First Words

I am very pleased to support this first issue of the Alumni Magazine, produced by the Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo (NAAN). As a young university UNNC is building its alumni organisation year on year, and we already have excellent support from our recent graduates when they come back to tell us about their experience of obtaining jobs and succeeding in the world of work. I thank them and I congratulate them on their success.

In my experience, no country networks better than China, so I expect the Alumni Magazine and NAAN itself to go from strength to strength. I know that NAAN has built a close relationship with University of Nottingham UK Alumni Association, and I am fully expecting NAAN to show its sister organisation how networking is done!

NAAN has an imaginative programme to develop its membership, provide news about UNNC, and give advice to future generations of graduates. It is also working on a social programme, and I am sure the Annual Alumni Party will be a wonderful occasion to meet up with old friends.

As an alumnus of four universities, I know that the university alumni organisation that always gets my attention is the one that makes a sincere effort to tell me things I want to know and is genuinely interested in what I am doing. I am sure that NAAN will be that kind of alumni organisation, and the Alumni Magazine takes one important step in the right direction. I congratulate everyone who has helped produce it and I wish it every success.

Roger Woods
Provost & CEO
University of Nottingham Ningbo, China
Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo

Who we are?

NAAN is one of the worldwide branches of Nottingham Alumni in the United Kingdom and the only officially admitted and supported alumni branch of the University of Nottingham in Ningbo. Founded in 2007 in UNNC, NAAN, the non-profit organization, is supported by the Career Development Office and liaises closely with other branches in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

The purpose of this association is to promote the relationship and involvement between Nottingham alumni and the University. We intend to build and maintain relationships with alumni and friends of the University, by conducting programs that will assist alumni, current students and the University in general.

Career Development Office
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The Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo (NAAN) 2009 recruitment for new staff started from early September. This recruitment aimed to attract those with enthusiasm and engaged talents to join and serve the alumni association. Within one week, NAAN received more than 200 applications from UNNC students.

After three rounds of strict selections, including two interviews by heads of the departments in NAAN and Candy Shen from Career Development Office, 23 excellent candidates stood out ultimately. Although these 23 new NAANers have diverse culture backgrounds and academic majors from international business to environmental engineering, they all share the same goal that is, turning NAAN into an essential bond that hold the alumni and the university together.

On the 23rd October, the first general meeting of all the members was held, however, experiences and feelings during the recruitment are still in the mind of every new staff. One of the new members recalled that ‘I got so excited when receiving the call about the second interview.’ ‘I thrilled with pressure as the competition becomes severer.’ It is generally believed by the new members that confidence and calmness are of vital importance when being interviewed.

We have reason to believe that the new NAANers will inject new vitality and energy into NAAN with their outstanding involvement and performance. In the near future with all NAANers’ efforts and endeavors, this association will provide more kinds of alumni-oriented activities and grow to be a mature and strong organization with wide national influence among the Nottingham alumni.

Let’s keep in touch!
Career Seminar by Alumni

Edith Chen and her career as a professional

In graduated in 2009, was invited by Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo (NAAN) to share her fresh work experience respond to the keen demand of our students, one of the outstanding alumni of UNNC, Edith Chen, who was with us. Edith Chen is a three-time scholarship winner and the top 1% contestant in ACCA job hunting competition. With her excellent performance in Summer Leadership Program, she received the offer from Ernst & Young. On the 28th October, she came back to campus to give us a career seminar with the topic - Career as a Professional.

Edith Chen began the lecture with the definition of professional. In this part, she emphasized that “working in a professional company like Ernst & Young meant not only higher reward but higher pressure. Subsequently, she compared and contrasted four largest international accountancy and professional services firms, which is widely known as Big Four, briefly and introduced their general recruitment requirements for applicants with reference to her own experience. An explicit job description in those companies was also given by her.

For the next section, she listed both the hardware (the experience and GPA) and software (the competencies such as teamwork, leadership etc.) that a qualified employee should have. Responding to the request of the audience, she also talked about how she got into Ernst & Young. She accentuated that, apart from online application, there are more than one way to get into a company. With respect to herself, she managed to get the position in a Summer Leadership Program held by Ernst & Young.

