

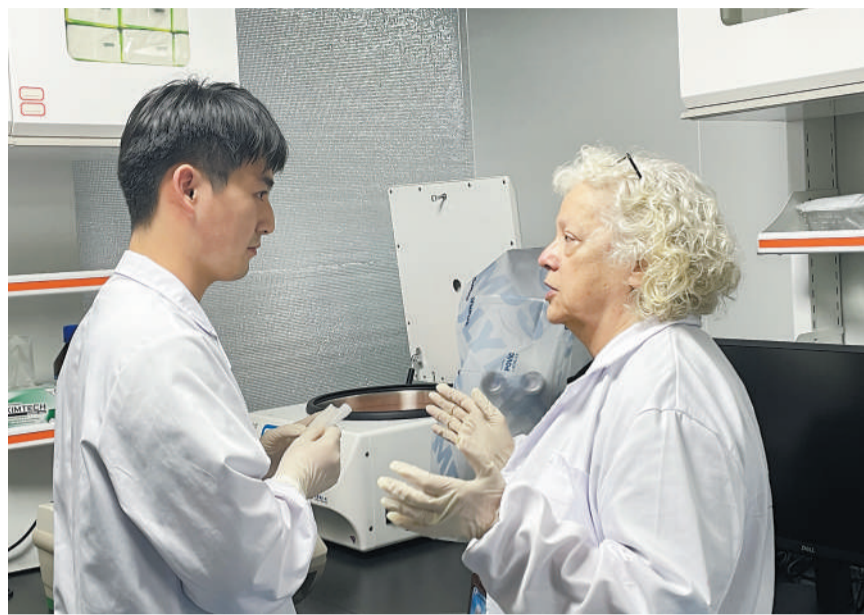
New Experiences, Challenges Make True Scientist

By Diana Boraschi

I love fundamental research, but I do not recommend it to people who are unwilling and not prepared to dedicate their lives to it. People conducting fundamental research do not become rich and do not become famous. The satisfaction gained from work is exclusively personal and I am delighted with what I have done and have no regrets.

Fundamental research sets the basis for translational research and subsequent development and industrialization. Working in the industry taught me a very important lesson: you must focus clearly on your research, always have your goal, and never deviate from it. I only engage in fundamental research that will be useful for improving human health in the future. Working on immunity makes this task very helpful because functional immunity keeps us safe in an environment with dangers like viruses, bacteria, and parasites.

In terms of factors that advance sci-tech careers, the first is curiosity, the need to know things that are unknown, and understand things that are still mysterious. Then comes passion, doing this



Professor Diana Boraschi (right) instructs her student in laboratory. (COURTESY PHOTO)

work because this is what fills up my mind and life. The third is dedication: studying, thinking critically, reasoning, examining, hypothesizing, revising and reconsidering, planning, monitoring, controlling, and replanning.

It is intense and relentless conceptual work, in addition to the technical

skills and maniacal precision needed for the experimental work.

Eventually, it is a challenge. This work is a continuous challenge. I want to continue facing new challenges and try to solve them because this is the way to proceed. Challenges and new experiences keep us alive and make a research-

er become a true scientist.

Regarding the words to the future scientist, there are different careers that one could pursue in the sci-tech field. All have their merits and attractive aspects. Choosing one or another very much depends on individual attitude. I have a family and wonderful children and grandchildren, meaning that as a woman, I did not have to sacrifice my personal life for my career. A scientific career is still more challenging for women in our society. You have to love the career you choose because this will take up a large part of your life and it would be very unfortunate if you do not like it. Thus, to young scientists, I recommend following their feelings and inclinations. There are no good careers and bad careers.

My future working plans are simple: continue exploring and teaching while I am alive.

Italian national Professor Diana Boraschi serves as the chief scientist of the Laboratory of Inflammation and Vaccines at SIAT-CAS. She is a winner of 2022 Chinese Government Friendship Award.

My Spring Festival Story

By Ömer Sahin Ganiyusufoglu

My wife and I have been living in China for 17 years. We have learned that Chinese New Year is the most important and beautiful time in China. That's why



Professor Ömer Sahin Ganiyusufoglu takes picture with traditional lion dancing. (COURTESY PHOTO)

we stay in China every year for Chinese New Year and don't go back to our home in Germany.

