

PKUSZ Holds 7th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration



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PKUSZ held a fantastic Thanksgiving celebration upholding the American Tradition of offering gratitude and seeking blessings that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of every November.

The doors of Moot Court were thrown open to students, faculty, and staff on the evening of Friday, November 27, 2015. The night's festivities opened with a brief introduction by hosts Maximilian Karnfelt and Elaine Wang (Wang Qian), who both impressed the crowd

with their bilingual talents.

STL's Professor Gina Pak greeted the crowd with her exuberance and shared some insight on the history and culture behind observing the tradition before proceeding to deliver the annual Thanksgiving Toast. Hosts Max and Elaine then guided the night through dinner, a raffle, and karaoke.

The evening's dinner was catered by Metro, Frankie's American Bar & Grille in Nanshan, and Baekerei Thomas of Shekou. The diverse crowd indulged in a night of merriment and a lavish spread of drinks and traditional Thanksgiving food which included some delicious turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cobbler, and more.

As the night continued, the Thanksgiving raffle saw four prize winners and was followed by KTV—a favorite national pastime. Chinese and international students alike indulged in an evening of singing and dancing on stage.

The fiesta saw some enthralling Karaoke performances by faculty members too who

let their hair down and were happy to be a part of the gala affair! The evening wound up with the entire floor dancing to the tunes of a groovy Bollywood song sung by Harish Kumar, an exchange student from India.

How does it feel to celebrate the holiday miles away from home? Shares Karras Lambert, a first-year Finance student from the USA, "Celebrating Thanksgiving on the other side of the world with friends in a huge room instead of family gathered around a small dining table was a new experience for me, but the extra food, noise & laughter made it a really positive one."

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the organizers welcomed donations to support Heifer International, a charitable organization that strives to end hunger and poverty. The money collected in lieu of the donations would gift a farm animal to a family in need supplementing Heifer International's beliefs that giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. These donations help provide families a hand up, increasing access to

medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

This event was started by an American staff member in the Chancellor's Secretariat Office over 7 years ago as an effort to internationalize campus. The PKU Shenzhen Annual Thanksgiving Dinner has since transformed from a small dinner to a joyous 200+ person affair, bringing a little international warmth to the holiday season each winter.

Ahead of the hectic schedule of the midterms and assignments, this indeed was a wonderful opportunity for both the staff and students to indulge in some leisure and fun! Special thanks goes out to the Chancellor's Secretariat Office, CA Program, International Association and English Association, with further support of Peking University HSBC Business School, School of Transnational Law, and Yinyuan Catering Company.

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan

BeiDa Profile: A Glimpse at the Nanyan Urban Science Association



Continuing our series of interviews with the leaders of different associations on campus, we spoke to the president of the Nanyan Urban Science Association of the School of Urban Planning and Design, **Xiaohui Le**. She will introduce us to the work she does and talk about her association in more details and answer our specific questions.

How old is the association? Who established it?
NUSA was founded in 2011, almost 4 and half years ago. It was set up by students from SUPD who were eager to share advanced planning ideas with each other. It has one president and two vice presidents as the other association on campus.

What is the main purpose of the association?
NUSA is the oldest and the only student-running association in SUPD, as the purpose of the association is to provide our members with rigorous planning insights and opportunities to practice their planning skills.

What makes this association to stand out from the others?
Although it is not the oldest organization in PKU Shenzhen and does not have as many members as other associations, but it is strongly supported by the professors in SUPD and developed quickly under their leadership.

What kind of events do you specialize in holding?
We typically have four types of events. The first are lectures, where we bring experts from all fields to educate and share from their experiences. The second would be the internal training programs that focus on different sectors of urban developing and planning, which are held on a weekly basis. The third is signature events where we take our members and students in and around Shenzhen. Lastly, we broadcast some documentaries and films twice a month.

Who can join the association?
Anyone who attends PKU is warmly welcomed and there will not be any limitations. Although you may major in other subjects different from urban planning, you are still the person we are waiting for.

What made you to join this and not other association?
The association gave me an impression that it wasn't just a simple club or association in SUPD, but more like a real family. It not only provides you with professional training and networking opportunities, but also you can rely on each other for support.

What is the thing you, personally, have gained the most from this experience?
From this experience, I not only gained knowledge from the lectures and trainings, but also enjoyed the outdoor activities we successfully held.

