

The 2017 PILF Public Interest Auction



Table of Contents

2017 PILF Public Interest AuctionA1

Symphony Orchestra at PKU SZ.A2

Learning Cultural Slang.....A3

Traveller's Guide to Yunnan.....A4

Hong Kong Victoria Harbour dinner cruise for up to 15 students. Classic Chinese calligraphy written by Chancellor Wu Yundong. Home-cooked American southern-style dinner with Dean Yandle. Private Plane from Geneva to Cannes. Korean barbecue alongside Professor Kang's piano performance at a Korean barbecue restaurant. These were just a few of the items auctioned during "Bid for a Change", the 3rd PILF Public Interest Auction held at the new School of Transnational Law building at Peking University HSBC Business School on April 15.

Public Interest Law Foundation, referred to as PILF, is a student-run organization based in STL to promote students' public interest law practice. Its annual event is the public interest auction to raise fund for students working in

public interest positions during the summer. All items up for auction are donated by the faculty members and students of Peking University. Until now, two PILF auctions have been held and together raised more than RMB 100,000. The annual PILF auction has become one of the most influential and large-scale student activities in STL.

Around 7 pm, bidders arrived one by one, received their bid card and first enjoyed the party. There were two parts of the auction: silent auction and live auction. The items in the silent auction were mostly from students, as they donated almost everything, including toys, tour guide services, wake-up services, yoga courses, and so on. The most expensive item from a student was a piece of Chinese calligraphy written by 1L student Su Quan. The No.2 bidder gave the highest price at RMB 1500. Professor Feldman's dim sum was also very popular and eventually was sold at RMB 1600.

The live auction was obviously more exciting and attracted more attention. The items of the live auction were mostly donated by the faculty and staff members, from outings with faculty members to rare collections to live performances. One of the most expensive items, a private plane from

Geneva to Cannes, was sold at RMB 10,000, which was donated by Professor Eile Vannier. As usual, the Victoria Harbor dinner cruise, donated by Dean McConnaughay, was one of the items people were most looking forward to. It was eventually sold at RMB 10,300 by a 1L student. The cruise will be shared by 15 people.

Professor Buhi and 1L student Evann Wu served as auctioneers for this year's live auction and entertained bidders with their enthusiasm. During the break, members of the hip-hop dance club, led by 2L student Kelly, gave a brilliant hip-hop dance performance. Meanwhile, cocktails, beverages, and other alcoholic drinks were served. Professor Levene also volunteered to be the bartender and made the cocktails during the party. Dessert, fruits, and snacks were provided at the bar counter, where bidders ate, drank, talked with others, and had a lot of fun.

"This year's Public Interest Auction is so thrilling," said one of 1L students, posting many great photos of this night in her Friend Circle. Another 3L student commented, "every year at this time I realize how many rich people are hiding around me." Many 1L students volunteered in the weeks before the event and there was tremendous support

from alumni, professors and staff members of STL.

"We all had a great time tonight. We are so grateful that the auction can bring the School of Transnational Law together, have fun together, and meanwhile support the public interest law work of students!" one of the organizers said.

At the end of the auction, Professor Buhi and Evann announced the total amount achieved: RMB 106,214. All of the money will be used to support students to go abroad and work in their public interest law careers. So far, PILF has funded seven students to hold internships in four countries, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and Pacific (UNCITRAL-RCAP), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Los Angeles, ABA's Rule of Law Program in Beijing, ABA Justice Defenders Program in Washington D.C., and Earth Rights in Thailand. It will be seen that more and more students will use the funds raised by the public interest auction to devote to a public interest career.

Reported by Floy Chen

Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra Brings Classical to Campus



If you happened to walk past the International Conference Center on campus (behind the amphitheater) on March 31st, you'd be surprised to hear streams of symphony music coming through the closed doors of the Center. The Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra visited our Nanyan campus and performed as part of their tour to bring classical music into schools. So on Friday evening, despite the rain, faculty, staff and students streamed into the ICC and filled out the 470 seats almost immediately. This event was organized by the Youth League Committee of PKU Shenzhen.

Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra gave a splendid performance. With authority and nuance, conductor Liu Ming guided the responsive ensemble and opened the evening with three popular pieces from the classic Bizet's *Carmen*. The energetic and familiar tune engaged the audience. The popular Chinese folk song 茉莉花 was performed next, bringing many people to hum along with the song. Many of the songs chosen for the night's performance were popular songs that the students and teachers were able to relate to. For instance, Elgar's *Salut d'Amour*, The Sound of Music medley, Moonriver, the 007 theme song and Phantom of the Opera were performed with great enthusiasm and met with applause from the audience. Besides the popular songs, classics such as Hungarian Dance No.1 in G minor, Hungarian Dance No.5 in G minor were spread throughout the evening, giving audiences a taste of different styles.

Following the tradition of many symphony orchestras, the stunning performance ended with a Radetzky March, Op. 288. The ensemble received standing ovation from the audience as the curtain closed.

Even long after the event ended, students were still excited. It was a very



well received and much appreciated cultural event.

Zhao Xu, a student member of the Youth League Committee who participated in the organization of the event, said "We recognize that there is a lack of cultural and arts related events here at PKU Shenzhen. There are also not much campus-wide activities in general, since everyone is focusing on their academics and research. That is why we are bringing Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra to campus, so everyone can enjoy the wonders of music." He also added that this event received great support from Chancellor Wu and the school. "We are aiming to bring them back again, perhaps for more regular future performances." Zhaoxu also noted that the event was very well-received by the students.

The Youth League Committee is made up of students and teachers and oversees all major campus-wide events. Their mission is to serve the students' needs. The Student Council, all student associations, including the Nanyan Arts Troupe, are listed under the Youth League Committee. The 15th Anniversary Summary Meeting and related events were organized by them. This semester, besides the Symphony Orchestra, the Youth League Committee is also organizing the Campus Singer Competition and the Top 10 Student Associations Awards.

This was definitely one successful event, with nods of approval from all those who went. We can look forward to more such events on campus as this is only a beginning.

Reported by Yang Wandong

China Studies Course Welcomes GGS Delegation

On Friday the 14th of April, the China Studies course from Peking University HSBC business school held a Chinese cultural event on campus and hosted a German delegation from the German Graduate School (GGS), bringing together Chinese and western culture and widening the cross-border friendship.

The activities started with an oil painting exhibition by the famous artist Yang Yongzhi, followed by a visit to the PHBS main building that ended in the conference room, where welcoming speeches were given. Prof. Huang, Prof. Park, Prof. Stahl and Ms. Chastagner gave brief speeches and introduced PHBS, followed by an introduction of the China studies course by two students, Tamara Ta and Kate Macildowie.

After the welcoming speeches, the activities continued at WeSpace, where the guest and hosts had the pleasure of watching beautiful performances from various Chinese artists. The first act was a dance and kung fu performance by children ages 5 to 6 from the Shenzhen Experimental Kindergarten, one of the most recognized pre-schools in Shenzhen. The second performance was a Chinese traditional dance by Xiaozhong Li. She creates choreography that mixes classical Chinese music with elements of both traditional and modern dances. Her performance was beautiful and graceful, as much as the third one, an introduction to Chinese calligraphy by Mr. Shancang Feng, a calligrapher famous within the country. Chinese calligraphy is an important part of Chinese culture and the artist introduced everybody to this world by showing beautiful hand painted paper. Another aspect of the culture that was showcased was paper cutting by Chenxiang Yuan, among Sichuan's finest special cutting artists. He has been making special formatted paper cuts for over 30 years.

