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New Faculty Orientation

Sheng Yan

Co-Founder & Academic Committee Chair

GEC Academy



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01 GEC History

Leadership Team



David Shen, CEO
MSc., Columbia University
Former Engineer, CISCO
Systems (NASDAQ: CSCO)
Selected Forbes China 30 under
30



**Edison Yan, President &
GEC-ASI Executive Chair**
MPA, Columbia University
Deputy Director, CGEC,
Columbia University



Hui Xu, CSO
MSc., Harvard University
B.S., Tsinghua University
RA & TA Experience in Harvard



Haibo Wang, COO
Master of Commerce,
The University of Queensland



Wendy Wang, Academic Director
MPA, Columbia University
B.A., Peking University



Dr. Jiayi Zhu, Teaching Director
PhD in Economics, Yale University
B.A. in Economics, Nankai University
Former Researcher, Morgan Stanley



Yu Zuo, Director of SJTU - GEC Academy
Center of Innovative Design for
Interdisciplinary Studies
B.A., Peking University
MSc., Paris Tech

History



2014.12

GEC Academy was founded by Ivy League faculties and alumni on Columbia campus in New York.

2017.6

GEC programs first time was Granted College Credit; Project-based Learning was evolved at the Higher Education Level

2019.3

Worked with more than 500 professors; Became the first education brand in China providing year-round rolling PBL programs.

2021.4

Built official partnership with **Girton College, University of Cambridge**, and **UC Berkeley School of Engineering** to promote project-based learning programs.

2021.7

Signed a new cooperation memorandum with Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School in the fields of **localized international scientific research and innovation and interdisciplinary talent education**.

2022.1

GEC Academy and the Expert Committee of International Competency Talent Training under CSEDS announced formal cooperation on **international competence cultivation research and course development**.

2016.12

Formed a **project-based learning** curriculum system that centered on business, engineering and social sciences.

2018.2

Developed curriculum and course frameworks that are closely connected with A-level/IGCSE, AP and IBDP curricula.

2020.12

During the COVID-19 epidemic, GEC Academy received high speed development, In 2020 alone, **10,000** students enrolled in GEC programs; GEC became the **Largest PBL education provider in China**.

2021.6

Established a **joint research center for synthetic biology** with Lanzhou University

2021.10

Established a joint research center for **innovative design for interdisciplinary studies** with Shanghai Jiao Tong University



Development Strategy

Globalization

Interdisciplinary Talents Training

Project-Based Learning

Regional Offices in China



Headquarter in Beijing with 20 regional offices in China



Overseas Offices



London



Singapore



Toronto

Company Background



GEC Academy – Research and PBL Education Pioneer

Founded in 2016 by a group of young Chinese scholars with graduate degrees from top American universities, GEC Academy aims to prepare Chinese high school and college students for undergraduate and graduate training at top American, British and Canadian universities by providing a wide variety of online and on-site programs.

We focus on enhancing students' overall competitiveness by helping them develop different skills, including but not limited to, research skills, collaboration skills, presentation skills, and academic writing skills.

While a relatively new company, GEC has quickly grown into a major player in the field of online and extramural education. Since the founding of GEC in 2016, over 600 GEC faculty members have served over 15,000 students. Over 200 professors are currently actively teaching our students.

Mission Statement



GEC Academy aims to equip students from middle school through university with the skills and experiences they need to succeed in academia and beyond while building bridges between the classroom and the world outside so they can turn a curiosity into next the level education and career.



GEC is committed to providing accessible academic opportunities to students who want to benefit from the world's most advanced and rigorous resources regardless of geographical constraints, and to making a difference in combating the unequal distribution of educational resources worldwide.

Belief



It is emphasized by the traditional education system in high school and college that examination and standardized test holds the significant position. However, it is also valued to apply the student-centered learning and facilitation method. Through the inquire-based learning and open discussion model, students will practice their critical thinking, teamworking, academic writing and presentation skills.

GEC Education Philosophy



Project-Based Learning



Different from traditional pedagogics, PBL emphasizes **self-learning model** instead of lecture centered. It is an instructional approach designed to give students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through engaging projects set around challenges and problems they may face in the real world.

01
Interdisciplinary Study

02
Problem Solving

03
Self-Learning Capacity
Building

04
Teamworking

05
Case Study



What You Can Expect from GEC Academy



Openness to Advice & Questioning

An environment where questioning is regarded as healthy

01

02

Academic Freedom

Design your own syllabus

Professional Communication

A Combination of Top-down and Bottom-up Methods

04

03

Flexible Class Schedule

Typically, 1 class per week
During Summer, 1+ class(es) per week

Our Expectations for All GEC Faculty



Be Supportive

- Builds cultural understanding and awareness, understands cultural differences between China and U.S
- Regularly ask students if they understand the course material and direct them to available assistance when needed
- Be appropriately available to students for consultation on course work



Professionalism

- Demonstrates ability to accept people and situations
- Completes tasks promptly and well
- Maintains a positive outlook toward assigned tasks
- Strives to cultivate a respectful and inclusive learning environment for students

Research Focus

- We encourage offering more support on academic writing

Open Discussion

- We encourage any suggestions about anything.
- We are willing to embrace diversity and affirmation of the multiple talents and gifts.
- Openness to suggestion



02

Teaching Experience Sharing from Senior Faculty

Recap of Previous Faculty Seminars



May 21st, 2020 We kicked-off **first** Faculty Network Seminar. The first seminar was an informal online get-together where faculty members introduced themselves and talked about their experiences at GEC. In total, more than 50 faculty across the globe joined the meeting and shared their teaching and working experience at GEC.