“In don’t be aggressive, don’t be shy, be confident and be yourself!”
An open question section was set in the last section. It seemed that students have special interest on interview skills because most questions were relate to it. One senior student told us: “Most of us are facing a few interviews recently, and good interview skills do help us to obtain better opportunities.” Edith Chen answered those questions precisely and stressed that “don’t be aggressive, don’t be shy, be confident and be yourself!”

This seminar was held successfully and the response was fantastic. In particular, it was extremely welcomed by the senior year students who were preparing for applying jobs and facing interviews. They said this seminar really helped them with their career development and they were looking forward to the next career seminar.

**Julia Zhu and Caroline Lu talk about KPMG and job application**

On the 7th November, two of our excellent alumni of UNNC came back to campus to give us a career seminar with the topic “Introduction of KPMG business line and life, Job application advices”. One of them is Julia Zhu, who was graduated in UNUK in 2004, and now she is the assistant manager and transaction manager in KPMG, Shanghai carrying out several excellent projects. The other one is Caroline Lu, who graduated in UNNC in 2008, doing corporate finance in KPMG, Shanghai. They both were invited by Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo (NAAN) to share their experience.

**Julia Zhu** gave us the speech first with a brief introduction of the KPMG business line and life. In this section, she focused on the three main parts of KPMG and some important details. Next, she mentioned the application procedures and some critical points which, from her own experience, should be taken into consideration carefully. She also pointed out some certificates related and her own working experience, such as the firm exploration.

For the subsequent section, **Caroline Lu** presented more about her own application and working experience. With regards to the application processes, she listed some main emphases, for example, the personal statement, which should show your career ambition and career development, is very important in the application form. The next step is the test which is the most difficult part according to her experience. With respect to working experience the mind-set is more significant.
The final part of the seminar is the question and answer part. Students were passionate and active in asking questions and the two alumni were very pleased to answer. Many questions were asked, such as studying masters, changing jobs and studying abroad. The main point the alumni made in this section was that thinking thoughtfully and early before you are sure what you really want to do is important.

This career seminar was especially welcomed by senior year students. They commented that this form of career seminar is very helpful to them while they prepare to apply for jobs and further studies.

**Some Quotes from Q&A Session**

**Q: Will it be a better choice to study masters in this kind of situation?**

**A:** Studying master is a choice. In my opinion, studying master needs timing, which can benefit you most. It can be a chance to change and enrich yourself, but this chance can only be used once in your life. So you should think carefully when taking this opportunity.

**Q: What do you think of studying abroad?**

**A:** Don’t simply have the idea that when you come back you will get better jobs than local students. Studying abroad will profit you definitely and maybe you will have better communication skills in the field of cultural diversity. There are good things and bad things you are likely to get more than you lose.

**Q: How do I improve myself when I’m working?**

**A:** Remember to continue to study when you are working and don’t give up. What you learned from university is not enough. Keep being flexible. Start from a low starting point and begin to locate and improve yourself. Enjoy the process of learning.
On Oct 22th, Kate Robertson, the Director of Development & Alumni Relations of The University of Nottingham UK, and Joseph S. Beyel, the Director of International Development, UNUK, visited our Ningbo campus. Being responsible for alumni relations in Asia, this October they planned to visit all main branches of Nottingham Alumni in China. After being warmly welcomed by Professor Sam Shen and Candy Shen, one of the staff members of Career Development Office, UNNC, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Beyel had a meeting with members of Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo (NAAN).

Then NAAN members reported their achievements since the organisation was founded. These accomplishments include traditional events like the graduation ceremonies, career seminars and alumni share. Our guests were highly interested in these fairs. They approved of the significance, and granted their best wishes for their success. Afterwards, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Beyel also introduced the general situation of the whole Nottingham Alumni Association and their previous visits to Nottingham Alumni Association in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Both of these organisations expressed their anticipation of closer cooperation with NAAN.

At the beginning of the meeting, they agreed on the importance of Alumni Associations because alumni are the root of an educational institute. It is them who represent the academic excellence of a university and further spread the spirit of Nottingham to the society. Hence, being a means of connecting all graduates, NAAN plays a significant role in the development of our university. Furthermore, they presented their wish to associate all Nottingham Alumni Associations more tightly. As Mr. Beyel mentioned that, ‘we sincerely hope that the Nottingham Alumni Associations in different countries and cities could keep in touch and cooperate frequently, to make all the alumni of Nottingham a big family.’