What is the future for the association? Where do you guys see it developing in the next year or two?
From now on, we have seen the association greatly expand in size and popularity. We expect it to grow further in number of members in the months and years to come.

We thank **Xiaohui Le** again for her time and for accepting this interview. Our team wishes NUSA success in everything they do in the coming future.

Reported by Yu Siyuan & Diao Liwei

Christmas Traditions around the World

Although Christmas is not celebrated as much in China, it is one of the most well known holidays around the world. Even if you don't celebrate it, in an increasingly globalized world, one way or another it can affect you. Thus this article will introduce the holiday and some of its global traditions.

Originally Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, held on December 25th. Over the centuries of celebration and due to the historical influence of Christianity on Western society, Christmas is embedded in the roots of Western civilization. Thus, it is celebrated by both secular and religious individuals, and therefore developed a multitude of traditions in relation to it.

More importantly, its meaning is beyond religion, and it is often associated with the celebration of friends and family, humility, compassion and grace. People are willing to give and share, thus uniting under the Christmas spirit, a concept which although I've attempted to define, is individual to everyone.

Even those who do not celebrate Christmas will have heard about the North American tradition of associating Christmas with Santa Clause (even Santa is a different concept around the world). For Americans and Canadians, Christmas is separated to Christmas day and morning. On the day, the 25th of December, families will have the house and the Christmas tree (usually an evergreen) decorated, and have dinner together with the family.

The next morning, everyone wakes up and finds presents under the tree, and the cookies and milk gone which the children prepared for Santa Claus for his long journey. The presents were put there by Santa Claus who travels the world on a sled pulled by reindeer, and slides down through the chimney of the house to reward the family members for being good that year. It is well known that Santa keeps a list of the 'nice' and 'naughty' people, thus children will annually write letters to Santa describing what they would like and the reasons why they deserve it.

Interestingly, Santa Claus does exist. His name is Joulupukki and lives in Lapland, in Northern Finland. He visits cities around the world annually, mostly in Europe though, and only last year received over 700 thousand letters from children.

On the other side of the Atlantic on continental Europe things are different. In many European countries, for example Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Denmark, Santa Claus (Telapo in Hungary which means Father-winter, or Sinterklaas in the Netherlands) comes on the morning of December 6.

Historically it was a man called St. Nicholas, who went around giving poor people gifts, and he left them in their shoes. Thus, tradition dictates that people clean their nicest pair of shoes and leave them in the windowsill of the house, whereby it is easily accessible for St. Nicholas to leave the gifts. Nonetheless these are usually minor presents such as chocolate.

Christmas Day is also different in Europe. In Hungary for instance, Christmas has remained to its origins and it celebrates the birth of baby Jesus. Thus, it is the baby Jesus (in theory) who brings the gifts and presents to the families, as he received them from the three wise men on his day of birth. Families will also present the gifts to each other after the Christmas meal (dinner), although the kids are usually made to go hide in their rooms and wait for the bell, as to allow Jesus to deliver the gifts.

Another noteworthy tradition is the Austrian and German tradition of Krampusnacht, which is the night of Krampus. Krampus is the evil counterpart of Santa Claus, a goat-horned devil. His role is to kidnap and punish the naughty children, and has been used by parent's generations after generation to trick the kids into behaving well in December.

The Dutch also have an additional character known as *Zwarte Piet*, or 'Black Pete'. His name comes from the fact that he is dirtied by the house chimneys as he comes down, as opposed to the controversially held racist view that he is Santa's black slave. *Zwarte Piet* too aims to punish the naughty children, yet he works

together with Santa as opposed to Krampus.

Certainly this list of Christmas tradition is by no means truly global or full. There are a multitude of traditions in the countries listed that were left out, and by far more around the world. For instance, Europeans, most famously known in Vienna and Budapest, also hold big Christmas markets; the Danes and Swedes also get together, then sing and drink by candlelight on St. Lucia day on December 13 (again this is a very superficial description); while the Norwegians hide their broomsticks, as it is believed to prevent evil spirits from riding away on them on the holy night.

After this introductory article, I invite you all to do some more research into the Christmas holiday if this article had raised your interest.

Reported by Martin Kiss



Diwali: The Indian Festival of Lights and Prosperity

A group of students from PKUSZ recently celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of Lights & Prosperity on an evening filled with much fanfare. The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. Two Indian students Neetu Sinha and Shubham Kulshreshtha invited their fellow batch mates to share the festive tradition around Shenzhen.

