



Dear Readers,

We are glad to send you our Timeline newsletter for this month; please feel free to send us any feedback/news/articles/ideas or anything publishable that you are interested in. News will be shaped on your needs; you will find open calls for conferences, academic issues, activities and things that just happen to us every day...enjoy!

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NIGHT FOR NEW: BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NIGHT 2017

New Friend, New Challenge, New Hope, New Experience, New dream, New passion, NEW NEW NEW! Beijing Night International students' activity has been witnessed 7 times before; though this year Beijing Night 2017 was Unique, Exquisite, Lively and as stated in its motto, everything was new: new performers, new feelings and new inspiration that made audience all exhilarated.

The show took place in Dec 17th, 2017 at the Qiujiudian Gym, Beijing Normal University gathering all the international students at Beijing Normal University not only to witness the diverse cultures, traditions and united souls depicted in their performance, but also it was heat that warmed up one cold night in whole Beijing city.

Giving you more insight from the fascinating large scale theatrical performance, the stage was brightly set with the power of lights and assisted with gigantic led light screen. Mesmerizing!!! Flashback to the performers, 200 students across the globe representing 40 countries and regions, performed and dazzled the crowd with songs, ensemble, dances, live-band performances and many others. Particularly, it was a showcase of vibrant, cheerful, exotic life of BNU international students.

So what made the show unique and incomparably memorable than the previous delicacies are that show was first held organized in which 3 episodes "Chance encounter", "Indissoluble bond", "Exhilarating joy" that carries the embedded meaning and the purpose of the event smoothly, plus bringing more than 2000 crowd's attention, joy and unity more and more as show proceeds. In addition, Beijing International Students Night expanded its scale and saluted two performances from Wu Han university international students and Singaporean. It was a breakthrough in our vibrant life and tradition as well as their well-prepared, effort-devoted, stage on presentations overwhelmed, ravished and thrilled us, indeed. Salute to my brothers and sisters for how much you embraced international students here in Beijing.

Another distinctive add-up for our celebrity was those welcomed forty guests and delegates from embassies, Beijing Education Association, and educational organizations who were all thankful to be part of the audience and said that the BNU international students' community is rich of talent and a true example to all.

Despite these additions, some highlights that dazzled audience were charming Thai community song and dance, marvelous Vietnamese Dance and joint live band performance from which we all could see how they are committed to the event. Japanese dancers were like thunder in the arena. Nobody can imagine the show without African performers. Diverse cultures, colorful costumes and lively souls from various countries are all tied to one continent, Afro-beats made this event success as always. If anyone had the opportunity watching last year's event, they would totally agree with one of the stunning demonstrations was from Mongolians.

All in all, Beijing International Students Night was a wonderful event for international students and it is with great honour and gratitude and that our dear mother "International Students Office" is committed to give international students an opportunity to showcase their culture every year. We expect and believe that Beijing International Student Night will live forever!

This year, Mongolian dance was a shining diamond on a stage. Magnificent. Audience were all graced, embraced and delighted by all parts of show.

Beijing International Students Night 2017 was bewildered, cheered and applauded by university official, delegates and students which is possibly the only indication of success. It was the success of togetherness, unity of diverse culture and international fellowship. The show ended with 'We Are The World' Michael Jackson's song as all the performers gathered on stage singing along, flanked by the university officials for a group photo to show solidarity.

Well, well, no more comments, but voices from audience all over the world who eye-witnessed the night.

"Beijing night was a magnificent revelation of the originality, peculiarity, similarity and differences of global culture which was brought together to interact in an artistic and professional way. Every activity was an awesome surprise to me which went beyond my imagination. The performers needed to last for eternity to satisfy my curiosity to watch; how I wished the event never ended!"

Alex S.M Mhano
Master Student from Malawi

"The BEIJING NIGHT really moved all the audience especially those who have witnessed it for the first time. It left audience with a sense of belonging as one people and many students said it had also refreshed their minds to concentrate with readings at least. The performance also attracted attention the some of the students who never participated to join in the one of next year. However, as much as many praise the performance and enjoying the beautiful scenarios (Pictures), some much many students for PIED said it couldn't be compared to the one of last year, that the one of last year was good but they could not justify."



