figured out the responsibilities shared by young people in the age of globalization. In her opinion, there is more than one way for young people to see the world. “It’s a world that stands as one. Young people should look beyond ourselves with global vision, and eventually become a real global citizen.” She is also very active in appealing to influence more people outside PKU, calling for their attention to the Middle East. She just came back from Taipei, where she made a public speech about the topic. Her next step forward would be returning to Middle East and taking journalism with her as her life career. “A lot of people keep nagging that journalism is dying and journalists get paid little, but that doesn’t matter for me. Even if I really end up barely sustaining my life, but it’s definitely worth it.” She smiled, and I saw the sparkles in her eyes again.

problems. “There’re so many surprising things which we never thought about before”, said Xu Wendi, one of the participants, “we could hardly be completely unbiased, if we never really experience the culture as a member of their society. And now, we’re going to influence more people, starting from PKU.”

There will be another sub-program specially focusing on refugees in this semester. Alice is still not sure how this would be carried out. She also learns a lot from the professors in PKU, such as Profes-

sor Yuan Ming and Professor Wu Bingbing, Professor of the Department of Arabic Language and Culture of the School of Foreign Languages, PKU. “They’re so experienced and helped me so much. I respect them so much, and they’ll always be inspi-



FACES Collaborative Projects

✎ Wei Wei

Based in Stanford University, the Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford (FACES) is an international organization that is dedicated to enhancing dialogue and fostering lasting relationship among future leaders in China-US bilateral relations. Selected due to their promising potential, forty outstanding students from all across the United States and China are brought together by FACES to attend the annual conference. First, the group met for a week at Stanford University in the fall, then for a week in China in the spring. By joining FACES, they are participating in a unique exchange that spans two meetings and two continents, a cross-cultural conversation that can be heard on both sides of the Pacific.

Besides these extraordinary young leaders from the two countries, accomplished international professionals and scholars from different fields are also involved to communicate and discuss the future of Sino-US relationship - one of the most important bilateral relationships in the twenty-first century - with the students.

Among the set of academic activities, an event called Collaborative Projects was designed for FACES delegates to take the initiative in shaping U.S.-China relations. Various teams are formed by American and Chinese delegates during the Stanford Session, and original projects are devised, addressing essential issues in the bilateral relationship. During the six-month period between the two sessions, team

members collaborate to design and implement their research or social venture projects, and prepare for a presentation of the results during the session in China. This year, a wide spectrum of projects were presented, covering a wide range of heated topics, such as comparative exploration of new citizen participation mechanisms in government of the two countries, LGBT awareness and counseling, and social entrepreneurship. Some of the interesting projects are introduced in detail as follows.

Excel in China

This project was established by a group of Peking University and Stanford University students, based on a problem the group had

identified that over the years; that a lot of Chinese students who have come to the US to study abroad, found it difficult to find a job there. In the meantime, there are jobs and opportunities back in China. However, overseas Chinese students may not be fully aware of the information. The idea was originated with the aim of bringing these talents back home.

The team was formed in 2015 during the Stanford session, then they discussed for about two months, trying to come up with the best way to achieve this goal. Through some research and refinement, they specified their mission to collecting, consolidating, and publishing job openings in China that are suitable for overseas Chinese students via a WeChat subscription channel.

After some preparation, such as deciding on the type of their channel and designing the logo for the channel, the team launched their first official post in December, 2015.

The recruitment information was gathered via Peking University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, and Fudan University campus recruitment websites, along with other public recruitment websites and WeChat platforms.

It is amazing to note that the user base of the platform grew from zero to a hundred within the first day and exceeded two hundred on the second day. The team worked to maintain the frequency of posting from two to three times per week. By March 17, 2016, the WeChat channel published 38 posts with more than 180 jobs and attracted 291 users. Some in-depth analyses were also performed, discovering that there were 30 to 40 unique views on each post, and one quarter of all users read their posts repeatedly. It was also shown that 12% of the users actually took advantage of their posts and made their job application.

After operating the channel for

three months, the team observed that there was a high retention and referral rate. Therefore, they believed there is a real demand for this sort of service and the current method did work. Through this project, the team validated a potential market and a viable method.

To go further, they did a user survey to better understand the requirements of their users. Questions were designed to find out what industry and what type of company would the Chinese overseas students were most interested in. The team also noticed difficulties and challenges. First, manually collecting and posting on WeChat takes too much time. Also, a WeChat subscription channel does not facilitate feedback or interaction, for which it is hard to do marketing as well. Looking into the future, they were working further on a sustainable business model to achieve automation, network effect, and to provide more information and impact.

Varsity Basketball China & US

This project is an exchange program created by a group of students from Duke University, the University of Hong Kong, and Peking University. The background of the project is to acknowledge that differences exist between the two nations, and there is a lack of understand-

“ Various teams are formed by American and Chinese delegates during the Stanford Session, and original projects are devised, addressing essential issues in the bilateral relationship. ”

ing between the teenagers from both countries. On the American side, being a more individualistic society, the educational system tends not to focus on non-Western nations, especially in public schools, where the history taught is more US and European centric. Also, sports are a huge part of culture in the US. On the Chinese side, most students are organized into different classes, with a teacher organizing the class activities, monitoring the students' performance, and reporting back to their parents. This is a very different model from that in the US. The two nations also share a lot of similarities—both are conducting a lot of sports activities, for instance.

In order to bring the two nations together, the team wanted to use one common sport which is popular in both countries, which was trying to use the concept of sports diplomacy. Basketball was finally chosen as the one sport to break down cultural boundaries, facilitate cultural exchanges, and along with other activities in the program, to teach leadership and team work. They also hope to build up individuals' self-esteem and self-confidence. The program targeted students in public high schools who did not have the means to travel or have little experience with seeing the world, but are willing to experience it. Through physical activities,

the team believed, connections can be built up between the students quickly, therefore, a better understanding of each other's nation can be acquired.

A detailed itinerary was planned, including four main parts—sports practice, sports exchange, cultural exchange, and weekend trip. Basketball practice 5 days a week was scheduled to teach endurance and team work, while sports exchange required the students to teach the other group another sport, like football and table tennis. It helps them to appreciate the interest of one another, and to learn about the history and purpose behind. Cultural exchange activities were also designed, such as cooking a meal together and enjoying a movie afterwards.

In order to have the program ready by the summer of 2017, the team has started to seek sponsors in order to raise funds, which is critical to the success of the project, since the expected funds required was estimated at about 60,000 dollars to support 30 students. Other challenges that they

are facing included seeking target students, who should have little experience but interested in international communication and also be capable of financing themselves, at least partly.

A variety of original and inspiring projects that embodies group effort, innovation and wisdom were presented and discussed during FACES. When sharing about their group communication and cooperation, a student grinned with satisfaction and explained that they have to overcome a lot of difficulties to get together, and to persevere in working on the project. For instance, the team resorted to online communication which was not as efficient as discussing face-to-face. Different time zones can also be a barrier in the way that hinders the team from having an effective discussion. However, with all the passion displayed, all the teams are achieving their goals.





Taiwanese Medical Students Studying in the Mainland

by Sienna Luk

In Taiwan, a prevailing fanaticism toward medical occupation has vaulted the medical school's entrance test score to a highest point. High schools advertise their schools by showing the percentage of students who entered medical school. For students, the score requirement is no less than being in the top 2% at school. Besides grade, students also have to receive other evaluations, such as interviews, model problem-based learning, and subject tests. It is a common scene for students to spend several years retaking the entrance exam, just to enter medical school. The reasons of this prevailing phenomenon are explicable, for doctors usually have stable income, high social status, and low risk of being jobless in Taiwan; as long as medical students can go through the toughest internship and endure the onerous workload.

The extreme pressure drives Taiwanese students to study in medical schools outside of Taiwan. Their common choices of medical schools usually are in mainland China or Europe. However, the Taiwanese local government has restricted job applications in the medical field. That is, medical students that study outside of Taiwan are prohibited from applying for a doctor's license in Taiwan. This proposal was brought up again in a forum in Taiwan on March 24, 2016. The Chinese Academy of Health Management (CAHM) indicates that, so far, the population of Taiwanese medical students studying in mainland China amounts to more than 10,000 since 2000. Since the students' degree is not recognized by the local government, those students who return to their homes are possibly jobless, or can only apply work for pharmaceutical companies or as

clinical assistants.

Nevertheless, this has not stopped more and more students from studying in mainland China. The first reason is that compared to Europe or other western countries, universities located in Asia are more financially friendly to the students. Secondly, Taiwanese students are more familiar with mainland culture and can adapt to the environment easier. Yet, some hospitals have a bad reputation due to people attacking doctors and nurses; low salary, and heavy workload are other discouraging factors.

It should be noted that there are a few differences in the medical educational system between Taiwanese and local students at PKU. For instance, Taiwanese students study in a six-year medical education program while the local students study in five-year or eight-year (graduated with a PhD degree) program. Plus,

Taiwanese freshmen are not required to spend a year in the main campus like the local students are.

My motive to conduct the interviews with Taiwanese students is that I, myself, is also a freshmen studying in clinical major, and I hope to clarify the situation, and thus allowing me to take a good look at the medical education in mainland China. Furthermore, I am concerned with Taiwanese students' ability to fit in to the environment, including interaction with local students. I also want to know what is their future career goal? Do they want to stay here or go back to the ir hometowns?

Sally, Rachel, and I are members in the medical school girls' basketball team. Both girls are in their sixth year and in their second year of internships. Sally and Green are now doing their internships at the Beijing Aerospace Hospital, while Rachel is in the Civil Aviation General Hospital. Each of them kindly squeezed time out of busy schedules and accepted my interviews.

My first interviewee is Sally. Her family moved to Guangzhou while she was in her fifth year. Therefore, she entered Peking University in 2010 by taking the Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan's student entrance examination. Her parents are also supportive of her studying in medical school.

