



Restaurant Review | Fantastic Beasts Café

By Rosy Wu



Can you imagine that you don't have to go to the zoo to see an alpaca (羊驼), deer, rabbit, raccoon, and meerkat, but can see them in a small but fantastic café?

In Shenzhen, it is possible! The uniquely themed Fantastic Beasts Café is a popular spot in the Nanshan district.

Why not have a bird standing on your arm?

I was so afraid at the beginning. But as long as you tell the waiter that you want the bird to stand on your arm, he will instruct you and the bird will behave itself well. Don't be afraid. Come and have a try!

Here are some pictures:

There's a particular cat home with 6 to 7 cats. Be careful of the white ones. They might not be so friendly.

This is the hall for you to sit and chat. You may also see a pig rushing from back and forth from time to time. There is some animal food available for purchase so you can feed them.

Just for the Photos

If you are hungry, you can order some delicious cake. Unfortunately, I wasn't so happy with the food selection though. It's much better to get your food before or after visiting the café if you are going to be hungry.

To my disappointment, the food service is very limited. I wanted to order some special things, but sadly there was not so much to choose from. The Group Purchase Special (团购套餐) includes sausage and lemon soda. They can hardly be called delicious ...

Also, from my experience, I don't think those animals are being nicely treated or they might just hate being confined. For example, some animals just stay still and don't move, while the raccoon keeps tapping the window.

To be honest, I went there for the animals out of curiosity the first time. However, there was not anything at the café that would make me want to go another time.

Find some free time, take your friends to check out this amazing zoo café~ But it probably won't become your regular hangout spot.

Address:
海德二道天利名城B座6楼610 (海岸城喜茶楼上)
Coastal City (above HEYTEA)
Cost: Average 80 RMB/Per Person

Single's Day Shopping Festival, Don't Really Chop Off Your Hands!

Written by Dou Min



Bella: Single's Day is coming. There are many things I want to buy. I need to chop off my hands, otherwise I shall become a pauper.

Sophia: Me too, clothes, bag, lipstick and so on, all of those I want to buy. Taobao told me that the whole price would be reduced by 200 yuan if I bought 400 yuan goods, therefore I can't stop buying.

Bella: Yes. Hi, Sophia. I find some magical things. If the whole price would be reduced by 200 yuan when we bought 400 yuan goods, we can just cost 400 billion yuan to buy Alibaba – a company which market value is 800 billion yuan at present.

Sophia:Wow, but we don't have 400 billion yuan.

Bella: Hahaha, Borrow money from Ant Credit Pay.

Sophia:How to repay the huge debt?

Bella: You silly! Alibaba belongs to us, why we repay the money to Ant Credit Pay (Ant Credit Pay is a financial loan platform of Alibaba).

Sophia: hahaha, it is amazing. We get Alibaba from nothing.

Origin and development of Single's Day

Single's Day, also known as Double 11 and often referred to in slang as Chop Hands Day, . refers to the online promotion day on November 11th every year. Single's Day began as an online promotion day conducted by Taobao. They found the turnover far exceeded the expected results with limited number of merchants and promotional efforts. Finally, Single's Day is a fixed date for promotion activity.

In response to becoming too addicted to the promotions, Chinese consumers started joking they need to chop off their hands to stop themselves from shopping. But of course, even then we would probably still not be able to resist the urge to buy, buy buy.

It can be seen from Figure 1 and Figure 2, the sales and the number of participating merchants are increasing year by year on November 11th. Sales rose from 52 million yuan in 2009 to 268.4 billion yuan in 2019. The initial number of participating merchants is just 27, and now the number is up to 180000. Chinese e-commerce platforms, such as Taobao, Jingdong and Vipshop, compete in this carnival. There is no doubt that Single's Day has become a national shopping festival in China. It reflects China's strong domestic demand and the development of e-commerce.

How to consume on Single's Day?

Behavioral economists say The choices of consumption are infinite, while human rationality is limited. Under the onslaught of endless options, the brain's rational thinking system tends to shut down, allowing the intuitive thinking system to take over. What is intuitive thinking? It is buy everything when you see it. So supermarkets and convenience stores pay close attention to how goods are placed. When people come into the supermarket, most people chose the goods placed on the right shelf, because most of them are right-handed. In the same way, the goods placed with the height of 1.5m – 1.7m on the right shelf must be the goods that the supermarket wants to sell most, this is due to the fact that the average height of Chinese men is 167.1 meters, and the average height of Chinese women is 155.8 meters.