Lodongji Marlow Lino Lodona
Master Student from South Sudan

"Took part in Beijing night as an audience last year, but this year it was so rewarding to me that I performed on a stage. It was absolutely different feeling to me. Twenty-one of us all devoted ourselves for our dance right from the start until this show reached its end which took us two months' preparation. Although, we faced new challenges and problems such as schedule conflict, costume and so on. For instance, we make use of lunch time and our community gathered for a practice of the show. Likewise, we all came over with it together and made it success. I am so thankful to the organizing committee of Beijing Night and my team."



Eulshir Shureenchigeg,
one of performers from Mongolia.



MESSAGE FROM THE ISU PRESIDENT

Dear Fellows,

I am writing to convey my very best wishes and sincere thanks to all of you as we wrap up an eventful 2017 and shift our momentum into the next calendar year. The past 12 months have been marked by noteworthy achievement and change in FOE-ISU style. But one thing remained same that I have been selected President for FOE-ISU 2018. I am truly grateful for trusting once again on my service and abilities. As we reflect on the past year, I believe that we have many reasons to have enormous pride in our accomplishments and look forward with enthusiasm to next year at the Faculty of Education as whole.

This is the first News Letter of the FOE-ISU 2018 and I appreciate the newly elected team of the Union for their efforts. I welcome all the new ISU members and thankful for their volunteer services. I also invite the attention, pen and interest of the other faculty fellows to FOE Timeline. We are desperate to hear your thoughts to be expressed in this timeline.

Here I want to present big congratulations to all the achievers of the Best Student Awards for their good



academic publications. As the students are enthusiastic and they know the worth of authorship so I extend best wishes for more success in this regard. I conclude with this thought that every success ladder we climb buys a ticket for another challenge; I know that with our resilience, hard work and persistence, will achieve us even more in our new promotion. My gratitude and best wishes for all of you for every coming New Year in your life.

A WALK AND TALK WITH PROFESSOR LAUREN

Not so long ago, a student came to class with a very unsociable look, he looked annoyed and very disturbed yet this is the boy who had always been very happy in class and always keen to learn.

In the course of the class, I decided to put the students in groups to discuss a certain concept. The boy went out instead and never came back, not only in class but decided to suspend school until recently when he sent me a message narrating what happened to him. As a result, he earned himself a suspension from school. This experience left me regretting why I didn't call him and talk to him; probably I would have helped him.

Little did I know that I would soon become a student as well, though my class is slightly different from the one I was conducting back home as it is comprised of mature students with deep-seated responsibilities and now miles away from home, including some who left their young families behind in pursuit of knowledge. In just a week, many looked tired and wished to take the next day's flight back home. However, before they could take to such extremes, a well-trained Professor Lauren, as she prefers being addressed, had already observed the situation and decided to have a walk and talk time with each and every new student.

Pontian Kabera
PhD student of Comparative Education
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From that moment to date, the learning environment changed, people's motivation has been rejuvenated and its now home away from home.

Well, as a mentor it's important that we understand the emotional status of the children we teach. They experience a lot of problems, ranging from social, to economic and healthy, which impede their concentration in class and thus compromising their content mastery and love for studies.

Therefore, creating an environment where learners find solace in teachers will improve the aspect of classroom management and the quality of students' performance, which will eventually waste off cases of drop-outs.

We need to underscore that teachers are the best parents; they stay with children for the bigger part of their lives, and they should therefore be able to shape them with the alternative models of adult authority to shape their ability when it comes to regulating their emotions as well as interpreting emotional signals.

Student's emotional development helps them explore the environment whilst playing their significant role in developing and reflecting on their own beliefs.

«It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop»
Confucius

«There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent»
Mahatma Gandhi

«Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school»
Albert Einstein

«The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery»
Mark Van Doren

EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Faculty of Education through Higher Education conducted the workshop on 15th December, 2017. The main leading the organization of this wonderful workshop was Professor Qi Li.

It was great sitting in the company of many BNU students feasting on the diverse forms of knowledge which was facilitated by professor Fernando Reimers from Harvard University. The sprouting group of academicians were enlightened on very important issues which are critical to education today in the 21st century. Issues to do with how to empower students to improve the world, power of curriculum, general innovation of global education, developing global citizenship curriculum, closing the gap between research, policy and practice were among the very important ideas which were shared in this auspicious workshop.

Lastly, Professor Fernando asked students to ask questions and give comments on the topics discussed. It was an amazing moment as we saw endless questions and comments from these future leaders on how best education can be transformed to meet the needs of the people in this century. Gifts in form of the book "Teaching and learning for the 21st century" were given to all students who asked questions and gave comments.