Last November, Sally joined a month-long exchange program provided by the school. It offered her a chance to intern in Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, U.S.A. Lurie Children's Hospital is also a teaching hospital of Northwestern University, and it is well-known for its pediatric specialties, which is the field Sally wishes to join in

the future. The hospital's advanced technology and facilities expanded her horizon, and Sally realized that domestic pediatrics has a lot of room to improve. At the moment, she entertains the idea of working overseas; yet, her true intention lays on improving Chinese pediatrics by returning with advanced medical techniques.

Speaking about pros and cons, she thinks that the teaching atmosphere in the hospital is quite different between the West and China, which might lead to nurturing different type of doctors.

In comparison, Chinese medical education is more dependent on students' self-learning; while in the West, teachers may give more guidance during their teaching. Yet, she gladly said that she has met many excellent mentors during her internship at the Health Science Center.

Given that many reports have described the poor working environment in mainland China's hospitals, I asked Sally about whether she has encountered unfair treatment or hostile patients when working in the hospital. She smiled and said that most of the patients are well-behaved, and some are even curious about her Taiwanese accent.

“Learning medical science is like weaving a big net, and I am eager to see what it will look like when I'm finished weaving.”

Another interviewee is a fifth year student, Green Liang. She is a very active person who likes to attend various activities, such as volunteering at events and attending academic conferences. For instance, last year, she volunteered in the Teddy Bear hospital event. The event asked children to bring





decided on her career goal yet, many of her classmates hold positive attitude toward their futures in mainland China, and thus, have more intention to stay in the medical field.

Finally, Rachel, my last interviewee, lived in Canada until she graduated from high school. She just finished her graduate school entrance test when I interviewed her. When asked about her impression of PKU's Health Science Center, she pointed out that the equipment in both teaching area and hospital has been gradually im-

proving, and a variety of courses are added into students' choices. She also mentioned that one of the disadvantages is that there are not a lot of chances to work with local students during study. Another disadvantage is that they do not have freedom to choose the hospital for their internship program, while local students can work in hospitals like People's Hospital and the PKU Third Hospital, and others.

Also, she is quite determined about her future career goal. She will further her studies in ophthalmology. Then, after finishing graduate school, she plans to develop her early career in public hospitals. With more experience and professionalism, she would seek to apply to a private hospital or clinic. She said that she does not mind spending more time on investing to enrich herself. Given that the environment

is becoming more and more competitive, even in medical field, I could not agree more with her.

Rachel and Sally both said that they feel the happiest when they are applying their medical knowledge into practice. Sally explained, "learning medical science is like weaving a big net, and I am eager to see what it will look like when I'm finished weaving." Also, the interaction with patients provides the medical students with a sense of accomplishment. In addition, they explained that the relationship between doctors and patients is anything like in the rumors. I observed that all my interviewees are very accustomed to their lives here, and I believe this is because they all have a very positive attitude. All of them have mentioned the lack of interaction with local students and being apart from the abundant resources in the main campus as the biggest drawbacks; nevertheless, they also emphasize that the importance of seizing the opportunity, because opportunity waits for no one.



Yenching Global Symposium: "China Meets the World and the World Comes to China"

by Anastasiia Ilina

March 24 to 26, 2016, marked the days of the flagship event of the inaugural year of the Yenching Academy—the Yenching Global Symposium. The Yenching Global Symposium brought together 192 delegates and 40 leaders from over 50 countries to participate in passionate discus-

sions regarding China and the world today. The opening ceremony marked the start of the symposium. The first speech was delivered by the chairman of the Symposium and current Yenching scholar, Laya Maheshwari, who welcomed all the guests to see "firsthand how beautiful it is to be in China". In Maheshwari's opinion, learning

begins in the classroom, but it does not end there, as he encourages all to make the most of the three days spent in Beijing and PKU and to learn more about China and each other. The chairman's introduction was then followed by an opening address of the newly appointed dean of Yenching Academy, Professor Yuan Ming. She reminisced on

the topic of a previously held symposium that she attended some 20 years ago, where the average age of the participants was 55 years old. On the day of the Yenching Global Symposium, the room was filled with delegates in their twenties – the change is evident. “Let us show the change of the world”, Professor Yuan Ming urged all who were present. The next keynote speech was delivered by PKU’s Vice-President, Li Yansong, who greeted the

delegates accentuating that the Yenching Academy is unique in that it is a truly multidisciplinary program. The Global Symposium was brought together by the students themselves and contributes towards the “extension of the international spirit”. The final keynote speech was that of Fang Jun from the Ministry of Education, China, who shared optimistic predictions about the future of inter-cultural exchange of China and the World, especially in

the field of education. In his opinion, countries that have already built political, diplomatic, and economic connections should focus on building a “strong peo-

ple-to-people mechanism”. As the opening ceremony concluded two productive days of preparation that included various activities to stimulate interaction between the global leaders and delegates and, of course, among delegates themselves.

Over the next two days, panels were conducted on topics ranging from economics to philosophy, climate change, religion, and many diverse fields that together create a thorough picture of China today. Among the speakers were Peking University’s Professor Yan Se, who spoke on the topic of the transformation of the Chinese economy with CCTV host and business reporter Marina Fuchs. During another panel, Professor Alexander Storozhuk from Saint Petersburg State University discussed the influence of Buddhism on Chinese foreign relations during the Tang Dynasty. The United Nations Devel-

opment Programme Head of Policy and Partners China, Hannah Ryder, then spoke on China’s environmental goals, and the support that the UN has provided in engaging China to take on a global role and to cooperate with other countries on matters concerning the environment.

One of the most discussed session was that lead by Kaiser Kuo, the head of international public relations at Baidu and Co-Founder of the Sinica Podcast. The talk on the ‘Great Firewall of China’ was moderated by Jamie FlorCruz, former CNN Beijing Bureau Chief and the Founding President of the Peking University International Students Alumni Association. Kaiser Kuo began the talk with a couple of preliminary facts about China’s Internet users. Overall, there are about 700 million Internet users all around China and out of those, over 680 million are active Wechat users. The Internet has truly become a transformational force in China, changing how we perceive everyday life. No other country could be compared with China by the amount of commodities a mobile phone provides. WeChat is not only a leading social media platform, but it is also a facilitator of everyday life. At the same time WeChat is a public space carefully monitored by the government at times generating pro-policy content, whereas external media is selectively blocked by the so called ‘Great Firewall of China’. During the panel discussion, questions from the audience generated an active discussion revealing the gap between domestic and international media discourse. To those new to the censorship in China, it



appeared incredible that the Chinese themselves do not oppose the limited access to international websites. In fact, there may be an overestimation of the number of Chinese internet users that would use VPN services to access international social media platforms and news agencies. In the thoughts of Mr. Kuo, Chinese citizens do not feel the urge to acquire a Facebook or Instagram account as it would seem unreasonable to “give up WeChat to some inferior product that none of your friends are using”, and he doesn’t think that the “Great Firewall” is going anywhere in the near future.

All participants of the symposium have the opportunity to present their own research. In a 15-minute pop-up presentation, delegates from Peking Universities and other international institutions introduced their areas of research to fellow scholars, initiating lively discussions among all those who were present. The delegates acted as global thinkers and decision

makers in simulations of global crisis situations, in which they had to come up with solutions as representative of a global governing body. The two days of hard work of the organization committee and the active participation of the delegates came to a close after the closing remarks were delivered by John Holden, the associate dean of the Yenching Academy. He thanked everyone present for the success of the inaugural Yenching Global Symposium. “We are like a family here” Mr. Holden said, looking back on the past semester that launched the Yenching Academy program. As the author of this article and a Yenching scholar, I can personally attest to Mr. Holden’s statement. We have been so fortunate to be part of the first cohort of the Yenching Academy, and it is my hope that the next generations to follow will uphold the values of the Academy, preserve the importance of community, and embrace the opportunities they are presented with.



The Yenching Global Symposium brought together 192 delegates and 40 leaders from over 50 countries to participate in passionate discussions regarding China and the world today.



Let Theater Be a Way of Life

An Introduction to the Course “English and American Drama”

► Zhou Huiying

The course “English and American Drama” is designed for English majors of Peking University (PKU) to form a general frame of the history of British and American drama, while acquiring basic techniques of drama performance in a unique and engaging way of understanding dramatic literature. It is distinguished from the traditional drama classes which are based on lecture, note taking, and test taking. Students in this class are required to perform the plays on stage, rather than just read and study them. By learning the general knowledge of drama and bringing characters to life, students are led into the miraculous world of drama, which unconsciously shapes their life.

Celebrated American Broadway Director and Actor in PKU

The chief instructor of this course is Joseph Graves, who is a famous American Broadway director, actor, and playwright. In 2002, he was invited by Cheng Zhaoxiang, the former dean of the School of Foreign Languages of PKU, a scholar in Shakespeare who instructs a drama course which is based on text reading and film watching, to work with students of PKU’s English plays’ and

to establish the theater and film study center of PKU. Believing that China’s higher education lacks in giving its students the mind-opening experience of artist creativity, and interested in seeing how different cultures mix in a play, Joseph Graves came to PKU and set up this course.

“Professor Graves is really humorous—he often imitates funny characters and speaks with high vol-

ume and exaggerated body gestures, which would make us burst into laughter,” Xiong Wanqi, a student of this course, says, “and he is so passionate that you will never be bored in his class but will be unconsciously led to feel and act with him.” He has strict and professional requirement, requiring every movement to contribute to the delivery of subtext message. Meanwhile, the professor who is affectionately

known as “Joe” by his students, directs their performance earnestly and patiently. During the rehearsal of Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest*, he spent a whole class helping the students act more dramatically and vividly. He personally acted alongside his students and demonstrated in detail.

“I really appreciate Joe’s help. After failing to perform the right movement several times, I thought that he was likely to cast me aside. But instead of giving up instructing me, he directed me again and again with sincerity and patience,” says Zhou Tianliang, a student in Joe’s class, “He pursues the perfect act, even though it is only a class performance. He is a dedicated and professional professor.”