September 24th, 2020 We have invited Scot and Alex, our partners from Ed, to provide an interactive demonstration of the cool features available on the Ed platform, including making different types of posts, designing quizzes with different question types, running code with the embedded coding function, and tips on how to encourage students engagement on the platform, etc.

April 22nd, 2021 We honored to have two faculty – Professor Pavlos Protopapas and Mr. Arhat Viridi and two mentors – Pinar Kolancali and Tanujay Saha to agree to share their experiences in teaching at GEC, as well as their thoughts on online teaching and recommendations for teaching GEC students.

June 15th, 2020 We talked about the two most inquired questions from our professors, “how do we evaluate our students in the program” and “how can we feedback from the students on our courses”. We received many valuable internal opinions and suggestions from our faculty on evaluation and feedback mechanism.

February 25th, 2021 We presented feedback of the 2020 annual faculty survey and our plan for 2021.

June 24th, 2021 We talked through a key component of our program - the Project Discussion Sessions. A few topics were discussed: How did you design the sessions? What has gone well? What are some of the challenges you faced? How would you change the sessions to make best use of the two sessions?

Recap of Previous Faculty Seminars



August 26th, 2021 We hosted a special faculty seminar with special guests from Oxford AQA. Oxford AQA experts shared their philosophy and pedagogy behind Independent Project Qualifications (IPQ) course design, and challenges we have encountered during IPQ's localization in China. Professors from Path Academics shared their understanding of Chinese students and learning habits while teaching Project Based Learning (PBL) programs.

December 9th, 2021 We held an annual faculty meeting for our faculties, professors, and instructors. This meeting concluded this year's performance and provided a vision for 2022. We went through the following topics:
1. Overall Review of 2021
2. New Initiatives for 2022
3. University-Level Cooperation

October 26th, 2021 This was a special seminar for Professor Bradd Shore's newest book release, *Shakespeare and Social Theory: The Play of Great Ideas*. During the seminar, Prof. Shore made an introduction to the book and shared with us the stories that inspired him to write this amazing work. Professor Magnús Bernhardtsson also joined us in the seminar for a discussion of the book with Prof. Shore.

February 24th, 2022, we hosted our first faculty seminar to unveil the “mysterious” Academic Writing Course and introduce how we were going to conduct these sessions along with the 7-week program this year. We also welcomed professors from different disciplines to share their experiences on students' essays or other writing assignments in their courses.



What are the challenges and **How** did they overcome them?

Sharing of Teaching Experiences



Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Associate Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.



Daniel Prober, Professor of Applied Physics, Yale University



Professor Arhat Virdi, Said Business School, University of Oxford



03

Introduction of New Faculty Members

Brief Introduction of Yourself



1

Affiliation & Research Interest

2

What's Your Expectations about Working at GEC?

3

Any Support Needed?

New Faculty Members



Roger B. Dannenberg, Emeritus Professor of Computer Science, Art & Music at Carnegie Mellon University, is a researcher, composer, and performer of computer music.

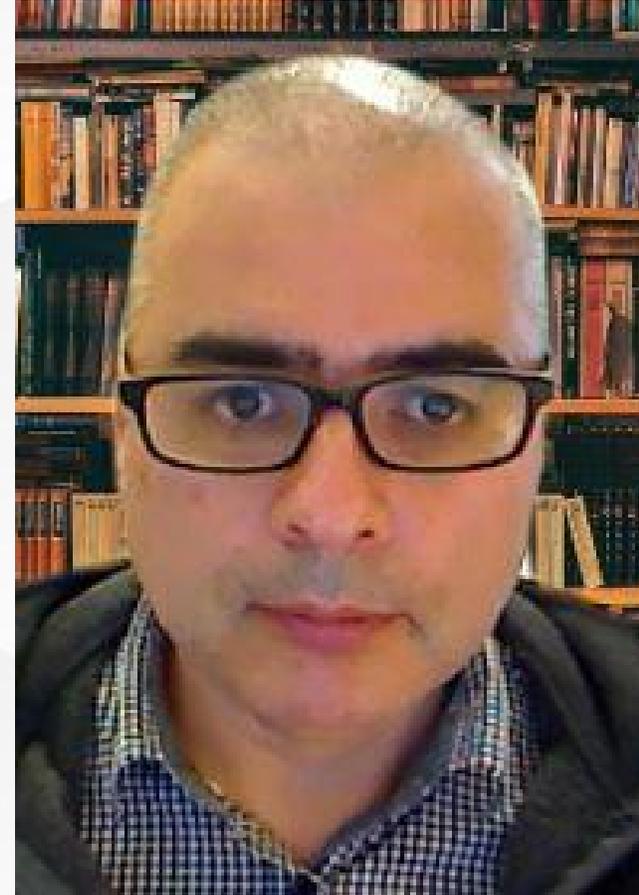


Baabak Ashuri, Associate Professor, Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems (BBISS); Fellow, School of Building Construction and School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Georgia Tech.

New Faculty Members



Francesca Albrezzi
Digital Research Consultant, Institute for Digital
Research and Education, UCLA



Leonardo Chamorro, Associate Professor,
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

New Faculty Members



Rabih Younes, Assistant Professor of the practice of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University



Bonnie Robeson, Ph.D., M.A.S., Senior Lecturer at the Carey Business School, Johns Hopkins University

New Faculty Members



Pablo Frasoni, B.F.A.
Professor of the Practice of Cinematic
Arts, School of Cinematic Arts at USC



Any Questions?

Thanks

2022.4.27 Edison Yan