

PKUSZ Holds Annual "Night On Mirror Lake" for New Year



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“Above, the stars shone hard and bright, sparks struck off the dark skin of the Universe” said Stephen King when describing a beautiful twilight in his novel *The Stand*. Well, it looked like this image descended onto Mirror Lake on the 25th of December when University Town was bedecked in an array of shimmering colours to ring in the New Year! Friday night saw Peking University Shenzhen celebrating the annual Night On Mirror Lake event with an extravagant carnival amidst great pomp and fanfare!

Deemed as the largest and most eagerly awaited event on campus, this year’s party was indeed grander than grand! The

arrangements on the stage, which was erected over Mirror Lake, were prodigious and preparations were made with military like preciseness! It is a well-known fact that PKU is brimming with talents across all fields, but Friday night saw students showcasing their immense expertise in an arena of cultural arts. The night’s performances were a diverse spread of splendid presentations in dance, music, theatre and martial arts doing complete justice to this year’s theme, “Time Travel and Millennium Meet”. The event was graced by some distinguished dignitaries from both politics and academics in Shenzhen. Given the grandeur of the celebrations, it was indeed an honour to have them enjoy the night at PKUSZ!

The festivities began early with some recreational activities organized by all the different schools of PKU at the boulevard overlooking the Lake. Massive, life-like cut-outs depicting various characters, both western and Chinese were pitched across the arena and students could click pictures and drop in their participation tickets for a prize draw. The lucky winner, selected by Hai Wen, dean of PHBS, went home with an Apple MacBook! The highlight of the evening’s celebration featured a tantalizing cosplay parade followed by an opulent wedding procession depicting a traditional Chinese marriage celebration of an Emperor

to his Queen. The act was so regal that the crowd erupted in excited merriment when the Emperor carried his bride away amongst thunderous claps, glorious wedding music and bright fireworks!

After offering a solemn prayer for the victims of the recent landslide in Shenzhen, it was time to reminisce about the glorious past and experience a spectrum of visual delight! The diversely rich and culturally celebrated eras of Chinese history arose on stage as students burst onto a colourful bloom of stars leaving everyone mesmerized with their stunning performances!

The splendour of the Beijing Opera was brought to life in an intricate musical by both international and Chinese students. The rich heritage of Chinese music that has transcended across dynasties left everyone captivated in a mellifluous rapture when students presented a symphony featuring some modern instruments like the saxophone, piano, flutes, accordion and violins alongside classical ones like *guzheng*, *zhonghu*, *ruan*, *dizi* and bottle gourd silk drums. Another memorable performance was the enthralling folk dance from the snow-capped highlands of Tibet.

PKUSZ invited Yang Xiodian, an alumnus who is striving to preserve traditional Chinese

music, to perform a graceful Chinese Ballet with her troupe. Crooning to her melody, the audience acknowledged her as the nightingale of the night! The students of the Karate Association wove a beautifully comic romance story through a striking martial arts fighting performance. The Nanyan Dancing Associations left everyone spell-bound everyone with their diverse acts ranging from an impressive Latin tango to an electrifying hip hop act!

The night’s events culminated in a mystical Tai Chi performance by the faculty and a magical Chinese Calligraphy stint where the night’s performances were depicted using ink-brush painting while a Cantonese poem was recited in the background by students from the School of Environment and Energy.

With some absolutely riveting and magnificent acts, it was indeed a cherishable night or everyone at Peking University Shenzhen! Fully reflecting on the cultural elements of the diversity represented in PKUSZ, Dean Hai Wen commemorated the achievements of the schools and encouraged the students to greet the New Year with hope, hard work and happiness!

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan

Discovering China: The Sichuan Province

In mid-December three young travelers took on the discovery of Sichuan. Coming from South Africa, the Netherlands, and Hungary, the three ‘wise’ men set off to uncover the mysteries of the province. Of course keeping in mind that in today’s globalized and connected with high speed internet, most of the information was available to them online.

Travelling to Sichuan from Chengdu is not a difficult task; there are cheap flights at multiple times. Within Sichuan it doesn’t get much more difficult as buses take you from city to city every hour. Even if you do not speak Chinese getting around is very easy. Hostels give you sufficient information and direction, and people are very helpful.

