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Giant Panda

大熊猫

《四川动物》增刊



Chengdu Pambassadors: Devoted to Giant Panda Conservation Around the World

熊猫守护使：致力于全球熊猫保护

总第32期 | 2013
Number 32

ISSN 1000-7083



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Conservation
Around the World

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文 杰罗姆·布伊耶 (法国)
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Photos provided by Jérôme Pouille
Translated by Li Ying

三名大熊猫守护使和哺乳动物馆长兼兽医玛丽亚 (左一)、饲养员 (右一) 在西班牙马德里动物园
Three Pambassadors stand with Maria Delclaux Real de Asua, veterinarian and curator for mammals (left), and a panda keeper (right) at the Madrid Zoo in Spain.





在全球大熊猫守护之旅的最后一站——法国站，守护使们荣获了荣誉丝带、荣誉证书以及法国传统剪彩带的殊荣。
At the closing ceremonies in France, the Pambassadors receive a scarf and certificate of honor, and cut a ribbon, in accordance with French tradition.



守护使们与日本东京上野动物园的工作人员在一起
The Pambassadors visit with staff from Tokyo's Ueno Zoo in Japan.

2012年，成都大熊猫繁育研究基地、野生救援协会与“姚基金”启动了“2012年成都全球招募熊猫守护使”活动。此次活动被视为2年前“成都全球招募熊猫守护使”的延续和提升。目的是面向全球招募3名大熊猫保护推广志愿者，出任“成都熊猫守护使”。

10月27日至11月17日，“2012年成都全球招募熊猫守护使”在成都大熊猫繁育研究基地举行为期三周的选拔。最终，我取得了第一名的好成绩，中国选手陈寅蓉以及美国选手梅莉莎·卡茨也同时胜出，当选新一届的“熊猫守护使”。比赛的结束也是新目标的开始，2013年我们将赴全球多个国家和地区开始“全球熊猫守护之旅”。

回到法国后，我一直把这趟旅程做着精心的准备。这将是一次非凡的体验，我自当为此竭尽全力。各式想法不断在脑海中涌

现，着实令人振奋。于是我决定提前一个月返回中国。

4月26日，我远离法国南部图卢兹的家，踏上了长达5个月的旅途。4月27日抵达我的第一站——北京。北京动物园历史悠久，是中国主要的大熊猫迁地饲养单位之一。若不先到北京动物园看看，未来几个月的“全球熊猫守护之旅”似乎将留下无尽遗憾。北京动物园是继位于中国西南地区的成都动物园后中国第二个展出人工繁育大熊猫的动物园。1963年9月9日，“莉莉”在北京动物园产下幼仔“明明”，标志着世界上首次人工饲养大熊猫繁殖成功。

5月初我来到成都熊猫基地，大部分时间都与饲养员、大熊猫专家、兽医、科普教员和游客一起，一直待到7月底。第一个月，我跟随大熊猫幼体活动场的饲养员谭金涛大哥

学习。他负责照料“娅仔”以及熊猫“义母”——“毛毛”。“毛毛”曾在2011年照料当年出生的三对双胞胎幼仔。我的日常工作包括搜集熊猫粪便并称重，清理剩竹，打扫兽舍，喂食（竹子、苹果和窝头），准备行为富化的物品以及观察熊猫体检的过程。能成为一名大熊猫饲养员的助理，这真是一段难忘的经历！跟着谭大哥，我学到了很多与大熊猫有关的知识。5月份，我还抽了3天时间到重庆动物园去看看。重庆动物园和成都熊猫基地有着非常好的合作关系。自1960年起，重庆动物园在大熊猫繁育方面发挥了重要的作用。

6月份，寅蓉和梅丽莎回来了，我们三个重聚！每天清晨，我们三个都会到兽舍去帮忙。大熊猫专家们，像侯蓉、赛娜、许萍、詹姆士、兰景超、沈富军，还有熊猫基地张志和主任等向我们讲解了大熊猫繁育、遗传、疾

病、行为、野外种群、科普教育等大熊猫的各类有关知识。我们对成都熊猫基地在大熊猫繁育研究、保护教育方面发挥的巨大作用有了更为深入的了解。

在中国期间，我还参观了为大熊猫保护做出贡献的动物园和研究机构，像福州熊猫世界、上海野生动物园、上海动物园、中国大熊猫保护中心碧峰峡基地和陕西楼观台野生动物救护中心。三个月的中国之行让我对大熊猫这一物种以及其生理、圈养繁殖和如何进行保护教育有了更加深刻的认识。我的中国之行结束了。7月26日，梅丽莎和我开始了12个国家以及中国香港和澳门地区的“全球熊猫守护之旅”。

我们的第一站来到了日本。日本仅有东京上野动物园、神户王子动物园和白浜野生动物世界有熊猫展出。每个动物园的领导、



如果想了解我作为2013年大熊猫守护使的所有经历和图片，请点击网站www.pandas.fr。
A note from Jérôme Pouille:
My stories and photos of my time as a Pambassador in 2013 can be seen at www.pandas.fr.