Like every year, we try to be very active around Chinese New Year.

Before Chinese New Year, we always go to department stores to see the joy with which the Chinese buy gifts, food and drinks for the big meal together with families. We especially notice how happy the children are to receive gifts, and we hear happy Chinese songs everywhere. You can see the excitement of the people for the upcoming significant event.

My wife also busies herself during the Chinese New Year. She buys typical Chinese decorations and decorates our home as if it were a Chinese home. She bought lanterns with Chinese music, so that happy Chinese songs sound in our flat all the time.

On the day of Chinese New Year, we want to fully experience all the celebrations. That's why we have been going to an international hotel in the city for the last few years, where many people

celebrate the Chinese New Year. This year was no exception. This year we again went to an international hotel and experienced many Chinese traditions. For example, we were served dumplings on New Year's Eve.

We were also able to experience the skyscrapers in the city center with their beautiful choreographed illuminations, and took many photos and videos. These were sent to our friends in Germany, Europe and America, so as to share the happiness of Chinese way of celebrating the New Year.

On the first day of the Spring Festival, the hotel organized a dance of the lions. This year we were present during the whole ceremony. Following the Chinese tradition, the dance started at 10:18 in front of the hotel building. We followed the dance with great interest and also touched the lions, while later getting to know more about the signs of Chinese zodiac and the good expectations for the new year.

My wife and I have become very accustomed to the celebrations of the

Chinese New Year. Since we will probably return to Germany in a few years, we will miss the Chinese New Year very much. That's why we hope to stay healthy and live in China for many more years to support the country's significant development and to experience the wonderful Chinese traditions again and again.

We admire how much the Chinese people cherish their traditions, making arduous and long journeys to spend the most important festival with their families and friends. This unprecedented cohesion is a great strength of the Chinese people. This cohesion no matter in good times or bad times is an essential source of power and motivation for China's further successes in the coming decades.

We wish China and all Chinese a happy, prosperous, successful and peaceful Year of the Rabbit.

Professor Ömer Sahin Ganiyusufoglu is the industrial development consultant at Qingdao International Academic Park.

China Celebrates Spring Fest in Grand Style Again

By Ershad Shikdar

Amid much festivities and colorful grandeur, Chinese around the world said goodbye to the Year of the Tiger and rang in the Year of the Rabbit on the night of January 21. The celebrations began on the eve of the Chinese New Year and will end with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the Chinese Lunar Year — February 5.

Having not been able to celebrate the new year holiday for the past three years due to COVID-19, this year's Spring Festival was celebrated with additional exuberance.

I found almost everyone around me to be brimming with energy and enthusiasm, being able once more to reconnect with their families and for the all important reunion dinner on the eve of the New Year.

While enjoying their tasty dinners, families across the country also enjoyed a visual feast in the form of the traditional Spring Festival Gala, presented by the China Media Group (CMG) on TV and other online platforms.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that with its superb performances, the long awaited annual gala won the hearts of millions of viewers gathered round their televisions in China and around the world on Lunar New Year's Eve. The fabulous gala brought the elegance, uniqueness and diversity of Chinese culture alive.

Known as Chunwan in Chinese, the gala has already earned recognition as the most-watched television show in the world by the Guinness Book of World Records, when more than one billion watched the show in 2018.

With the pandemic over, ahead of the holidays festivities have gripped China. Homes across the country have been decorated with red Chinese calligraphy scrolls wishing good luck in the Year of the Rabbit. Tourist spots, shopping malls, restaurants, shops, supermarkets, and alleyways around the country

were decked out in red lanterns that seemed to hang on every lamppost, doorway and place of business. Dazzling billboards and banners added extra color and glitz to the festivities. Everyone can feel the air of festivities in China.

Weeks before the festival, people flocked in droves to shopping malls to do their last-minute shopping. Likewise, local tourism business owners were again able to do brisk trade as necessary measures have been taken to ensure safe and healthy tours for everyone.

Meanwhile, people celebrated the carnival by lighting firecrackers, giving lucky money to children, ringing the New Year's bell, and exchanging Chinese New Year greetings.

The Spring Festival holiday has also been one of the most lucrative screening seasons of the year, with many new movies hitting the cinemas. Besides theatrical releases, movie fans were spoiled for choice both on the big screen and on streaming websites.

