

## FEATURED STORY

### GEC Academy Takes the Lead: Hosts International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation & Global Competence Development in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Urban Agglomeration!

In a momentous event held on June 30th, the International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation and Global Competence Development took center stage in Beijing. Organized by GEC Academy in collaboration with the Beijing Education Association for International Exchange, the forum brought together an impressive lineup of educational leaders and experts. With strong collaborative support from GEC Academy and SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Oxford AQA, this gathering of minds aimed to explore and deepen the understanding of crucial educational themes.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the highlights at the forum on YouTube

Under the expert guidance of Mr. Haibo Wang, COO of GEC Academy, the forum brought together more than 300 esteemed educators, university leaders, teachers, and experts, fostering an immersive environment for vibrant and enlightening conversations. The diverse topics covered included global competence development, interdisciplinary talent cultivation, strategies for fostering student creativity, and the expanding global influence of higher education institutions.

The forum commenced with guest speeches from Mr. Kan Huang, President of the Beijing Education Association for International Exchange, and Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy. They emphasized the importance of embracing international education and fostering globally competent individuals in response to the changing dynamics of the world.

Mr. Huang underscored the significance of actively embracing the new global landscape and seamlessly integrating international education throughout the talent cultivation process. He stated, "To navigate globalization successfully, we must proactively adapt and organically incorporate international education."



Mr. Yan, in his remarks, highlighted that the cultivation of innovative talents with global competence and the establishment of a robust talent pool have become paramount concerns for educational professionals. He remarked, "Fostering individuals with international competency and building a workforce of innovative talents have garnered significant attention and engagement."

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Several experts were invited to give keynote speeches during the session.



Mr. Ning Zhang, President of the International Competence Development Committee in the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, emphasized that disciplinary backgrounds are not the central factor in cultivating talents with global competence. He stressed the significance of nurturing a global perspective, promoting international mobility, fostering effective communication, encouraging collaborative teamwork, developing leadership and management skills, and fostering understanding and respect for diversity among Chinese youth.

Mr. Hongxiang Sun, Vice President of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), shared the university's noteworthy experience in cultivating innovative talents through internationalization. He highlighted the long-standing collaboration between BUPT and Queen Mary University of London, which has produced over 8,000 graduates and achieved an impressive 80% admission rate to the world's top 100 universities. Mr. Sun expressed the university's commitment to further enhancing the quality of international talent cultivation through international joint training programs and distinctive approaches.



Mr. Qingfeng Xia, Principal of Beijing Academy, emphasized the importance of nurturing students' curiosity and thirst for knowledge. He advocated for problem-solving as the primary learning approach, encouraging students to explore research topics derived from their daily experiences. Mr. Xia also proposed the establishment of practical workshops to foster critical thinking, creativity, and inclusiveness among students.

Dr. Henan Cheng, Deputy Director of the Center on Chinese Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, highlighted the remarkable contributions of esteemed American education historian and Columbia University professor Paul Monroe in advancing international education and fostering educational exchange and cooperation between China and the global community over the past century. Dr. Cheng also acknowledged the active involvement of Chinese students studying abroad in academic research and educational surveys, effectively showcasing Chinese education to the world.





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Ms. Xiaozhi Wang, Co-founder of GEC Academy, shared insights on cultivating international innovative talents based on GEC's experiences in research-oriented learning, interdisciplinary studies, and global competence development. She expressed GEC's commitment to further exploration and practice in the development of international and innovative education, aiming to better serve students and partners.

Following a series of expert speeches, two roundtable sessions were held to delve into important topics such as cultivating innovation talents with a global perspective within the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Urban Agglomeration. Another focal point was the promotion of integrated international high school curricula in fostering innovative talents.



All participants reached a consensus on the imperative of advancing online and offline international academic exchange activities and fostering in-depth integration and widespread participation in international communication within the realm of international education in the post-pandemic era. Regarding the internationalization of basic education, there was unanimous agreement that integrated curricula will persist in guiding parents and students to transition from a score-driven mindset to a process-oriented experiential learning approach. This educational shift aims to nurture a larger cohort of students with pronounced international competence and a seamless affinity for embracing international education.

The International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation and Global Competence Development served as a remarkable platform for educational leaders and experts to come together and explore crucial themes in international education. With a commitment to excellence, GEC Academy will eagerly look forward to forging new institutional partnerships that will unlock abundant academic and research opportunities, further advancing the field of international education.