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守护使在新加坡
The Pambassadors in Singapore.

大熊猫饲养员、兽医等都向我们介绍了大熊猫在该动物园的饲养、繁育以及公众教育的开展等情况。这三个动物园在公众教育方面的做法以及招募志愿者向游客讲解大熊猫的生理、生态方面的知识做得非常好，让我们非常惊讶！

第二站是泰国清迈动物园。到达动物园的第一天，我们观察大熊猫饲养员训练“林冰”使其更好地适应运送回中国的旅途。我们得知第二天就是大熊猫“创创”的生日。应动物园工作人员之邀，我们非常开心地为“创创”庆祝生日。用各色气球装扮它的兽舍，还为其准备了新鲜的竹子和水果蛋糕。我们受到动物园工作人员热烈欢迎并带着我们到园区各处参观。这真是一次难忘的经历！

下一站是澳门。在澳门石排湾郊野公园，我们见到了大熊猫“开开”和“心心”。它们居住在2010年专门为其修建的大熊猫馆。公园内的另一栋建筑整体翻新后，成为澳门大熊猫信息中心。

第四站是台湾。台北动物园教育保护部的李谢莉女士详细地向我们介绍了2013年7月6日出生大熊猫幼仔的有关情况。

第五站是澳大利亚。寅蓉与我们会合。澳大利亚阿德莱德动物园有两只大熊猫，分别为雌性大熊猫“福妮”和雄性大熊猫“旺旺”。它们于2009年11月份来到澳大利亚。大熊猫饲养员西蒙尼·戴维给我们提供了一次难得的幕后之旅的机会。此时的南半球正值大熊猫繁殖季节，大熊猫非常活跃。与北半球生活的大熊猫相比，“福妮”和“旺旺”很好地把这个时差倒过来了！

亚洲之旅的最后两站香港海洋公园和新加坡河川生态园。这两个地方的新闻宣传由新华社策划与组织。我们和游客有非常多互动的机会，回答游客提出的问题，向游客宣传大熊猫及其栖息地保护的知识。总的来说，我们籍此机会全面探讨了濒危物种的保护情况。

结束了亚洲之行，我们前往美洲大陆，继续在加拿大、美国和墨西哥开始我们的守护之旅。在加拿大多伦多动物园，成都熊猫基地的工作人员李明喜带着我们参观了大熊猫馆。雌性大熊猫“二顺”和雄性大熊猫“大毛”于2013年3月25日入住多伦多动物园。游客在观看大熊猫运动场之前，需经过大熊猫信息中心。该中心由一整栋大楼构成，由志愿者来补充展示牌上的信息从而让游客了解大熊猫有关的知识。

另外两次媒体宣传活动由美方组织开展，一次在亚特兰大，另一次在华盛顿。亚特兰大动物园的游客和华盛顿的居民分别受邀



杰罗姆在成都熊猫谷协助饲养员进行大熊猫“盈盈”的行为训练。
Jerome using food as a training tool at the Chengdu Panda Valley.

参与两次互动问答，他们可以向我们询问所有与大熊猫相关的问题。我们在白宫附近的国家广场也举行了一次摄影展，以鼓励大家讨论和更加关注大熊猫保护。同时我们还非常荣幸地认识了亚特兰大动物园哺乳动物馆馆长丽贝卡·斯奈德女士，她在“伦伦”和“洋洋”到达佐治亚州首府亚特兰大市之前，就一直在成都熊猫基地学习如何照顾它们。她饶有兴致地带领我们去看望了去年7月15日出生的双胞胎幼仔。