They celebrated over delicious Indian food at one of the popular Indian restaurants around town and later on indulged in the noisy and colourful spirit of the festival by setting off fireworks to ward off evil spirits. Even though he missed celebrating the festival with his family, Shubham says he was happy to introduce Indian culture to friends from across continents. There is an Indian saying that goes, "Good food and great company can never fail to cheer the human soul," and this year's Diwali definitely embodied that for Shubham!

Diwali is that time of the year when all Hindu homes are decorated with intricately beautiful folk art called Rangoli that are drawn on the courtyards using coloured rice flour. The autumn festival signifies the onset of the New Year according to the Hindu calendar and every household is decked with traditional oil lamps made out of clay, called Diyas, to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. PKU students too got a taste of this merriment as the Indian Community in Shenzhen had elaborately decked up their establishments with splendid traditional paper lanterns and marvellous Rangoli patterns.

After enjoying a lavish spread of typical holiday food infused with the spicy flavours of North Indian Cuisine, the group set out to dance to some Bollywood Music and finished out the day by playing traditional games and bursting a variety of Indian firecrackers!

How does it feel to make merry over Bollywood bling and delicious curry? "I understood the importance of coming together with family and friends and celebrate such an auspicious day. I had lots of fun listening to Indian music, playing with my friends and bursting firecrackers and relishing some tasty food. It was great to learn about Indian culture and I am looking forward to celebrate it again next year!" comments Lagle Laidoja, a Management student from Estonia.

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan





Budweiser Storm Music Festival Comes to Shenzhen



Last month I reported on my experience at Budweiser Storm Shanghai, the biggest electronic dance music festival in China. While that festival celebrated its third annual iteration this year, the 2015 calendar year marks the first time Storm has come south to grace Shenzhen electronic music junkies like myself with a solid lineup of international DJs and producers. Compared to its older brother in Shanghai, Budweiser Storm Shenzhen was half the size, half the noise, and a little less than double the fun, at least for me.

As a more established location, Storm Shanghai was able to attract some massively popular DJs, which warranted the inclusion of a second stage. Storm Shenzhen, nestled in a corner on the outskirts of the Longgang Universiade Sports Stadium, featured only one stage. I would have been surprised by this if I wasn't already aware, since Bougainvillea, held in September at the same location, featured two stages. But in the end the more limited scope did nothing to detract from the overall experience. If anything, it was a refreshing change of pace to not have to worry about bouncing between stages and missing an unexpectedly good set.

The headliners for Storm Shenzhen included Afro jack, Kaskade, Showtek and Fedde le Grand. However, Afro jack, taking a cue from Avicii in each of the previous two iterations of Storm Shanghai, cancelled shortly before the festival began, leaving a gaping hole in a prime time slot. While A2live, the agency responsible for the Storm festivals, was able to slot Flo Rida into Avicii's slot in Shanghai, there was no time for such a substitution this time. As a result, many DJs simply extended their sets by around fifteen minutes each.

Despite the presence of the aforementioned big names, I most enjoyed FirebeatZ, the Dutch Electro House duo of Spinnin' and Musical Freedom label fame. They made the most of the extra time afforded to them due to Afro jack's cancellation, mixing older productions and dubs that I didn't expect from them on the festival circuit.

On day two, I was most excited to see Swedish house duo Galantis and they didn't disappoint as they weaved in and out of popular electro house bangers and more soulful progressive tracks. They were followed by one-half of formerly-hard style duo Showtek, but when Eva Shaw and singer Sonny Wilson came out during the set I knew the chances were dim to hear a hard style classic from the now- mainstream big room electro house producers.

It would have made more sense to have Kaskade directly follow Galantis, as their styles are far more similar than Showtek's more horn-heavy electro house. In any event, lineup prestige dictated Showtek be sandwiched between them, and Kaskade didn't disappoint with an incredibly diverse but still intensely personal ninety minute set sampling mostly from Automatic, his most recent artist album, Kaskade still managed to mix in a diverse range of genre-spanning hits from Wiwek's brutal jungle terror banger "Trouble" to Porter Robinson's dreamy progressive synthpop-infused remix to Nero's "The Thrill." The highlight for me was the brief intro edit of the classical progressive track. "I Remember" produced collaboratively with Deadmau5 way back in 2008.