# Nobel Laureate Dr. Randy W. Schekman Took the Stage Again at GEC Global Top Scientists Forum to Explore Innovative Approaches to Parkinson's Disease

On June 21st, GEC Academy successfully hosted the Fifth Global Top Scientists Forum, featuring an online keynote lecture by Nobel Laureate Dr. Randy W. Schekman on the theme of *Tackling Parkinson's Disease with Basic Science*. Students from diverse Chinese universities, studying medicine and biology, made up the majority of the audience for this online lecture and derived significant insights of Parkinson's Disease from Dr. Schekman's expert perspectives in this domain.

Dr. Schekman is a Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1992 and in 2000 became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For his insights into the genetic mechanisms underlying vesicle transport, Dr. Schekman was awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. This was the second time that Dr. Schekman had been invited to deliver a speech at our Global Top Scientists Forum. His initial speech, held in December 2022, was titled *Secretary Pathway: How Cells Package and Traffic Proteins for Export*.



The topic of the forum: Tackling Parkinson's Disease with Basic Science

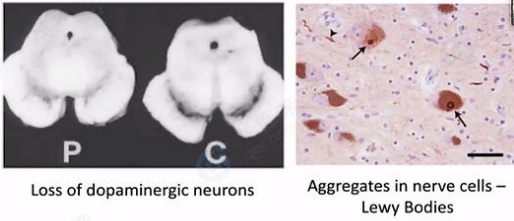
**Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy, hosted the meeting and graciously introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Randy W. Schekman to the audience.** He also recalled their American exchange at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine during GEC Academy's one-month visiting tour to meet with some of collaborating faculty and friends the first time after the pandemic.



Dr. Randy W. Schekman (left) and Mr. Sheng Yan (right) at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine in the United States

During the lecture, Dr. Schekman delved into the nature of Parkinson's disease, the increasing global incidence, and the complexities involved in its diagnosis and treatment. He emphasized the importance of recognizing Parkinson's as a spectrum disorder, highlighting its genetic intricacies and the need for multidimensional research methods. To facilitate precise treatment, Dr. Schekman also mentioned the common features of Parkinson's disease, making it essential to understand the variety of forms and a deeper comprehension of the disease.

### Loss of DA neurons, Lewy bodies and $\alpha$ -syn



**$\alpha$ -syn** A30P E46K A53T

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40 AA

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Dr. Schekman introducing the common features and one of the major molecular features of Parkinson's disease

Dr. Schekman also shared his personal experience of his wife's battle against Parkinson's disease. Mrs. Schekman presented with early signs of movement disorder, including impaired sense of smell and other related manifestations, ultimately leading to a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Despite initial treatment with dopamine replacement therapy, her condition progressively declined. While Deep Brain Stimulation provided temporary respite, her subsequent diagnosis of dementia had a significant detrimental effect on her psychological health and worsened her condition.

As Mrs. Schekman was in decline and after she died, Dr. Schekman received a research invitation from the Sergey Brin Family Foundation, with the hope that he could develop a program of basic science to gain a better understanding of Parkinson's disease at the molecular and cellular levels. Consequently, Dr. Schekman and his colleagues initiated an organization called "Aligning Science Across Parkinson's", with the aim to "build out a research roadmap which identifies large-scale, innovative solutions to address key knowledge gaps in our fundamental understanding of how Parkinson's disease develops and progresses."



forms of alpha synuclein, but that is just a speculation well, as time went on her movement

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Dr. Schekman sharing his personal experience of his wife's battle against Parkinson's disease

Dr. Schekman and his team were committed to searching for new therapeutic methods, forging collaborations with other scientists, research institutions, and medical scholars, and pooling their expertise and resources in pursuit of groundbreaking solutions to alleviating the burden that Parkinson's disease imposed on patients and their families.

The forum concluded with an insightful Q&A session where Dr. Schekman discussed the importance of exercise for people with Parkinson's disease. He also mentioned an ongoing study on the hormone Irisin, which demonstrated promising effects on the aggregated form of  $\alpha$ -synuclein. While the relationship between Parkinson's disease and stress or depression remained unclear, depressive symptoms were frequently observed among individuals with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Schekman further highlighted the impact of physical damage and toxins on the development of Parkinson's disease, noting a higher incidence among people working in chemical factories and a negative correlation with smoking. The merits of music in the treatment of Parkinson's disease were also underscored for individuals who had lost their verbal communication ability.

