

# ECNU Newsletter



2021 ISSUE 1-2



EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY



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EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY



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# Headlines

## ECNU launches 70 poverty-relief programs

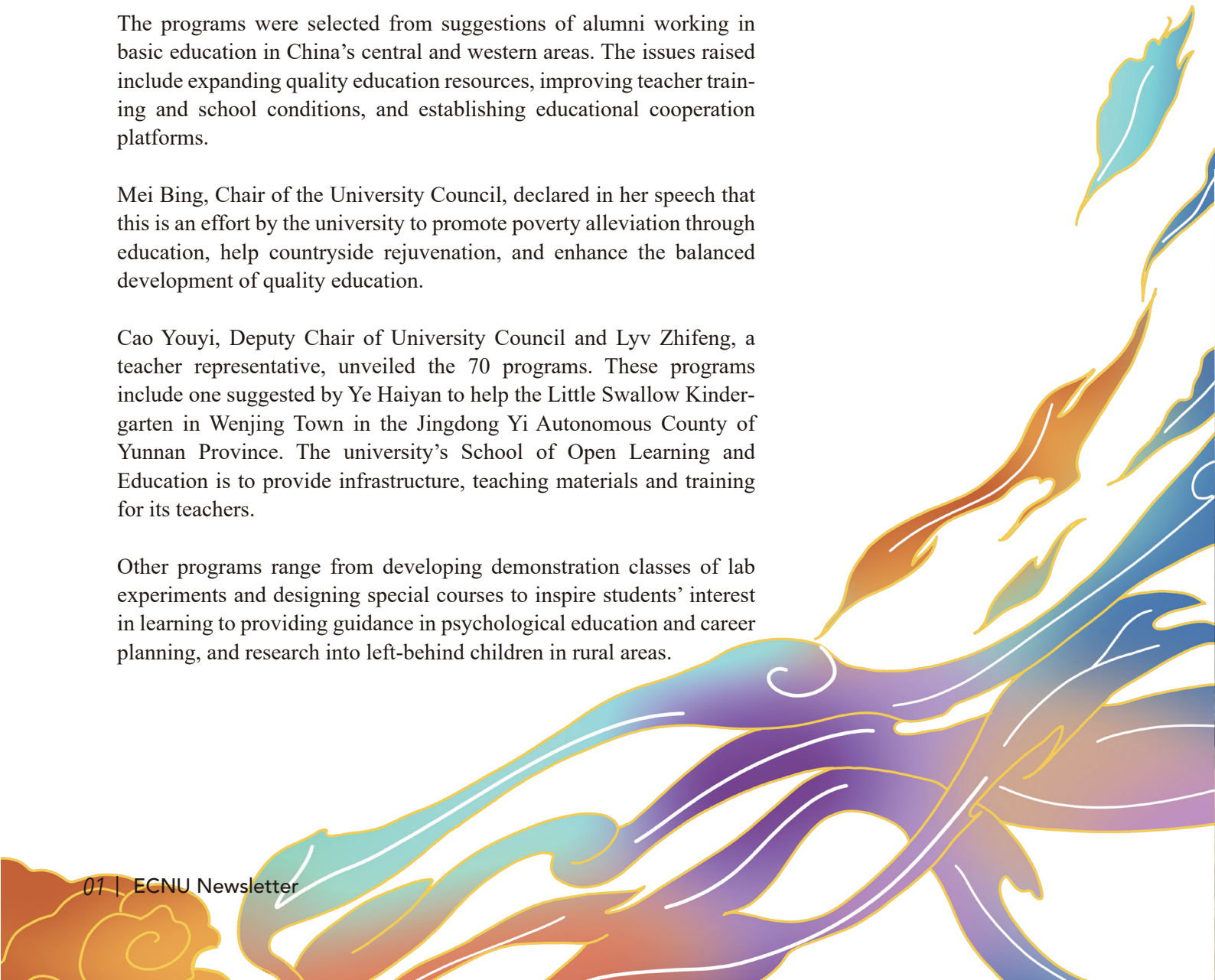
ECNU launched 70 programs on January 1 to help impoverished areas by raising the quality of their education. The move is part of ECNU's 70th anniversary celebrations this year.

