



2018 Nanyan Observer Top Articles

The number one English source for campus life news and PKUSZ student voices any time, any day, and anywhere is the Nanyan Observer's website (thenanyan.com). Time has its own frenzied pace in China, without knowing it you probably missed some of our best moments from last year. After covering the top events on campus, local stories, and Chinese culture—and introducing you to food trends and fellow PKUers in Shenzhen—here are the hottest stories from 2018.

What to Eat: Chaoshan Beef Hot Pot

An introduction to a local specialty you will have a hard time finding anywhere else in China.



#1

From Far and Wide, New International Students Arrive at Nanyan

The unforgettable first few days on campus and (for many) in China.



#2

International Student Profile: Mahesh Reddy

Mahesh's love of life here in Shenzhen captured hundreds of reader's fascination.



#3

23 Days, Last Stop Shenzhen: Taking the Trans-Siberian Railway to School

Ewa took the long way to Shenzhen, and the mishaps and observations she made along the way delighted us all.



#4

First Look: Shenzhen-Hong Kong High-Speed Rail Opens

An essential piece of reporting: Kowloon in 1 hour? This changed everything.



#5

2018 MIRROR LAKE PARTY

"The Palace By the Mirror"

By Claudia Fauzi

Photos by Zhang Wendou and Nathan Faber



Vibrant colors, flowing robes, and sparkling jewels drifted through the crowds at the annual PKUSZ Festival, called Mirror Lake Party on Friday, 21 December. As night fell on this celebration of the Winter Solstice, or 冬至 Dōngzhì, everyone was slowly pulled back several centuries into ancient Beijing's Forbidden City, or possibly just the set of the wildly popular drama series Story of Yanxi Palace. All sounds are sharper in winter, and it can be the most pleasant season at Nanyan. If there is one way to bid it farewell, it is through this lovely festival.

The theme was Mirror Lake Party: The Palace by the Mirror 梦许南燕 Mèng Xǔ Nányàn. Student organizer, Han Qing, said, "Aiming at entertaining the residents on our campus and enhance the cultural environment of PKUSZ, the event chose a fashionable and highly entertaining topic: The Forbidden Palace. Many popular TV or internet series about love stories happening in the Forbidden Palace were of heated discussion in China this year. The furnishings, decorations, souvenirs, and cosplayers were all part of the big plan designed to serve the theme. The traditional lanterns glowed softly in the darkness - a best wish for the coming 2019."

The event was divided into two parts: the stage and the garden. The stage was for the most popular student club performances, such as singing, dancing, fashion walk, playing games, and musical performances. Some of the highlights included a cool street dance performed by 飞跃 Fēiyuè, a showcase of ancient Chinese fashion by 书生 Shūshēng, an acapella rendition of 爱要坦荡荡 ài yào tǎndàng dàng, and an instrumental performance by the quartet Jasmine or 茉莉花 Mòlihuā.

There were 34 booths in the garden. The entrance, or 承天门 Chéngtiānmén (ancient Tiananmen), to the garden was the gateway to enjoying the games and foods. All schools of PKUSZ had their own booths and games and attracted lines of people. They served mini bowling, doll machines, candy, cuisine, desserts, cakes, snacks, and small gifts.

In the garden, international students added a special touch to the event. Two teams: one Southeast Asian and one Latin American volunteered and were great additions to the event. The Southeast Asian team prepared a menu of Indomie, Pecel and Tempe Goreng, all of which were cooked by the members in person. As if that wasn't enough, just a few steps away you were transported to the beaches of the Pacific as the Latin American team introduced everyone to ceviche and spiced things up with tequila for those willing to try the famous spirit of Mexico. Both the international booths attracted lots of visitors. Moreover, the Latin American team brought some more excitement to the event with their group activities. They set up a piñata and volunteers hit the colorful paper pony with their eyes covered by the blindfold, trying hard to get rewarded. A great cheer would go up from the crowd whenever there was a direct hit. Later, they turned up the Latin music and a dance floor quickly formed. Once enough participants had joined in, the students instructed everyone on how to dance the Macarena and dancers from 5-55 were moving to the rhythm.



The greatness of each culture is expressed in festivals. This party offered everyone a short break from the stresses of school, brought neighbors together, and filled the campus with beauty. There is nothing better than the Mirror Lake Party for turning campus life into a celebration before Christmas, New Year's, and the Spring Festival!

PEKING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS GO TO THE HEART OF SHENZHEN'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM

By Lewis D-G

Photos by Nicolas Busch

In the last several years, Shenzhen's reputation as the new tech hub of China has exploded. Central to this transformation has been the city's stock exchange, where every day international and domestic investors and Chinese tech companies converge. Globally, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange is often compared to New York's tech-heavy NASDAQ.

