

CHINA

Time to teach



Piano maestro Lang Lang gives one-on-one lessons to a young musician at the Grand Canal Hangzhou Steelworks Park in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Monday. During his master classes in the city, Lang Lang guided seven young musicians on better interpretation, mastering basic piano training and performing beautiful music. DONG XUMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

University students find spirit as schools mark war anniversary

Commemoration reignites patriotism among freshmen readying for semester

By ZOU SHUO
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With this year's school opening season coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, many universities have incorporated wartime history, the spirit of resistance and patriotism into their opening ceremonies to kick off the new semester.

At the Renmin University of China in Beijing, more than 3,000 undergraduates attended the opening ceremony on Monday. Chen Hong, granddaughter of war hero Zhao Yiman, delivered a keynote speech urging students to draw strength from the deeds of revolutionary martyrs and strive to become capable talent dedicated to national rejuvenation.

A digital avatar of Zhao, whom Chen had never met, was presented on stage. Chen shared excerpts from her grandmother's family letter, noting that her father — the first student enrolled in the university's diplomacy department — had handwritten a copy of the letter for her.

"I now stand where he once studied," she said. "I hope each of you will draw strength from these heroes and grow into pillars capable of strengthening the nation and achieving national rejuvenation."

She added: "Dear students, always remember the difficult years of the Chinese people's resistance against Japanese aggression. Remember the countless martyrs like Zhao Yiman, who fought for national survival, renewal and human justice, and who now rest in the green hills and yellow earth beneath us."

At Tsinghua University in Beijing, about 4,000 freshmen attended their opening ceremony on Thursday. President Li Luming reflected on the legacy of National Southwest Associated University, formed in 1937 during the war through the merger of Tsinghua University, Peking University and Nankai University. Located in Yunnan province under wartime conditions, Southwest Associated preserved China's educational heritage.

Li said universities serve as vital vessels of cultural inheritance. During the war against Japanese aggression, more than 100 Chinese

institutions relocated to the western and southern regions, preserving academic traditions and nurturing talent despite displacement and conflict. He noted that more than 1,100 Southwest Associated students enlisted in the military, and many lost their lives.

"Southwest Associated remains a special chapter in Tsinghua's history. Its spirit is interwoven with Tsinghua's traditions and reflects the essence of our motto — 'Self-Discipline and Social Commitment' — amid national peril," Li said.

He encouraged students to uphold the spirit of the resistance war, inherit the legacy of the university, study diligently, pioneer innovation and demonstrate determination and excellence in serving national development and rejuvenation.

Renmin freshman Wang Hongming comes from Yangquan, Shanxi province, a revolutionary base where the Hundred Regiments Offensive was launched 85 years ago.

"From the first people's city founded by the Party to the first regular university established by the Party, I have followed its red footsteps and am deeply grateful for the passing on of the revolutionary spirit," he said.

Wang said he hopes students heed the Party's guidance and take

practical action to become pioneers and innovators. He urged his peers to be down-to-earth, apply theoretical knowledge in practice and contribute to the development of the motherland.

Xu Ruize, a freshman at Tsinghua's Shuimu College, traced his roots to Fushun, Liaoning province — the birthplace of the "Lei Feng Spirit" and once known as China's "coal capital".

He recalled observing the vast open-pit mine that fueled New China's industrial growth and his parents' factory, which relocated due to mining-induced subsidence.

"Since I learned to write, I've expressed one wish: to make my hometown better," he said. "How can I contribute? This question planted a simple aspiration in me — to become someone useful to my hometown and country."

Xu also referred to the Sept 18 Incident in 1931 that marked the start of Japan's invasion of China.

"History tells us that only when the country is strong can families be safe and prosperous," he said. "The words 'home and country' remain firm values in Tsinghua people's hearts. I hope to join my peers to shoulder our generation's mission and integrate our learning into the grand blueprint of national rejuvenation."