Better to add a picture about the supermarket

In the same way, the goods on Taobao or Tmall's home page must be what the merchants want you to buy most. Most of these goods are the most profitable or are overstocked for merchants, but those goods maybe not necessarily the one you need the most and the most appropriate.

Don't get carried away by the urge to buy. Spend wisely.

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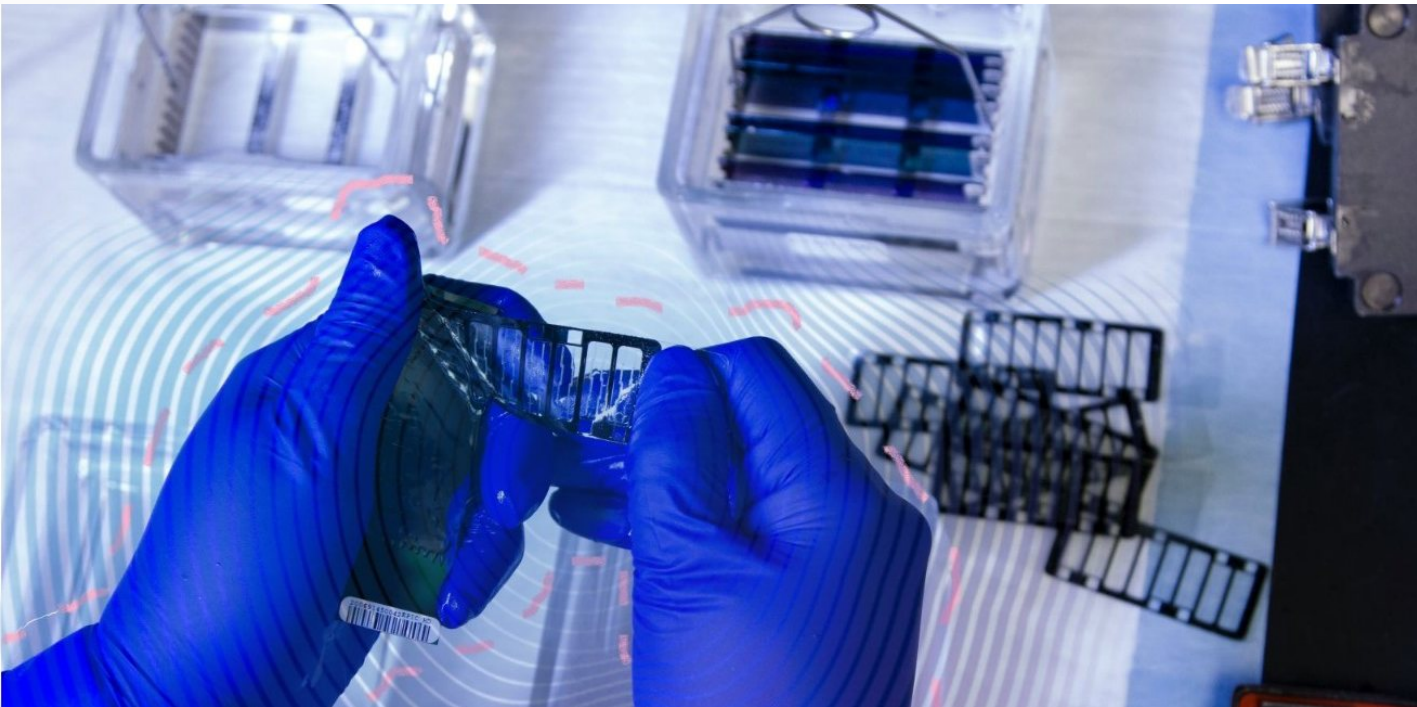
General Director: Nathan Faber

Team President: Xia Zhidan

Tel: 0755-26032131

Step into the Laboratory

Written by Raibboo Yan



Many students choose to come to Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School to join one of our major platforms, such as key laboratories, innovation projects, and research centers.