在墨西哥城，我们分别去探望了23岁的大熊猫“心心”和26岁的“双双”。它们是当年

熊猫外交时期赠送熊猫的后代，在墨西哥民众的心中占据着一个非常特殊的位置。

我们的“全球熊猫守护之旅”在欧洲拉上了帷幕。9月13日，我们来到了西班牙，并在这里受到马德里动物园哺乳动物馆馆长兼兽医玛丽亚·德尔克罗·雷亚尔·德·阿苏亚女士的热情接待。她非常自豪地向我们介绍了大熊猫“花嘴巴”于8月30日诞下的第三个孩子。来自成都熊猫基地的饲养员陈欣与动物园的饲养员一起照顾新生的大熊猫幼仔。

第十二站是苏格兰。这一站的媒体宣传活

动在爱丁堡动物园进行，我们与当地的学生以及苏格兰皇家动物协会的会员们一起就目前野生大熊猫及其栖息地所面临的普遍威胁、我们所作出的努力以及中国珍稀物种的前景进行了讨论。

我们在奥地利的维也纳美泉宫动物园只做了短暂的停留。在动物园我们聆听了一场有关大熊猫视觉能力的论文报告，随后动物园的动物学家兼研究员爱威琳·顿格女士和一名研究生带领我们参观了动物园，我们通过监控视频观看了“阳阳”和她36日龄幼仔。我与爱威琳女士2008年相识，我到动物园参

观后，就一直同她保持着联系。

此次全球熊猫守护之旅的最后一站我们来到了法国。自从大熊猫“欢欢”和“圆圆”来到圣埃尼昂的保瓦尔动物园，我一直与动物园有着密切联系。此次动物园方为我们举办了一场盛大的欢迎仪式，动物园的领导层均有出席，其中包括动物园主席弗兰·德罗尔女士，动物园园长鲁道夫·德罗尔先生，宣传和教育部门主管戴尔芬·德罗尔女士。当然，参与欢迎仪式的还有大熊猫饲养员戴尔芬·普夫罗女士。我们收到了主办方赠送的荣誉丝带和荣誉证书，也参与了法国传统的剪

EDUCATIONAL EVENT AS CHENGDU PAMBASSADOR

熊猫守护使大事记

文 杰罗姆·布伊耶 (法国) 翻译 李莹
Article by Jérôme Pouille, France
Translated by Li Ying

11月19日至24日，第五届法国特雷斯电影节在法国南部城市图卢兹展览馆召开，今年电影节以“洞察动物世界”为主题。作为电影节的一部分，两个保护机构在11月19日下午为7个班级，共计200名小学生组织了一场名为“大熊猫——超级明星”的保护教育活动。孩子们也第一次参与电视节目——《这不是一件复杂的事》的录制，这个节目主要聚焦于2012年1月前往法国保瓦尔动物园的大熊猫的日常生活。成都大熊猫守护使杰罗姆·布伊耶，博物馆动物学家亨利·卡普在现场与孩子们围绕四个与大熊猫相关的主题进行了热烈的互动，这四个主题包括大熊猫营养学、大熊猫的生态适应能力、幼年大熊猫的出生和成长，以及面临的生存威胁等。

The fifth edition of the festival Terres d'Ailleurs (Elsewhere Lands) held at the Museum of Toulouse from November 19 to 24, was themed "Insights into the Animal World". As a part of this festival two associations organized an educational afternoon about giant pandas on November 19 for seven classes and 200 primary school children, titled "Giant Pandas, Superstars". The children were first shown a television segment of "It's Not Rocket Science", which focused on the pandas that went to France's Beauval Zoo in January 2012. Afterwards, the students met Jerome Pouille the Chengdu Pambassador, and Henry Cap, a zoologist at the museum, who spoke and created activities about four giant panda themes; nutrition, biological adaptations, the birth and growth of adolescent pandas, and threats to the species.



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杰罗姆在成都熊猫基地的“幼年别墅”内，与饲养员谭金涛一起制作大熊猫的食物丰富。
Jerome works with enrichment objects for pandas at the Giant Panda Cub Enclosure of the Chengdu panda base with keeper Tan Jintao.



大熊猫守护使谭金涛和杰罗姆在泰国曼谷。
The Pambassadors visit the Chiangmai Zoo in Thailand.



杰罗姆在成都熊猫基地照顾大熊猫“冰冰”。
Jerome cares for Bing Bing at the Chengdu Panda Valley in Dujiangyan.