The programs were selected from suggestions of alumni working in basic education in China's central and western areas. The issues raised include expanding quality education resources, improving teacher training and school conditions, and establishing educational cooperation platforms.

Mei Bing, Chair of the University Council, declared in her speech that this is an effort by the university to promote poverty alleviation through education, help countryside rejuvenation, and enhance the balanced development of quality education.

Cao Youyi, Deputy Chair of University Council and Lyv Zhifeng, a teacher representative, unveiled the 70 programs. These programs include one suggested by Ye Haiyan to help the Little Swallow Kindergarten in Wenjing Town in the Jingdong Yi Autonomous County of Yunnan Province. The university's School of Open Learning and Education is to provide infrastructure, teaching materials and training for its teachers.

Other programs range from developing demonstration classes of lab experiments and designing special courses to inspire students' interest in learning to providing guidance in psychological education and career planning, and research into left-behind children in rural areas.



## University signs strategic cooperation agreement with Lin'gang Special Area

On January 6, the national pilot core area for the integration of industry with education in Lin'gang Special Area of Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone was launched with the announcement of Chen Qun, Vice Mayor of Shanghai, and the signing ceremony of the first batch of cooperation projects was held in Lin'gang Special Area. At the ceremony, ECNU entered into a strategic cooperation agreement with the Administrative Committee of Lin'gang Special Area of Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone.

As stipulated in the agreement, both parties will enhance their cooperation in such fields as the integration of production with learning and research, basic education and vocational education, and will focus on building "ECNU Lin'gang Research Institute" and "ECNU Lin'gang Educational Ecosystem" in Lin'gang Special Area, in an effort to boost the development of this area.





## Four bases selected as national top-notch bases

According to the list of “Top-notch Students in Basic Subjects Cultivation Program 2.0 Bases (2020)” released by China's Ministry of Education, four bases of ECNU were selected. They are, the top-notch bases for mathematics, for physics, for geoscience and for psychology of “Yaoliang Class”.

The national top-notch bases will establish and improve its systems and mechanisms to cultivate cutting-edge students majoring in basic subjects of different fields, guide outstanding students into basic scientific research, and create a favorable atmosphere for the development of top-notch talents in basic subjects. The purpose is to reform and innovate educational concepts and models, as well as teaching content and methods. Moreover, these bases will explore in this field and accumulate

experience and excellent cases that can be popularized, so as to form a world-level top-notch talent cultivation system for basic disciplines with Chinese characteristics. They are expected to cultivate a number of outstanding talents who can scale the height of scientific research and promote scientific and cultural development.



## ECNU issues 2020 employment quality report

On January 7, ECNU issues 2020 employment quality report. According to the report, a total of 8,230 students graduated from ECNU in 2020, with an employment rate of 96.21% by October 31, 2020. These graduates were employed in a wide range of industries, mainly in education, information technology and finance. Generally, the majority of graduates were engaged in industries related to education and training, accounting for 45.58% of the total number, and many of them preferred to work in key schools of basic education around the country. 2095 graduates in 2020 took a job in enterprises, of which 21.48% or 450 were recruited by world top 500 enterprises, which was an increase of 2.88% over the previous year. This number has kept rising for three consecutive years. More importantly, 17 enterprises have recruited more than 10 graduates, including Huawei, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, China Telecom and China Construction Bank. For all these achievements, more than 90% of the graduates have expressed their satisfaction and recognition of the employment services provided by ECNU.



## Vice President of Rutgers University visits ECNU

On January 7, a delegation led by Dr. Eric Garfunkel, Vice President for Global Affairs of Rutgers University, visited ECNU and was received by Zhou Aoying, Vice President of ECNU. Present at the meeting were also Dr. Liu Xingcai, Director of Rutgers University Beijing Center, Zhao Jie, Director of Shanghai ROSE Project, Huang Meixu, Director of the Global Education Center of ECNU, Wang Subin, Deputy Director of the International Exchange Division of ECNU.

