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# TIMELINE

## FOE-ISU

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 AND OPEN CALLS FOR CONFERENCES, ACADEMIC ISSUES, ACTIVITIES AND THINGS THAT JUST HAPPEN TO US EVERY DAY...ENJOY!  
FOEISU@YAHOO.COM EMAIL:

### *The Letter of Appreciation*

Dear Faculty Administration,

On behalf of the FOE-ISU executive members and the whole student community, I would like to say thank you very much, firstly for accepting & secondly for publishing the proposal of having separate page for the faculty of Education International Students Union (FOE-ISU) on the official website of the Beijing Normal University (BNU). I highly appreciate the Faculty of Education (FOE) which really considers that its students/scholars are enough capable of keeping/delivering knowledge for the enhancement of the faculty. The honor which FOE-ISU-2018 has brought to the faculty itself also needs to be appreciated. Hope we (FOE-ISU) would receive our side of appreciation from our faculty administration in the form of providing us some incentives. It could be in the form of accepting our other proposals of making FOE-ISU volunteer service as paid or conversion of this service into internship (either paid/unpaid). My respected readers, this suggestion is highly voted & recommended by majority of students from the Union as well as those who are

not part of the union.

We will highly appreciate your assistance and response on our proposals that we really need during our delivery of service.

I cannot end this letter of appreciation/thanks without appreciating my fellows who really did hard work in developing documents for the web page. I am deeply thankful to the entire Union for this successful publication of the web page and greet them good luck for their further hard work in school, studies and life.

Thank you once again for all your support/help & trust. We will try to exceed your expectations in our capacities and abilities.

I wish all the happiness of Qingming Festival to all the Faculty of Education (Teachers & Students).

Best Regards,

Maria Khan



### **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

*Your dreams are real, you work hard and you have a pure heart, hope your birthday fulfills all your wishes and dreams come true.*



**ROJO  
HERNANDEZ,  
LUIS ANGEL, and  
MARIA KHAN! :)**



## CULTURAL SURVIVAL: WHEN KUNGFU AND TECHNOLOGY MEET



While most cultural beliefs and practices are facing extinction due to modernism, some are getting more strengthened and improved. Kungfu, a traditional Chinese martial arts is one of a proven cultural practice that is surviving and getting more polished up in this era of modernism. As it may be claimed and established in some quarters that globalization is eroding some Chinese cultural practices, the Kungfu martial arts is proving the opposite.

Walking in the streets of Beijing, one may easily be convinced that foreign cultures are settling dust. One may not believe that some cultural aspects in the name of Kungfu are becoming undefeatable to fade away until they are taken to a Kungfu night show at the Red theatre. The free tickets given by the International Students Office at BNU to international students during the winter vacation gave these students a chance to watch Kungfu show in the Red Theatre.

The meeting of outstanding Kungfu skills and technology in a show entitled "The legend of Kungfu" was such an imaginable spectacle that perplexed the audience. It was like watching a movie yet it was live performance. Kungfu skills have been skillfully mastered and technology well utilized which has bred the most amazing Kungfu culture which will stand for ages.

It is not easy to master such skills especially in maintaining one's culture in this era but the Chinese people have managed it. Actually the Legend of Kungfu

Show has received numerous awards and become a world class spectacle known around the world. It calls for investing of determination, time, finances, human resource and technology itself to make it possible. The question is, "how are you making your cultural practices in your respective nations survive extinction due to globalization and modernization forces?"

Written by

Alex S.M.





## Hawking at Beijing Normal University and Life's Destiny!

As many of you already know that one of the world's most brilliant minds, Professor Stephen William Hawking, passed away on 14th March 2018. This is not a biographical article of the renowned physicist since there are many other proper presentation of his biography out there. Nevertheless, as we are reminded with questions of destiny every time someone leaves our world, I came across some interesting historical facts of Hawking's visits to China and thought to share them with you along with a personal message.

Hawking's first visit to China was in 1985, when he was 43 years old. He was first invited by University of Science and Technology of China in Anhui Province, where he gave two lectures. Then he went to Beijing to give one lecture at Beijing Normal University. According to Prof. Zhao Ji (Zhu, 2018) of the Department of Physics, Hawking shared some ideas with the teachers and gave them an exciting report about his last achievements in the field of black hole formation and cosmic creation.

In JingWen lecture hall with five hundred seats, Hawking was hardly speaking making his voice barely understandable due to pneumonia (which is an infection that inflames air sacs in one or both lungs). Only his students understood what he was speaking, which they had to clarify in English and then translate it to Chinese. The whole lecture lasted for about an hour and a half.

Accompanied by some of the students and teachers, Hawking visited the Great Wall for the first time in 1985 despite his paralysis challenge. According to Professor Zhu Zonghong from the Department of Astronomy – who also took part in the trip – Hawking knew the quote of Mao ZiDong that says “不到长城非好汉” (Bù dào chángchéng fēi hǎo hàn - One who fails to reach the Great Wall is not a hero) which made him a more admired figure by reaching the Great Wall.

At this point, although a brilliant life has ended by leaving our world, a philosopher may argue that his life continues since his achievements still speak, but that's only in terms of our space-time! However as I recall one of his inspiring quotes to “remember to look up at the stars, and not down at your feet” and to “try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist”; I am reminded of the importance of faith. While I don't want to turn this article into a religious discussion, I cannot help but to mention that I am writing it during the time I am celebrating the resurrection of Easter Sunday. That's why I remember the wisdom of King Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes as he mentions that “the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it... for God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7-14)

Finally, Professor Hawking who came to our university here (which adds another credit of making me proud of BNU) strived to find a theory for everything and this inspirational theoretical call still exists for scientists, researchers, educators and everyone who desires to understand the metaphysics behind our magnificent universe. So I quote his statement to “be curious” to include all aspects of our lives; the physical and the spiritual. Until we meet again in the afterlife, let's keep being curious to understand and enjoy. Thank you and Goodbye professor Hawking.

### Resources:

Ecclesiastes 12:7-14 NKJV

Zhu, ShanShan (2018, March 14). 33 years ago, the lecture in Jingwen Lecture Hall left a bond between Hawking and Beijing Normal University. [33年前那场在敬文讲堂的报告, 让霍金与北师大结下不解之缘]. 党委宣传部. Retrieved from <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/8Xnh6JjSIOQZW5VggYhHJg>

BY BOULUS RIDA (PAUL)

