



Timeline

FACULTY OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UNION NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 1
1 December 2016

Dear Readers,

We are glad to send you our newsletter **Timeline** 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!

E-mail: foeisu@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

International Culture Festival highlights	1
Perception of China	2
Feature Article: Academic Journals	3
That Colorful Sunday	4
Proverb of the Month	4
Best Wishes Section	4

BNU conducts first International Culture Festival

By Alex S.M. Mhone

Sunday, November 13, 2016, BNU conducted first of its kind International Culture Festival under the theme 'Understanding and Integration.' The event took place in the University's main building, first floor. It was a very auspicious event which incorporated various cultural traditions and performances by international students at BNU from countries around world. Artists from Rwanda, Pakistan, Samoa, China and many other countries enlightened the stage with eye-catching performances in front of university officials and a cheering crowd.

Before the performances, international students from various countries were the first to decorate the event carrying their respective beautiful national flags, followed by the opening speech. It was a pleasure surprise to see that BNU is endowed with such a rich cultural integration and talent.

The unexpected ending of the cultural performances was finally followed by the visitation and sharing of the rich

and amazing cultural displays from these foreign countries. This activity allowed



International students displaying their countries' flags

everyone to visit booths representing different countries to appreciate the distinct cultural traditions and displays such as food, clothing, dance and many more.



Some stunning traditional costumes on display



Feature Article:
"Academic Journals: A short account of rankings and types"
—Page 3

CSC treats international students to “China Perception” tour

By Francisco Mitumba

November 19, 2016, the Chinese Scholarship Council organized a trip for international students at Beijing Normal University which was dubbed as “CSC Perception of China.” That Saturday morning, students from across the globe gathered at the east gate and were loaded in four buses en route to Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province where they were expected to take a tour of a number of places. The first stop was at the Zhuolu Ecological Garden where students were allowed to walk through the gardens and appreciate how farming is con-

ducted at the place.

After lunch was served, the students gathered outside the premises to compete in ‘tag-of-war’ in which a team dominated by Mongolians and Malawians out-pulled the other participating teams in a good-old-fashioned way. The locals also organized performances as well as wine testing for the visitors. The students were then driven to a hotel in Shacheng where they had dinner and spent the night.

The following day was full of activities as usual. The first place to visit was at Chateau SunGod wines where wine production procedures were described in detail and some had a chance to sample vintage French wine. As they say “to take wine into our mouths is to savor a droplet of the river of human history,” the next stop



Tag-of-war at Ecological Garden

was at Huailaixian Classic Great-wall Winery Co. Ltd where there was wine production tour and more wine testing.

The last stop was at the Huizhi Farm where they keep a variety of birds such as ducks, peacocks, ostriches, etc. The tour was hastened on the last part due to weather concerns as the students were supposed to return the same Sunday. On arrival back home, the official CSC Perception of China WeChat forum was buzzing with thankful messages from participating students, thanking CSC and ISO for organizing such a memorable trip.

“Much appreciation to CSC, ISO and all other organizers who contributed to making the trip a success. It was really a nice time out of academic stress...” one message read.



Students who participated pose for a group photo

Check out our
January issue
for exclusive
highlights of
Beijing Night
and Festive
Madness!



Trip enthusiasts feeding the ostriches

Academic Journals: A short account of rankings and types



By Ahmed Alduais
PhD student

While publishing *anywhere* increases the value of our produced knowledge, publishing *somewhere* does not only do this, but also contributes to the recognition of our research-based beliefs, truths and justifications. Sharing our beliefs, the truths we reach and the justification of our knowledge interpretation seems to be the real challenge. To be published anywhere is to be merely recognised, but to be published somewhere is to be well-recognised. The difference between these two statements is a possible justification for having different types of journals with different rankings. Actually, there are various rankings for journals. However, the major and the most recognised ones include: The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), Scopus and Copernicus.