Graduate students quickly learn they will be spending most of their time in the laboratory. So, what is in the laboratory?

What are the differences between laboratories in different disciplines?

Is running experiments boring or interesting? Let us walk into the laboratory together!

Laboratory equipment is the key to a good lab. It is like the cultural relics of a museum. If you don't have the best equipment, you're not going to be able to have the best lab.

Some advanced and modern equipment is indispensable for a laboratory with strong scientific research capabilities.

For example, the drone has a wide range of applications. Many people saw the drone light show in Shenzhen. But this is only a small part of the field of drone applications.

Unleashing the Power of Drones

Cy Luo is a student who works in the lab of Environmental and Energy Information Engineering. They use drones to monitor the environment.

This laboratory uses the latest information detection methods (thermal infrared, fluorescence, hyperspectral, radar, etc.) to obtain multi-scale environmental and energy information from the cell to the earth. For example, through drone monitoring, some important environmental parameters can be collected. Many of these environmental parameters are difficult to obtain through human sampling.

The students in the laboratory shared that the application of drone equipment is a very glamorous thing, but it isn't always as fun as it looks.

The early debugging of the drone is a difficult task that requires lots of patience. After finishing the code debugging, they need to execute test flights. In addition, there are some location environmental impacts during the sampling process, and the whole process is full of uncertainty. A lot of time and energy is required.

They also shared that drones are just one of the many pieces of equipment in their laboratory. They also have professional equipment, such as an evapotranspiration device used to observe urban climates. This device is very cutting-edge and advanced in the field.



Raising Fishes

Of course, there are also some surprising experiments and fish culturing may be one. Jiang Xilin is a student who works in the Organic Micro-pollution Laboratory of Water Environment.

He said that the laboratory they have is like an aquaculture base sometimes. They breed fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms. Unfortunately, all these creatures are not for the school canteens. Xilin and his lab mates are concerned about the migration and transformation of organic pollutants in water bodies.

This information informs us on ecological risks. For example, they can conduct toxicological experiments on small fish to observe their genetic changes. Their experiment is not easy. A small fish is expensive, and they need to feed and change water on time every day. Even during the Chinese New Year, some of them are still at school with their experimental fish.



Laboratory with No Borders



There are also some special "experiments". For students in some disciplines, they need to take samples out in the field and then bring the samples back to the laboratory for analysis. High-intensity sampling is not easier than experimenting.

Mumu is a student who also works in a lab at the School of Environment and Energy. She is frequently on the road to collect samples. One month, she went to more than a dozen cities and across several provinces. Their laboratory mainly collects microbial samples in water.

The collected samples are analyzed to obtain microbial bioinformatics, molecular biology, and environmental physicochemical information. This information is used to construct informatics methods to understand complex microbial community systems. These methods have the potential to support environmental remediation.

However, the microorganisms are usually not common microorganisms, they need to go to some rare environments, such as saltwater lakes, arid areas, etc. Some scientific research teams even need to go to polar regions to collect microbial samples.

They are fortunate to see unique scenery and feel the unspoiled natural environment when they venture to these rare ecosystems. Mumu said they she's seen snowy mountains and long stretches of farmland. She saw the legendary Sailimu Lake in Xinjiang, and made sure to enjoy the local specialties on that trip. During the sampling process from east to west and south to north, they experience the changes of the four seasons along the way.

Business Labs

In Nanyan, there are some people whose laboratories are also full of disciplinary characteristics. For example, Li Zhe studies financial journalism and uses the Future Media Lab at the HSBC Business School. She doesn't use chemical reagents in her laboratory.

Instead, they have audio visual equipment, lighting, microphones and everything you need to make the news. Their major is an interdisciplinary subject of finance and media. There is also a financial laboratory equipped with a variety of research and analysis accounts and platforms to facilitate students to conduct industry research. Their main responsibility for industry research is to use financial models and evaluation models to provide company value analysis reports through the investigation of listed companies and industry climate analysis.

Experiments and projects in the same subject are all distinct, and there is even more difference between the work of different disciplines. What we do all have in common is that we all need to spend a lot of time and energy in the laboratory. This is the only way we can have the chance to get the results we want. The laboratory is not always boring. During the experiment, we also can reap happiness. Come on, laborers!





