

PHBS Holds Annual Autumn Outing at Xichong Beach



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After a two hour bus ride on Wednesday, September 21st, PHBS first-year students and staff gathered at Xichong Beach. The beautiful sea immediately fascinated all the students, distracting them from the heavy burden of studies.

Although it was a scorcher of a day, students took an active part in the day’s activities. Before the beach activities, all the first-year students and staff of PHBS gathered for a group photo in front of the clear, blue South China Sea. Then students wholeheartedly participated in multiple games, including tug-o-war, ‘Rescue the Ping-Pong Ball’, volleyball games and surfing.

In tug-o-war, the players spared no effort to pull the rope in the deafening roar of support from their classmates. Finally, after three rounds of fierce competition, the economics class was crowned champion. During ‘Rescue the Ping-Pong Ball’, all students were grouped into 22 teams to accomplish the task cooperatively.

A couple students were assigned to pour seawater into a leaky pipe and others blocked the holes with their hands or feet in order to make the ping-pong ball gradually float upward. Though the task was tough, every team tried their best to accomplish it. Afterwards, a lot of students bravely walked into the sea hand-in-hand to feel the waves. They screamed and laughed happily in the sunset.

The evening began with a hearty supper, as students and teachers enjoyed delicious seafood and beers together. They talked heatedly and cultivated new friendships. After the supper, students gathered around the stage and enjoyed the bonfire party, as the glowing lights shined in the darkness. Students prepared wonderful performances

such as singing and dancing.

The cheerful atmosphere reached its peak when one of the international PHBS staffers, Caroline Robinson, sang Jackie Chan's version of the Mulan classic ‘I'll Make a Man Out of You’. She even altered the words to say ‘PHBS dragon’ in the lyrics and her heroic voice infected all the students.

In addition, the day happened to be PHBS Dean Hai Wen’s birthday, so students sent sincere birthday wishes to him over the phone. The night ended with a beautiful Chinese song entitled “Unforgettable Night”. Everyone

will surely remember the day spent at the beach with their new friends at PHBS.

“I really enjoyed the autumn outing. Today is better than expected.” said Thilo, a first-year quantitative finance student from Germany, “I pulled the rope and my class won second place. It’s really a shame that I didn’t bring another set of clothes, for I really want to swim in the sea.”

Reported by Xu Ying
Photos by Zhuo Nan



PHBS New Student Profiles: Eunsil Hannah Park and Thilo Brandes



Eunsil Hannah Park, first-year Management major at PHBS.

What first brought you to China?

My undergraduate major was Chinese Studies & Economics. Due to my major, I studied about China and Chinese.

What's your favorite thing about China?

I love Chinese food the most. Sichuan cai is my favorite.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Passionate. Cheerful. Challenging.

How would you describe China in three words?

Huge. Amazing. History.

What were you doing before you came to PHBS?

I was traveling around. I graduated from my university in February 2016, therefore I had a long vacation. I traveled to Tunisia, France, Belgium, Morocco, Netherlands, and Japan.

Do you have any non-PHBS plans during your stay in Shenzhen?

I love to travel, so I would love to travel around.

Thilo Brandes, first-year Finance major at PHBS.

What first brought you to China?

I was originally sent to China to support motor localization and production optimization for a geared motor producer in Tianjin.

What's your favorite thing about China?

Regardless of its immense size and varying demographics, this country and its people maintain a very strong national identity. Even as a temporary visitor, it is impossible to not be impressed by how China develops as a well-organized unit that strives for its own ideal form of development, rather than adapting to western influences. This has showed me that development is possible in many more ways than I originally imagined and I am very thankful for being able to make these experiences.

How would you describe China in three words?

Passionate, intense and diverse.

What were you doing before you came to PHBS?

I studied International Trade at the Donghua University in Shanghai.

Do you have any non-PHBS plans during your stay in Shenzhen?

Not at the moment.

What are your post-PHBS plans?

I hope gain work experience in one of China's or China related financial sectors.