Another instructor of this course



is Liz Krane, an American actress who has master’s degree in performance from Purdue University. “Liz is very beautiful and graceful, and her every movement on stage always perfectly conveys the right message.” described Ji Yuchun, a

with fixed stage instructions, Liz let the students join in pairs and freely design a performance based on a conversation script, which indicates uncertain roles and unclear relationships. She encouraged them to perform creatively and originally



“ I have never wanted to be anything else other than to be an actor, director, and writer. I still wake up almost every morning and wonder why everyone does not want to do this kind of work, to live a life in the theater. Theater for me has never been a career, but a way of life. ”

sophomore of the English department.

In the beginning of this semester, after teaching the students the fundamental knowledge of drama, Liz asked them to stand up to form a circle and play clapping and quick response games, which aims at making them practice the interaction with each other. Instead of initially focusing on a single play

and to clearly represent the relationship of the two characters. By playing games together and cooperating with their partners creatively, the students became less constrained and more active.

On account of some of the students that have never acted on stage or even never seen a live play, it is a big challenge for the instructors to teach. Furthermore, some students



are too shy to speak or perform in public, but with the instructors help and by truly involving themselves in the performances, students can understand the drama theory more thoroughly and can act with grace and skill.

The Core of Acting: Speak Passionately with the Whole Body

Joseph Graves tells students that the purpose of acting is to make clear to the audience what the playwright has written. That is to say, to clearly convey the accurate message and information to the audience. To achieve that end, he emphasizes three essential aspects.

The primary element of acting, according to Joe, is speaking. Actors should make full use of their voice to express the accurate message. Therefore, the articulation is vital. Do not rush the words, and speak them as loudly and clearly as you can. He stresses the importance of pronouncing vowels, asking students to pay more attention to vowel sounds. He says that language is powerful and that the pace, rhythm,

and stress of language should be worked on while we perform.

The second element is inflection. According to Joe, the heart of speaking is emotion. Acting is the process of communicating with audience with your heart so as to invoke their feelings. Therefore, excellent actors should make efforts to let the audience feel, rather than just physically hear and see.

To make the audience feel, actors should speak with whole body, involving every parts of their body in acting, including their minds, eyes, ears, arms, legs, and feet. However, Joe reminds the students that every movement should contribute to the delivery of subtext message. Thus, casual and redundant movements are discouraged.

Though Theater to Experience Different Life

In his previous interview, Joe said: "After working as an actor and director and writer for decades, one of the things I find so exciting about is that it is always a new experience, and no play, no group of actors, and no audience watches are

the same thing twice. There are of course similarities but the rich variety of differences, keep it all fresh and engaging to me." Indeed, by acting different characters, we can experience various and colorful life, and enrich our own lives.

Joe believes that exposure to the arts, not just reading about them but engaging in the arts can stimulate students' minds in significant ways, and that the arts can begin to engender creative thinking that can positively impact all areas of their lives, both as students and later after they complete their schooling. Theater for him is not a career, but a way of life. By leading students into the world of theater, he also hopes that students can regard theater as an important part of their lives, too.

Joseph Graves

Joseph Graves is the Artistic Director of PKU Institute of World Theatre and Film. He received his professional training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Over thirty years, he has directed and acted more than 100 shows, including *Richard II*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Alchemist*, *The Sea Gull*, *Three Sisters*, *Wild Duck* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, at such notable venues as The Welsh National Theatre and The Royal Court Theatre. He has also written 20 original scripts and acted in some 150 stage productions, such as *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *Revoco*, *Bunyan*, and *Word Circus*.

Amartya Sen Appointed Honorary Professor of PKU

Ge Nan

On February 25, 2016, Amartya Sen, laureate of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics and professor at Harvard University, visited the School of Economics at Peking University (PKU) and delivered a keynote speech at the "International Symposium on Constructing an Inclusive and Efficient International Development Aid and Cooperation System".

Professor Amartya Sen is an Indian economist and philosopher. His academic interests include welfare economics, social choice theory, economic and social justice, economic theories of famines, and indexes of the measure of well-being of citizens of developing countries. Professor Sen praised China's extraordinary progress in human development and its positive effect on China's economic progress. He explained that 2016 is going to be an important landmark in the relationship between China and the world. The G20 Summit is going to take place in Hangzhou and a lot remains to be discussed in the context of enhancing the international economic order. Professor Sen suggested that China seize the opportunity take an important role in the course of global economic recovery.

Professor Sen said that "China has effectively combined its resources in education, healthcare, and other public services to serve

the society". He presented a review of China's three-decade economic reform and opening up policy. Education contributed to the improvement of labor quality and greatly enhanced China's economic performance. He thought that the experiences and lessons China have acquired deserve the world's attention. In his opinion, the "middle-income trap" hypothesis is not appropriate when explaining the current Chinese economic slowdown. He has confidence in China's sustainable economic growth. Finally, Professor Sen said that more attention should be attached to turning economic growth into social development. Also, he mentioned the contradiction between the tradition of male-preference in China and the fact that women are a critical part of a healthy economy. During the Q&A session, Professor Sen interacted with the audience on issues about the middle-income trap and south-south cooperation.

After the speech and Q&A, a ceremony was held to appoint Professor Amartya Sen as Honorary Professor of the School of Economics. Professor Zhang Zheng, Vice Dean of the School of Economics awarded the appointment certificate on behalf of the school. He said that Professor Sen was one of the greatest philosophers of our time, and that Professor Sen is considered the conscience of economics and an en-



cyclopedic scholar. Professor Zhang continued to explain that Professor Sen has made great contributions to economics, morality philosophy, and political science. In view of his extraordinary achievements in the fields above, the School of Economics of Peking University had the honor of conferring an Honorary Professorship to Professor Sen.

ISTI Launched at New Structural Economics International Development Forum at PKU

Li Ruoxue

On March 21, 2016, the New Structural Economics (NSE) International Development Forum was hosted by the Center for New Structural Economics (CNSE) at PKU, during which the Inclusive Structural Transformation Index (ISTI) was released. The event was held at the Zhifuxuan building of the National School of Development of Peking University, with speakers and panelists from the CNSE, the UN, the Asian Development Bank, the Development Research Center of the State Council, and China Agricultural University.

Justin Yifu Lin, Director of the CNSE, first made a brief introduction of the CNSE, the NSE International Development Forum, and the Inclusive Structural Transformation Index Report to the audience. The index was then explained at length by Celestin Monga, Managing Director of the United Nations

Industrial Development Organization, and Samuel Standaert from Ghent University.

As explained by these two experts, Inclusive Structural Transformation Index (ISTI) measures global progress towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which focuses not simply on job creation and economic growth, but also on industrial upgrading, social equality, and environmental sustainability. An important characteristic of the ISTI index is that it takes the level of development (or development stages) into account when comparing the structural characteristics of countries on their path to economic transformation. Hence, the ISTI is designed to foster mutual peer learning among countries at a similar level of development.

The panelists were then invited to offer comments on the report, and each in turn acknowledged the significance of the index for China as well as for other developing countries around the world to get through the developmental bottlenecks of economic transition.

The second event of the NSE International Development Forum was held on April 30,

2016, when experts from the United Nations Development Programme held more discussions about the Human Development Reports released by the UN.

Background Information

Proposed and championed by Professor Justin Yifu Lin, New Structural Economics applies the neoclassical approach, based on the given factor endowments and endowments structure at any specific time, to study the determinates of economic structure, including technology, industry, infrastructure and institutions, and its dynamic evolution in the process of economic development. The NSE has been endorsed by renowned economists worldwide, including more than 10 Nobel Laureates such as Joseph Stiglitz, Gary Becker, Douglass North, Robert Fogel, Michael Spence, and George Akerlof, and is taken as the third wave in development economics after structuralism and neoliberalism.

The Center for New Structural Economics at Peking University aims to promote in-depth research and applications of New Structural Economics, forging a platform to lead in research, develop new ideas, offer policy advice, and to provide educational programs.



President of the United States Military Academy at West Point Visits PKU

Xin Yuan

On January 20, 2016, Robert Caslen, President of the United States Military Academy at West Point (WP), led a delegation to Peking University (PKU) and was received by Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, as well as other school officials.

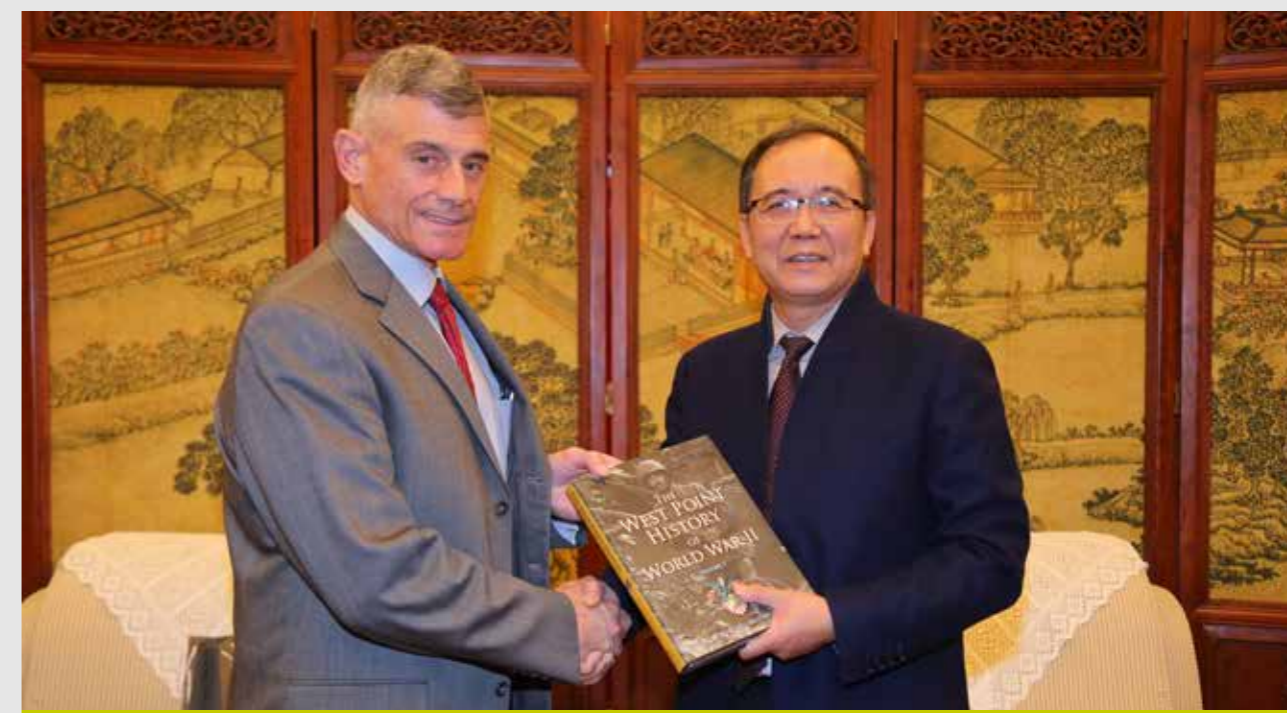
In the beginning of the meeting, they discussed previous collaborations between PKU and WP. Cooperation between the two began many years ago and has so far brought about positive results. PKU has been providing Chinese courses for WP students as early as 2007, and the program is a great success. Since then, over 60 WP students have come to study at the School

of Chinese as a Foreign Language at PKU, and great successes have been achieved. In April 2015, two students from the National School of Development, PKU, were selected to attend the McDonald Cadet Leadership Conference (MCLC) at West Point, a program which intends to cultivate leadership in elite undergraduates from all over the world.