Experts Discuss U.S. Presidential Election at Two Sessions Held by STL

Written by Lyu Haipei

The Peking University School of Transnational Law (STL) held two special lectures in November to allow experts to share insights regarding the U.S. presidential election with members of their school and the public.

The first lecture was held on Thursday, November 19. To begin the event, STL Dean Philip McConaughay announced the beginning of the sessions on the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election and warmly welcomed guest speaker Professor James A. Gardner, an expert and author of several books on U.S. election law and electoral politics.

Professor Gardner has served as the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Constitutionalism and Federalism at McGill University, and as the Federalism Scholar in Residence at the European Academy Institute for Comparative Federalism.

Features of US system for electing presidents

According to Professor Gardner, the system is very complex and confusing, even Americans cannot accurately tell how it functions. It is also internally contradictory under modern conditions. Citizens of modern democracies prefer and expect a truly majoritarian system. The US system is not majoritarian, meaning a candidate may win without the majority of votes.

Historical reasons for complexity

First, the framers feared centralized power but also distrusted democracy, so the president is selected by an Electoral College, which they envisioned as a group of intelligent people. Third, public attitudes about democracy have evolved in different directions. As a result, according to Professor Gardner, the Constitutional structure of authority to regulate federal elections is decentralized with shared authority between state and federal.

Laws involved in the election

STL students learned that the states determine qualifications to vote in each state and federal election, like regulating time, place, and manner (TPM) of federal elections.

In the presidential elections, states exert even more power. State legislatures decide how to choose presidential electors under Article II. In the early history of America, many states legislatures appointed electors directly without popular election while by 1832, all but one used popular election.

Due to this state-based system, there are 51 separate elections in all, including the District of Columbia. There is no national-wide vote for any purpose.

The Friday Lecture

The second event was held on Friday, November 20.

The four speakers were Ellen Campbell, Assistant Director of Voter Protection in Wisconsin, STL Associate Dean Duncan Alford, STL Professor Mark Feldman, and STL Professor of Practice Man Yunlong.

The first speaker was Ellen Campbell. According to her, voter protection is different among states. For many voters moving from state to state, it's very complicated. There's a hot line for citizens to ask questions to volunteers for guidance.

Ms. Campbell argued that this year people really cared about voting, as there was an unprecedented number of people who voted.

STL Associate Dean Professor Duncan Alford followed Ms. Campbell. He focused on three states: North Carolina (NC), South Carolina (SC) and Georgia. In all these three states, you have to register at least 30 days in advance. There are three ways to vote: show up in person, early voting (NC and Georgia allow) and absentee voting (all allow and require a witness). Professor Duncan described the procedural differences in all the three states.

The third speaker, Professor Thomas Man, changed to a different topic: Chinese Americans in the 2020 election. Professor Man said, this year, both citizens and non-citizens showed great interest in the election. He provided three reasons for this phenomenon:

First, reaction to Trump's policy towards China. Trump's policy is a drastic departure from the past 40-years of US-China diplomatic policy. There is a huge debate in the US both for and against it. Second, Covid-19 strained the US-China relationship, especially the inflammatory rhetoric that Trump used regarding the virus. Third, older generations of Chinese Americans have tended to vote for Republicans, while the younger generation has tended to vote more for the Democrats.

Last but not least, Professor Feldman addressed three international issues after the election. First, short-term engagement. Trade and investment are hard to predict. He believed that the Biden administration shares the same concerns with the Trump administration but their tactics are different. The Biden administration may want to rejoin CPTPP. Second, long-term commitment. For some time, the US will be seen as withdrawing from international agreements. This perception poses a major challenge to Biden. He may take some steps to rebuild relationships. Third, the US-China relationship. Professor Feldman hopes Biden can extend and expand, at least maintain a constructive dialogue because it's necessary for the two countries to work through challenging issues in a discreet manner, avoiding the media spotlight.



The Path to a PhD: A Long, Steady and Exciting Research Life

By Fong Tsz Hei

Photos by Fong Tsz Hei, Wang Qian, Wang Tianyu

In order to understand the life of PhD candidates in PKUSZ, we tried connecting with the most senior, experienced and busiest PhD students on our campus. Now, we have the chance to show what their daily life is like on their path to earning a PhD.