However, it was pointed out that inefficient and inconvenient contact between Ningbo graduates may be a difficulty for NAAN. In terms of this problem, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Beyel discussed the database sharing issue in detail. According to them, a powerful database system which is convenient for UNUK graduates and undergraduates and enables them to keep close contact with alumni, strongly facilitates the development of the Alumni association. Hence, both our guests and NAAN staff feel the considerable potential and benefits of establishing such a system in Ningbo campus. Therefore, to achieve this, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Beyel stated that they would try their best to provide technical and economic support to NAAN. ‘Any time,’ Miss Robertson said, ‘Just contact us, and we will do everything we can to help you.’
This year’s summer graduation ceremonies took place in the Auditorium on 11 and 12 July. 510 students from International Business, International Studies, International Communications and Computer Science were presented with Bachelor Degrees of The University of Nottingham. Three guests of honour received their honorary degrees.

It was also a pleasure and a privilege to have Mr. Chen Xin, Deputy Party Secretary of Ningbo, Mr. Cheng Yuechong, Vice-Mayor, Professor Yang Wei, President of Zhejiang University, Professor Wang Hongsheng, former President of Fudan University, Ms Cui Ping, Head of Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Science, Dr Li Dak Sum, a friend of the University’s, Professor David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Nottingham, Professor Christine Ennew, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor Roger Woods, Provost of The University of Nottingham Ningbo to be presented or join the procession. There were also more than 1000 families members or supporters invited by students celebrating success at the ceremonies.

Professor David Greenaway described the graduation as a "rite of passage" and said to students, "By the end of the ceremony, you will be part of a family of 180,000 alumni worldwide." And he asked the students to keep in touch, because "your success is our success."

At the ceremonies, The University of Nottingham also awarded Professor Bai Chunli, Executive Vice-President of Chinese Academy of Science, an honorary degree of Doctor of Science, Mme Xu Yafen, Chair of Wanli Education Group, an honorary degree of Doctor of Law and Dr Chen Tseng Tao, former Chair of Hang Lung Development Co. Ltd., an honorary degree of Doctor of Law.
President Yang Fujia Responses to Premier Wen Jiabao’s Questions Regarding Chinese Education

Premier Wen raised five questions about Chinese education during his visit to a high school in Beijing before this year’s Teachers’ Day. Invited by the People’s Daily, President Yang Fujia replied to the first question from Premier Wen about how to get rid of the “Crisis” in Chinese education.

The 73-year-old academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the nuclear physicist Yang Fujia, stepped down from his position after the president of Fudan University, 2001 University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom as long as the British elite of the first Chinese educator.

The views of the President could be summarized into the following one to five:

“One centre”:
to improve the qualifications of Chinese citizens.

“Two basics”:
the fairness and quality of education.

“Three views”
to be changed with policies supporting: Vocational education should be developed to produce specialists in various professions; Student interests should be respected; and students should go to a school that suits them.

“Four elements”:
tangible assets, human resources, culture and education systems. Human resources include teachers, students and management teams. It’s essential if a university is to become world-class that it has excellent students and excellent staff. Culture is the core of the four elements. Love is an important part of culture. Independent thinking, free expression, tolerance and devotion are expected to be a part of the university culture.

A good academic environment is necessary for making good people.

“Reform in five ways”
in order to develop Chinese education: Gaokao, assessment, education methods and content, education structure and education system.
In the morning of October 26th 2009, Ms. Jeannie Packer, the new Lord Mayor of Nottingham, visited The University of Nottingham Ningbo. Professor Roger Woods, Provost & CEO of the university, Professor Sam Shen, Registrar, Professor Nick Miles, Dean of Science and Engineering, Professor Nabil Gindy, Dean of the Graduate School, Professor Jo Darkwa, Head of the Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies (CSET), and Dr. Ruibin Bai from the Division of Computer Science warmly welcomed her.

Professor Woods firstly gave a detailed introduction of UNNC, including the British-style education, enrolment, UNNC graduates' employment rate, the UNNC academic structure, key administration staff and plans for new courses and the development of key research areas.

Then, accompanied by Professor Woods, Ms. Packer was given a tour of the campus, including the Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies.

Later, Ms. Packer had a talk with the student representatives. Ms. Packer was very interested in whether the students had been to The University of Nottingham UK and she was also very concerned about students’ opinion of the similarities and differences between The University of Nottingham UK and The University of Nottingham Ningbo. A student who had studied at UNUK as an exchange student replied that the major differences exist in the aspects of culture and lifestyle. However, the teaching facilities in the two campuses are quite similar.