During winter vacation in 2016, PKU sent students to visit WP under academic exchange for the first time. The visit lasted for two weeks and the students followed the schedule of WP as they joined military training, sporting activities, and curricular studies with other WP students. This exchange program enriched

students' life experiences, making them more self-disciplined and more capable of dealing with different kinds of problems.

Consensus was reached at the meeting. Both sides decided to further develop cooperation and set up multi-level projects on the basis of the cooperative relationship mentioned above, which would realize win-win goals between PKU and WP and greatly benefit the students. Such goals include opening up different kinds of courses—other than Chinese-language courses—to WP students, and also sending more PKU students to WP for short-term exchanges.



The First PKU-Qatar University Cultural Exchange Program

✎ Fung Wai Yin

From February 14 to 22, 2016, the first Peking University-Qatar University Cultural Exchange Program was successfully held by the CAMEL group of SICA. The program is supported by the Office of International Relations as well as the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University (PKU). Instructed by the associate dean of the School of Foreign Languages, Professor Fu Zhiming, fifteen student representatives from the School of Foreign Languages, the School of International Studies, and the Guanghua School of Management of PKU participated in the Program.

The program is in response to the One Belt, One Road initiative, which was launched with the goal of enhancing international collaboration and mutual understanding

between China and other nations. Communication and cultural exchanges with an Arab country such as Qatar shows the increasing internationalization of PKU.

During the nine-day visit, student representatives visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Qatar and had a face-to-face conversation with the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Li Chen. Not only did they share what they had learnt and experienced in the past few days, but they also shared their views about Qatar with the Ambassador. They also visited the Doha Centre of the Brookings Institution, the Qatar Foundation and the famous Museum of Islamic Art.

Ambassador Li Chen and Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, the President of the University of Qatar, as well as other guests including the

Deputy Director of the Department of Arabic at PKU attended the cultural exchange presentation by the student representatives from both schools. In the commencement speech, Dr. Hassan emphasized the importance of cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries, and the President showed his support for the development of the PKU Middle East Research Center. Ambassador Li then gave his speech on encouraging cultural exchanges between young people of the two countries.

Afterwards, the student representatives gave presentations on three topics in English, including 'The Gulf Relations of China', 'The Social Mobility of Qatar', as well as 'The Comparison between Chinese and Qatari media'.



Promoting Cooperation Among Peking University and Laos Universities

✎ Peng Xiao

On March 29, 2016, a delegation from the Laos Ministry of Education visited Peking University (PKU). The purpose of the Laos delegation's visit is to create more exchange opportunities between universities in China and Laos, and to expand collaborations between the two sides.

Khamphay Sisavanh, President of Souphanouvong University, mentioned that it is his first time visiting PKU and expressed his hopes of developing friendly relationships with PKU. Souphanouvong University, one of the five national universities in Laos, has already established cooperation with other universities in China. Their main cooperation

activities include student exchanges and co-organizing international seminars.

Mr. Sisavanh also mentioned that he has been actively engaged in developing educational collaboration between China and Laos. For example, he attended the annual "China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week" in the southern China region. Furthermore, Mr. Sisavanh expressed his hope to learn from PKU's higher education reforms, specifically in areas of talents cultivating, international collaboration, and financial management. He wishes that Dr. Li Yansong, Vice President of Peking University, would share his experiences in higher education develop-

ment.

Mr. Li then offered some suggestions on higher education development, such as combining liberal and professional education in undergraduate studies. Dr. Li emphasized the importance of promoting interdisciplinary studies and the sharing of academic resources among university departments. Moreover, Mr. Li suggested that reforming higher education must keep a good balance between traditional and modern culture, as well as national and international methods. Finally, both Mr. Li and Mr. Sisavanh agreed on advocating further exchanges between the two sides.



Nanyang Technological University Delegation Visits PKU

✎ *Mina Sohn*

On March 10, 2016, Bertil Andersson, President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore led a delegation to visit Peking University (PKU). Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the Peking University Council along with other faculty members greeted the guests.

Chairman Zhu welcomed the delegation, and he appreciated the achievements accomplished by both sides in the fields of academic and scientific research, especially in the newly established PKU-NTU Joint Research Institute (JRI), which was supported by the Huang Tingfang Charity Foundation.

PKU and NTU have set up the ROSE lab over the past three years. Recently, PKU-NTU established JRI, which aims to conduct research in areas that include multi-modal big data analytics technologies for smart cities and human-centered technol-

ogies for good health and lifelong learning. PKU also cooperated with the Joint NTU-UBC Research Center of Excellence in Active Living for the Elderly.

Chairman Zhu expressed his gratitude to President Andersson's long-lasting support of cooperation between the two universities, as well as his desire to enhance faculty exchanges and expand the scale of student exchanges. He hoped that more Singaporean students would be encouraged to come to China and study at PKU.

President Andersson thanked Chairman Zhu for his warm greeting. As an internationally celebrated botanist and chemist, he expressed his sincere congratulation and respect to PKU alumnus Tu Youyou on winning a Nobel Prize. Since President Andersson is a former member of the board of directors of the Nobel Foundation, Chairman

Zhu showed his hope that President Andersson would help strengthen the cooperation between PKU and the Nobel Foundation.

In the end of the meeting, Chairman Zhu suggested that PKU and NTU could enhance collaboration in the fields of sustainable development, education, electronics engineering and computer science, medical care and health, and President Andersson also expects more future collaborations between PKU and NTU.

After the meeting, the delegation of NTU had a discussion with scholars from the School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science, PKU. In the afternoon of March 10, the NTU delegation visited the Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center of Peking University, the College of Contemporary Agronomy, and Professor Deng Xingwang's Laboratory.



Eminent Historian Wang Fansen Holds Lectures for the PKU Global Fellowship

✎ *Zhou Yixiu*

Between March 8 and March 23, 2016, Professor Wang Fansen – academician, Vice-President of Academia Sinica, and specially-appointed researcher of the Institute of History and Philology – visited Peking University (PKU), and held three lectures for the PKU Global

Fellowship. In these Lectures, he shared his thoughts and findings in historical studies, and he expressed his hopes and expectations for the future development of PKU across the humanities.

On the morning of March 9, Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, met with Professor Wang Fansen in

Linhuxuan, extending a warm welcome to him. According to President Lin, the cooperation between PKU and Academia Sinica already has solid foundations, and broad prospects. Wang Fansen also drew attention to the fact in history five presidents of Academia Sinica have also taken

up positions at PKU, and hence the friendship between the two is already deeply rooted in history. Both sides then exchanged their views on cooperation in specific fields, such as the digitalization of newly unearthed documents and cultivation of talents in historical studies. Professor Wang was then given a tour of the Peking University Library, where he was able to appreciate the library's impressive collection of Chinese rare books, under the knowledgeable guidance of Library Director Zhu Qiang.

Lecture One: "The Contemporary Schools in the History of Western Thought and Criticism"

On the afternoon of March 11,



Professor Wang Fansen gave his first lecture in which he covered the topic of contemporary schools in-depth and introduced several influential schools in the history of Western thought.

First of all, he pointed out that the writing of the history of different thoughts had taken on a brand-new look since *History of Ideas* by Arthur O. Lovejoy was first published. In *The Great Chain of Being*, Lovejoy adopted a new research method in which the units of thought become the topics of discussion and the concept. 'Being' serves as Ariadne's thread, running through the book. The history of mentality, then, developed with the rise of the Annales School, which emphasizes the mentality of the collective. This, in Professor Wang's words, is better understood with a more modern example, for instance Sun Yatsen sharing the same mentality.

Professor Wang then concentrated his attentions on two schools: the Cambridge School of history of political thought, represented by Quentin Skinner, and the German School of the history

of concepts, represented by Reinhart Koselleck. He introduced three aspects of Skinner's school of thought to show that many ideas can only be understood within their contexts. Contemporary critics, however, such as Peter Gordon, think that Skinner focused too much on context, for context neither provides a systematic approach or substantial evidence. Professor Wang proposed that ideas should be understood within their contexts, as well as with future developments.

Professor Wang also introduced Koselleck's concept "Saddle Period", and stated his view that concepts are the stocks of the historical experience of different periods – an opinion also criticized by many contemporary critics.

Finally, Professor Wang returned to Chinese academia, and revealed his central aim: to broaden the horizon of intellectual history.

Lecture Two: "Thinking: A Way of Living"

On the afternoon of March

14, Professor Wang delivered his second lecture, aiming at showing how thinking and living were essentially the same in ancient times, whilst nowadays the two are unwisely separated. He appealed to the audience to combine the two together and to think as a way of living.

