



“If fluency is your goal, you really need to quit your job and dedicate a chunk of time to being a full-time student of Chinese.”

Where did you move from?

Gainesville, Georgia—about 45 minutes northeast of Atlanta—where I was a sportswriter for a daily newspaper called *The Times*.

How long have you been in China?

Since August, 2002.

What do you do and how did you end up doing it?

Like seemingly every other foreigner you’ll meet here, I am a freelance writer. I’m working on a book—*Par for China*, an insider look at golf in China. I’m also managing editor of Shanghaiist, a blog that has grown to become one of the most popular English-language websites about China since I founded it in the summer of 2005. I also help run an online store—Mudan Boutique—that offers locally designed jewelry, clothing, handbags, and other gift items.

Why did you move?

Four years in the Bible Belt

were enough for me. I ended up in Shanghai not because it was tops on my list—I didn’t even have a list—but because it was the scenario that materialized the quickest.

How much Chinese do you speak?

Enough, but definitely not as much as I’d like. If fluency is your goal, I think you really need to quit your job and dedicate a chunk of time to being a full-time student of Chinese.

How much do you hang out with other expats?

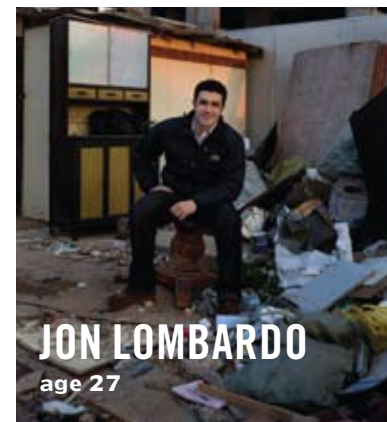
Quite often—they are everywhere in Shanghai now. Really, there’s been a dramatic increase in the number of foreign faces you see on the streets in just the short period of time I’ve lived here.

Any plans to come back?

You sound like my mom. My wife and I have a standard response when people ask us how long we plan on staying here: indefinitely, but not permanently.



“All the Chinese gents at my gym meticulously and publicly blow-dry their pubic hair.”



Where did you move from?

I was living and working in New York City before I moved to Nanjing in August 2004. I moved to Shanghai—where I now live—in April 2005.

How long have you been in China?

A little more than three years.

What do you do and how did you end up doing it?

I currently work for a consumer-finance company named China Risk Finance. We are trying to become the Chinese equivalent of Capital One. I am director of internet strategy. I am in charge of the unit that markets credit cards online. Since I joined, we have grown the company from 25 to almost 1,100 employees.

Why did you move?

I studied in China during my junior year of college and I

was fascinated by the energy and opportunity available to young professionals here. At that point I knew that I would probably need to return to China.

Any funny stories?

All the Chinese gents at my gym meticulously and publicly blow-dry their pubic hair. I have honestly not been witness to that anywhere else.

What should people in America know about China?

Whenever people hype China, remember that China is still two-thirds farmers. That means there are roughly 800 million farmers here. That is the real China. Even I don’t go to those places.

Any plans to come back?

I am definitely looking forward to getting back to the U.S. I am pretty sure that I can learn to love eating shitty Chinese food again.



photograph by NATALIE BEHRING

Where did you move from?

Franklin, Ohio.

How long have you been in China?

Five years.

What do you do?

Right now I am a youth pastor for expats.

Why did you move?

After I graduated college, I had lived 21 years in Ohio. I wanted to get out and live somewhere different. So the other side of the world was a perfect fit.

How much Chinese do you speak?

I would consider myself conversational, but my conversations just remain very short.

How much do you hang out with other expats?

It’s not exactly legal to do what I do with Chinese students. So I work exclusively with expats, because in that field I am fully legal in my role.

Any interesting stories?

We have adopted several phrases to help us cope during those times that you just can’t understand

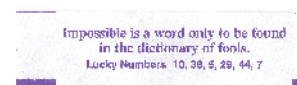
why China is the way it is. My favorite is “China wins again.” This is used for when something happens that you just can’t change. Right now China’s up 1 million to zero.

What should people in America know about China?

We can learn a lot from the level at which they revere an education. I would never wish the Chinese student life upon anyone (way too much pressure and stress) but I respect the ones who make it through.

Any plans to come back?

Not for a while. Youth pastors and youth leaders are all over the States, but here they are few and far between. There are thousands of expat kids all over Asia who want mentors, pastors, and leaders.



MEET MORE
EXPATS AT
GOODMAGAZINE.COM



DAVID BEN KAY
Microsoft China’s
piracy czar



JEFFREY LUDLOW
Designer



SEAN LEOW
of Neocha.com,
a website for
Chinese creatives



JEREMY GOLDKORN
of Danwei.org,
a website about
media and news
in China



VIRGINIA HUNT
Teacher

GOOD