To continue with traditional arts, all the guests had the pleasure to hear Ms. Liping Lu's finest music. Ms. Lu is a Piba Lutanist player. The piba is a Chinese instrument, a member of the guitar family, and is more than 2000 years old. It came from the North and South Dynasty and was introduced to China through the Silk Road. The artist played a beautiful song about an ancient battle in China. Nevertheless, not only traditional arts were introduced, but modern artists as well. Mrs. Ming Zhang introduced us to the photography work of her husband, Cheng Dong. Mr. Cheng Dong has been shooting for over thirty years and is one of the most influential photographers in Sichuan. His most famous art work includes "Tibetan Child" which pictures a young Tibetan child, and "Reliance," which is Mrs. Ming Zhang's personal favorite, picturing a blind man and a deaf man coming together and completing each other.

All of these different performances were accompanied by traditional Chinese tea offered by Ms. Shiyi Wang. Tea is a popular beverage in China and it is used in Chinese medicine as well. She explained the tea ceremony, which consists of 3 steps: pouring the tea in a small glass, then pouring it in the bigger class, smelling the fragrance to enjoy the test better and finally drinking it.

The cultural event was concluded with a dinner in the Peking University canteen. The dinner aimed to promote food safety in China and was hosted with the mentality to share a more responsible form of food management, processing and consumption. The food was indeed very good and the German delegation and PHBS students had the chance to talk to each other and discuss about their respective cultures.

Reported by Chiara Christoffersen



Learning Chinese and English Slang: A 友 connect Cultural Exchange Event



The best way to see if you have really mastered a language is to see how much slang you can understand, and that's why both international and Chinese students gathered together on March 30th in WeSpace to learn about each other's slang. Organized by the PHBS international students' office, this event is part of the 友 connect program, which pairs an international student with a Chinese student to promote culture and language exchange.

In one corner of the newly opened WeSpace, students settled down around the table and were each given a list of Chinese and English slang. For the Chinese part, the characters and pinyin were given and international students were expected to learn its meaning by discussing and asking other students. Trending slangs such as 66666, 男神, and 高富帅 were compiled. It might seem easy to get the meaning in the native language, but explaining its meaning is another thing. 男神, or *nanshen* in pinyin, literally means male god, but it is used to describe a male that is usually so handsome and good-looking that he is almost god-like. It sounds like a mouthful, but this slang can be used on a daily basis. 高富帅 is another Chinese slang that you must master. It literally means someone that is tall, rich and handsome, and to a certain extent it is used in the same way as 男神. It was fun to see Chinese slang often used on a daily basis be explained and translated both literally and figuratively.



English slang such as 'Bye Felicia', 'chill', and 'smh' were also introduced to the Chinese students. The great diversity in the group of international students made this part very interesting as well. English speakers from different countries might have different takes on the same slang, and everyone enjoyed exchanging such knowledge.

This was a great night, as students learned things beyond their standard Chinese or English language classes. There are multiple ways to learning a language and its culture, and simply learning grammar and vocabulary is just one of them. Explaining certain slang also brought out certain cultural knowledge unique to the language, and it definitely became more than just a language exchange event.

Other ways to make the most of your language classes is to immerse yourself in music, movies and novels of that language. You will find yourself recognizing the words that you learned in class, even if you are just a beginner. The easiest way to learn a language is to be surrounded by it, so make the most out of your stay in China!

Reported by Yang Wandong

Learning to Program for Fun

Let us recall the details of our current life: if we want to meet our friends in another district, you do not have to sit in a bus station and wait for a bus that we do not know when to come. We just take out our cellphone and, after tapping the Uber application icon, there will be a car arriving to take us to our destination. Whenever we might feel thirsty, we can use Alipay to buy a bottle of water instead of taking out a stack of money out of our pockets. When it's time to contact our friends, we can use WeChat messaging.