The three wise men choose three locations to visit; Mount Emei, the Leshan Buddha and the city of Chengdu. Leshan is a 2 hour, 160km, drive from Chengdu. The park at Leshan is pretty as a picture. As a Buddhist park, it has tens if not hundreds of Buddha statues that come in all shapes and sizes from centuries ago. The biggest attraction of it all is the *Leshan Buddha*, which is not only the largest Buddha statue but also the largest statue in the world standing at 72 meters tall.

The next location the day after was Mount Emei, a mountain where multiple Buddhist temples and monasteries may be found. The peak of the mountain stands at 3178 meters tall. It was here though that it was revealed that the three men weren’t as wise as they thought. Though coming well prepared, they did not realize how cold the mountain would be. After passing the 1000m mark, the mountain gets covered in snow and temperatures at the top reach -14C. As a tip, do not wear sport shoes only.

The best part of the mountain during the off-peak season was the tranquility. As we walked past the monasteries we could feel the divinity of the mountain and understand why the monks would choose to stay there. There is perhaps nothing more peaceful then hiking guided by the music of the leaves dancing to the beat of the wind. For the night we ended up staying at monastery for the night too proving the welcoming spirit of the local monks.

Perhaps the only things that can disturb the tranquility are the monkeys found on the mountain who are sometimes too curious. For example, one of them had taken the jar of wax we had with us as it fell to the ground and after opening it effortlessly took a big stomach-churning scoop of it.

The city of Chengdu is modern and matches any Western city in its diversity. It offers great nightlife and plenty to see during the day even if you just walk past the river and watch the local folk fish. However a must-see in Chengdu is the Panda Research Center. The pandas are absolutely adorable and will melt your heart. Since pandas spend much of the day eating and sleeping, it is recommended to go as early as the park opens to see them at their most energetic state; especially because the baby pandas are awake and active only after their breakfast.

The last point of interest is the food. Sichuan food is known for its hot spices and food that will leave your lips burning if you’re not used to it. Nonetheless it is very well done and the many variety of spicy flavors will meet anyone’s likes. Be sure to try the hot pot too, as its one of a kind in China.

Reported by Martin Kiss



Skynet Crowned Winning Team at HULT @PKU



The wait for the prestigious HULT Prize winners has finally ended! After almost two months of piquing the interests of students from all the three schools at PKUSZ – The School of Transnational Law, The School of Urban Planning and Design and HSBC Business School – the intra-school challenge came to an end on the 12th of December, 2015.

Hosted by Jan Smejkal, the campus director of the HULT Prize in PKU, the school's final round was evaluated by an esteemed panel of judges who are all masters in their own fields. Terry Li, a serial Venture Capitalist with enriching experience, Kevin Chastagner, Senior Professor of Negotiations and Entrepreneurship at PHBS and Josh Steimle, eminent speaker, writer, and marketing guru from Hong Kong.

The event began with a fascinating coffee-tasting session conducted by Starbucks which, along with the University Café, also provided a delicious spread of breakfast. After a gruelling session of Q&A, SKYNET was unanimously adjudged the winner of the HULT Challenge. The team comprising of a diverse bunch of first year international students – Erdi Tac, Hamza Ayub, Jason Yu & Xavier Lemyre – will officially represent PKU in the HULT Prize finals in Shanghai in March 2016.

Established in 2010 by the HULT Foundation to encourage the brightest minds from colleges and universities around the world to develop economically viable solutions

to mitigate the most pressing issues faced by some of the poorest economies in the world, the Challenge has grown to become the world's largest crowd sourcing platform for social entrepreneurship.

The challenge for 2016 is “CROWDED URBAN SPACES: Building sustainable, scalable and fast-growing social enterprises that double the income of 10 million people residing in crowded urban spaces, by better connecting people, goods, services and capital.”

The intense competition saw a multitude of interesting ideas being presented by the various teams that participated. All the teams intercepted this year's HULT theme in a very novel manner and put to the table various designs and concepts ranging from corporate social responsibility to multi-utility apps. The event saw budding entrepreneurs from PKU's main campus in Beijing too that flew in to participate in this.

Continuing to provide a plethora of opportunities to let students shine in an array of fields, PHBS has once again paved the way for students to emerge as winners on international platforms! Hearty congratulations to the winners and all good luck to all the other participants from the Nanyan Observer!