This Global Top Scientists Forum hosted by GEC Academy, focused on the progress of Parkinson's research and treatment. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Randy W. Schekman brought thought-provoking perspectives and the latest research on Parkinson's disease to college students. Dr. Schekman hoped that this academic forum could deepen the understanding of university students on Parkinson's disease, and continue to explore its mechanism and treatment direction in the future academic field to make a profound contribution to the research and treatment of the disease.

Global Top Scientists Forum is an initiative to create an interactive platform for global scientists and students to exchange ideas. GEC Academy is very pleased to have our faculty to bring insights on a wide range of topics across diverse fields. For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist, Katrina, at [katrina.wang@gecacademy.com](mailto:katrina.wang@gecacademy.com). GEC faculty who are interested in giving a speech at the next Global Top Scientists Forum should contact their academic manager.



# RSVP: Onsite Seminar on the Impact of ChatGPT on Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

**For our next Faculty Seminar (August 2nd, Wednesday, 19:00-20:30, Beijing Time),**

As you may be aware, ChatGPT has gained significant popularity and is widely used as an AI-based tool in various educational settings. At GEC Academy, we considered ChatGPT a groundbreaking technological innovation that has the potential to revolutionize education by potentially replacing teachers and face-to-face teaching and bringing about new changes in the field. We also understand the concerns surrounding using AI tools like ChatGPT in students' coursework, assessments, and classes. While we acknowledge the impact of AI technology on traditional education, we also recognize the importance of preserving students' independent thinking and learning. Therefore, given these concerns, we decide to organize an onsite seminar for our August faculty meeting. We aim to explore questions such as whether ChatGPT has the potential to replace teachers and current educational methods. Additionally, we intend to share insights and strategies on how to ensure the proper usage of ChatGPT in students' academic pursuits and creative endeavors.

This onsite seminar will consist of three main sections:

- **Keynote Speaking:** In the first section, we will have esteemed keynote speakers delivering informative talks on various aspects of ChatGPT in education. Their insights will lay a strong foundation for further discussions throughout the seminar.
- **Open Discussion:** Following the keynote speeches, we will facilitate an open discussion where participants can share their experiences and perspectives on addressing the new changes and challenges posed by AI tools in their respective universities. This discussion will also provide an opportunity to talk about what new changes can ChatGPT bring to GEC courses and to express attitudes towards students using ChatGPT for writing essays or completing coursework in GEC courses. Together, we will brainstorm potential solutions and strategies to effectively handle this situation, considering the principles of independent thinking and learning.
- **Q&A Session:** The final section of the seminar will be a free-form question and answer session. Participants will have the chance to ask questions and seek further insights from the speakers and other attendees.

**The seminar will take place at the Lecture Hall (in the Main Building), Changning Campus, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.** We cordially invite our teaching faculty members who will be in Shanghai for GEC On-site Summer Research Program to attend this on-site seminar. To facilitate your participation, GEC will arrange transportation to transfer you from your respective locations to the venue at Changning Campus. We also welcome professors who cannot attend in person to register and participate in the seminar online.

**For online participants,**

**Join Zoom meeting** <https://zoom.us/j/87977780862>

**Meeting ID: 879 7778 0862**

**Passcode: GEC123**

**Here** is a tool for time zone converting.

Once again, we look forward to your presence at the seminar and the fruitful discussions that lie ahead. Thank you in advance for your dedication to fostering a student-centered and technologically progressive learning environment at GEC Academy.

For participants, please find **RSVP** here!

## Faculty Work Gallery

*This month we introduced [a paper](#) from [Professor Denes Szucs](#). If you are interested in showcasing your research, grants, book releases, conference presentations, or any work you deem valuable and interesting to share, please feel free to contact us.*

### Maternal cognitions and cognitive, behavior and emotional development in middle childhood



Current Research in Behavioral Sciences  
Volume 4, 2023, 100098



Maternal cognitions and cognitive, behavior and emotional development in middle childhood

Carolina Álvarez , Dénes Szücs

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crbeha.2023.100098> 

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#### Author Information

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Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology

University of Cambridge

#### Highlights of the paper

- Mothers experiencing more depressive symptoms had children with lower self-esteem.
- High parenting stress predicted children's low self-esteem and more victimization.
- Parental sense of competence predicted children's experiencing less bullying.
- Parental competence promoted self-esteem, math, vocabulary, and executive function.
- Maternal educational level predicted all outcome variables.

Please click [HERE](#) to find more information.