绶带仪式。当地的许多媒体和中方媒体也参加了下午的新闻发布会。能在我的家乡法国保瓦尔动物园欢庆这次绝妙旅程的结束，我感到非常骄傲。

从5月份到9月份，我遇见了很多每天都在为了大熊猫努力工作的人。这对于全球热爱大熊猫的人们来说，是一次非常难得的交流学习的机会。我们所到之处，都受到热烈的欢迎，而我们也了解到各地更多的文化，以便将来更好地开展大熊猫保护工作。

我很享受这五个月的全职熊猫守护使工作。每一天，我都在学习，参与每项活动，将我的个人经验融入到保护教育中，将大熊猫及其栖息地所面临的威胁告知公众，不断增加我们的知识以促进熊猫保护，并持续投入到整个生态系统和整个星球的保护工作中。我在我的个人网页www.pandas.fr上记录下了我作为守护使的经历，希望全世界的人们通过我的记录了解我们的工作，能加入到我们的保护行动中来。

最后我想说的是，我发现有一种文化竟是如此多面，五个月的时间仅仅点燃了我希望深入了解它的愿望，即：中国文化。我还想特别感谢熊猫基地的张志和主任，他时刻关心着我们这个项目。还要感谢活动助理刘菲、瞿静、缪雨恒、刘奕君和唐亚飞，因为他们，我们的经历才如此与众不同。最后想感谢的人是黄蓉和梅丽莎，我的守护使小伙伴。感谢他们与我分享熊猫守护使这一绝无仅有的旅程。

In 2012, the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, WildAid, and the Yao Ming Foundation launched the second Chengdu Pambassador contest. The aim was to select three people from around the world to spread the message of giant panda protection through conservation education.

After a three-week competition in Chengdu from October 27 to November 17, 2012, I placed first in the contest and earned the title Chengdu Pambassador alongside Chen Yinrong from China and Melissa Katz from the United States. It was the end of an extraordinary contest in China, but the beginning of new goals for 2013 and for the promotion of giant panda conservation.

From November 2012 until April 2013, I carefully prepared for my return to China. I hoped to make the most of this incredible experience. With a lot of ideas in mind and excitement, I decided to arrive in China one month before our official Pambassador duties began.

I left my home in Toulouse, France on April 26, marking the beginning of five months on tour away from my native land. I began in Beijing where I arrived on April 27. It seemed out of the question to devote so many months to pandas without first visiting the Beijing Zoo. This institution is historically a key place for captive breeding of giant pandas. This facility was the second location in China to exhibit pandas in captivity, after the Chengdu Zoo. The initial start for captive breeding was on September 9, 1963 in Beijing when Li Li gave birth to Ming Ming, the first panda cub born in captivity.

From the beginning of May to the end of July,

I spent most of my time at the Chengdu panda base working with the keepers, experts, veterinarians, educators, and visitors. During the first month I helped in the Giant Panda Cub Enclosure with Tan Jintao, a keeper who oversaw the care of eight pandas. His charges were Ya Zai, an adult female, and Mao Mao, a surrogate mother who raised three pairs of twins born in 2011. My daily responsibilities included collecting and weighing feces, removing uneaten bamboo, cleaning enclosures, feeding the animals with fresh bamboo, apples and panda cakes, preparing enrichment objects, and observing veterinary checkups. It was an incredible opportunity to be an assistant panda keeper, and I learned many things alongside Tan. In May I spent three days in Chongqing where I visited the Chongqing Zoo. This zoo cooperates with the Chengdu panda base and has played an integral role in panda breeding since 1960.

In June, Yinrong and Melissa joined me in Chengdu. In addition to the regular keeper duties each morning, we met with experts to talk about breeding, genetics, diseases, behavior, wild populations, the role of conservation education, and the panda foundation. Thanks to the time and efforts of Hou Rong, Sarah Bexell, Xu Ping, James Ayala, Lan Jingchao, Shen Fujun, and of course Zhang Zhihe, we gained a better understanding of the role played by the Chengdu panda base in giant panda breeding, scientific research, and public education.

While in China I also traveled throughout the country to visit other zoos and institutions that participate in panda conservation efforts. These sites included the Fuzhou Panda World,

the Shanghai Zoo, the Shanghai Wild Animal Park, the Bifengxia Panda Base of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP), and the Louguantai Panda Base of the Shaanxi Wild Animal Rescue Center (SWARC). After three months in China and gaining more knowledge about the species, its biology, captive breeding programs, and how to spread the message of conservation education, I left China. On July 26, Melissa and I began a Panda Global Conservation Tour in 12 countries plus Hong Kong and Macau.

We began in Japan where we met the staff of the Tokyo Ueno Zoo, the Kobe Oji Zoo, and Adventure World of Shirahama, the three institutions housing giant pandas in Japan. With the leaders and keepers at each place we discussed the situation of the pandas and their facilities, about efforts to breed the species, and more importantly, how to educate visitors. It was wonderful to see all the information for the public and all the volunteers explaining facts about the biology and the ecology of each animal.