As I mentioned to earlier, I enjoyed Storm Shenzhen marginally more than its Shanghai counterpart. Even if sets such as those from Paul Oakenfold, Aly & Fila and Above &

Beyond remain unsurpassed in my experience in China so far, I found the overall experience at Storm Shenzhen more pleasant. Perhaps as a function of far less foreigners being present here than at Storm Shanghai, there were noticeably fewer drug-related incidents and a much more family-friendly environment for fathers and mothers to take younger children. All three Shenzhen festivals I've attended have had a predominantly Chinese crowd which I've found pleasant, even if Chinese attendees are generally unenthusiastic and confused when DJs ask for the crowd to sing along. Everyone I came into contact with at Storm Shenzhen was quite nice and at the very least polite. In contrast, Shanghai suffered the curse of "EDM bros," complete with overly tight tank tops, binge drinking and a complete lack of personal space awareness.

Food and drinks cost roughly the same at both Storm festivals, with a single serving of a given item costing 30 rmb and beer (Budweiser, of course) costing 50 rmb for a tall can. This may seem steep, but it's actually more reasonable than what I'm used to paying at U.S. based events and some of the food items at Storm Shenzhen were actually quite tasty, especially the barbecued squid.

So in the end, with weary feet and aching ears, I can rest easy knowing my streak of two-day festivals is going to slow down dramatically in the winter months. No major international DJs are on my radar at the moment, meaning genre-themed club nights will probably be your best bet in finding good electronic music in Shenzhen for the foreseeable future.

Reported by Karras Lambert

University Town Second Gourmet Festival Held

On Nov 29th, 2015, the 2nd University Town Shenzhen Gourmet Festival was successfully held besides Mirror Lake. The Gourmet Festival is an annual carnival for foodies, providing various kinds of cuisine for students. The festival was held under the supervision of the office of High Education Communist Youth League Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University, with the support of the Standing Representative Committee of Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University, as well as the Shenzhen Graduate School of Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology and Guangzhou's Yinyuan Food and Beverage Management Services Ltd.

The Gourmet Festival consisted of three parts: the first was "World of Foodies". In it, twenty different food vendors converged around Mirror Lake, providing delicious foods and delights. Moreover, there was an Instant Lucky Draw during where lucky students could win classy gifts.

The most exciting part during the Gourmet Festival was "I Am Chefs". This is a competition in which all students could take part and compete for the title of Chefs. The goal of course is showing their own cooking skills. Organizers of the Gourmet Festival set up abundant prizes to encourage teams to join. Twelve teams took part in the final field competition. Among these teams were not only all-boys teams, which was very exciting for a lot of students. Many of them came from different Schools.

Peking University made up its own representative team and provided delicious shrimp dumpling for all: 'We worked together well because we wanted to finish the whole cooking process of shrimp dumpling with a lot of diligence. I hope all of you enjoyed our work.' said a member of the PKU team.

The third part of the Gourmet Festival was the "Gourmet Quiz". This part was held along the I Am Chefs part. During the I Am Chefs portion, the hosts randomly selected several participants via WeChat to come onto the stage and answer some quiz questions. Participants who answered the questions correctly received fancy gifts, including Mi Band, USB flash disk, weighing scale, etc.

The Gourmet Festival finished around 10 p.m. as it lasted for nearly four hours. Around that time, staff dined together at the canteen after. 'It is an excellent experience for me as all of us learned a lot from the organization of the event.' said one student that helped setting the group dinner.

This is surely a wonderful experience for all students who joined the festival. Hopefully the event will attract even more people next year.

Reported by Diao Liwei



Nanyan Urban Science Association Explores Shenzhen



Winter has finally arrived in Shenzhen. However, the cold weather did not stop students from the Nanyan Urban Science Association from going out into the city for some outdoor activities. On their schedule, the team had three destinations for the day: **Yiqi Creating Space, Guimiao New Village and Guanlan Print Village.**

Yiqi Creating Space

The Yiqi Creating Space is an underground venue transformed from a parking lot at Coastal City. There are mainly five zones in this space: a workshop, an experience hall, a café, incubators and showing stage. In the experience hall, we tried many of the newest creative products such as massage apparatus, 3D printer and so on. Later on, we had a short communication with the CEO of the company. He told us many things about entrepreneurship and reminded us to focus on our studies at school first, which inspired us a lot.