Zhou Aoying pointed out that given the impact on international exchanges and cooperation by the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic nearly a year ago, the visit of the delegation led by Vice President Garfunkel is particularly valuable. In addition, he emphasized that during the pandemic,

ECNU, joining hands with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), has received nearly 200 Chinese undergraduate students from Rutgers University to study in related teaching spots of ECNU Global Education Center for the fall term in 2020. He expected that this visit will lay a solid foundation for inter-school projects between the two universities.

Dr. Garfunkel expressed his sincere appreciation to ECNU and CIEE for their active efforts to receive the undergraduate students of Rutgers University during the pandemic. He also said that both universities can deepen mutual understanding and trust and carry out joint research in philosophy, history, physics, chemistry, data science, pedagogy, African studies, etc.

## Delegation led by Consulate General of State of Israel in Shanghai visits ECNU

On January 20, Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, met with the delegation led by Mr. Edward Shapira, Consul General of the State of Israel in Shanghai.

President Qian, on behalf of ECNU, extended his warm welcome to the Consul General and his delegation, and then briefly introduced the university and its cooperation and exchanges with Israel. Edward Shapira thanked ECNU for its hospitality and said that ECNU is the first university in Shanghai he has visited since he took office in September 2020. He said that Israel attaches great importance to cooperation with Chinese universities, which as the source of scientific and technological innovation determine the country's future development. He also expressed his appreciation for the achievements made by ECNU and the University of Haifa in jointly establishing the Joint Translational Science and Technology Research Institute to

develop scientific research cooperation and promote exchanges between teachers and students from China and Israel.

President Qian responded that the Chinese nation and the Jewish nation share much in common and respect each other and that, both parties have placed considerable value on education and tradition and have made tremendous contributions to promoting the progress of human civilization. In addition, as one of the world's most successful countries in translating university research results, Israel is a perfect model for Shanghai in this respect, as the city is committed to building a global science and innovation center. Therefore, the potential is huge for interdisciplinary collaboration between ECNU and Israeli universities and schools in artificial intelligence, education, psychological cognition and other fields.



# Focus

## Happy Chinese New Year!



### ECNU celebrates Chinese New Year

In response to the situation of COVID-19 prevention and control in China, many ECNUers have decided to stay at school during the Spring Festival. For this reason, ECNU prepared a grand dinner for them on the New Year Eve.

There were four different combo meals for students to choose and they were served with drinks, fruits, melon seeds and other snacks. Meanwhile, the university canteens offered rice, pasta, beef-stuffed dumplings and other staple foods to cater to different tastes. On New Year's Eve, students staying on campus could get a free combo from the canteens with their campus cards.

In addition, the university also organized a series of Spring Festival activities for the students on campus. The Global Education Center of ECNU prepared New Year gift packs for international students and the Faculty of Education held a calligraphic activity, writing "Fu" (meaning "fortune" in English) and springs couplets, which attracted many teachers and students.



### ECNUers share unforgettable experiences during Spring Festival

This last Spring Festival was very special. It should have been a time of family reunion, but due to COVID-19 prevention and control, many ECNUers chose to spend the vacation on campus. While some of them went out to explore the beautiful landscape and unique culture of Shanghai, others worked on scientific research and took part in university competitions.



Zhang Xiaolin, from Hebei Province, didn't return home during the vacation. She said, "I will graduate from ECNU and leave Shanghai in half a year, so I want to make good use of the winter holiday to explore the city as much as possible. I have found many uniquely attractive stores on the streets. I also went to famous exhibitions of different kinds." She thought the most impressive one is the tours across the Huangpu River by ferry which she made during this winter vacation. "I'm very much impressed by the achievements Pudong has made in the past thirty decades," she said.



Bake Seohui, a Korean student, chose to spend the vacation in Shanghai too. "This is my fourth year in this city," she said. "I really enjoy my life here." Bai Ruixi is especially interested in Shanghai culture, particularly the city's dialects, food and history. She is going to further her study in Shanghai, which means more chances to explore the city. During the winter vacation, she and her classmates visited Shanghai History Museum and East Nanjing Road. She recalled a display that reveals Shanghainese celebrate the Chinese New Year. "Together with my teachers and classmates, I didn't feel lonely at all during this winter. ECNU and Shanghai are like my second home!"