The second stop was Thailand at the Chiangmai Zoo. Our first day here, we observed how Lin Ping's keeper carefully trained her in anticipation for her return to China. We also learned that the next day was Chuang Chuang's birthday; he is a male panda living at the zoo. The staff invited us to come back the day after to celebrate his birthday and we enjoyed decorating Chuang Chuang's enclosure with balloons, ice bamboo, and fruitcake. It was a memorable event to be welcomed by the panda team who were pleased to share their facility with us.

“Every person has the ability to make a little difference and change in their lifetime.”

Our next stop was Macau, in Coloane Island, to meet Kai Kai and Xin Xin who lived in a special pavilion built in 2010 in the Seac Pai Van Park. In the same park, an entire building was renewed and is now the Macau Giant Panda Information Centre.

The fourth stop was in Taiwan at Taipei Zoo where Sheney Lee, from the conservation education department gave us some details about the panda cub born on July 6, 2013.

Yinrong joined us at our fifth destination, Australia. The Adelaide Zoo received two pandas, the female Fu Ni and the male Wang Wang, in November 2009. Simone Davey, the panda keeper, offered us an incredible behind-the-scenes tour. As we were in the Southern Hemisphere, it was prime breeding season. Wang Wang was very active, and it was interesting to exchange over the modalities of the reversed breeding season compared to the Northern Hemisphere.

The last two stops in Asia were in Hong Kong Ocean Park and Singapore's River Safari. In these two places, media events were organized by *Xinhua*. These occasions gave us the opportunity

to interact with visitors, answer questions, and promote the conservation of the giant panda and its habitat. We had the chance to discuss conservation of threatened species overall.

After the tour of Asia, we departed for the Americas to visit Canada, USA, and Mexico. We began at Canada's Toronto Zoo where Li Mingxi, from the Chengdu panda base, led us to the panda area. This zoo received its panda pair on March 25, 2013. Er Shun, the female, is from Chongqing, and Da Mao, the male, is from Chengdu. Upon entering the panda area, visitors begin at the Panda Orientation Centre, a building entirely devoted to public education where volunteers provide visitors with further information and knowledge based on the exhibition.

Two other media events were organized in the United States of America, one in Atlanta and the second one in Washington DC. The visitors at Zoo Atlanta and the citizens of Washington DC were invited to participate in a Q&A session where they could ask us all their questions about pandas. A photography exhibition was held in the

National Mall near the White House to encourage discussion and promotion of giant panda conservation. This was also the opportunity for me to meet Rebecca Snyder, curator of mammals at Zoo Atlanta. She studied Lun Lun and Yang Yang at the Chengdu panda base before their arrival in Atlanta, Georgia's capital. We had been in contact with one another over the years and it was an honor to meet her in person. She offered us the chance to see the younger twin cub born last July 15.

At last we flew to Mexico City to see Xin Xin and Shuang Shuang, 23 and 26 years old respectively. These two pandas were descendants of pandas offered by China to Mexico and they hold a special place in the hearts of the Mexican people.

We finished our worldwide tour in Europe. Maria Delclaux Real de Asua, veterinarian and curator of mammals, welcomed us to Madrid Zoo on September 13 and was very proud to give us some updates about the third cub of Hua Zuiba, born on August 30. Chen Xin, a keeper from Chengdu, was in Madrid to help the local keepers care for the newborn panda.

The twelfth stop was in Scotland where a

大熊猫守护使在法国动物园受到热情接待。
The Pambassadors receive a warm welcome at Beauval Zoo in France.



media event was held at Edinburgh Zoo. We had a very interesting discussion with several students and members of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. We spoke about the most common threats for the wild pandas and their habitat and engaged with the audience about conservation efforts and the future of this species in China.

We made a quick stop at Schönbrunn Zoo in Vienna, Austria. Eveline Dungal, a zoologist, researcher, and graduate student, led us around after we listened to a thesis on the visual abilities of giant pandas. We all watched Yang Yang and her third cub who was 36 days old the day of our visit via webcam. I had previously met Eveline in 2008 and we maintained contact since my first trip to Vienna.