Lecture Three: "The Vanishing of Man? A Reflection on the Historical Studies in the 20th Century"

On the afternoon of March 17, Professor Wang gave his third and final lecture. In the lecture, he pointed out that the historical studies in the first half of 20th century focused on community and society, whilst neglecting individuality; a phenomenon that only worsened in the second half of the century, with man as an individual appearing to vanish entirely. He proposed that historical studies should pay notice to both structural forces and individual power. Once the lecture was over, the host Professor Lu Yang offered a few lines in conclusion of the three lectures, and expressed his great gratitude towards Professor Wang.

In the three lectures, Professor Wang Fansen explained the complex Western concepts and thoughts in popular and plain language. He also expressed his hopes for the future development of PKU and its liberal arts education. These lectures are part of the PKU Global Fellowship, which aims to further the development of PKU as a world-class institution of higher learning.

Paradise Refound: The Nostalgia and Lost Heritage in Australian Literature

by Huang Fangyuan

On March 14, 2016, famous Australian writers Robert Drewe and Clare Wright conducted lectures at PKU as a part of the ninth Australian Writers' Week held at the School of Foreign Languages. The PKU Center for Australian Studies, the Australian Embassy in Beijing, and the PKU School of Foreign Languages co-hosted the event.

As one of Australia's most prominent literary authors of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs, Robert Drewe won two Walkley Awards for journalism while working for *The Bulletin*. During the 1970s, he moved from journalism to writing fiction. Many of his books have won awards and prizes and have been adapted for the screen, theater, and radio.

Clare Wright is an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of the social history of alcohol and women's political activism.

"In today's Australia, women are still regarded as the 'other'. They are not entitled to do the same things as men. They are not truly in the domain of contest; they knock on the door, but are not let in; they are the guests, but not the stayers; they are a silent group never truly recognized as equivalent counterparts."

Her first book, *Beyond the Ladies Lounge: Australia's Female Publicans*, garnered both critical and popular acclaim. Her groundbreaking second book, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* won the 2014 Stella Prize.

The Nostalgic Images of Bush, Beaches and Sand

Robert Drewe recalled the early history and aboriginal culture of Australia. The legend of bush and

the enjoyment of the ocean, jointly make up "the Garden of Eden". Drewe first explored the myth of bush images in Australian Literature. When Australia were conquered by foreign invaders and Western settlers set their foot on this vast virgin land, a legend was gone forever, marking the end of an era. The only things left are emptiness, hopelessness, hunger and hatred. Survivors were trying to avoid "gambling hearts" and the "evil soul" yet the



bush could not escape the fate of being solidified as the “infertility” metaphor standing for the inland sufferings and struggles.

In contrast to the images of bushes, the images of beaches and sea stir endless romantic imagination. When cities were built during the Victorian Age, Australia became a second England. Gone were the slow moos of cattle, stripped bare was the cover of all faith in the city-country antithesis. Whenever one grows tired of reality, nostalgia for the irrevocable past comes alive. Drewe carefully examined the changing nature of the country’s social mores. He compared the care-free sensuality of Australian beach life (the nude sunbathers, the smell of suntan oil) with the characters’ unconscious prurience and uneasiness about sexuality, and with the mundane anxieties and problems of urban life. Drewe’s portrayal of the beach culture is journalistically superb; to quote one reviewer: “It’s all here—the oiled bodies, the smell of the salt, the heat of the sun, the sensuality.” But Drewe also gave a provocative analysis of Australian life, hinting at an inability to unite the “masculine” and “feminine” aspects of the national culture. In many stories the beach embodies the Australian myth of physical action and carefree hedonism, but these simplistic masculine values are often dispelled by the comments or actions of the female characters.

After Australia claimed her independence as a dominion of the British Empire in 1901, hedonism was celebrated nationwide. But the true comforts that touch upon the mind’s eyes would still be the images of bushes, beaches, and the sea. They sing along with untouched

nostalgia. Like it or not, the collective memory of Australia revolves around them.

The Lost Heritage of Women Activism

Clare Wright shared her new research on women activism in Australia. She commented that the women rights’ movement has been at most an individual achievement rather than a collective success. “In today’s Australia, women are still regarded as the ‘other’. They are not entitled to do the same things as men. They are not truly in the domain of contest: they knock on the door, but are not let in; they are the guests, but not the stayers; they are a silent group never truly recognized as equivalent counterparts.”

Moreover, Wright discovered that the logic of female inferiority has its impact on the sum total of nation building. After the waves of campaign against colonialism, she lamented on the lost heritage of women activism. Women’s subjection to the authoritarian rules would undermine the nationwide striving for freedom because one half of the population were denied representation. Wright believed it would result in suffocated citizenship representative of self-colonialism. “Australia as a nation will never be strong until we move out of the shadow of self-colonialism”, she said in a grieving tone.

However, to her great dismay, Wright found that the cultural assumption about women was even worse than she previously thought. As she dug into the documents on women activists, the striking comparison between the evaluation

of male protest and that of female movement set her into deep thinking. The former was elaborately recorded, while the latter was “chosen” to be buried beneath the dust of history. She could not help but wonder: Why has the heritage of the brave, courageous women rights warriors been lost among the historical records of mass movement? Why are they chosen to be deliberately forgotten by historians? Why are they even labeled as “evil stepmothers”? She found it heartbreaking to accept the fact that women had been dropped from political arena for so long. She made up her mind to write women back into the story of the Eureka Stockade because whether it is in time of peace or in time of war, women have the right to be remembered.



Professor Yuan Ming: China and the World in a New International Cultural Landscape

by Huang Fangyuan

On March 19, 2016, Professor Yuan Ming, Dean of the Yenching Academy, delivered a keynote speech at the 16th annual conference of FACES (Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford) calling for a new cultural landscape in international relationships.

Professor Yuan Ming is a world-renowned scholar in international studies. She was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley and the University of Oxford, and she conducted research at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Brookings Institution. In addition, she has served on the

boards of numerous high-profile institutions, such as the Council on Foreign Relations and the United Nations Foundation.

Self-Identity Crisis in a Multi-Cultural Age

To begin, Professor Yuan talked about the many changes happening around the world, as well as their impact on human lives. These changes, she said, were too big to be neglected, bringing about hopes and fears, opportunities, and challenges. One of the main challenges in this globalized world is how to respond appropriately to an ever-changing

environment. Cultural factors play a significant role because identity crisis troubling both individuals and social groups, tensions between old values and new, could only be dealt with satisfactorily by placing in the intangible, invisible cultural network. Dating back to 2013, Samuel Huntington posit in *Clashes of Civilisation and the Remaking of World Order* that post-Cold War conflict would most frequently and violently occur because of cultural rather than ideological differences. Three years later, the Harvard professor put forward another question concerning identity crisis: Who am I? Is cultural identity only an illusion?

Professor Yuan then used her traveling experiences to demonstrate the prevailing influence of culture in international relations. She has seen Oslo in ruins after a heavy bombardment; in Jerusalem, she spoke with Jewish youths and gained a sense of their inner tranquility when communicating with God; in Jordan, she visited Pakistani refugees with the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, listening to their wishes for their family to be reunited. From this series of experiences, Professor Yuan started to think about "Who we are" in the waves of globalization and 'informa-

The Emergence of a New Cultural Landscape

In the second part of her speech, Professor Yuan emphasized the importance of building a new cultural landscape. She recalled her sense of loss and moments of confusion when getting more and more involved in cross-cultural interaction. When the old values meet the new, the conservative meets the progressive, it seems that the blending environment only adds to the complexity of the situation. The best way to respond to the challenges

“ In the trend of globalization, many conflicts stem not from political or economic clashes, but from the way we look at other people and how we conduct ourselves. We need to see more and think more in order to smoothly integrate into the new era. ”

tionization’.

Self-identity, she reflected, was an eternal quest for humanity. Different from the ancient Greek maxim "Know Yourself," the traditional Chinese interpretation of self-identity highlights self-positioning. Professor Yuan Ming commented, "In the trend of globalization, many conflicts stem not from political or economic clashes, but from the way we look at other people and how we conduct ourselves. We need to see more and think more in order to smoothly integrate into the new era."

is to forgive the past, abandon the "struggle logic" and "look forward". It should be noted as well that a delicate balance should be kept between individual characteristics and a collective sense of belonging. With this in mind, each person faces the demanding task of reorienting and redefining themselves in this globalized world.

Moreover, she clarified potential misunderstandings by elaborating on the exact meaning of globalization. Too often we confuse globalization with Westernization, and even Americanization. So frequent-

ly local protectionism becomes our only response to the multi-cultural landscape. She reflected on the question over and over again, "How could we fully appreciate the unique characteristics of our own culture without interacting with others?" Professor Yuan believed that the role of cultural landscape in international relations should never be ignored. When reconstructing the cultural landscape for the better, we also improve the state of the political and economic landscape globally.

Meanwhile, cultural integration is also a long-lasting subject. Europe gave birth to glorious culture and civilization, and now they exist under a new banner — the "European Union." At the same time, Anglo-Saxon countries are trying to embrace cultural integration while they still have a long way to go. Today, Chinese culture impacts the world greatly. With the development of cultural exchange and 'informationization', Professor Yuan Ming remarked that it is a good idea to promote cultural communication with the help of the Internet, and the network era should be more humanized rather than mechanical and cold.

At the conclusion of her keynote speech, Professor Yuan showed delegates symbolic photos of cultural blending such as the Garden of Flowing Fragrance located close to the city of Los Angeles, a remarkable calligraphy dance performed in front of a Western audience. With such harmonious co-existence of diverse cultures around the world, she placed strong confidence in the emerging of a new cultural landscape.

A Family Tree of Han Languages

▣ Li Kechun

Have you ever wondered how ancient people spoke? Did writers like Shakespeare or Li Bai live in the same world of sound as we do today? When we recite their words, are we performing up to their expectations? All these questions are left for linguists to solve, and in particular, in the field of historical linguistics.

Professor Chen Baoya and Wang Feng in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University, have been working in this field for many years. Recently, their article, "On Several Principles in Reconstruction a Proto-Language -- with the Reconstruction of Tone and Pre-initial of Proto-Yi", won a

national prize for its contribution in the reconstruction of proto-language.