Due to COVID-19 concerns, Mu Boshuai didn't celebrate the Chinese New Year with his family for the first time. On campus, he spent most of his time doing scientific research and entertaining himself as a form of relaxation. "Celebrating the Spring Festival on campus is an unforgettable experience. The university cared for the students who chose to stay on campus and prepared many activities and a delicious New Year Eve dinner for us."



# Research

## ECNUers reveal "fairy circle" patterns in salt marshes

On February 5, "Fairy circles reveal the resilience of self-organized salt marshes" was jointly published by ECNU and Dutch scientists. The results were published in *Science Advances*.

This study first revealed the formation mechanism of the "fairy circle" pattern in coastal wetland ecosystem and its ecological elasticity, and put forward a "transient pattern" which is a new spatial self-organization concept.

Spatial patterning is a fascinating theme in both theoretical and experimental ecology. It reveals resilience and stability to withstand external disturbances and environmental stresses. However, existing studies mainly focus on well-developed persistent patterns rather than transient patterns in self-organizing ecosystems. Here, combining models and experimental evidence, the study shows that transient fairy circle patterns in intertidal salt marshes can both infer the underlying ecological mechanisms and provide a measure of resilience.

The models based on sulfide accumulation and nutrient depletion mechanisms reproduced the field-observed fairy circles, providing a generalized perspective on the emergence of transient patterns in salt marsh ecosystems. Field experiments showed that nitrogen fertilization mitigates depletion stress and shifts plant growth from negative to positive in the center of patches. Hence, nutrient depletion plays an overriding role, as only this process can explain the concentric rings. The findings imply that the emergence of transient patterns can identify the ecological processes underlying pattern formation and the factors determining the ecological resilience of salt marsh ecosystems.

Zhao Lixia, a doctoral candidate from the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC) and the School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences of ECNU, is the first author of the paper. Prof. Liu Quanxing from the School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences and SKLEC, and Prof. Johan v.d Koppel from the Royal Netherlands Institute of Sea Research, are the co-corresponding authors. Other authors include Prof. Li Xiuzhen from SKLEC, Zhang Kang, Ph.D. candidate, and Koen siteur, postdoctor, School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences.



## Scientist weaves smallest Chinese knot



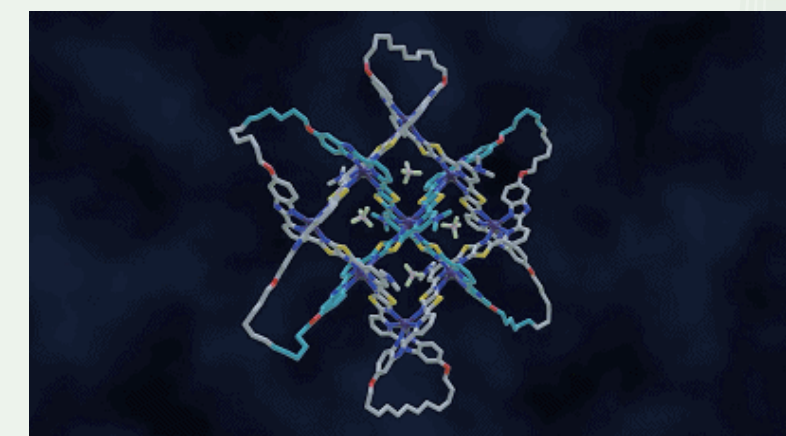
Prof. David A. Leigh from the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of ECNU has made breakthrough progress in molecular topology. The research team successfully weaves  $7_4$  molecular junctions on the nanoscale. The  $7_4$  knot is a basic motif of Celtic knotting, the smallest Chinese knot. Related research results titled "A molecular endless ( $7_4$ ) knot" was published in *Nature Chemistry*.