ISI which is a business of Thomson Reuters provides a number of database services for academic journals. These include: the Science Citation Index (SCI), the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI). More importantly, the ISI provides the Annual Citation Reports which includes the impact factor for each journal—generally calculated on two year basis governed by the number of the citation for each academic paper within a certain academic journal. The importance of ISI is basically attributed to being universal-

ly used for deciding on Academic Ranking of World Universities (e.g. QS ranking and Shanghai ranking mostly). For 2016, the ISI list included 11, 365 journals in SCI, SSCI and AHCI from 81 countries.

Scopus which is a property of Elsevier is also a database for academic journals including about 22, 000 journals for above 5, 000 publishers (e.g. Taylor and Francis, SAGE, etc.). Similar to ISI, Scopus also provides impact factor calculation for each article using nearly the same criteria.

Copernicus or Index Copernicus International (ICT) is also a database for academic journals which includes

“To be published
anywhere is to be
merely recognized,
but to be published
somewhere is to be
well-recognized”

over 22, 000 journals, 3, 000 of which are for Poland. Unlike ISI and Scopus which adopt the impact factor, ICT adopts the Index Copernicus Value (ICV) to calculate the impact factor of each journal. In all cases, citation frequency

stands as the major yet dominating criterion for the calculation of the impact factor.

Institutional peer-reviewed and refereed journals is also another well-recognised type of journals. Granted that each and every manuscript is thoroughly refereed by internal and external academics, it guarantees a high percentage of quality for this type of journals.

Local, national and international associations' journals are also well-recognised [internationally]. This well-recognition is attributed to the

fact that the content of such journals is peer-reviewed by experts in the field of a certain journal for a certain association. It should be noted that a reasonable percentage of these journals and the institutional ones are also included in ISI index, Scopus, Copernicus, or even all.

Last but not the least, **peer-reviewed journals** which belong to publishing companies across the world and the quality of these journals differs from one publisher to another depending on the authenticity of the peer-review-process, the reviewers and more importantly the policy of the publishing company. In general, some of these journals which are often not included in any of the above mentioned three highly ranked classifications include: Sciedu Journals in Canada, Macrothink Institute Journals in the USA and China Academic Journals (i.e. some of the last one are listed in Scopus).

To this end, to be published in ISI and/or Scopus is undoubtedly the most challenging one. On the other hand, while publishing in an institutional or association journal is less challenging, publishing in Copernicus is the least challenging type. For the peer-reviewed journals, avoiding plagiarism and presenting a well-formatted manuscript would automatically result into the publication of the paper especially when the journal is not included in any of the well-recognised rankings of journals (i.e. ISI, Scopus, Copernicus, Institutional journals and associations' journals).

That Colorful Sunday



By Tesfaldet Ghilay
Master Student

Beijing Normal University is one of the renowned universities in China and in the world as well. It is a blessing place for me where I am able to fortify my educational goals. I am thrilled to be a student of this distinguished world class university. It's worth-admiring facilities, research and problem solving oriented lecturing and discussions; the exposures; multidisciplinary nature of the programs that fosters skills of critiques, free thinking, freedom of choice, student-centered learning and compact, easy-to-locate campus are also among

the solid features of the university that have inspired and impressed me.

Besides this, a very peculiar 'International Culture Festival: Understanding & Integration' day that was held on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at the university, triggers me to know extra miles about the university's momentousness. It was really an unequaled initiative taken by the university through a meaningful theme "World on Campus". I really appreciate the University for organizing this special occasion of international festival. Indeed, this magnificent festival gave me an insightful understanding that the university has embraced an assortment of international students doing their

studies within. It was a great opportunity for me to reflect on my country's cultural identity and to compare the multi-cultures within the world. Throughout that Sunday, I could able to see, share and experience regarding diverse beauty of human cultures and the nations' history. That day was a 'Super Sunday' in my life. It was a colorful and enjoyable day that brought the world culture to me. I am glad to see an awe-inspiring festival like this one and I am looking forward to more in future.



Proverb Of The Month

*I pointed out to
you the stars
and all you saw
was the tip of
my finger—
African Proverb*

*In this section, send us a proverb from your region and we will feature it.

Congratulations for getting married, Dann!



*Wishing you a glorious new life
adventure with zillions of wonderful
memories! Our best wishes to you
and your perfect life partner.*

FOE-ISU Family

We wish you our reader a Happy Festive Season!