He said all the courses at UNNC are delivered entirely in English therefore it was easy for him to adapt to UNUK.

When referring to the question about the advantages of UNNC graduates compared with other domestic universities, students replied proudly that the graduates' independent and team-working ability together with their English proficiency made them very competitive in the career market.

What's more, various activities that were organized by student societies enriched their campus life and made them more confident and optimistic. An international student said he had established a profound friendship with people from all around the world at the university.

Ms. Jeannie Packer also kindly asked about the living and studying condition at the university and she was told that it was well-equipped and students all enjoyed their campus life.

As the end of the visit, she had a photo with the students and she was really impressed by her direct contact with the students.
It was confirmed that the Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies (CSET) building has been awarded "The International Architecture Award for 2009" by the Chicago Athenaeum/Europe-Museum of Architecture and Design.

Last year, the building was officially opened September 20, integrated advanced building energy-saving design and green building technology research results, through the integration of renewable energy resources used to achieve energy self-sufficiency. It has been calculated in the next 25 years, the building could be saved 448.9 tons of coal and the reduction of 1081.8 tons of carbon emissions.

The International Architectural Awards are the highest and most prestigious distinguished building awards that honour new and cutting-edge design. It is held every year. The 2009 Jury for the Awards was held in Helsinki, Finland under the auspices of the Finish Society of Architects (SAFA).

There would be a special ceremony and an exhibition of all awarded buildings in November this year in Florence, Italy and Professor Jo Darkwa, Director of the CSET, has been invited to attend it.

In addition, the Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies (CSET) building has also been awarded MIPIM “The Green Building” and “The Best Environmental Design Building”. It is worth mentioning that it is the only one award-winning Chinese building.

CSET Building Won

“The International Architecture Award for 2009”
UNNC Societies and Activities

A busy and exciting semester! Here are some of the highlights...

**October 18th 2009**

**0910 Society Recruitment**

The 2009-2010 Society Recruitment event of The University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China (UNNC) began on the new High Street. According to the staff of the Student Society Centre, fifty Societies participated and most new students signed up to be involved in a society.

Referring to the 0910 society recruitment, most of them thought that joining social clubs not only help students make friends, but also improve individual skills. Others held the opinion that it could build up the body and relieve stress.

**October 18th 2009**

**Get a job!**

UNNC Nottingzine and People 258, which is one of the top job hunting websites in China, held a model recruitment fair for face-to-face revising curriculum vitae (CV) and career consulting for the students of the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China (UNNC). People 258 Net sent a professional group which consisted of three senior consultants. During a 20-minute one-to-one talk, students had discussions with the consultants about their personal CVs and got detailed analysis as well as valuable suggestions.

**October 2009**

**Volunteer activities**

Migrant Children School Volunteer Teaching Project

World Expo Series Activities 1: “Sunny October”—the Promotion of Expo for Disable Children

Volunteers in the Museum of Ningbo

Share life, donate blood!—Blood Donation in UNNC
October 11th, 2009
UNNC the 3rd Annual Outstanding Society Awards Party

The 3rd Annual Outstanding Society Awards Party of the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China (UNNC) was held at 7.30 pm, October 11th 2009 in the auditorium. The award party was organized by the Student Society Centre. The president of UNNC Roger Woods and his wife, deputy secretary of CCP (Communist Party of China) in UNNC Lu Junsheng, director of the Student Affairs Office Lin Yanping and some other staffs from the Student Affairs Office attended the awards show.

This year there are seven awards in all and nine societies won these awards for their great achievements.

October 18th, 2009
Notting-Dance: The 1st UNNC Dance Competition

Six competitors stayed on until the final stage, and three judges participated in the activity. At the end of the night, the champion of the competition decided by the judges was - the foreign student Cristo Stuart because of her beautiful and moving dance. In addition, Jail Face and Long Xinxin won second place, while the other three participants shared the third prize. Meanwhile the audience also voted Jail Face as the Best Choice Award.