Current strategies for the synthesis of molecular knots focus on twisting, folding and/or threading molecular building blocks. The research team reports that Zn (II) or Fe(II) ions can be used to weave ligand strands to form a woven  $3 \times 3$  molecular grid. They find that the process requires tetrafluoroborate anions to template the assembly of the interwoven grid by binding within the square cavities formed between the metal-coordinated criss-crossed ligands. The ends of the grid can subsequently be joined through within-grid alkene

metathesis reactions to form a topologically trivial macrocycle (unknot), a doubly interlocked catenane (Solomon link) and a knot with seven crossings in a 258-atom-long closed loop. This  $7_4$  knot topology corresponds to that of an endless knot, which is a basic motif of Celtic interlace, the smallest Chinese knot. The weaving of molecular strands within a discrete layer by anion-template and metal-ion coordination opens the way for the synthesis of other molecular knot topologies and to woven polymer materials.

In order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of ECNU, Prof. David A. Leigh and researcher Zhang Liang, together with Su Ziqi, Tang Xi and Yu Bailang of the School of Geographic Sciences, designed the background illustration of the work. The design pattern takes the blue printed cloth representing a long cultural connotation and historical accumulation as the carrier. It combines the old university gate and badge and such Shanghai elements as the Bund, Wai Bai Du Bridge and the city flower.

Prof. David A. Leigh joined the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of ECNU in October 2017. In less than three years, he has established a team focusing on artificial molecular robotics and molecular topology. He has been dedicated to studying the operating principles of biomimetic molecular machines and expanding the potential functions and applications of single-molecule topological structures.





## Researchers make progress in PSCs



Prof. Bao Qinye (middle), Xiong Shaobing (right) and Hou Zhangyu

Prof. Bao Qinye, of ECNU School of Physics and Electronic Sciences, introduced the natural molecular capsaicin as additive to perovskite semiconductor. Combined with photoelectron spectroscopy and optoelectronic devices, this unprecedented study is the first time to directly observe the new phenomenon in surface electronic structure of soft matter perovskite semiconductors changing from p-type to n-type.

The achievement was published in *Joule*, a journal of *Cell*, with the title of “Direct observation on p- to n-type transformation of perovskite surface region during defect passivation driving high photovoltaic efficiency”.

ECNU is the first unit of the thesis. Xiong Shaobing, a doctoral student, and Hou Zhangyu, an undergraduate student, are the first author and co-first author of the thesis respectively.

Perovskite solar cells (PSCs) suffer from significant nonradiative recombination, limiting their power conversion efficiencies. Here, for the first time, we directly observe a complete transformation of perovskite MAPbI<sub>3</sub> surface region energetics from p- to n-type during defect passivation caused by natural additive capsaicin, attributed to the spontaneous formation of a p-n homojunction in perovskite active layer.

They demonstrate that the p-n homojunction locates at ~100 nm below perovskite surface. The energetics transformation and defect passivation promote charge transport in bulk perovskite layer and at perovskite/P-CBM interface, suppressing both defect-assisted recombination and interface carrier recombination.

As a result, an efficiency of 21.88% and a fill factor of 83.81% with exceptional device stability are achieved. To date, both of those values are the highest records for polycrystalline MAPbI<sub>3</sub> based p-i-n PSCs reported. The synergetic defect passivation and energetic modification via additive proposes a new concept and provides a huge potential for further improvement of PSC performance.

Bao Qinye's research group has focused on the control of electronic structure and photoelectric characteristics—based on photoelectron spectroscopy and synchrotron radiation characterization technology—of soft matter semiconductor interfaces. Recently, the team has made a series of important scientific research progress, such as *Adv. Mater.* 2020, 32,2002344; *Adv. Energy Mater.* 2020, 10, 2000687; *Nano Energy* 2020,76, 105019; *Nano Energy* 2021, 79, 105505.

The research group plans to use green and sustainable forest-based biological additives, combined with non-toxic and lead-free perovskite semiconductors, for future studies, in hopes to ascertain completely green perovskite electronic devices.