Amazing indeed was the morning of that day for such a great moment of information sharing. We are looking to more workshops in the next semester by the faculty of education. Great appreciation to the higher education through professor Qi Li and the visiting Professor Fernando Reimers for making the workshop a great success.

Alex S.M Mhano
Master Student of Comparative Education



EDUCATION CULTURE AND MIGRANT FAMILIES IN BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The speed rate of economical growth and development in China has called for a more rapid increase of migrant families among which are students, parents, children and lecturers. With the evidence of diversification of cultures, beliefs, norms, rules and regulations etc. There appears to be some challenges which calls for more attention either among the migrant families or the Chinese people in order to enhance the flow of social environment.

I will base this article on the international students and lecturers as migrant families to examine what impact the Chinese educational culture has to play in their social, educational and overall aspects of life of the migrant family.

Culture is a patterned system of knowledge and conception embodied in symbolic and non-symbolic communication modes which a society has evolved from the past and progressively modified agencies to give meaning to and cope with the present and anticipated future problems of its existence (Stephens, 2009).

The Educational culture in its operational meaning refers to the interactions, relationship, beliefs, perceptions, rules and regulations that influence both the physical and emotional safety of the migrant families both in classrooms and public spaces. It also refers to how the learning environment in BNU embraces and celebrates ethnic and cultural diversity among the migrant families. Like the social world, the educational culture in BNU results from conscious and unconscious values, interactions among the Chinese students, staff, international students, parents and lecturers that contributes in creating the school culture, as well as other influences such as the community in which the school is located, the policies that govern how it operates, or the principles upon which the school system was formed.

ISSUES ON GROUND

As part of the migrant family, I have observed challenges faced by both migrant students and lecturers. I have interviewed few Chinese and international student on some series of structured questions. In summary, Some of which are;

i. communication gap and relationship between both parties, coping with Chinese food, eating culture, climatic condition, abiding to rules and regulations etc. Some of these challenges results to sickness, stress, inability to relate freely, or even affect the set up educational goals of the migrant family etc.

My article will be willing to search more for following questions:

i. How far has migrant families been able to communicate in Chinese with the local people within and outside the school environment?

ii. To what extent has migrant family been able to keep to the general rules and regulations of Chinese mostly on campus?

iii. What level of influence does the Chinese educational culture has on education and social achievement of the migrant family?

iv. To what extent is the Chinese people open to their culture and ready to embrace other cultures.

CONCLUSION

The article tries to explain common knowledge and awareness to some of the challenges that faces migrant families. As fresh migrant families relocate to China, this article call for help to map out more strategies to assist both parties in relating more friendly, manage life and keep to rules and regulations without any stress. It calls for both parties to think of more deriving concepts to motivate cultural diversification and differences.

HISTORICAL XI'AN CITY

LIFE IS RICH AND FULL OF WONDERS

We, myself and my friend Erdenisaikhan, study Beijing Normal University. Last year, I watched Beijing International Students' night for the first time which inspired me a lot that I would take part in next show. Thus, this year I was determined to attend. In October 16, more than 30 students from Mongolian community in Beshida with a variety of majors gathered for the first practice of our dance. It was not easy work to make everyone learn all the moves and dance with ensemble. Hence, we started the practice two months before during the lunch break that is how we successfully passed two rounds of audition, but also motivates us to commit more, put more hours into our dance and get united more. The times we have been through was not smooth and easygoing, instead we overcame all those challenges and difficulties together which made each member get closer to one another, unified our souls and show respectful attitude towards the team. As the team spirit had been improving, all the good things were happening around us. One of which is that the travel me and my friend going to introduce here in the article, a trip to Xi'an. It was such a rewarding moment, memory in our student life at BNU.

From December 08 to 12, our Mongolian community dance performance was selected to participate 2017 CICA University Students' Art festival held in one of the oldest cities in China. This news was a surprise and we all felt shocking that we never expected that this far we could go. In Xi'an, we came made friends with them, shared our culture and tradition through wonderful discussions and talks, and the people we met, food we enjoyed, places we have been to that all the moments we have had was remarkable.

As having a visit to Terracotta army, it was exquisite that a long-history preserving place in China showing its old civilization, great power of Qin dynasty as well as how smart people Chinese were to keep their creation, artifacts and heritage pass down to next generations. If you are planning to visit Xi'an, Tang Dynasty theatre is one of the most recommended places where you can enjoy Chinese folk play based on historic themes while having table-full feast one night in an elegantly adorned hall. All these happening we had in Xi'an was just not memorial days, it was a cultural event that gave us a moment we realize what a great culture, tradition and heritage that Chinese people constructed through history and how hospitable people they are.



