



# Foreign student full of praise for host city

DAUGHTER OF FORMER STAR PADDLER EMBRACES SPIRIT OF GAMES

By TANG ZHE  
CHINA DAILY

**SHENZHEN** — As a foreign student studying in Shenzhen, Soolea Chen said she was proud to be a volunteer at the Universiade.

The daughter of former Chinese table tennis star Chen Xinhua is also here to fulfill her father's wish.

A table tennis master of China in the 1980s, Chen Xinhua claimed numerous championships at world tournaments, including the Asian Games, the World Championships and the World Cup, but he always regretted not having participated at a World University Games. So when the 26th Universiade came to Shenzhen, the family couldn't wait to devote itself to the event.

"I have never seen so many people volunteer to work together for one event in England and I am

really excited to be one of them," said Soolea Chen, who started to work at the "U" station of Shenzhen University in early July. "There are more than 30 foreign students at Shenzhen University working as volunteers, and hopefully we can really do something for the games."

Born in England to a Russian mother, Soolea, 17, only spent eight months in Shenzhen when she was in primary school before returning to China in 2009. She started to learn Chinese at Shenzhen University last year and has already reached the stage where she will serve at the "U" station as a translator.

"This is my second year in Shenzhen and I've already fallen in love with this city," she said. "The city of Shenzhen is very much like Manchester. I think there's little difference and it's quite easy and pleasant

for me to communicate with the people of this city.

"I am also planning to develop my career here, because the economy of China is becoming better and better while it is turning worse in England, and my father is living in Shenzhen as well," said Soolea Chen, who wants to study broadcasting and work as a TV host in the future. "I hope more people can come here to know more about China and the city of Shenzhen."

Meanwhile, Chen Xinhua has been promoting the Universiade since 2008.

"Shenzhen's success in winning the bid and holding the Universiade will undoubtedly leave brilliant records in the city's history," Chen said when joining in the logo launch ceremony in January 2008. "When people look back to these records after years, everyone will feel proud."



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

English-born Soolea Chen will work as a volunteer translator during the games, which her father, Chen Xinhua, has been promoting since 2008.

## Volunteers gear up for experience of a lifetime

By MICHELLE FEI  
CHINA DAILY

**SHENZHEN** — Yes, that was a smile on Wu Xingqiang's face as he emerged from his final exam in May.

Wu isn't a fan of English essays, but the topic played right into his hand.

"What," it asked, "are the pros and cons of Shenzhen University hosting the 26th Universiade?"

The second-year student's decision to forgo a summer of cycling from Shenzhen to Beijing in favor of volunteering for the games had already paid off.

"English is really not my strength, especially writing English essays. However, speaking of the Universiade, I'm pretty sure that I had lots to say, as my life has been running around the games for months," said Wu, 20. "I can't call myself a professional, but I'm definitely an insider."

Wu's decision to volunteer left his two cycling companions in the lurch, but the pull of the games was too strong.

"I don't feel sorry for my fellow



LIANG XU / XINHUA

Thousands of students worked on their service skills before becoming games volunteers.

cyclists. We could do the plan any other summer, but the Universiade is something we can't miss," said Wu.

About 21,055 students from local universities agree.

"One of the pros of holding the Universiade is (it will) broaden our horizons," said Wei Jiaqi, another Shenzhen volunteer. "The test itself was a good example. At least I knew it was talking about 'the

Universiade. One of my classmates misunderstood the question as 'the Universities.'"

Volunteers began training in early May. Courses included English, first aid, social etiquette, foreign affairs — even anti-terrorism.

Wu said his training might even save a life someday ... assuming he practices a bit more. The first aid training was his first such experience.

"I was quite nervous when touching the model," he said. "The teacher said my ham-fisted manner would have killed (a real person)."

In fact, the training might save thousands of lives.

"We were taught the right measures to take if any terrorists are observed in the venues, and how to act in emergency conditions," said Xu Jiaoyi, another Shenzhen volunteer. Xu said such knowledge is especially helpful for women, who often lack military training.

The three students, all from the School of Communication, were assigned to the information center.

"I feel lucky to work in the Media Center. It gives me a chance to practice what we learned in class," said Xu, adding students from other faculties may not have been lucky enough to match their major with their Universiade posts.

Upcoming classes will be held in the Universiade Athletes Village, where volunteers will test the accommodation and facilities.

**26,000**  
volunteers at venues

**250,000**  
volunteers at "U" stations around the city

**1 million**  
social volunteers, responsible for promoting the games in various communities

**80 percent**  
more than 80 percent of university students in Shenzhen take part in the Universiade as volunteers