## ECNU researchers discover noise degrades hippocampus-related learning and memory

With the development of industrialization, more and more attention has been paid to the impact of noise pollution on human health. Previous studies have confirmed that noise has a great negative impact on the auditory system function of human and animal models, but the effect and mechanism of noise on non-auditory function, especially brain learning and memory, have not been studied in detail. Zhou Xiaoming, professor from Key Laboratory of Brain Functional Genomics of ECNU recently published academic achievements in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), with the title of “Environmental noise degrades hippocampus-related learning and memory”. Postdoctoral Zhang Yifan is the first author of this paper, and ECNU is the first completion unit. The research is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

## Study reveals neural mechanism of schizophrenia-relevant cortical disinhibition

Cortical disinhibition is a common feature of several mental diseases, such as schizophrenia, autism and intellectual disabilities. However, the underlying biological mechanisms are not clear. On January 12, 2021, the research group from ECNU Key Laboratory of Brain Functional Genomics, reveals the neural mechanism of cortical disinhibition implicated in schizophrenia. The paper was published in *Nature Communications*, with the title of *Overexpression of neuregulin 1 in GABAergic interneurons results in reversible cortical*. Wang Yaoyi, Zhao Bing and Wu Mengmeng, three Ph. D. candidates from School of Life Sciences in ECNU, are the co-first authors, and professor Yin Dongmin is the corresponding author.



## | Prof. Wang Linfa elected to American Academy of Microbiology



Prof. Wang Linfa, an ECNU alumni, is among 65 experts elected to the American Academy of Microbiology, the honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) this year. The elected Academy Fellows are eminent leaders in the field of microbiology and are relied upon for authoritative advice and insights on critical issues in microbiology.

The newly elected Fellows were chosen following a highly selective, peer-review process, based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology.

Wang is currently a professor of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme, Duke-NUS Medical School and a distinguished professor of ECNU.

As an expert in the fields of zoonotic diseases, bat immunology and pathogen discovery, his work has been recognised with various international awards, including the 2014 Eureka Prize for Research in Infectious Diseases, and resulted in more than 400 scientific papers including many top scientific publications in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Lancet*. He has

played a pivotal role in deepening our understanding of the likely origins of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the early days of the pandemic, his team was among the first in the world to culture the SARS-CoV-2 virus from patient samples and developed serological antibody tests to identify an important missing link between three major COVID-19 clusters in Singapore. Last year, Wang introduced about the COVID-19 outbreak and his own work in ECNU's first class of the spring semester.

His team also invented cPass, the world's first SARS-CoV-2 serological test to rapidly detect neutralising antibodies that does not require containment facilities or live biological materials. At the present time, cPass is the only neutralising antibody test for SARS-CoV-2 which has been granted Emergency Use Authorisation by the US FDA. He is also active internationally by serving on various editorial boards for publication in the areas of virology, microbiology and infectious diseases. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Virology Journal*. He is also a member of multiple World Health Organization committees on COVID-19. On May 29, 2019, in his talk with the students of the School of Life Sciences at ECNU, Wang Linfa encouraged the students: "Being a righteous man is more important than doing science, doing science is more important than writing a paper, and writing a paper is more important than being an academician". He hoped that the students would become enthusiastic and single-minded researchers with a strict academic spirit.



## | Prof. Li Xia elected as FAcSS

The Academy of Social Sciences announced the list of scholars to become its next 37 Fellows. New Fellows are recognised for the excellence and impact of their work and their wider contributions to the social sciences for public benefit.

Prof. Li Xia from the School of Geographic Sciences of ECNU became the only Chinese scholar this year elected as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FAcSS).

An academician of International Eurasian Academy of Science, Li Xia is the winner of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, and the chief scientist of National Basic Research Program of China. Li is currently a professor at the School of Geographic Sciences of ECNU. He is also one of the Deputy Directors of the Theory and Method Working Committee of China Association for Geographic Information System and the Commission on Modelling and Geographic Information Analysis of the Geographical Society of China.

Prof. Li's research covers cellular automata and multi agent system, geographic simulation systems, global land-use change modelling and the analysis of land-use change impact on the environment. Until now, he has published 8 books and over 300 papers, many of which are listed in renowned international journals, including 3 papers published in *Nature Communication* and *Nature Sustainability*.