Enkhtur Shureenchigeg
& ERDENISAIRHAN GANDOLGOR (EDDIE)
Master Student of Comparative Education

By the way writing this article, two of us would like to send our warmest gratitude to our beloved Liu laoshi, Hu Hongbao laoshi and other ISO staff who allowed us have this wonderful journey.

Everyone knows what happened in December 17th. The 'Beijing night' with international students from more than 30 countries across the globe with themes highlighting new feeling, new opportunity, new dreams and so on. It was an opportunity for Mongolian community to introduce our nomadic culture and peculiar tradition through our dance and share with our international fellows, friends and teachers. Besides, it was a night that every member in a community open their mind and reveal their hidden talent and feel as a new person.

As one says, "faster you go alone, farther you reach together", I felt from the bottom of my heart once again that when everyone's heart, mind and soul gets united with a solid purpose, success is inevitable. Being part of this team, people and event added incomparable taste on my student life time. Life is like a book you will never expect what will happen on other pages so that I am delighted to have been through these pages; the pages with full of wonder, joy and friends.

If you have not got the chance to take part in, I would highly recommend you to try out. I hope this event will precisely fill your days with unforgettable, wonderful memories and friends within the given moment. In addition, BJ night will also be an opportunity to see and feel yourself from different perspective, to develop your talent, and moment to enrich your campus life. Don't take this chance away!!!

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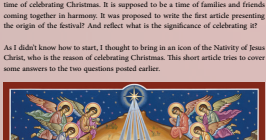
CHRISTMAS: CAN WE LIVE IN HARMONY?

How can we create an atmosphere of mutual respect, yet allowing everyone's opinions to be recognized, specially among a social group with diverse religious views? That was one of the points of discussions during the first ISU FOE meeting.

The question came while evaluating an action by one student who shared a religious video on the FOE WeChat group. We were trying to think about how can ISU act in creating harmony between the FOE members, yet allowing the recognition of voices of those who would like to share useful knowledge from their religious views. After all, a true democratic society is not lead by a single dominant opinion, but by the recognition of the differences, yet holding respect and harmony among the members.

We proposed to create this atmosphere through recognizing the different religious and cultural festivals from an objective perspective with a reflection on the harmony and goodness that these festivals bring. This discussion coincides with the time of celebrating Christmas. It is supposed to be a time of families and friends coming together in harmony. It was proposed to write the first article presenting the origin of the festival? And reflect what is the significance of celebrating it?

As I didn't know how to start, I thought to bring in an icon of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, who is the reason of celebrating Christmas. This short article tries to cover some answers to the two questions posted earlier.



"A picture is a poem without words"
(Cornificius, 1922)

Boulhas Rida (Paul)
PhD student of Comparative Education

What's the origin of Christmas?

Over 2000 years ago, the Jewish nation living in Israel were under the administration of the Roman Empire. As they considered this administration as an occupation to their nation, they were desperately hoping for a Messiah from God to come and save them. They conceived the Messiah as a King of Peace who would come to bring peace to Israel and all the nations. That's why the Gospel of Matthew (which was written to Christians from a Jewish background) mentioned the visitation of the Wise Men from the East and also the Jewish Shepherds who were watching over the flocks at night during the time of the birth of Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-2 & Luke 2:8-12) These two groups of people were both joyful of the birth of Jesus, as the wise men stated and offered their gifts. The icon here also reflects the narrative in the Gospel of the appearance of angels who praised God, and proclaimed peace and goodwill towards mankind (Luke 2:14)

What is the significance behind celebrating Christmas?

For many Christians, the celebration of Christmas is not just a memory of the birth of Jesus Christ, but rather a life of harmony that takes place every time He is remembered. It is the believe that His presence brings peace, love and joy. While this cannot be explained objectively, I bring in the subjective account of one of the prominent followers of Jesus claiming that "Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."" (John 20:19)

To sum up, the different religions and cultures have different celebrations during the course of the year. While each celebration has its interesting background story, we would like to use this platform to share together some knowledge of the different festivals of different social groups. We as educators should always keep in mind the different backgrounds of people around us. We make it our aim to bring out the peace and harmony messages from each celebration.

Wish you all a joyful and prosperous year and looking forward to your comments and future articles.

"The original word in Greek is 'εὐαγγέλιον' (euangelion), derived from Old Persian (magas) who were a religious caste."

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