More Chinese youth opting to study TCM in college

When China's universities specializing in traditional Chinese medicine welcome new students this autumn, many will do so on the strength of an undeniable fact — a growing number of high-achieving students are choosing to pursue TCM studies.

Once perceived as a less popular academic path, TCM programs have seen a noticeable increase in admission scores across the country this year. At the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, the nation's leading TCM institution, entry requirements for several programs climbed significantly compared to the previous year. Similarly, the Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine also reported a robust increase in minimum admission scores.

This upward trend reflects a broader revival of interest in ancient healing practices among Chinese people — especially the youth.

"I had decided to study TCM long before taking *gaokao* (the national college entrance exam)," Zhang Honglin, an excited incoming freshman at BUCM, told Xinhua. "As a former soccer player in high school, I struggled with recurring ankle ligament injuries. It was TCM that finally cured me."

Rooted in classical Chinese philosophy that emphasizes harmony between humans and nature, TCM

is increasingly capturing the attention of younger generations. From night classes to social media trends, young people are engaging with TCM like never before.

In Zhejiang province, a local TCM institution offers evening sessions in *yijinjing*, a traditional breathing and stretching exercise that has become a hit among young workers. Classes begin at 6 pm and consistently run overtime due to popular demand.

"It's common for our one-hour session to extend until 8 pm because everyone is so engaged," said Zhang Yimo, a TCM expert at the institution.

Similar scenes are unfolding in Jiangxi province, where young students now have opportunities to learn herb identification and experience therapies such as TCM massage and moxibustion.

On social media, TCM content is flourishing. Young influencers are garnering millions of views by sharing their experiences with tai chi, acupuncture and herbal tea routines — blending traditional wisdom into contemporary wellness culture.

This summer also saw the rise in TCM-themed night markets. At one such market in Gansu province, crowds lined up for acupuncture, cupping, herbal foot baths and pulse diagnostics.

"This heat leaves me drained, sleepy and listless," said 21-year-old Yu Huiyan as she extended her wrist for a pulse diagnosis. After experiencing positive results from previous TCM treatments, she now turns to the night market in search of herbal remedies.

"Young people today are more proactive about their health. TCM's holistic approach of focusing on root causes and overall balance really resonates with them," noted Deng Yong, a professor at BUCM.

Growing health awareness has significantly boosted demand for TCM services. In 2024, TCM department visits across China's hospitals surpassed 1.6 billion, up markedly from the previous year, according to data from the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

"More young patients, especially those with mental health concerns, are turning to TCM," said Sun Anning, a TCM postgraduate intern at Beijing's Dongzhimen Hospital.

"My friends often ask me for health tips, including practicing *baduanjin* or drinking herbal beverages," Sun added.

Government policy has also played a key role. In 2022, China released a plan emphasizing the need to expand TCM talent cultivation and improve youth education

in the field. In 2024, State funding for TCM reached approximately 22.7 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion), a record high. An initiative was launched to support establishing over 1,150 specialized TCM departments nationwide. Meanwhile, more than 67,000 people obtained licenses to work as assistant TCM physicians in 2024.

"We truly feel the country's strong backing for TCM," Sun told Xinhua, adding that she plans to become a TCM doctor after graduation.

Amid growing public demand, China has been rapidly expanding its TCM healthcare services and strengthening its professional workforce, creating abundant opportunities for TCM graduates like Sun.

Official statistics show that by the end of 2023, the number of certified TCM physicians had exceeded 1.04 million.

In April of this year, China took another significant step by integrating TCM promotion into its Healthy China Initiative. The policy advocates building a TCM health service system that covers all citizens, spans the entire life cycle and seamlessly integrates into the whole healthcare process.

Looking ahead, Zhang envisions bringing TCM to a global stage.

XINHUA

New ward provides care for terminally ill kids

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
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A special children's ward built by the Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Center affiliated with Guangzhou Medical University has opened its doors to provide palliative care for terminally ill pediatric patients, aiming to uphold dignity and ease suffering.