We completed our global conservation tour in France, my home country. Since the arrival of Huan Huan and Yuan Zi at Beauval Zoo in Saint-Aignan, I have had positive contact with the management of the zoo and they organized a giant welcome for us to celebrate the last step of our travels. Everyone in the zoo's leadership, Françoise Delord, chairwoman, Rodolphe Delord, director, Delphine Delord, director of the communication and educa-

tion, and Delphine Pouvreau, panda keeper, was there to attend the event. We received a scarf of honor, a certificate of honor, and we cut a ribbon according to French tradition. Several members of local and Chinese media attended the afternoon's proceedings. I was proud to be at home, celebrating the achievements of this wonderful tour at the Beauval Zoo.

From May to September, I met myriad people who strive each day for pandas; to care for them, improve their captive conditions, study their breeding, advance knowledge, educate people, spread information, and facilitate cooperation across borders. It was an extraordinary opportunity to share and learn alongside each one of these passionate and devoted people from around the world all striving for one cause: the black and white iconic animal of China. I want to congratulate all of them for the importance of their work, their kindness, and for the time they devoted to us. Everywhere we visited, we were welcomed with open arms and it was enriching to explore so many cultures gathered in support of panda conservation.

During those five full months I enjoyed each

day as a Pambassador. Learning more, participating in each activity, and combining my personal experiences with conservation education deepened the experience for me. Explanations about threats to giant pandas and their habitats, as well as the promotion of panda conservation added to our pooled knowledge and contributed more to the continued protection of our ecosystems and planet. I completed my experience by chronicling all my activities and visits on my website, www.pandas.fr. This allowed people around the world to understand our tour and discover all the places with pandas and the issues involved in their conservation.

Finally, I discovered a culture with so many facets that three months can give me only the wish to explore more: the Chinese culture. A special thanks goes to Dr. Zhang Zhihe who always paid attention to our project and to our assistants who become friends and without whom my experience would not have been the same: Liu Fei, Qu Jing, Miao Yuheng, Liu Yijun, and Tang Yafei. My last words of thanks are for Melissa and Yinrong, my co-Pambassadors, with whom I loved sharing this unique experience. ☑

Melissa Reflects on Her Year as a Pambassador

大熊猫守护使梅丽莎的回顾感悟

▶ 我试着去回顾这四个月里的每个细节，56天游历30个城市，人们需要一生完成的旅程，我们用了四个月来实现！

▶ 每次想起我的“大熊猫守护使之旅”，我都会感激我有这样的机会去帮助我最喜爱的物种，这是我赢得的最宝贵的奖励。我希望给自己的人生完成最完美的答卷！

▶ 记得我们在爱丁堡举行了一个座谈，一位老师突然问我：“你大学是学的动物专业吗？”当着所有师生的面，我回答说：“不是！我大学学的是平面设计和摄影，后来还当过大学曲棍球队的教练。”事实上，虽然我是那么热爱大熊猫，那么希望为它们做些事情，但我还没有决意要奉献我的整个生命。其实，任何人都可以成为大熊猫的守护使。任何人都可以有自己喜欢的东西，了解学习后，可以让更多的人爱上它。并非要大学文凭或花费一生的时间去做研究。每个人都有能力让自己的生活有所改变！

▶ 熊猫守护使的经历改变了我的生命，我也希望我能尽绵薄之力，启发他人为了保护而做出改变。

▶ **When I look back on the past 4 months, I have a new appreciation for what an amazing experience it was. I was able to spend two months living in China, working and learning at the Chengdu panda base. We were given the rare opportunity to learn everything possible about pandas, care for them, be close to them, and then spread this knowledge to others by traveling the world. I have tried to wrap my head around all that I experienced through traveling these past four months. It is more than 99% of what many people experience in a lifetime! 30 cities in 56 days!**

▶ **That said, I view my 'Pambassadorship' as a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that gave me the unique chance to try and help my favorite species from extinction while experiencing the world through traveling. It was genuinely a prize that I won, and I hope I took advantage of my time to the fullest degree possible.**

▶ **When we talked in Edinburgh, something that stood out to me was that a teacher asked me if I studied zoology in college. In front of all the students I replied, "No, I majored in graphic design and photography and then I was a field hockey coach at a university." The fact is, I didn't decide to dedicate my whole life to saving the pandas, but I have always loved them, and I have always wanted to do something influential to help them. Anyone can be a Pambassador. Anyone can be passionate about a subject, learn about it, and spread that knowledge and passion. It doesn't take a college degree or a lifetime of formal study. Every person has the ability to make a little difference and change in their lifetime.**

▶ **My experience as Pambassador changed my life and I hope I've inspired others to make a difference along the way.**