We interviewed Wang Qian (WQ, 王倩) and Wang Tianyu (WT, 王天宇) from the School of Environment and Energy (SEE) and School of Chemical Biology and Biotechnology (SCBB), respectively. They have been at PKUSZ for several years and will both graduate next year.

1. What is your research interest & how did it become your main focus?

WQ: "My research is focusing on the effect of incineration bottom ash co-disposed with municipal solid waste (MSW) in landfills. As we know, incineration is becoming an important treatment way for MSW. However, incineration also produces a lot of by-products, including bottom ash and fly ash. Bottom ash is regarded as the main by-product. The main treatment way for bottom ash is to be co-disposed with MSW. The effect of co-disposal to the landfills remains unclear."

WT: "I am researching in the field of neuroscience and focusing on fear and its neural circuitry. I want to understand how fear is generated and interpret the biological basis of it. The human brain is an intriguing organ that still has numerous mysteries needing to be uncovered; thus, I would like to know how our brain functions when making us scared in some specific conditions."

02. Where are your pressures from & what motivates you to conquer them?

WT: "I did not realize many great pressures acting on me during my PhD study. I have some, but I think "research" is quite friendly for us because everyone does have the curiosity to investigate an unknown subject. However, "doing research" is not that easy and you will face problems, even experimental failure during the process. I think the pressure comes from the imbalance of human curiosity and research practice. When experiments cannot fulfill your expectations or contradict each other, keep seeking the results. This is the key to opening the door for relieving your stress during difficult times. Luckily, I have sufficient interest in it to continuously investigate the answers I want to know."
WQ: "First of all, I thought my pressure came from the direction of my project. A PhD is very different from a master's, I have to figure out what I really want to investigate and design a relatively new and valuable project. Because my field is quite interdisciplinary, mainly focusing on the combination of materials and microorganisms, it really demanded the processes of self-exploration. Also, during the paper submission period, I found that it is very easy to depress one's spirit, especially after I had been rejected 6 times for submitting one manuscript. Because of the particularity of my direction, reviewers who rejected my draft deemed that my submitted paper is out of the scope of their journal, but fortunately, it has been accepted by a journal that praised it as an interesting topic."



Amazing Creations from the Halloween Pumpkin Night

Written by Zhang Wendou

Photos by Yao Dawei & Zhang Wendou

What images does Halloween bring to mind? Various kinds of ghosts, pumpkin lamps, or children who go door to door asking for candy?

Most Chinese students have usually heard about pumpkin lamps and Halloween in fairy tales, but may have never actually laid eyes on one, much less carved one independently.

Origin of Pumpkin Lamps

These Halloween-style pumpkin lamps are called Jack-o-Lanterns. The name is tied to the Irish legend of Stingy Jack, a drunkard who bargains with Satan and is doomed to roam the Earth with only a hollowed turnip to light his way. In the 19th century, hollowed out turnip lanterns carved with grotesque faces were part of the Halloween customs in parts of Ireland and the Scottish Highlands.

The practice spread to other countries, and it is now common to see pumpkin lamps on doorsteps, stoops and used as decorations during the Halloween season.

Beginning of the Pumpkin Carving

The Halloween Pumpkin Carving Night began at 19:00. Participants arrived and selected their pumpkin and personal carving station. Of course, most everyone was a complete beginner. They listened carefully to the instructions and then started on their own work!

It was not easy at the beginning. The pumpkins first must be hollowed out. Some thick pumpkins made the task especially difficult. However, this little trouble would not be a challenge for our students. Participants discovered they had special skills in carving pumpkins. We saw cute ghosts, scary and humorous faces, cats, bats, and even a PKU logo come to life.

After happily working, all participants introduced their own creations. Many participants gave their pumpkin lamps cute names to participate in the voting contest. Next, the exciting part – appraising and voting for the most beautiful pumpkin lamps. The awards included a power bank, a Halloween coffee mug, and a Bluetooth mouse.



Each participant spent a wonderful evening delightfully working hard to make their own masterpiece. Of course, it wouldn't have been a Halloween party without plenty of candy as well!