Reported by Finlay Grogan

Mid-Autumn Festival: The Meaning Behind Mooncakes

For a long time, mooncakes have served as a traditional food of the Mid-Autumn Festival, which occurs on the eight month and fifteenth day of the Chinese calendar every year. For this year, that fell on 15th of last month. Did you have some mooncakes while gazing at the full moon? Do you know about the history of the mooncake?



There are many legends about mooncakes. One is said that it comes from the Yuan Dynasty. During that time, people would not stand for the cruel domination taking place, so many people staged uprisings to fight against the rulers of the Yuan Dynasty. Zhu Yuanzhang, the most prominent one, united all the people to start the uprisings. Unfortunately, government soldiers checked correspondences so strictly that it was

hard for him to deliver messages to his fellow rebels. Soon the leader had a good idea: to hide messages in a cake to inform his people. Finally the uprising succeeded, and Zhu Yuanzhang designated the "message cake" as the main food in the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival. From then on, moon cake has always played an important role in the festival's celebrations. Another legend is related to the worship of the Chinese goddess Chang-e, who is said to live alone on the moon.

In Chinese culture, roundness symbolizes completeness and togetherness. A full moon



symbolizes prosperity and reunion for the whole family. Round mooncakes complement the harvest moon in the night sky at the Mid-Autumn

Festival. That's why people in China buy and send moon cakes on Mid-Autumn Festival. There are all kinds of moon cakes to choose from, while those hailing from Beijing, Suzhou, and Guangdong tend to be most popular. What's especially important in mooncakes is the filling. The traditional fillings are sweetened bean paste, sesame, sugar and others. But now there are new fillings being invented all the time.



Reported by Zheng Hongqian



After One Month: Life at STL From a Student's Perspective

The experience of being a freshman on campus is special. Each day is full of new things: new friends to meet, new places to go, and, of course, new terminology and new knowledge to learn. The first month in STL is more special because most of us have never learned law before, let alone U.S common law taught in English. There is an old saying in STL: "Never have fun in STL; schoolwork is number one and health is number two." However, despite facing a real challenge in schoolwork, the campus life is still so much fun.

1. Lectures, Cases, and Assignments

During the first month, we almost had no free weekend. Filled with orientations in the first two weeks, the classes were often rescheduled to Saturday and Sunday and we had to prepare for classes on Monday, which consisted of reading all of the assigned cases and finishing assignments.

When I had my first class, I was astonished. All students came really early to get the first row seats, and plenty of students remained to ask questions after class. It was scary to see my classmates so hardworking, and I had to sacrifice my rest time in order to come to the classroom and seek seats in accord with the property principle "first come, first serve".

2. Clubs

Like every college or university, there are many clubs in PKU. After joining several clubs, Quan told me that she had participated in many welcome parties held during the first month. Most of them were just about eating some snacks and doing some ice-breaking for those new members to know each other. In that way she began to know more people from the outside of STL. She also said, "I can know who you are from what clubs you are in."

3. Exercise

Contrary to the old saying "schoolwork is number one and health is number two", most STL students care about their body health. Almost every Saturday night, most of us will run, ride bicycles, go swimming, or play different kinds of ball games. We even formed a Wechat group so that we can exercise together. During the weekdays, according to Yi, she often runs on campus when she feels too tired to read any more cases. Every time after she did some exercise, the cases become much easier to read. As a result, someone nicknamed STL as the "Institute of Physical Education". Here, we don't only learn law, we also do sports.

Reported by Floy Fengya Chen



What is National Holiday?: A Brief Introduction

China's National Day has just passed, bringing with it a 7-day-long National Week Holiday, which is also called the October Golden Week. It was the 68th National Day of Chinese people since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, after the Second World War and end of the Chinese Civil War. On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao announced the establishment of the new China in Tiananmen.

To celebrate the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government decided to set up an official holiday for all Chinese people, which is now known as National Holiday. It's a very good time for Chinese people to have a domestic trip or outbound travel.