On December 6th, 30 international students from the Peking University HSBC Business School's (PHBS) "China Studies" program were invited to tour the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

Opened in December 1990, the Shenzhen stock exchange is currently the world's 8th largest stock exchange. Along with the exchange in Shanghai, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange is one of only

two stock exchanges in Mainland China. In its short history, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange has already grown to have a market capitalization of approximately \$2.5 trillion USD, a feat that took the NASDAQ nearly 35 years to accomplish.

The Shenzhen Stock Exchange building itself is a work of art standing at an impressive 49 stories high. Located in downtown Futian district, the exchange was built in 2013. Around the building there are many exquisite statues paying homage to both the western and Chinese investment symbols of finance and prosperity.

Upon arrival students were greeted by 2015 PHBS Finance and Economics Graduate, Jessica Zhang, and Peking University Law School Graduate, Sophia Deng.

Students were then given a tour of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange Museum. Many international students are not too familiar with the modern economic history of China and the tour served as a great crash course introduction into the development of China's financial institutions.

The transformation and reform of the stock exchange throughout its short history is fascinating. The development of the stock exchange closely mirrors Shenzhen's history—starting small but steadily growing into one of the world's largest and most important financial and technology centres.

"The trip was a truly unique experience," explained George Gwynn-Thomas, 2018 "China Studies" class monitor. "It was fascinating to learn

about how much the financial systems in China have opened and reformed over the past several decades."

After the tour had ended, students were invited to the 48th floor, a privilege few are able to enjoy. They basked upon the 360-degree views of downtown Shenzhen. Some students were quick to point out the building's proximity to Coco Park; others were enthralled by the concrete jungle surrounded by rolling mountains.

The stock exchange building has become a fixture in Shenzhen's skyline and more importantly become the financial heart of China's most innovative city.



The trip is the second of the six field trips completed in Professor Huang's "China Studies" course. We were incredibly fortunate for the opportunity to visit the stock exchange and would like to extend our gratitude to the Shenzhen stock exchange and Ms Zhang and Ms Deng for their wonderful and insightful tour.



-Christmastime in Italy-

By Dominika Mindekova



This year, because I have been on exchange, I had the opportunity to be in Europe during the Christmas period—and I must admit I got quite caught up in the spirit! Being an exchange student in Italy, even more, to be there during this festive time is an experience I will cherish. I definitely recommend it to others thinking about a visit during this period if you happen to be looking for interesting destinations.

Cities are extensively and beautifully decorated with endless lights and multiple Christmas trees, each decorated differently. This decorative abundance, of course, offers endless opportunities for taking that perfect

winter picture for your social media and really capturing the atmosphere. Moreover, cities often have multiple outdoor Christmas markets where you can find mulled wine. For those brave and alcohol tolerant, I recommend trying one cup from every seller in the market to get the chance to compare the

taste and keep yourself warm as the temperature drops lower and lower.

In addition to warming beverages, one must balance the fluids with the food and try the local specialties such as panettone (sweet bread typical for Christmas time around Milan) or the sausages and cheese.



SHAKING OFF THE WINTER CHILL, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HIKE TANG LANG MOUNTAIN

by Dahlia Wang

Photos by Anas Ksabi



Just before Christmas Eve, on December 23rd, around 30 international students joined a hiking journey to Nanshan's famous Tang Lang mountain organized by the CA program on a perfect mild-weather day.

Tang Lang is most well-known on campus because of its southern position in the splendid green vista of the University Town. The mountain is 430 meters tall. From the top visitors can enjoy a lovely view of Luohu, Futian, and Nanshan districts of Shenzhen.

Even in the midwinter, Tang Lang mountain is still covered by vivifying green trees. There are two routes to get to the top of the mountain: one is the mountain plate, and the other is the mountaineering path.

The group picked the steeper mountaineering path with very fitting rocky stairs. Everyone, including Cole Agar and Dina Yehia, the two faculty members who joined from The School of Transnational Law along with their two young children, quickly proceeded the way up the mountain. In the middle of the path, there was a route constituted of natural rocks that was not easy to climb. Even in the slight chill of the winter, it was enough to work up a satisfying sweat. Without the oppressive humidity that is normally experienced on hikes in Shenzhen, the excitement of the group did not fade away as everyone headed to the top.

When the group reached the beautiful summit, with its striking red pagoda, everybody went to take in the vast landscape to be seen from the top. Nearly 500m from sea-level, the buildings of the PKU Shenzhen campus lay below in the Nanshan District like Lego bricks. The weather turned cool and as the sun went away light fog enveloped the city, making the scenery more like a water painting.

Soryane Soussie, an exchange student at PHBS from France, said that the hike was "exhausting but refreshing." While Noam



Peleg, PHBS exchange student from Israel, said she likes this scenery a lot, and that it carried extra meaning seeing it near the end of her exchange program. On the way down the mountain, some students also saw monkeys from the Tang Lang mountain, eating bananas from the other hikers.