Li Yang (from SECE, PKU): "I was so happy to join as an assistant because it would be a good time for me to enjoy. Nathan, the teacher who is responsible for this event, prepared everything well before 19:00. Everyone started their works after Nathan showed how to use the tools and how to carve. Everyone was very creative. They made many kinds of pumpkins lamp. Everyone had fun the whole night. It's a great Halloween celebration."

Mei Siyu (from SEE, PKU): "I first thought we would use fake pumpkins, but to my surprise, real fresh pumpkins were prepared for everyone. Everyone took great care in the production and the result was very nice. The pumpkin lamps showed a special vibe in dark environment. In a word, it is a good Halloween activity!"

"You Are My Sunshine": The 12th PKUSZ Thanksgiving

Written by May Photos by May

On Friday, 27 November, teachers, staff, special guests, students and international alumni gathered together for the 12th Annual PKUSZ Thanksgiving Celebration at Shang Shufang in the Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS) building. Of all the previous Thanksgiving dinners, this one was extra special.

The event is graciously supported by multiple divisions of the university, including the Chancellor's Secretariat Office, the International Affairs Committee, the HSBC Business School, the School of Transnational Law (STL) and the Peking University English Association.

In times when hardship makes us materially poorer, we can respond by becoming richer spiritually. For example, people start to notice those around them and treasure interpersonal relationship more. Because of the hard times, our thankfulness has been deepened.

At PKU Shenzhen, each year, faculty, staff and students meet up for this warm night.

Marco Yang, from the School of Electronic and Computer Engineering and Gillian Mutyambizi from PHBS kicked off the event as hosts by welcoming faculty, students, alumni and guests.

Assistant Dean for International Affairs Professor Joon Young Park, who is leading the new International Office of PHBS, gave the opening toast. He took the opportunity to give wonderful wishes for all people in attendance and show appreciation for the evening's feast. A traditional Thanksgiving feast of turkey and much more was offered. Much of the food was prepared by the chef and cooks of Shang Shufang, who also graciously hosted the event. The dessert was prepared by Baekerei Thomas, a German bakery in Shekou. People were soon lining up to get food and then not long after going back for more!

Following the delicious meal, there were several more activities in the event to make it an even more beautiful memory.

Lucky Draw Thanksgiving Card

When attendees entered, they were given a small card to write down their name and what they are thankful for on. The card then acted as the ticket for the lucky draw.

Each winner then came to the stage to introduce themselves and tell the audience what they were thankful for. The prize was 20rmb of food vouchers to Canteen 2, donated by Happy Meal Time Catering.

Mao Na, Director of the PHBS International Office, won the first prize. She said it's a great honor to be invited, and she thanked everyone for dedicating themselves to their work and the epidemic prevention.

Rosy Wu was lucky as well. She thanked everyone in her life, both friends and strangers, who had offered help and showed kindness to her. When later asked about how she felt showing gratitude in front of people, she said there was no embarrassment, but it was a nice little interlude, also a bonus, in another word, an opportunity for her to show her kindness back to people, which made her feel warmer than ever.

Thanksgiving Bingo Game

Next up was a big group game. Everyone who wanted to participate was given a game card and once again put their luck to the test. The hosts introduced the rules and proceeded to lead the audience through the game, which had a Thanksgiving theme made especially for the event. There were four lucky winners!



What they feel about the 12th PKUSZ Thanksgiving Celebration:

Volunteer: Wang Junjing

"The turkey is so good and the cake is so good! I also spent a very happy evening with volunteers! Compared with last year's Thanksgiving dinner, the number of people is a bit smaller, but the background music with a soft rhythm in Shang Shufang is very warm and touching! Happy Thanksgiving!"

Attendee : Hu Yujie

This year is my first year at Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. It is also my first time to participate in Thanksgiving activities and eat turkey for the first time. Lots of firsts.

It was fun. Especially in the severe situation of this year's fight against the epidemic, I'm happy to see that the overseas students around us can be with us. It's fun to spend time with everyone, plus delicious mashed potatoes, cakes. I hope there will be many more nights like this.

Alumnus: Momir Amidzic

This was the first time being back on campus after graduation and it felt great catching up with classmates and professors. Unfortunately, due to global pandemic many of our foreign friends missed the ceremony, but hopefully next year we will have the opportunity to gather together for a Thanksgiving feast.