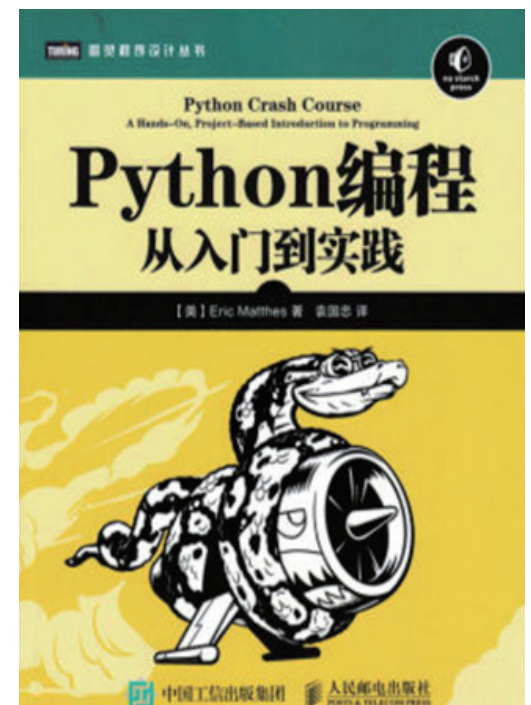
The applications in a mobile phone can help us achieve all of that. This happy life is the product of living ear of science and technology. Its hard to remember that we couldn't enjoy an on-demand private car service such as Uber or DiDi 10 years ago. Internet technology make these dreams come true. It helps us enjoy a state of VIP privileges at a normal price. This point is the biggest charm of technology. If you develop a popular application greatly improving work efficiency, tens of thousands of people will install the app. Will you feel pretty cool about this?

Actually, it is not very hard to achieve this. You can start to learn how to communicate with computers. Before "talking with" a computer, you should master a kind of computer language. If you have never learned programming before, I strongly recommend you begin with learning the python programming language. Its syntax is familiar and as simple as English in the daily conversation. As the result of learning this language, you can possess proficient knowledge of coding. At that time, you can run your own program on the computer. I sweat you feel really excited and confident.

I believe Python Crash Course by Eric Matthes is helpful to learn python. Usually, you need to spend about 3 months to accomplish these tasks. Congratulations! You are an entry-level programmer now. Compiling a data

processing program to process and analyze data is pretty easy for you. If you are still interested in exploring where the coding world has never gone before, I suggest you learn the Java language next. After you are proficient in Java, you can create some amazing android apps. That means your application can run in the most popular cellphones in the world. To help you achieve the target, you can read Android Programming: The Big Nerd Ranch Guide by Bill Phillips, Chris Stewart and Kristin Marsicano.

You may not dream of becoming the best programmer in the world. However, as a person living in the modern world, acquiring some coding knowledge and create some interesting apps to share with friends can be a lot of fun.



Reported by Longjun Qin

Yunnan: A Kaleidoscope of Natural Beauty



The road of a traveller is one of adventure, experiences, new faces, old faces and enough food to last months, and Yunnan is able to offer all this and more. From the bright lights of Shenzhen to the tranquillity and rich heritage offered by Yunnan, it is no wonder it is on the World Heritage List. It is always a pity that the camera is unable to capture what the naked eye is able to see. Pictures do this region no justice; the word breathtaking is not adequate to describe the province of Yunnan. An attempt has been made to guide an adventurous traveller to some of the amazing spots in Yunnan...and so let the trip begin.

Day One

There is an option to take the often cheaper flight from Shenzhen, where the plane will land at a small spot called Beihai Fucheng Airport, where you get off for an hour before getting back on a plane to Lijiang. Fortunately, the Lijiang Airport has a bus that takes you into the Lijiang city center. The bus to the Tiger Leaping Gorge is just two blocks away from where the airport bus drops you off. You might need to ask the driver where to get off as the stop for the gorge is not clearly marked. Upon arriving at the bus stop, it is a short walk to the ticket office (all students receive a discount, so milk this while you still can!). It is a 10 km hike to the second hostel in the Tiger Leaping Gorge. It's the best rated one, and for a good reason. The host welcomes guests with a cup of hot mint tea and the menu. The menu has not only Chinese but Western dishes, much to the delight of all visitors. With electric blankets for the cold nights, it is still advisable to pack a warm sweater. The Mama Naxi hostel offers views of the Jade Snow Mountains in the distance and is nestled in a small rice farming village. With chickens, cattle and other livestock roaming and feeding around the village, it has a sense of tranquillity, much needed after spending days in the bustling city of Shenzhen.