The ward, named Yun Qi Xiao Gang, or Yunqi Harbor, began operations on Friday after a year of preparation. It is the first facility of its kind in Guangdong province.

Designed with warm and soothing features such as cloud-shaped lamps, teddy bear-shaped beds, personalized curtains, sofa beds and family rest areas, the hospice seeks to relieve pain and stress for children and their families, improve patients' quality of life during the terminal stage, and address both physical and psychological needs, local authorities said.

"Pediatric palliative care is not merely a medical practice, but also a comprehensive support system integrating medical, psychological, social and spiritual care," said Chen Feiyan, a senior physician in the pediatric intensive care unit at the center. "A multidisciplinary collaboration model with a professional team at its core is a solid foundation for ensuring service quality and meeting the diverse needs of children and their families."

When families apply for admission, Chen's team first contacts them to understand the child's condition. With the support of the center's critical care expertise and life support technologies, the team assesses whether treatment may still be possible. Only after reaching a consensus with the family on

Yunqi Harbor allows terminally ill children to maintain dignity after doctors have made the greatest effort possible to rescue them."

Li Fang, senior doctor at the Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Center

palliative goals is the referral completed.

The team now includes pediatric critical care, oncology, neurology and anesthesiology experts, as well as pharmacists, traditional Chinese medicine specialists and trained nurses. Core members also include medical social workers, psychological counselors, volunteers and administrative staff.

So far, the group has provided follow-up palliative services nearly 300 times and helped transfer more than 20 children to local hospitals.

"Yunqi Harbor allows terminally ill children to maintain dignity after doctors have made the greatest effort possible to rescue them," said Li Fang, director of the administrative office of the children's department at the center. "The ward will also help promote the development of children's health services."

Wei Jianrui, former Party secretary of the center, said the launch of Yunqi Harbor reflects social progress.

"Every patient should be respected and cared for," he said.

Lin Lishan contributed to this story.

Blooming harvest



Villagers unload freshly harvested marigolds at a purchasing station in Zhengjiaying village, Weining county, Guizhou province, on Sunday. The marigold harvest season is in full swing in Weining, where over 666.7 hectares of marigolds have been planted. LUO DAFU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Breakthrough device can produce premium helium

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China has developed a device capable of producing ultra high purity helium exceeding 99.9999 percent, marking a breakthrough in strategic resource technology.

Helium, a nonrenewable resource derived from natural gas, is valued for its ultralow temperature properties and chemical inertness. It plays a critical role in large-scale scientific facilities, advanced medical applications and the aerospace sector.

But the average helium abundance in China's natural gas fields is only 0.03 to 0.05 percent, far lower than the 1 to 7 percent found in international helium-rich fields. That has posed challenges for traditional extraction technologies to reach the purity threshold of 99.9999 percent.

The new device, developed by Vacree Technologies Co, completed engineering acceptance in Yan'an, Shaanxi province, recently. It is the first of its kind in China capable of producing helium with a purity of 99.99997 percent and

neon impurities below 0.3 parts per million. The system can operate around the clock, extracting 400,000 cubic meters of high purity helium annually.

The purity level reaches the so-called 6N9 grade, meaning only one impurity molecule exists in 1 million gas molecules, according to Rong Chengxu, who led the program, as reported by Science and Technology Daily.

After six years of development, Rong's team pioneered a combined extraction process. It begins with catalytic dehydrogenation to remove hydrogen impurities, followed by membrane separation and pressure swing adsorption to eliminate gases such as nitrogen and methane, and finishes with ultra-low-temperature refining to remove neon.

The technology has reached a world-class level, according to a third-party evaluation. It marks a significant step in China's engineering application of high-purity helium and strengthens the country's strategic resource security, said Zhang Xuehua, chief engineer of Vacree Technologies.