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October 31th 2009
UNNC the 3rd Halloween Party

8:00 pm, The UNNC 3rd Halloween Party of UNNC, which was held by Culture and Communication Society was conducted in the UNNC Robin Hood restaurant. The special dressing and the passion of all the participants became the spotlight of this party.

http://www.nottingham.edu.cn/

Find out more about upcoming events, see what’s going on in your favourite society or read past event reports.
PwC campus talk

As the world’s largest firm with more than 140,000 people in 149 countries, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) made its 2009 UNNC campus talk in the auditorium on Oct 23rdh, 2009. With its informative and practical information the talk attracted nearly 400 students. The speaker talked about PwC’s business operations around the world and especially gave a detailed account of associate positions, business area and operating status. The talk proceeded in a warm and cordial atmosphere. With respect to topics that concern students very much like the working environment, 2009 PwC recruitment and interview tips, the PwC speaker gave a practical and detailed explanation. At the end of the talk they said they hoped to see UNNC students’ join and inject new vitality and energy to PwC.
HSBC campus talk

The HSBC Group is one of the world’s largest banking and financial services organisations with around 10,000 offices in 82 countries and territories. On Oct 15th, 2009, HSBC (China) made a campus talk in UNNC.

The senior manager first introduced briefly the business background and operations HSBC specialises in all over the world and the working environment and various career opportunities it can provide to employees. In terms of the 2009 campus recruitment, the HR manager mainly talked about the innovative and famous HSBC’s PRC Banker Development Programme (BDP) and the 2009 recruitment programme.

The talk provided our students with a deeper insight of HSBC and interested many students in becoming a prospective employee of HSBC. Meanwhile, the HSBC person was impressed by UNNC’s enthusiasm and academic competence.
## Career Events 09/10

The Career Development Office has hold series of career events on campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16-Sep-09</td>
<td>Saturday 09 Alumni Sharing Party</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21-Sep-09</td>
<td>Monday Study abroad Seminar--By Hongxiong</td>
<td>TB226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24-Sep-09</td>
<td>Thursday Win in Interview skills--By GI</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24-Sep-09</td>
<td>Thursday Interview for NTA internship program</td>
<td>AB314</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25-Sep-09</td>
<td>Friday Career Semiar--By Chao Meirui--1</td>
<td>TB226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>26-Sep-09</td>
<td>Saturday Career Semiar--By Chao Meirui--2</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>08-Oct-09</td>
<td>Thursday Hiall Information Session</td>
<td>TB118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11-Oct-09</td>
<td>Sunday KPMG Campus talk</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>14-Oct-09</td>
<td>Wednesday UKEAS Campus talk</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>15-Oct-09</td>
<td>Thursday HSBC Campus talk</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>19-Oct-09</td>
<td>Monday CIMA Campus talk</td>
<td>TB118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>21-Oct-09</td>
<td>Wednesday Career Education to Freshmen</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>23-Oct-09</td>
<td>Friday PwC Campus talk</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>28-Oct-09</td>
<td>Wednesday Career Seminar with Alumni--Edith Chen</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>04-Nov-09</td>
<td>Wednesday ACCA Campus talk</td>
<td>TB118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>07-Nov-09</td>
<td>Saturday Career Seminar with Alumni--KPMG series</td>
<td>TB329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>11-Nov-09</td>
<td>Wednesday Standard Chartered Campus recruitment</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>17-Nov-09</td>
<td>Tuesday Bank of China</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>18-Nov-09</td>
<td>Wednesday Shanghong Shelf</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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</table>

For more information about career events, please visit the Career Development Office website: [http://career.nottingham.edu.cn](http://career.nottingham.edu.cn)
Nottingham Alumni Association Ningbo

Regular Service For alumni:

- **Alumni Magazine**
  - Two issues for each semester
  - Deliver news and information for all the alumni
- **Annual Alumni Party**
  - In June or July
  - Invite all the Nottingham alumni in China back to UNNC for reunion
  - Professors and enterprise representatives are also invited
- **Newsletters and Career services**
  - Please refer to our webpage and contact the career development office

For current students:

- **Career Seminar**
  - Twice a month and six seminars in total for each semester
  - Experience and advice about study, postgraduate and job applications from alumni, professionals and staff

Please pay attention to NAAN emails about other programs!

Contact Us:

- **Email:** NAAN@nottingham.edu.cn
- **Webpage:** http://www.nottingham.edu.cn/content.php?c=31
- **Career Development Office website:** http://career.nottingham.edu.cn

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Let’s keep in touch!

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