Day Two

What lies ahead is probably the most challenging yet fulfilling hike of your life with breathtaking views of not only the mountain you are on but of snow peaks in the distance. 19 kilometers, 8 hours, two waterfalls and "28 bends" later, the final leg of the hike can be reached at Tina's where a shuttle leaves at 3:30 pm to head back to the city of Lijiang. One would be amazed at what the human body is capable of achieving when pushed by ideas of views only a hiker is given the privilege to see after a long and often treacherous walk up steep one does not expect. The "28 bends" is the most challenging section of the hike up to the highest section of the trail and is not to be missed.

Xiluxiaoxie Inn in the Old Town of Lijiang has the greatest service. They even offer to fetch your bags at the South gate of the Old Town upon request and the helpful staff are happy to suggest great spots to explore such as the V.Sherry Restaurant, where supper can be had while in the Old Town.

Day Three

After all the physical hardship from the hike, a lazy morning is recommended, with breakfast at N's (also in the Old Town). N's is rated the best breakfast place by past travellers with their amazing English breakfast or brunch served with a steaming cup of tea, coffee or freshly made fruit juice and homemade bread. If you are lucky, you will make it for the local traditional dancing in the square of the Old Town. There are ample stores to raid for small gifts for not only friends and family, but for yourself as well. Just outside the Old Town, there is a park one can visit to enjoy the nature the town has to offer and catch the last glimpse of the Snow Mountains in the distance, perhaps even have a picnic or relax under some tree shade. For great sun downers after walking around the town, one can have drinks at the highest point of the town, Lion Hill, where the view of the whole town can be seen as the sky turns crimson. The local food market in the old town is a great way to end the day with some good old Chinese cuisine. Xiluxiaoxie Inn then offers tired travellers an array of movie options to enjoy in the rooms, which is

exactly what is needed to nurse aching feet and bodies after a day of exploring.

Day Four

An early start is needed as the train from Lijiang to Dali takes about two hours. For the full experience, avoid taking a cab and take a tuk tuk to the Old Town of Dali from the train station (both modes of transport are priced the same). Gogo Cafe inside the Old Town is an ideal spot to get breakfast and is just a short 10 minute walk from the Jade Emu International Boutique Hotel. An interesting sight just 1.5km away from the hotel is called the Three Pagodas. A short tuk-tuk ride can be taken back to the Old Town, where a classical Dali fresh produce market can be experienced. No words can describe what will be seen, maybe touched, let alone stepped on. One can walk around the whole Old Town within a few hours, with little stores to enjoy similar to those found in Dali.

Day Five

For a touch of some German food made with love, head to Bakery 88 on Yu'er road in the Old Town, for breakfast and in fact any other meal. They will not disappoint you. Jade Emu offers a whole day tour around the lake of Dali, something worth exploring, ranging from a market tour to a traditional batik museum to beautiful views of the lake and an old general's home. One cannot be in China and not take the night train. The night train from Dali to Kunming is a must.

Day Six

The Lost Garden, a little piece of heaven in Kunming, is a great place for having breakfast as the day awaits you. A metro bus can be taken to the bus station before catching another bus to the Stone Forest, which is the highlight of spending time in Kunming. The Stone Forest is the perfect place to end the trip, with grass for picnics and plenty of routes to explore. They have it all figured out with an airport shuttle to the airport in Kunming, which in turn has a direct flight back to Shenzhen.

With adventurous travel buddies, all this and more is possible. Happy travels.

Reported by Realeboga Maboe



云南 • a province in southern China, bordering Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam as well as the Chinese provinces and regions of Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan and Tibet.
yún nán