People have also indulged their taste buds with tangyuan (glutinous rice balls), dumplings, nian gao (new year sticky rice cake), spring rolls, and other mouth-watering traditional Chinese dishes like every year.

Many believe that every food carries a special significance to their lives. Eggs symbolize a big and healthy family, lobster endless money rolling in, shrimp fortune and wealth, roasted pig peace, duck loyalty, peaches longevity, tofu happiness and fortune for the entire family, and fish represents surplus and wealth.

China has burst into celebration as this Spring Festival is being celebrated without any pandemic-related restrictions. People from all walks of life are elated to once again welcome in the Chinese New Year with family festivities and the promise of a joyous, healthy and fortune-filled year ahead.

Ershad Shikdar is a Bangladeshi journalist and opinion writer based in Beijing.

Expats Activities

Int'l Students Celebrate Spring Festival in Jiangxi

By Staff Reporters

During Spring Festival, the Lei Feng International Volunteer Association of Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics put on a range of public welfare activities under the theme "Public Welfare Without Borders." On the occasion of Chinese New Year, international students got to experience the charm of China through these events.

In the Lotus Bookstore, fifteen volunteers from different countries participated in activities integrating public welfare services and Chinese New Year customs. In addition to providing services, international students who did not return home for the winter holidays participated in a "Welcome New Year Party" rich in Chinese cultural elements.

Mohammad Saiyedul Islam, a Bangladeshi doctoral student at the School

of International Trade and Economics of Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics and the association's founder and president, noted that the volunteer association has participated in a number of public welfare activities, but this is the first time to participate in activities of this nature during Spring Festival.

Islam and his peers cleaned and decorated this friendly and comfortable bookstore for Spring Festival. In addition, they participated in activities such as making dumplings and writing Spring Festival couplets. "We feel that even if we are here in China, [and] not going back [to our] home country, this place will give us strength like home," said Islam.

Source: The Lei Feng International Volunteer Association of the Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics



The international students in Jiangxi integrate public welfare activities with celebration of the Spring Festival. (PHOTO: Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics)

Calligraphy, the Eternal Art Form

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By Staff Reporters

In China's past, calligraphy was regarded as more than just a form of art. It was also viewed as a means of self-expression and cultivation, providing a crucial platform for the appreciation of traditional culture and arts education.

In its development process, calligraphers use brushes to write five distinct styles of script, referred to as "seal," "official," "cursive," "running," and "regular," to record information or create beautiful forms of art works. The art may appear on any writing surface, including natural surfaces like cliff faces, but it is especially

prevalent on literary works.

Today, calligraphy is no longer the primary tool of people to conduct their daily work. Instead, it is regarded as an important art form among professional artists and amateur enthusiasts and remains present in China in numerous forms. It helps people to gain a better understanding of Chinese characters and the culture behind them. More importantly, the application and development of calligraphy have influenced contemporary art, architecture and design.

At the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games 2008, the "Ink Dance" presenting the calligraphy culture was widely applauded worldwide. Additionally, it is utilized in a number of festive activities, such as the writing of Spring Festival couplets.

Overall, calligraphy, in its distinctive Chinese form, is a source of pride and pleasure for the Chinese people, representing significant aspects of China's



Chinese calligraphy. (PHOTO: VCG)

cultural and artistic heritage. In 2009, Chinese calligraphy was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Lichun: the Beginning of Spring

By Staff Reporters

The 24 solar terms were created by ancient Chinese people to guide agricultural affairs and farming activities, based on the position of the sun in the zodiac. The 24 solar terms reflect changes

in climate, agricultural production, and other aspects of human life.

Lichun, the first of the 24 solar terms, is also known as the Beginning of Spring. It begins when the Sun reaches the celestial longitude of 315° and ends when it reaches the longitude of

330. It will fall on February 4, this year. Although it is still cold at that time, everything is revived and nature is flourishing. Therefore, the ancients attached importance to spring, and there was the ritual of welcoming spring. Lichun is of great significance to traditional farming

communities, and major celebrations such as worshipping gods and ancestors, praying for good fortune, warding off evil spirits and avoiding disasters, removing the old and making new arrangements, and welcoming the new spring are all carried out on that day.