Historical linguistics is not only the study of the history of languages, as the name implies, but also on the study of how languages change, and how languages are related to one another. Professor Wang compares his research to the theory of evolution. "People today find that all the living forms share some common characteristics, and some living forms are obviously closer than others. This inspires the hypothesis that they may have a common ancestor, and later developed into different categories due to variations in environment. This is the same for languages. We

linguists conduct comparison among modern languages, as well as search for ancient literature, just as an evolutionist will compare modern species and study the fossils at the same time, in order to draw up a family tree of all languages."

We can see a clear family tree for European languages today due to the accumulated work since the 19th century. Their ancestor has been recognized as the Indo-European language. Meanwhile, similar work within our Han-Tibetan languages remains largely absent. The distinctive features of a possessing tone but lack of morphology once made Antoine Meillet, one of the most important linguists in 20th century lament that there is no use of historical comparison in Sino-Tibetan languages. Without a complex morphology system, there is a higher probability for two words to have the same sound. But in the eyes of Professor Wang, as the Tao wisdom implies, "bad things often turn out for good", the scarcity of clues forces them go deeper into the structure of languages, and thus to figure out the principles of language reconstruction.

This time, he compares his work to that of a doctor. A cold can be diagnosed through its syndromes such as cough or running nose. But, a good doctor is supposed to be aware of the fact that the real reason for the cold is virus infection. "Morphology is like the syndrome which is too easily accessed to make people think."





There are two steps of reconstruction of a proto-language, phonological categorization and phonetic interpretation. Briefly speaking, the first is to put languages or dialects which are from a common ancestor into a group, thus sorting out their relationship. The second is to give reasonable phonetic values to proto-forms, which is to reestablish the way how ancient people pronounce the system. In this article, Professor Chen and Wang provide us with three principles which should be utilized in both steps. The three principles are complete correspondence, the principle of contrast, and kernel consistent correspondence.

Complete correspondence indicates that every phonetic part of compared morphemes between languages is supported by sound

correspondences. In Sino-Tibetan languages, if a morphemic syllable consists of the initial, the final and then tone, then all of the three parts should be supported by sound correspondence between languages respectively. The principle of contrast is, after comparing every related languages or dialects thoroughly and covering all corresponding morphemes as much as possible, contrasting sets of sound correspondences should be given different proto-forms. Finally, in order to exclude loanwords, which are not inherited from proto-languages, the correspondence is required to appear in kernel morphemes, which are the most stable and borrowing-resistant. The kernel consistent layer is proposed as the major source of reconstruction.

Following the principles is an

example applying them. Professor Chen and Wang reconstructed the tone and two pre-initials of Proto-Yi. Six modern dialects of the Yi language are compared to find the tone correspondence. Previous studies tend to ignore the tone correspondences since tone possibly emerges secondarily. In fact, the sound conditions of tone emergence from initials or finals already exist in the early language. Through the example, the importance of complete correspondence is emphasized.

The principles can be seen more clearly in the process of reconstruction of the two pre-initials. Their existence is assured through the contrasting principle. But it will not be successful without complete correspondence of tone mentioned above. Finally, the two pre-initials are

confirmed to live in the kernel correspondence layer which mean they should be reflected in the Proto-Yi language.

Why do they focus on the minority language? Professor Wang told us that such minority language like Yi and Bai are supposed to be related with the Han, and that their split may date back to a time long, long ago. "It is like we can only infer your parents through you and your brother. But we can infer your grandfather through your relative who is mildly further." To understand the relationship and interaction of these languages contributes to the construction of the family tree.

Principles of reconstruction discussed in the article require substantial and extensive fieldwork. It is not only crucial to collect sound materials, but also to cultivate a sense for a certain language. Professor Wang now pays a regular visit to Yunnan every summer. But the memory of his first experience is still vivid. At that time, he was a graduate student at the Hong Kong City University, working on the reconstruction of proto-language of another minority group in Yunnan—the Bai. "I already know a lot of things about that language. But not until I heard them singing their songs in their own language in the surroundings of the mountains, where they have been living for thousands of years, did I really understand how beautiful their language is. You should know the language, without ignoring the people who are using them."

This article has further implications. On one hand, it is a remote response to Meillet in the sense that the reconstruction is feasible

in Han-Tibetan languages as long as the principles are held. On the other, it points out the fallacy that appears in previous reconstruction that some useful information has been excluded. Some may complain that taking all the elements into consideration, the reconstruction process can be an endless work that no one can ever see the result in their lifetime. So they prefer to pick up some languages and omit some correspondences in the hope of speeding up. It is understandable, but without a principle, the consequence is probably "more haste, less speed."

"My work on proto-Bai took about 3 years. Now Proto-Yi has taken another 3 years. Going like this, I can reconstruct 20 languages at most in my life. But Han-Tibetan are said to number four hundred at least, not to mention their dialects." Professor Wang said, "However, equipped with these principles, we can accelerate the process reasonably. The representative languages

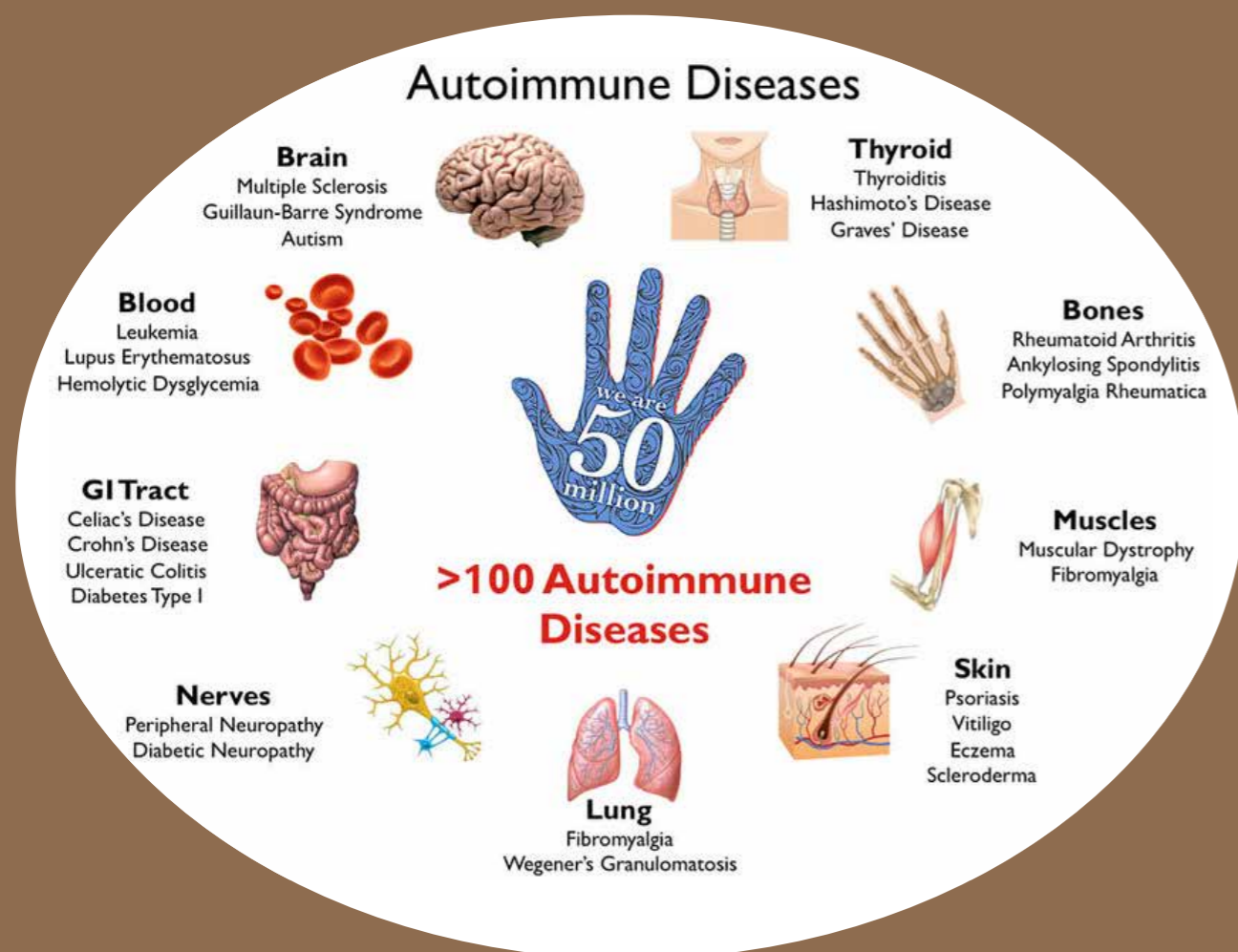
can be chosen like what we did in a sample survey, without losing much carefulness."

Other works of Professor Chen and Wang include chronology of languages, which tells people the time when the proto-languages are formed and split. They have proposed many influential methods in this field. The results help to explain both the history of language, and the origin of human society. Currently they are also working on automating the procedures of realizing those principles. That means that computer will be handling most part of analyzing the sound correspondence after the materials are collected, like a DNA detector. This will speed up the process of reconstruction of proto-languages, as well as recognize the relationship among languages. At that stage, a family tree of Han-Tibetan languages will be realized. "That is my utmost dream." said Professor Wang.



Team Makes Breakthrough in Determining What Causes Autoimmune Diseases

by Ouyang Dafang



Professor Li Zhanguo's team from Peking University's People's Hospital, in collaboration with Professor Guang Yang from the Academy of Military Medical sciences, published their latest research in the *Cell Host Microbe* on March 9, 2016. The study focuses on the relationship between human cytomegalic virus (abbreviated to hCMV) and autoimmune diseases,

and stands as a stepping stone that will provide new treatments to the family of diseases. With the discovery of the cytomegalovirus peptide-specific antibody altering natural killer cell homeostasis, the research is highly influential in the field of medicine. Besides taking a deeper look into the function of hCMV, the research also provides the possible solution the long-puzzled mystery: What causes autoim-

mune diseases?