Many of Prof. Li's representative works ranked top 1% of the most cited SCI articles in the field of geography, resulting in his continuous entries into Elsevier's most cited Chinese scholars and the entry into Clarivate Analytics' Global Highly Cited Researchers 2020 list. Prof. Li was awarded the prize of Earth Science by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and his models have been used by the most famous GIS software in the world (ArcGIS), and have been directly integrated into the largest GIS hypermap software in Asia. His work has also supported the development of domestic GIS software.



## 115th anniversary of the birth of Zhou Youguang



January 13, 2021 witnessed the 115th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Zhou Youguang, a famous linguist in China and alumni of St. John's University and Guanghua University. Three years ago, Google translated its page Logo into Pinyin – GǔGē – in order to commemorate his outstanding contribution in internationalizing the Chinese language.

Zhou Youguang (January 13, 1906-January 14, 2017) studied economics in his early years. He joined the Chinese Characters Reform Committee in 1955, engaging fully in language research. For all he had done, he is known as “Father of Chinese Pinyin”.

At the age of 17, Zhou Youguang was admitted into St. John's University in Shanghai. After that, he came into contact with Latin and, out of interest, independently learned alphabetical writing systems, which laid a sound foundation for his future career as a linguist. In 1955, he was nominated by Premier Zhou Enlai to participate in the National Conference on Writing Reform. Before that, the Chinese Pinyin plan had been under discussion for two or three years with no achievement. Six plans were proposed and heatedly discussed at the conference, including one Slavonic alphabet plan, four ethnic alphabet plans, and one Latin alphabet plan. By then, Zhou Youguang, who was proficient in several foreign languages, had published many papers related to pinyin and character reform, attracting wide attention in society. When the People's Republic of

China was founded, Zhou wrote a book named The Story of Alphabets. Chairman Mao Zedong, after reading the book, made the final decision to use the Latin alphabet.

On February 11, 1958, the First National People's Congress discussed and approved the Chinese Pinyin plan.

Since then, the first thing to learn for elementary school students across the country has become Chinese Pinyin, which has not only helped the public learn to speak Mandarin, but also increased the reading ability of school-age children by at least two years. In 1958 alone, the number of phonetic books nationwide reached 10 million, making significant contributions to eradicating illiteracy and promoting cultural construction in China.

Zhou's contribution to Pinyin goes beyond this. He was also one of the pioneers of the Chinese Pinyin input program. Under the guidance of Zhou Youguang, the renowned computer expert Lin Caisong made a major breakthrough in the field of Chinese information in 1984 and successfully worked out the first Chinese word processor in China and in the world as well.

On January 12, 2016, Zhou received representatives from ECNU a second time at his home in Beijing and expressed his thanks for the birthday wishes sent by his alma mater.

## ECNUers offer suggestions in two sessions of Shanghai in 2021

The Fifth Session of the 15th Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and the Fourth Session of the 13th Shanghai Municipal CPPCC were held respectively from January 24 to 27 and from January 23 to 26 in 2021.

Three deputies to the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and 15 members of Shanghai CPPCC from ECNU attended the meetings. In addition, Ding Jinhong and Zhang Yihe, members of the 13th CPPCC National Committee in Shanghai, attended the Fourth Session of the 13th Shanghai Municipal CPPCC without voting rights.

During the meetings, ECNU deputies and members proposed their suggestions and recommendations over the economic and social development of Shanghai. Statistics indicated that they submitted more than 30 written suggestions and proposals, attracting wide media attention.

For example, Sun Zhuo proposed reforming the evaluation mechanism of universities and optimizing the talent cultivation system. Yang Rong suggested further improving the classification and evaluation of colleges and universities in Shanghai. Chen Zhenlou made several suggestions on strengthening ecological environment restoration and low-carbon green development in the Yangtze River estuary. Li Daoji proposed to accelerate the construction of a comprehensive decision-making platform for the world-class ecological island. Jiang Xuefeng suggested prioritizing science popularization for science and technology center construction.

Wen Jun proposed speeding up the building of the five "new cities" in outlying areas (Jiading, Songjiang, Qingpu, Fengxian and Nanhui) and further strengthening community prevention and control measures against public health emergencies.