Guimiao New Village

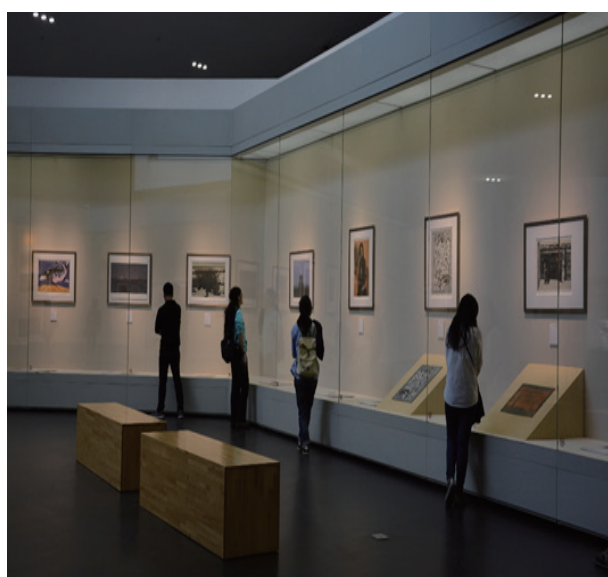
Same as Pingshan Village and Tanglang Village around our university town, Guimiao New Village is another city village outside Shenzhen University. The difference is that the construction of the community is much cleaner and modern. There are many interesting stores even paintings on the wall, which makes the streets feel dynamic.

Guanlan Print Village

This is the farthest place we went to on our journey. After a short nap on the bus, we finally arrived and were happy to find that this was really a beautiful place worth going to. It is a traditional village where Hakka people once lived. Today, it has become the gathering place of engraving painters as everyone can see many of beautiful prints.

Not far away from the print village is the Engraving Paint Museum. There, we learned a lot about the art of engraving paint and saw many great paintings from all around the world. I must say that the museum itself is also a very interesting building worth visiting.

Reported by Yu Siyuan



Munching on Chips In China



From eating leaves and grass to eating vegetable, fruits and meat, man has evolved its eating habits. On one hand, eating habits depict a person's lifestyle while on the other hand, it also depicts its culture. From Europe to America, Asia to Africa and Australia food plays a pivotal role in understanding the society, culture and lifestyle in general. It also signifies class and status. For example, in most of the countries all around the world truffles and caviar, represent social status of its consumer.

But in this modern age food is not just necessity; it has also flourished in a thriving billion dollar industry. Especially with the introduction of fast foods and snacks, food industry has now become an integral part of any economy. The potato chip industry in particular has gained tremendous popularity and also grabs a huge share in the market.

Potato Chips are equally famous amongst the young and old; and I have to admit chips are my favorite too! So when I first came to Shenzhen a few months back I immediately went on a hunt to buy my favorite potato chip flavor (i.e. Cream Cheese and Onion), but to my utter surprise couldn't find it! Instead what I came across were pretty shocking flavors such as Cucumber, Lemon tea, braised Pork and Chicken Wings and the most shocking the Green Tea flavor.

Well I have heard this famous Chinese Proverb, "Better to be deprived of food for three days, than tea for one." but didn't actually know that tea means a lot to the Chinese culture. Potato chip manufacturing companies around the world introduce products according to local tastes for example in south Asian region you'll easily find the Spicy Masala flavor chips as people from this region love spice. While in Europe and America it is pretty easy to find the Cream Cheese and Barbeque sauce flavor chips. But finding green tea flavored chips was pretty bizarre for me.

Nevertheless, being a curious soul I tried the green tea flavor and found it pretty interesting. The fact that green tea is an integral part of Chinese culture is not new to me. Every day and literally everywhere I see Chinese people drinking green tea, whether on and off campus, but seeing it incorporated as a flavor into my favorite snack was definitely shocking for me in the first place.

While enjoying my favorite snack I went through some online searches and found that Chinese people also enjoy eating chips and their favorite flavors are: French Chicken, cucumber, grilled squid, blueberry, lemon tea, hot and sour fish soup (another surprise), and 'Numb and Spicy Hot Pot'. Well now it's my reader's decision to decide what their favorite flavor is amongst all these unique potato chip flavors available in China! Till then I have decided mine!

Reported by Fayeza Yahya