Excerpted from the article titled "A Cytomegalovirus Peptide-Specific Antibody Alters Several Autoimmune Diseases", the writers admit that while the link between hCMV and several autoimmune diseases has been long recognized, the direct role of hCMV in inducing autoimmune disorders remains unclear. Autoimmune diseases, the results of a loss of self-tolerance,

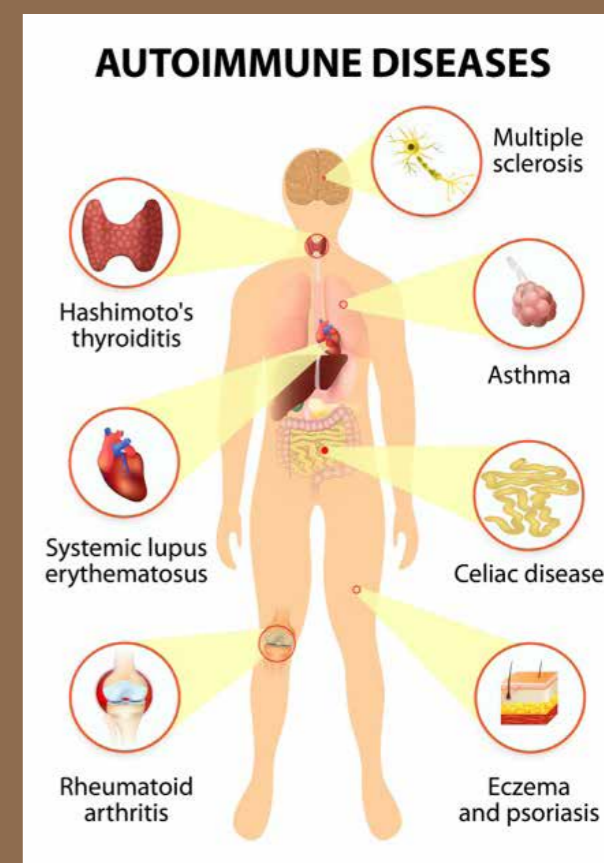
include rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and primary Sjogren's syndrome (pSS). Despite that, gender and the environment could lead to the onset of autoimmune diseases. Scholars and researchers in this area are still actively engaging in debates over the matter, and are desperately seeking to learn more about these devastating disorders. To overcome the current limitations and seek answers, the researchers hypothesize a common unknown mechanism involved in the pathogenesis of the diseases.

To verify their hypothesis, the researchers began experimenting with identification of hCMV peptide-specific IgG, anti-Pp150, which is common to several autoimmune diseases. The results of the random screening on 12-mer peptide library against pooled immunoglobulin Gs (IgGs) specifically identified three unique peptides, given that they are bound to all pooled IgGs. Further study, with modern blotting employed, found that the hCMV-infected cells are positively stained by anti-Pp150. While a relatively large proportion of Pp150 is recognized by IgG in the sera from patients of RA, SLA and pSS, the fact that the area of sensitivity and specificity of the antibody to Pp150 in the autoimmune diseases group is under the receiver operating curve implies that anti-Pp 150 exhibits significant reactivity to the CMV-derived peptide motif. The writers conclude that, "Based on these results, we proposed that hCMV infection can induce a pathogenic antibody that is enriched in the context of autoimmune diseases."

The above results bring the re-

searchers to further query whether there is a corresponding human antigen recognized by anti-Pp150. Verified by confocal microscopy, human CD56bright natural killer turns out to be the target that anti-Pp150 specifically recognizes. Since NK cells circulate through the body, shoulder the responsibility of detecting the abnormal cells (virus-infected as well as cancerous), and release chemicals to inhibit the spread of the virus and cancer, when the number of circulating NK cells decreases in the patients with autoimmune diseases, it causes a catastrophic reaction. That is, the anti-Pp150 induces the death of human CD56bright NK cells with both antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and complement-dependent-cytotoxicity (CDC).

Decades have passed and the operating theatre has transformed by revolutionary advances in technology and science. Yet, there are puzzles still left for the medicine to ponder. The hCMV has, for a long time now, played a role in the pathogenesis and the onset of autoimmune diseases. In the article, the writers explain that it is the lack of evidence for specifically higher hCMV IgG levels in patients with autoimmune diseases that lea-



ds to the blind alleys. However, this time, the researchers grappled with a chance to potentially lead the world of medicine out of the maze. "We propose that hCMV infection can induce a shared autoantibody that is enriched in the context of common autoimmune diseases." In addition to revealing the results of the experiments, the writers also mentioned goals that they hopefully strive to accomplish, including a more comprehensive understanding toward the function of membrane CIP2A in CD56bright NK cells and the further study on whether anti-Pp150 is involved in hCMV immune evasion.

In the article titled "CMV and NK cells: an unhealthy tryst?" Professor Söderberg-Nauclér from Karolinska Institutet reviewed the study with high admiration. Given that the study not only provided

a more profound insight into the mechanism of autoimmune diseases, it also uncovered new ways of study for other related diseases such as tumor and abortion, the study does deserve a standing ovation.

Medicine has contributed numerous efforts into looking ways to wrap science and technology around the fragile physiology to protect it. The path toward that goal is

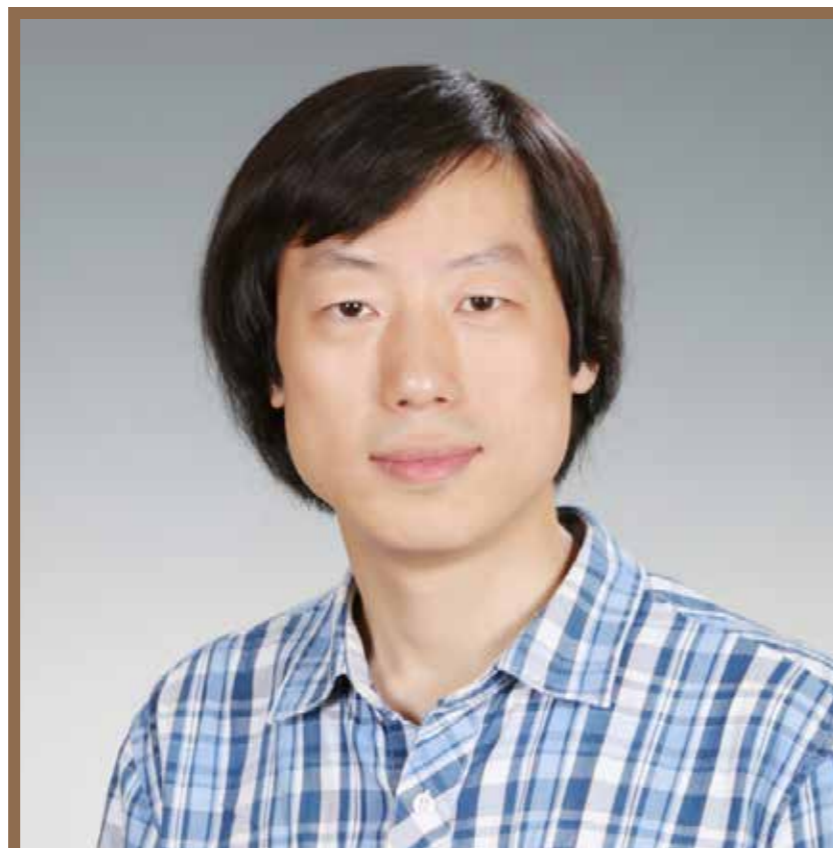
arduous, yet there are people still taking pains in creating a better future for all of humanity. In China, autoimmune diseases have been classified as one of the most major diseases that are of most urgent need to tackle. Recent studies showed that in the United States, about one sixth of the population suffers from some kind of autoimmune diseases. These facts come

as a reminder that tells how much the society could long to see the breakthrough in the study of the autoimmune diseases. When a study meets the public's need, as what "A Cytomegalovirus Peptide-Specific Antibody Alters Several Autoimmune Diseases" has managed to achieve, it shall benefit the whole of humanity in the future.

PKU Team Develop Single-Cell Triple Omics Sequencing

by Lin Zixi

Single-cell genome, DNA methylome, and transcriptome sequencing methods have been separately developed. However, to accurately analyze the mechanism by which transcriptome, genome, and DNA methylome regulate each other, these omic methods need to be performed in the same single cell. On February 23, 2015, Cell Research reported recent progress of Tang Fuchou's group and Huang Yanyi's group from Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center (BIOP-IC), along with Peng Jirun's group from Beijing Shijitan Hospital and Capital Medical University titled "Single-cell triple omics sequencing reveals genetic, epigenetic, and transcriptomic heterogeneity in hepatocellular carcinomas". The research developed a new method,



scTrio-seq, to decipher single-cell genome, DNA methylome, and transcriptome sequencing. Remarkably, it is the first time that the researchers can simultaneously interrogate the genome, methylome, and transcriptome of their constituents at the single-cell level. It also offers a new avenue of dissecting the complex contribution of genomic and epigenomic heterogeneities to the transcriptomic heterogeneity within a population of cells.

The development of single-cell genome, DNA methylome, and transcriptome sequencing technologies in recent years has greatly aided dissection of the heterogeneity within a population of cells. Combining genome and transcriptome analyses of a single cell based on either microarray or next-generation sequencing have also been successfully used to analyze tumor heterogeneity. However, to directly analyze the mechanisms by which genetic and epigenetic factors regulate gene expression in an individ-

ual cell, the genome, epigenome, and transcriptome need to be simultaneously analyzed in a single cell.

Here Tang's group and Huang's Group report the development of a single-cell triple omics sequencing technique, single-cell triple omics sequencing (scTrio-seq), and the application of this technique for analyzing the relationship between the genome (copy-number variations, CNVs), DNA methylome, and transcriptome of a single mammalian cell. They demonstrated that CNVs can be reliably identified using single-cell RRBS data produced from the scTrio-seq assay. They observed a negative correlation between promoter methylation and RNA expression, and a positive correlation between gene body methylation and RNA expression, in a single cell. Furthermore, a strong positive correlation between the DNA copy number and gene expression within the affected genomic region was found. In contrast, the DNA copy number

does not affect DNA methylation level of the region. Finally, they used scTrio-seq to analyze 25 single cells derived from a human hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) tissue sample and found two subpopulations distinct in DNA copy numbers, DNA methylation, and RNA expression levels. By comparing the multi-omic differences between two HCC subpopulations, they found that the subpopulation I, accounting for a minor part in tumor tissues, harbored more copy-gain CNVs, expressed more invasive cell markers, and were more likely to evade immune surveillance.