Wu Ruijun offered suggestions over the new challenges in divorce registration after the implementation of the cooling-off period before divorce.

Chen Shenliang suggested utilizing the raised dredged soil in the deep-water channel of the Yangtze estuary to protect the ecological function of the wetland in the Hengsha Shoal.

Gao Xiangdong made proposals to promote the learning and use of smart phones for the elderly in Shanghai, building a highland of high-level medical talents in Shanghai, and developing a high-quality smart health care industry for the elderly.



# Campus

## The 5th Education Archives Exhibition unveiled

How did children read and write 500 years ago? What were the elementary textbooks in the 15th century's China? On January 10, the 5th Education Archives Exhibition titled "Lost Stories: The Legend of Graphic literacy textbook", co-hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Education and the Museum of ECNU, was unveiled at the exhibition hall of ECNU Museum. The exhibition, inspired by the finding of *Hsin-pien tui-hsiang szŭ-yen*, the most representative illustrated elementary textbook in China, traces the emergence and development of elementary textbooks.

As early as the Zhou-Qin Era over two thousand years ago, there were elementary textbooks for children to learn and practice reading and writing. Afterwards, these textbooks were divided into two categories in the Northern and Southern Dynasties and the Sui and Tang Dynasties. Some were well-known textbooks acknowledged by the authorities, such as *The Three-Character Classic* and *The Book of Family Names*, which were used most widely and remained influential for more than one thousand years. The others, mostly popular among the public and formed with words encountered and used by people in their daily life, were informal literacy

textbooks compiled and organized based on categories.

*Hsin-pien tui-hsiang szŭ-yen* aims at the routine needs of ordinary children and integrates literacy, knowledge and professional life instead of useless preaching. It reflects a unique way of education, imparting practical skills related to agriculture, industry and commerce.

The complete edition of *Hsin-pien tui-hsiang szŭ-yen* is on display at the exhibition. There is no information about the author's name or the date of publication. The book, currently stored in C. V. Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University, is a block-printed edition in 1436. Its photocopy was published by Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House in 2015.

At the exhibition, visitors can also find illustrated textbooks in different historical periods, such as *Illustrated Book for Daily Chinese and English Words* published by Guangji Publishing House in 1912 which covers astronomy, geography and life encyclopedias. Interestingly, in the English part of this book, the pronunciations of the English words were marked with Chinese characters to aid learning, a unique way of learning that witnessed cultural exchanges between China and the West in modern times.



## ECNU jointly holds "Super Chinese Cup"

The final of the Super Chinese Cup International Chinese Speech Competition for middle school students, which ended on January 16, 2021, was jointly held by ECNU, Zhuji Ronghuai School and Super Chinese.

The competition lasted for three months with 40 outstanding contestants from more than 1,000 participants reaching the final. It was divided into two parts: a 5-minute speech and a 2-minute on-site Q&A. The contestants' excellent performance made the competition more wonderful and exciting.

Young as they are, the contestants expressed their own unique perspectives in fluent Chinese, especially on youth's social responsibility, environmental protection and future development.

## Shanghai Metro Line 15 brings great convenience to ECNUers

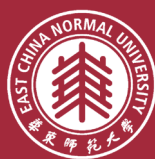
Running from Zizhu Hi-Tech Park Station in Minhang District and ends at Gucun Park Station in Baoshan District, Metro Line 15, 43 km in total length, passes through Minhang, Xuhui, Changning, Putuo and Baoshan districts, connecting 9 universities and 3 national science and technology innovation parks. In its initial operation, 29 stations are put into use, all of which are underground stations.

As the highest-level fully automatic driverless rail transit line, Line 15 can effectively shorten the headway and turnback time, improve the average travel speed, provide higher safety and reliability, and further improve the operation service quality and riding experience.

Since Changfeng Park and Zizhu Hi-Tech Park stations are very close to ECNU's Zhongbei and Minhang campuses, the metro line makes it easier for ECNUers to commute between the two campuses in the future.







Creativity  
Character  
Community

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