One very popular domestic tourist destination during golden week of recent years is Fenghuang Ancient Town, whose Chinese name literally translates as "Phoenix Ancient Town", located in Hunan province. I have been to this town once and was shocked by the beautiful scenery of Fenghuang Ancient Town at first sight. It was amazing that the ancient appearance of this old town was still preserved so well after hundreds of years of change. Besides Fenghuang Ancient Town, there are some other favorite domestic tourist destinations for Chinese people during National Week such as Sanya, Xiamen, Jiuzhaigou and Lijiang, all of which are always in the list of the most popular destinations.

As for outbound tourism destinations, it seems that some countries near China like South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and Singapore are very popular nowadays, including cities like Seoul, Tokyo and Bangkok which attract a very large number of tourists from China during every golden week.

Now that I live in Shenzhen, I am going to the two nearby cities that I have always wanted to visit, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, during this National Week, while my friends Yueru Qi and Wanqing Zhou told me that they would go to Guilin in Guangxi province, as they wanted to see some beautiful landscape scenery after living in the city for so long

Reported by Hangyin Shen



The New Canteen on Campus



Sunday, September 11th saw the opening of the long-awaited new canteen on the PKUSZ campus. A literal translation of the canteen's Chinese name comes to “Happy Eating Space in the Southern Garden of Yan”. The canteen, decorated with bright lights, a brand new dining room set and ornamental bookshelves, creates a comfortable and pleasant environment for dining. You can also enjoy some soft music during dinner time. The dining hall consists of seven parts with many choices available to cater for a range of appetites and tastes. Have you tasted them all? Come and have a look with me.

The new canteen includes seven varying sections: Bliss Cake, Memorial Soy Milk, Pancakes Man, Small Foods, Mini-teppanyaki, the point and order counter and *Malatang*. Breakfast is often referred to as the most important meal of the day to make you full of energy. The first three sections of the canteen can provide you with a substantial breakfast of fresh soybean milk, cereal porridge, and various pancakes, sweet cakes and breads. If you prefer to have some noodles in the



morning, the small foods section is probably the right choice for you. It sells different kinds of noodles from Chongqing, Shanxi and other provinces. The mini teppanyaki bar, which includes dishes of squid, pork chops, potatoes and chicken, give off a tantalizing aroma of pepper and cumin. There are daily presentations of Sichuan, Guangdong, Shandong and other cuisines at the point and order window at the cost of 4-5 yuan for a meat dish and 3 yuan for a vegetable dish. The *malatang* counter sells Mao food from the Sichuan province, cooked in the soup adding many sorts of ingredients and spices.

It’s said that the third-floor of the canteen will open to us during the National Holiday and serve lunch, dinner, and supper with egg board, beefsteaks and curry as well as various drinks. Are you expecting that and feeling a little hungry?

Reported by Zheng Hongqian

What About the Interviewer?

Every year, the Peking University Student Associations start their quest to get the best candidates to join their respective organizations. Most students apply to one or more of these groups in order to accomplish professional or personal goals. In the meantime, the students in charge of the associations are also trying to establish the proper filters to find ‘the right ones’ to join their organizations. These filters may include reading CVs, organizing appointments and finally the big moment: the interview.

The simultaneous process of the interview occurs between the candidate and the selection panel. The student sends his or her CV and the association selects the ones that align closest with their objectives. The candidate wants to be accepted, that was the reason to apply after all. However, for the interviewer, this will often be his first experience of ‘hiring’ someone. Mahesh Reddy, my own interviewer, described his first experience in the job as “New. It was the first time I was in a position to interview someone. I learned a good number of things that day. The first thing is how people behave in an interview. And then how to ask questions.



Selection processes in big companies are well structured, but, at the end, there is more than initially meets the eye. By using an appropriate question, the interviewer can easily deduce if the CV is congruent with reality or not. For instance, the candidate might say “I am organized” and the CV can be a living example of the contrary. Knowing how to ask the right questions is a skill; and for these interviewers the development of these abilities has just begun.

In conclusion, an interview can be hard for both parties: the interviewed and the interviewer. Most of us dream about being a CEO, so this candidate selection process may be the first in many. Reading between the lines and understanding what kind of human being is behind the CV are skills we all have to learn because, even with a very strong selection process, it all comes to a final decision: is he or she the right one for us or not?

Reported by Lisseth Moreira I.