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan

Exploring Chongqing: A City of Flavor and Warmth



When December begins, it gets colder and colder all over China and hot-pot starts to grow in popularity for its warmth and delicious taste. Moreover, Chongqing is one of the cities famous for its hot-pot and its various fresh food to choose. To experience a traditional hot-pot culture, I went to Chongqing and found the warmth of this special city in its flavors.

Chongqing is in the southwestern part of China and is also known as the “Mountain City”, surrounded by a series of mountains. If you have seen the movie of “Curse of the Golden Flower,” you must remember the charming scenery in the valley where the emperor decided to secretly kill the minister. This scene was filmed at the “Original Three Bridges” in the valleys in Chongqing. It was very quiet and peaceful as I walked around breathing in the fresh air. One can even feel the stories of the ancient times. Humans are so miniscule compared to nature.

A tree is not merely a tree, but also a piece of the earth that can experience and tell more history than us. Consequently we should show our respect to nature and all forms of existing things in the world. Besides the beautiful and original mountain forests, the Yangtze river also runs through the city providing abundant water for the daily use. There is a ropeway over the river which can transport people from one side to the other.

The harmonious nature brings the joy, and the friendly local people make you feel at home, which together shows you the warmth of Chongqing. Moreover, Chongqing is also famous for its characteristic food of spicy food. In Chongqing, the hot-pot is divided into 9 parts to easily distinguish the kinds of food boiled in different parts and also make the food much easier and quicker to cook thoroughly. Usually, people have hot-pot for lunch and dinner in a relaxing style. For breakfast, cooked wheaten food is popular, especially the sticky rice dishes. A bowl of noodles offers enough energy and a happy mood towards the frequently rainy weather in Chongqing. What's more, spicy taste also contributes to the straightforward temper of the people in Chongqing. Even more interesting though is that they also speak quicker than people from any other region of China.

Another aspect that should not be overlooked is the special status of Chongqing in Chinese history. It was previously a secondary capital during times of war. Due to the advantageous terrain, Chongqing was easy to protect but difficult to assault. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Nationalist Party occupied Chongqing as its power capital since Beijing was lost and invaded by Japanese. From then on, Chongqing developed very fast in multi-functionality which also led to its becoming a municipality in today's China.

The travel time in Chongqing was really satisfying for a perfect combination of nature scenery and excellent food. In my view, Chongqing is an enjoyable city which is worth to spend time for relaxing and getting the hard pressure of the busy work.

Reported by Diana Yan



Living the City-2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism & Architecture (Shenzhen)



About UABB

Initiated by Shenzhen in 2005 and since 2007 co-organized by the two neighbouring and closely interacting cities of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, UABB situates itself within the regional context of the rapidly urbanizing Pearl River Delta. As an organization, it concerns itself with globally common urban issues, extensively communicates and interacts with the wider public, is presented using expressions of contemporary visual culture, and engages international, avant-garde dimensions as well as discourses of public interest.

Re-Living the City

It is time to re-live the city. In the last three decades, Shenzhen and many cities like it around the world have grown at a rate that we could not have imagined. Now it is time to make these places not just bigger, but better. They need to be more sustainable, comfortable, open to change and adaptation, and more beautiful. This Biennale offers both examples from all around the world and visions for the Pearl River Delta that show us how we can re-imagine, re-present, re-use, and re-live the city.

We certainly have enough buildings already. We continue to build more, using up unrenovable natural resources and open space that belongs to us all, when we should be figuring out how to make better use of what we already have. This Biennale shows us that the best tactics to make our urban environment better are those that start from what is there. They are based on gathering together what we have already made, not just planning abstract grids in which we all

have to live, work, and play.

Social City

The city of the 21st century breathes a new urban reality: interconnected, fragmented and in constant flux. This requires different tools for urban planning. With a unique method consisting of data mapping, participatory citizen research and design proposals, Social City provides a more flexible approach to urban design, based on the real and virtual experiences of city dwellers.

Collage City 3D

Collage City 3D shows collaged scenes deriving from the real ones in Pearl River Delta, reassembling previous incomplete or broken materials to build temporary but infinite new open space. Facing Re-Living The City, Collage City 3D appeals and advocates architecture that reuses, reimagines, restages and repurposes.