When talking about their life in the PKU Shenzhen campus and in Shenzhen, Anas Ksabi, an exchange student from Belgium, said that Shenzhen is a typical modern city, and he felt at home in Shenzhen. "It is just that Shenzhen is so much bigger". Rasmus Behnk, another PHBS exchange student, also said that he will miss the cheap subway in Shenzhen. Everyone has to learn how to take advantage of all the methods of transportation to enjoy the great offerings of the city. One student mentioned that he even tried to ride a Mobike from the campus to North Shenzhen station. No matter how you like to get around, it is important this time of year to get outside and experience the natural beauty of the water and mountains here in Shenzhen. A special thanks to the Campus Advisors, Jimmy Xiao and Zhou Jian, who joined the event and the rest who helped organize the outing!



Restaurant Review: Smelly Cat Café & Bar

Written by Luo Jiechunyi



Smelly cat, smelly cat, what are they feeding you? If you ever watched Friends, an American situation comedy, you will definitely know what I was saying and maybe hum along. And if you want to review this classic TV series, Smelly Cat Café & Bar will be there for you.

Smelly Cat Café & Bar is a Friends themed restaurant which reproduces the setting of Central Perk. Its founder, Du Xin, is a huge fan of Friends. How crazy is he? Mr. Du is doing his best to live in an episode of Friends. He named himself Gunther, a bartender in Central Perk. What's more, his wife's name is Rachel and his son's name is Joey! The first Chinese Central Perk was opened in Beijing in 2009 and became a hit spot among Friends' fans. "The Shenzhen branch chose the Thanksgiving Day of 2018 as its opening day in order to celebrate in a warm atmosphere," said the staff there.

Tiny and cozy are the first two words that came to my mind when I walked in Smelly Cat Café & Bar. And it surprised me several times with details, which made me feel like going on a treasure hunt. For instance, there is Phoebe's bicycle and Joey's "How you doin'?" written on the wall. That's all I can tell you. I will leave other details for you to explore, otherwise the fun of "treasure hunt" might be ruined.



So let's go back to the food itself. In fact, usually I don't expect too much from the taste in theme restaurants. But the food was much better than I thought it would be. Altogether, three of us ordered five dishes, which were Nachos (39rmb), Roasted Spicy Chicken Wings with Mango Sauce (39rmb), Friends' Burger (39rmb), Chicken Spinach Pasta (39rmb) and Phoebe's Fruit Soda (30rmb). We started our dinner with the snack, nachos. Nachos are tortilla chips covered in cheese and meat sauce. We didn't order a beer, but it made us want to have one because it would sure be a good friend with some beers. Then came the chicken wings. They looked like New Orleans Chicken Wings in KFC with several pieces of mango, but the taste is totally different. The chicken wings here were more spicy and crispy than the KFC ones. The mango cubes added a sweet flavor to the chicken and made it taste better.

Burgers, pasta and pizzas are classified into a list called Monica's Kitchen in the menu. Smelly Cat only serves beef burgers. We ordered the original-style Friends' Burger. The Friends' burger is made up beef patties, bacon, cheese, mushroom, and all kinds of vegetables! It also has a cute burger stick with the quote "Joey doesn't share food" on it. All of us agreed that this was the best food of the day. It was tasty and juicy and we definitely wanted to try other burgers when we come next time. Another dish we ordered from Monica's Kitchen was Chicken Spinach Pasta, which had smoked chicken, spinach, cherry tomatoes, and a slice of bread in it. The pasta also tasted delicious!

As mentioned, we tried one of the fruit beverages. Besides fruits like mango, kiwi, strawberry, and lemon, the Phoebe's Fruit Soda also had strawberry sugar which gives it a special texture. The paper straw used is very considerate and environment-friendly.

Oh, I might eat my words about the fun of "treasure hunt" because I have to tell you this! You can't miss the cup mat! Each cup mat has a classic line on it and mine was "we were on a break" from Ross Geller. You can take it with you when you leave and if you collect six different cup mats, you can use them to exchange for a cup of coffee. By the way, Lisa Kudrow, the actress who played Phoebe, once talked about Central Perk in China in a famous talk show named Conan. She knew about the café and viewed it as a fan club.

After dinner, I had a small talk with one of the staff, and she told me a really interesting story. Several days before, two girls walked in Smelly Cat one by one. She thought they knew each other but they didn't. The girls ordered food separately sitting on two couches. But when she came back with the food, they sat together and talk happily with each other! So the staff had to put all the food on the same table. She further linked this story to the original intention of Smelly Cat, to create a comfortable and warm place for people to chat together like "Friends". Therefore, if you want to find a comfortable place to catch up with friends, or you just want to go to Central Perk to meet new friends, don't miss Smelly Cat Café & Bar!

Location: Smelly Cat Café & Bar. 1F, Block B, Technology Buliding2,Gongye 6th Road, Nanhai Avenue 1057#, Shekou, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, China.
English menu is available. Staffs are very friendly and can communicate in English.