The co-first authors of this research are Hou Yu from School of Life Science, Peking University and Guo Huahu from Peking University Health Center. The principal investigator Tang Fuchou, Huang Yanyi, and Professor Peng Jirun are the co-corresponding authors of the article. The work has been supported by the National Science Foundation of China.

Team Reveals the Intra-Tumor Heterogeneity and the Genetic Mechanism

by Lin Zixi

Professor Bai Fan's group from Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center, Peking University published an

online article on Gastroenterology, titled "Variable Extent of Intra-tumor Heterogeneity Revealed by Genomic Sequencing of Multiple

Lesions in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma" on January 2, 2016. In the study, they investigated the clonal relationship among th

ese lesions on the basis of genetic features.

Liver cancer is the second leading cause of all cancer related deaths worldwide, and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the most frequent type of primary liver cancer. At present, surgical removal is the primary treatment choice for patients with HCC. However, the prognosis remains poor, mainly owing to the high intrahepatic recurrence rate after resection, which is associated closely with the fact that HCC patients often harbor multiple lesions (MLs). Based on their clinicopathologic features, secondary lesions can be subdivided into intrahepatic metastasis (IM) and multicentric occurrence

(MO), satellite nodules (SNs) etc. Genomic sequencing has shown great ability in profiling the genomic landscape of HCC. However, a comprehensive genomic analysis of all major types of MLs associated with HCC has not been performed. In addition, multiregion sequencing has shown substantial intratumor heterogeneity (ITH) in many cancer types.

In the current study, the researcher performed genomic sequencing on MLs from ten HCC patients treated with surgical resection at Tianjin Cancer Hospital from January 2013 to May 2014. Using exome sequence data and low-depth whole genome sequencing, they analyzed the mutations,

HBV integrations and copy number variation. The data showed that the extent of intratumor heterogeneity varies considerably among patients with HCC. Therefore, sequence analysis of a single lesion cannot completely characterize the genomic features of HCC in some patients.

Then, comparative analysis of MLs in the same patient was performed to reconstruct the phylogenetic trees of the tumor. They identified branched evolution and concluded that intrahepatic metastases and tumor thrombi can occur early in HCC progression while satellite nodules occur late. The results presented herein show the genomic complexity of MLs in HCC patients,

highlighting the challenges in its diagnosis and treatment strategies.

The co-first author of the article, Xue Ruidong from Bai Fan's group, evaluated the importance of the work: "Much importance has been attached to intratumor heterogeneity of tumor because it can directly interfere with the diagnosis of patients, especially when it comes to personalized medicine. Our work is the first work to systematically assess the intratumor heterogeneity of liver cancer. On the other hand, our work illustrated the complicated relationship among the various types of lesions in the liver. In a word, our work, with the state of art genomic sequencing technology, will help people understand the disease better."

As for his idea of further study, he said that as they found two special HCC cases in this study, they expected to study more such special cases.

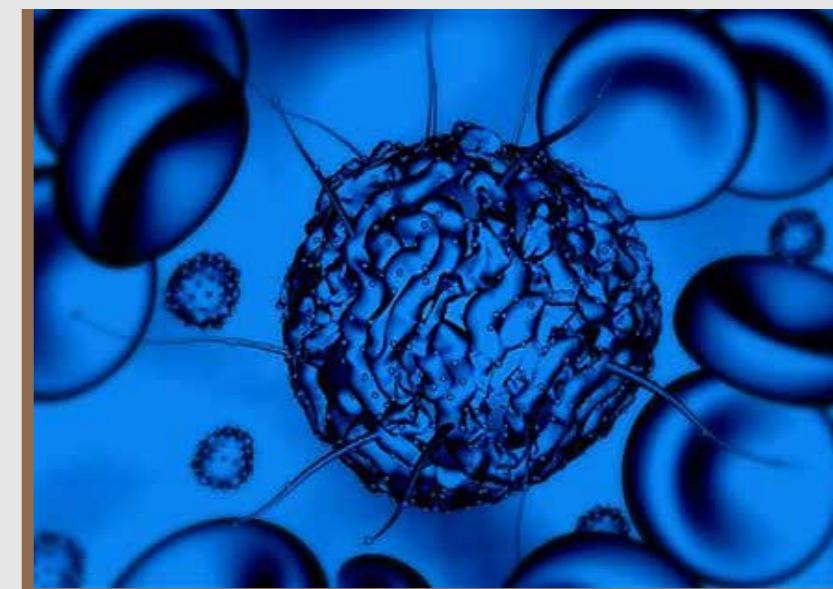
To know more about his research, we interviewed him by email.

Q1: What do you think is the key to success on this research?

A1: Never give up! This project lasts about three and a half years and we have been through ups and downs. We kept learning from literature and talking with experts from different fields. At last, our hard work and persistence paid off.

Q2: What is the most interesting thing you encountered in the study?

A2: The interesting part is finding something new, that is, some-



thing beyond your expectations. These new observations are always surprises. For instance, many believed that metastasis occur late during tumor progression. However, our analyses show that certain tumors can metastasize very early, at least in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Q3: What is the greatest difficulty you overcame during the research?

A3: The most challenging part is correlate the experimental data with clinical practice. Liver cancer ranks as the second deadliest cancer, especially to the Chinese population. It is a very complicated and heterogeneous disease so that finding the "facts" of the disease among the abundant data is like searching the needle in a haystack.

Q4: What is the most satisfying part of the work?

A4: Our samples came directly from liver cancer patients and we understand their sufferings. The

objective of our study is to gain a deeper understanding of the disease. The best scenario is our data can provide new facts of hepatocellular carcinoma to the researchers and clinicians and finally benefit the patients. To our satisfaction, we used the latest next generation sequencing technology and obtained the genomic data of the patients involved in our studies. We assessed the extent of these patients' intratumor heterogeneity and reconstructed the evolutionary histories of these tumors. These data will be very valuable to the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of HCC.

The principal investigator Bai fan from BIOPIC, Peking University and Professor Zhang Ning from Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute are the co-corresponding author of the article. Professor Sunney Xie and Professor Zhang Zemin from BIOPIC provides important guidance to the study. The co-first author are Xue Ruidong and Li Ruoyan from BIOPIC, as well as Guo Hua and Guo Lin from Tianjin Medical University.



Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship Awarded

▣ Zhong Xue

The 2014-2015 Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship Ceremony was held on March 23, 2016 at the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center, Peking University (PKU). Ten outstanding students who excelled in both their studies and other aspects in the past academic year were awarded. Kawai Kousaku, Vice President of East Asia Affairs at the Mitsubishi Corporation,

and Zhang Qingdong, Director of the Students Affairs Department, PKU, awarded the scholarship certificates to the students.

Zhang Yanzheng, an undergraduate from the Guanghua School of Management, expressed his sincere gratitude towards Mitsubishi Corporation, and represented the awardees to present a well-prepared gift to Kawai Kousaku. Kawai Kousaku gave

a brief introduction of Mitsubishi, and encouraged students to further improve themselves. He also invited them to work for Mitsubishi in the future. Zhang Qingdong expressed his gratitude towards Mitsubishi, recalling the achievements of collaboration between PKU and Mitsubishi, as well as other institutions, and encouraged the students to pursue their future with a brighter outlook.

Peking University Boya Arts Development Fund Launched

▣ Wang Shan

On December 20, 2016, Peking University (PKU) Boya Arts Development Fund was successfully launched at Peking University Hall. The PKU Alumni New Year Symphony Concert was held along with the launching event. Aiming at enriching the campus art and cultivating artistic sense at PKU, the Boya Arts Development Fund was founded to introduce more arts into the campus and to support the

development of original art. It also provides a platform for the students to improve their artistic accomplishment and for the alumni to repay their alma mater.

Executive Vice President of PKU, Professor Wu Zhipan, expressed his gratitude to all the alumni who have supported the development of art in PKU. He also announced the official commencement of the Peking University Boya Arts Development Fund. In his speech that followed,

he emphasized that the inheritance of the profound humanistic tradition and aesthetic spirit was owed to the joint efforts of the teachers and students of PKU, both within and outside the campus.

The concert was sponsored by the Peking University Alumni Philharmonic Club and Pod-inn Hotel. Nearly 1,140 alumni who were present at the concert donated to the Peking University Boya Arts Development Fund.



PKU AMCARE Scholarship Established to Support Development of Medical Students

▣ Lu Yifan

On March 24, 2016, the PKU AMCARE Scholarship for Medical Students was established in a ceremony held at the Yifu Building, Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC). The scholarship was made possible after a 3 million

RMB donation by Dr. Yang Lan. The Scholarship will be awarded to full-time students in PUHSC to support the future education of talented students in the field of medicine.

Dr. Yang Lan, founder and CEO of AMCARE Corporation, graduated from the PKU Department of

Medical Treatment in 1987. Apart from displaying her love for her alma mater, Dr. Yang said that the scholarship was designed to help medical students relieve the financial burden of their studies and to encourage them to bravely pursue their dreams.

How to Give

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The South Pavilion

Standing silently near the south bank of the Weiming Lake, the north and south pavilions were built in 1924. The South Pavilion was originally called the “Gande Building”, serving as the office building of women students. The North Pavilion was originally called the “Defeng Building”, and it served as the music teaching and students’ activities building. The South Pavilion is now the home of the Office of International Relations. Across from the South Pavilion stands the North Pavilion, both of which are designed in the traditional Yan Yuan architectural style, and they are identical in design and appearance, which makes it easy for one to understand why the two pavilions are known as the “the Sister Pavilions”.

Even as time passes and new structures are built, the beauty of the South Pavilion’s traditional architecture distinguishes itself from other buildings on campus. The South Pavilion stands in the heart of the campus mixing old and new, blending local and global elements, and it symbolizes the diverse culture of Peking University.