Radical Urbanism

Different housing, transportation, production and entertainment styles in pursuit of social and environment equality, justice and diversity are revealed in this part. Radical cases question the role of architecture and redefine the subject, opening new dimensions and explicating new functions for architecture and design.

Pearl River Delta 2.0: Balance is More

Rapid urbanization has brought two distinct consequences: huge wealth, bright cities, large-scale infrastructures and unprecedented luxury life; fragmented urban space, distempered community construction,

poor living environment, rapid land degradation, air and river pollution, etc. Pearl River Delta 2.0 aims to re-live the city and readjust city life for multi-dimensional balance, which means considering the multiplicity of reality and possibility at the same time. Citizens, land, spirits, history, architectures and many other elements constitute the content of Pearl River Delta 2.0.

Many of the forms and images you will see here are familiar, and many of the ideas are small and some are even temporary. This is architecture and urbanism that starts from what we have and a realization of our scarce resources to make what we need. It uses new technologies, but combines them with craft and memories. It is an architecture created by people collectively, and for the variety of different social and economic groups that make up the city today. Ranging from tactical urbanism to collage architecture, and from proposals to change neighbourhoods, this Biennale shows a future for Shenzhen and other cities that might be not so glittering and new, but more collective and livable.

Exhibition Period:

2015/12/04-2016/02/28

Transportation Guide

Main Venue: Former Dacheng Flour Factory □ 8# Warehouse

Location: At the intersection of Shekou Harbor Avenue and Pine Lake Road

Metro: Shekou Line Shekou Port station (exit D1) about 500 metres ahead

Reported by Yu Siyuan

Culture Shock 101: Tips for Negotiating in China

Many people come to China and experience a culture shock due to the many differences in Western and Eastern lifestyles. These tips will help foreigners understand some aspects of Chinese life and meeting people.

1. Relationships are important.

Regardless of whom you will be meeting, and where you will be meeting, keep in mind to behave in a friendly manner. Chinese value friendships and will first always try to build a friendship before anything as that tells them a lot especially when making business transaction. You will experience that locals are very kind and that favor should be returned. For instance, one of the terms used in China to describe white foreigners translates to 'foreign friend'.

2. Recognize the communication problems.

Many things that we say in English or in Chinese do not translate very well in literal terms. Hence something that you say might not come off in the right way especially when using a metaphor or proverb. Therefore keep everything simple especially if you're new to speaking Chinese.

3. What you say is taken seriously.

This is important in negotiations and bargaining at any level. What you say will be taken seriously and therefore be careful with what you say as the intent of words does not translate in any language.

4. Remain composed and be patient.

Your body language speaks more here than what you would normally think. Showing signs of annoyance and anger translate to signs of weakness in China. You must recognize that due to the relationship aspect, things will take more time. There will be pre-negotiations, negotiations and post-negotiations. There will be dinners, karaoke and drinks before the deal.

5. Haggle.

To bargain in China means also to haggle over the price. Especially for foreigners, and in small transactions, a price around 3 times the original value will be offer and it is expected therefore that you haggle. For many foreigners at first this may seem strange for two reasons. Firstly it may seem rude, as it is not done back home, and secondly because prices are already cheaper in comparison to most European or North American countries.

6. Do not be offended.

Lastly, while keeping the above in mind, do not take everything at face value. Many forms of behavior that are acceptable here are the opposite of your home country and therefore will be peculiar to you. More importantly, in Asia, the concept of 'saving-face' is pivotal and therefore loss of face is an embarrassment therefore neither should you, nor forces the other side to do so.

The above tips are important characteristics of negotiations but are also helpful in daily life and understanding Chinese culture. For smaller transactions, keep in mind that not all place are haggle-friendly. Good luck!

Reported by Martin Kiss



A Word with STL's Professor Reisenberg



Teaching methods are the principles and strategies used by the professor in the classroom. The goal of these strategies is to make the student's experience pleasant and informative. There is no doubt that every professor has his/her own strategies as there are no preordained ones that must be used or else the class would fail. It is true though that both professors and students have to engage in continuous dialogue to push the boundaries, innovate and develop critical thinking skills. An important question comes as follows: What teaching style is best for today's students? The fact is that

today's teaching has evolved a great deal from traditional styles mainly because of technology and daily learning needs. Students rely on technology for their research and information gathering, which could facilitate a professor's work in connecting with them. At the same time, professors use technology to prepare students to face real life challenges coming their way in years to come.