## GEC CULTURE

### GEC Academy Values Every One of Our Employees: Joyous Employee Birthday Celebration at GEC Beijing Office

On June 29th, GEC Academy organized a regular employee birthday party dedicated to celebrating the birthdays of all employees in the Beijing office. *At GEC, we value every individual since GECers are at the core of GEC Academy, so continuously improving every GECer's happiness is a steadfast pursuit for us.* As part of this commitment, we regularly organize carefully curated birthday parties for our employees. The birthday parties encouraged everyone to come together, enjoy delicious treats, and bond over exciting activities.



Birthday party sign-in wall

The highlight of the birthday celebration was the surprise cake-cutting ceremony, where employees gathered around the beautifully decorated cake, eagerly anticipating a sweet treat. We carefully crafted birthday cakes, showcasing the creativity and attention to detail that GEC values. Each cake was personalized with the name of the birthday colleague and adorned with colorful decorations. It fostered a sense of camaraderie and demonstrated GEC's commitment to creating a positive work environment that values its employees' well-being.



Cutting and sharing the birthday cake



Various snacks



## GEC CULTURE

To make the event even more memorable, an interactive game session was organized, bringing out the competitive spirit and team-building skills among the employees. These engaging activities created an environment of laughter, friendly competition, and shared memories. Colleagues competed, collaborated, and enjoyed friendly challenges, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration.



Interactive game session

For colleagues who work in other cities and thus couldn't attend in person, we also sent them thoughtful gifts by mail. We aspire to make every employee feel special and valued on their special day, regardless of their location within any GEC Office. The careful selection of gifts is a testament to our commitment to show our appreciation and ensure that each individual is celebrated.

**The birthday party served as a reminder of the importance of work-life balance and the significance of recognizing personal milestones. GEC recognized that celebrating birthdays is a way to honor individual employees and build connections and foster a sense of community within the workplace. We appreciated the chance to make every GECer feel valued and cherished throughout their professional journey at GEC Academy.**



A memorable moment

## Introducing New Faces

We're pleased to welcome 2 new faces to the GEC team - **Qi & Jiaojiao!**



**Qi (Sunny) WANG**

qi.wang@gecacademy.cn

### 01 Educational background:

Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering, Beihua University, 2016-2020

### 02 What are your current duties?

I am currently responsible for overseeing and coordinating the operational activities of all classes in the competition projects. Additionally, I am tasked with organizing and preparing the experimental activities for the offline laboratory during the summer iGEM competition.

### 03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

First and foremost, I believe that GEC is one of the largest and most reputable platforms in China's domestic education industry. Joining this platform would provide me with a broader perspective and enable me to develop a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the industry.

Additionally, during my interview, I was extremely impressed by the professionalism displayed by the three GEC interviewers. Their expertise and conduct instilled confidence in me regarding the team I would potentially be joining. As a result, I have high levels of trust and anticipation for the career opportunities that lie ahead.

Lastly, due to my genuine passion for long-term growth within the education industry, I aspire to create significant value within such a platform. I am eager to contribute to its success and, in turn, experience personal growth and development.

### 04 What are your specialisms and interests?

I have a wide range of hobbies. I enjoy watching movies, painting, and listening to music. Reading and writing have been long-standing passions of mine. I particularly gravitate towards classical Chinese literature and philosophy, with Laozi being my favorite philosopher. I have delved deeply into his work, specifically 'Tao Te Ching'. Additionally, I have an interest in mystery novels, Western literature, biographies, and political books. It's worth mentioning that I maintain a personal WeChat public account where I share my experiences with personal growth, poetry appreciation, and reading notes. This endeavor brings me immense satisfaction and fulfillment outside of my professional life, and I aspire to continue nurturing it.

## Introducing New Faces

We're pleased to welcome 2 new faces to the GEC team - **Qi & Jiaojiao!**

### 01 Educational background:

Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature,  
Changchun University of Science and Technology,  
2014-2018

### 02 What are your current duties?

As a Course Coordinator at GEC Academy, my primary responsibility is to oversee and assist students throughout their project journey, like the 2023 Summer Research Program. I strive to provide excellent service by addressing their concerns and resolving any issues they may encounter along the way.



**Jiaojiao (Yvette) LYU**  
yvette.lv@gecacademy.cn

### 03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

I was drawn to GEC Academy after engaging in conversations with teachers who work here. They spoke highly of the company's friendly and supportive culture, which resonated with me. I have a strong desire to work in an environment that fosters inspiration and encouragement. Additionally, GEC Academy has an impressive track record of achieving success, particularly during the challenging times of the pandemic. Their commitment to providing high-quality educational resources for students further motivated me to be a part of their journey.

### 04 What are your specialisms and interests?

My specializations lie in effective communication and interpersonal skills. I genuinely enjoy conversing with others and possess a patient and reliable personality, allowing me to excel as a listener and communicator. This skill set enhances my ability to understand others better and ensures that people find their interactions with me enjoyable.



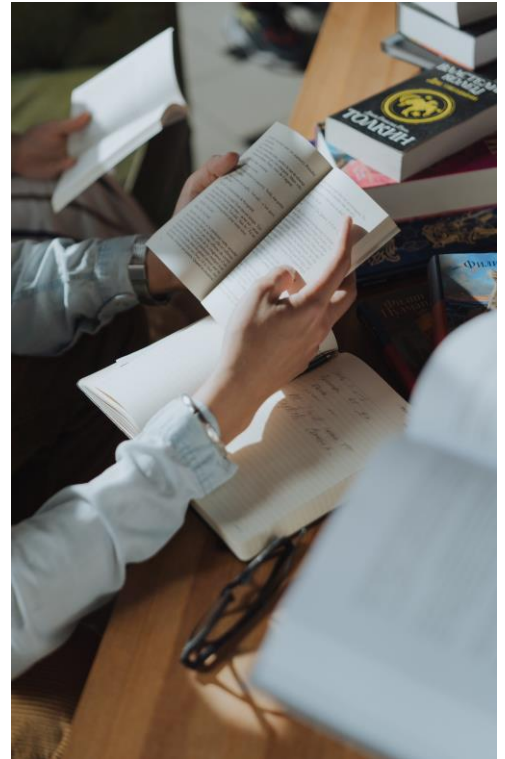


## AMAZING WORK FROM GEC STUDENTS

Each month, GEC will introduce some of our exceptional students' work in a specific research area to our audiences. This month we selected two articles from our previous students in the field of **Education**.

### Research on Interdisciplinary Education of Chinese Universities in the Digital Economy

This essay analyzes interdisciplinary education curriculum improvement, teaching method innovation, situational awareness education and evaluation criteria. In the aspect of curriculum improvement, we should integrate two or more subjects' knowledge and thinking modes to promote students' cognitive progress, depending on disciplines, solutions of practical problems and research, and focus on the solution of complicated topics or problems and comprehensive understanding. Teaching methods ought to strengthen high-level and comprehensive thinking skills to help students establish a complete knowledge system and more research-based practice projects between different disciplines. Environmental awareness education needs to build a professional development community for teachers, focus on the "renewal" of knowledge, maintain an empty cup mentality and invest in research and cooperation in front of new concepts. In terms of the evaluation system, evaluation standards should be formulated to monitor students' knowledge and ability at different stages and ensure that students reach corresponding standards..



Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!

### Factors Affecting Father Involvement in Parenting and Solutions

This review mainly summarizes the influencing factors of fathers' involvement conducted by predecessors and puts forward relevant feasible countermeasures. Based on previous research, the influencing factors are concluded by many aspects, which can be mainly summarized in the following three levels: father characteristics, children characteristics and family factors. It can be specified into father's socioeconomic status, child's gender differences, maternal gatekeeping in father involvement, distribution of family power, and family type. It is worth noting that the father's efforts, the influence of other family members, marital relationship, social concepts inherent in the social environment, relevant national policies, and school cooperation will affect the final result of father involvement..

Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!



## WHAT PROGRAMS DOES GEC OFFER IN JULY 2023 SEMESTER?

In July, GEC launches about 220 online research programs in the areas of Finance, Economics, Marketing, Computer Science, Data Science, Electrical Engineering, Neuroscience, Biology, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Public Health, and so on and provides 1 personalized program for Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. This month, GEC also set up 7 customized lectures for Nankai University. We will continue to gather students, faculty, and staff for an unrivaled academic experience.

The tables

[GEC 2023 July Program List,](#)

[GEC Personalized Programs for Universities,](#)

[GEC Customized Lectures for Universities in July 2023](#)

show detailed information about the programs that GEC launches in July.

Please click [HERE](#) to find previous program/course offerings.

### **Newsletter Improvement Survey**

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve your experience with our newsletter.

For your convenience, please click [HERE](#) to fill out the survey link.

**GEC Academy**

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