Putting this subject in a global perspective, education in China has its own specific needs. Chinese professors, as well as international professors, especially in graduate schools, always keep in mind the nuances between Chinese and international students.

On this issue and on behalf of Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School, we spoke to our distinguished Professor Nathaniel Reisenberg, who is a C.V. Starr Lecturer at the School of Transnational Law.

On December 12th 2015, Professor Reisenberg went to the Beijing campus for the 15th Annual Peking University Fundamentals of Teaching Competition and won the first place in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division. We are proud to have Professor Reisenberg as one of our faculties in Shenzhen. This only confirms the determination of our campus Deans to provide all PKUSZ students with the best education with international standards.

Professor Nathaniel Reisenberg has earned his Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Western Ontario, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto. Professor Nathaniel was a founding, senior editor of the Critical Analysis of Law: An International & Interdisciplinary Law Review and has worked at law firms in China, Japan and Australia. His current research interests are in judicial and constitutional reform in China.

Today, Nathaniel is praised by all STL students for his commitment and dedication to their present education and future career opportunities. Following is the discussion we had with him about his life in China, the Beijing competition and future prospect.

Professor Nathaniel Reisenberg came the first time to China when he was only



16 years old. He dreamed of travelling around the world, meeting new people and living new experiences. He put his high school years on hold and moved to the South of China. In Guangdong province, he made new friends through playing basketball and practicing other sports. He came to learn Mandarin and today uses it on a daily basis with his students and colleagues.

In his view, the goal of travelling around the world was "to improve people's lives." This last goal was one of the main reasons that got him involved in practicing law and sharing his knowledge through teaching: "Both are rewarding experiences because today's students will be the leaders of tomorrow. If the rule of law is important to them, then the result is a harmonious and stable society, where understanding and differences of opinion are both appreciated."

All these past events pushed him to come back to China and teach in STL. In his word, "So far, my experience at STL is very positive because I am motivated by the faculty and students. STL has some of the most capable teachers in the world and students are here to work. They enjoy being here and want to be here. They also have full confidence in the education they receive and are focused on their future careers."

In class, Professor Reisenberg believes it is important for students to enjoy what they are learning. This is the reason why he is always "injecting humor" in most of the cases discussed. To him, "understanding people is paramount for teaching and sharing." Another high point of his class is taking 5 to 10 minutes to discuss something relevant on the news to open students' minds and perspectives about the world.

When asked how he feels about Chinese students at STL, his response was as follows: "They are very advanced, easy to teach and have the same level as their peers in the Beijing campus. Most of them have lived in other countries, interacted with foreign teachers, as they are extremely demanding and tough on teachers if they do not master their material. To open their minds even more, I encourage them to always ask why to get to the bottom of things. Another positive point about STL is that the school gives me and my students a lot of freedom to shape and form our own material. The school pedagogy very is open and driven by the sole purpose of equipping students with a complete knowledge of international issues, as China is more and more connected to the rest of the world."

He then added that so far, he has not encountered any unmotivated students. On the contrary, "most of them rise to the occasion and are very competitive. When exams come, the best students that are not used to being in the middle will double their efforts to be ahead, while keeping a positive attitude."

Refocusing our attention on the 15th Annual Peking University Fundamentals of Teaching Competition, Professor Reisenberg said that he was "pleased to represent STL and participate in such an important event, where the Vice President of Peking University and prestigious Deans from various PKU schools were all present." The purpose of this competition was to showcase that different teaching strategies, would deliver different results. More than 30 PKU professors participated in this event.

Professor Reisenberg presented a case related to Common Law and conducted some experiments with the help of the audience. The goal of his presentation was to show that building and establishing a rapport between the teacher and students, and involving them in every step of the way shows that they understand.

Finally, Professor Reisenberg shared his future prospect. He said that he is "very passionate about doing research and he will be publishing his results soon. As for his experience in PKU Shenzhen, he believes that it has been "very positive and that he is happy to be here among other good teachers." His first place in the 15th Annual Peking University Fundamentals of Teaching Competition is "good for STL, as it benefits everyone, especially our students". He also adds that he is hopeful for the future and knows that STL will only continue to rise in quality and fame.

Reported by Hicham Lefnaoui



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