

COOL MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FUND

凉山教育促进会

Newsletter, Summer 2009

RECENT EVENTS



Silent auction unveils the CMEF “Nuosu Marketplace”

CMEF recently hosted an online silent auction of Nuosu handicrafts to announce the opening of the new “Nuosu Marketplace”. The silent auction took place as an event through the social networking website Facebook.com from July 21-26, 2009. Over 500 Facebook users were invited to bid on 32 items. A quarter of the items collected for the Marketplace were sold at the silent auction, and raised almost \$500 for scholarships in 2009-2010. All the remaining items are now available for sale at a set price in the Nuosu Marketplace on the Cool Mountain Education Fund website (<http://www.coolmountainfund.com/NuosuMarketplace.html>).

The Cool Mountain Education Fund hosted a silent auction on the social networking website Facebook.com in July. Above, some spirited online bidding on a set of wine goblets, tray and serving vessel.

Among the beautiful items still for sale are lacquer ware pieces including wine vessels, bamboo platters, trinket boxes, footed bowls, and soup ladles. Vessels are carved from local wood, the bowls, goblets, and wine jugs are painted in vivid designs with red, black and yellow paints and then lacquered for durability. For more information, visit Dr. Stevan Harrell’s website for a paper discussing Nuosu lacquerware (<http://faculty.washington.edu/stevehar/lacquer.html>). He also authored a book with Bamo Qubumo and Ma Erzi (both Nuosu) called “Mountain Patterns: The Survival of Nuosu Culture in China” which is readily available from Amazon.com. It covers many artistic and cultural aspects of the Nuosu, including lacquer ware, clothing and music.



Unique crafts from around Liangshan are now available online @ www.coolmountainfund.com/NuosuMarketplace.html

FRIENDS of CMEF

In this newsletter, we introduce **Geoffrey Morgan**, a University of Washington undergraduate student in the UW-Sichuan Program and co-founder of China Earthquake Aid, a CMEF project partner.

What did you do in Yangjuan village?

During the 2007-2008 academic year, I made five trips to the village to study the effects and successes of four small-scale NGO water projects in the surrounding area. In a culmination of my research, I received a grant to rebuild and extend one of the potable water projects to reach 36 homes and the Yangjuan Primary School.

What does CMEF's mission mean to you, and what do you hope to bring to it?

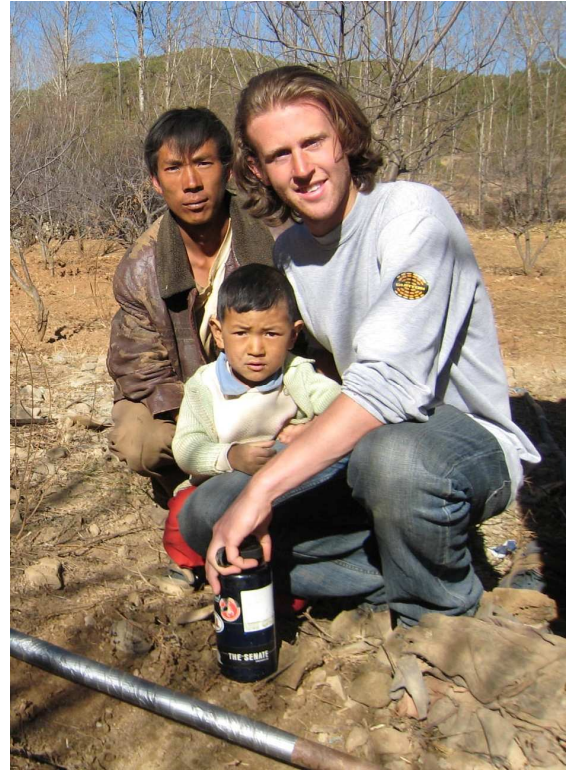
Having spent a great deal of time in the village, I was able to see the impact that CMEF made on the students and the village. The opportunity for these children to stay in school and receive an education, instead of joining China's migrant worker population has opened many doors for them and brings prosperity and economic growth for primary school graduates and their families in the village. I hope that I am able to continue contributing my knowledge of potable water systems so that health and sanitation in the village will improve and waterborne disease will decrease.

What is your day (and night) job?

I guess my day job would be that I am still a full time student at the University of Washington. Due to my double degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and International Studies, plus spending a year abroad in China, I have six years of undergraduate to complete. Four down, two more to go! During the school year I work for the UW Honors Program as an Honors Freshmen Seminar Instructor introducing new freshmen to the campus and its resources. My night job would be that I am an Environmental Specialist Intern for the Chevron Corporation in an attempt to make them a little more ecologically friendly.

It's been over a year since you formed China Earthquake Aid. How have re-building activities been going?

Since I am no longer in China helping directly with the rebuilding effort, things have slowed down quite a bit. However, we were successful at spending all of the donations we received and placed them into three very deserving projects. The first was a project that had children from all over the world write letters and cards with notes of encouragement to Chinese children affected by the terrible quake.



Geoffrey Morgan and Ma Zipo, after fixing a split water pipe together.

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The second project brought warm clothing and supplies to a remote village in the Aba Prefecture in need of assistance before the harsh winter months arrived. Finally, we are working closely with Wild Grass, a Chinese non-profit, to build eco-friendly toilets in the Wolong Nature Reserve, a major tourist attraction and nature preserve in the earthquake-affected area of Sichuan province.

Tell us a little more about yourself.

I am a native of Seattle, born at Swedish Medical Center, but have never missed an opportunity to get away. I have already studied abroad in China and Italy and hope to do it again before I graduate. I am also an avid outdoorsman and enjoy rock climbing, cycling, kayaking, and backpacking. Once I graduate, I hope to go to the UK for graduate studies in international development.

Geoffrey is also working actively with Eddie Schmitt, Jacques Duraud and Bertrand Cristeau, friends of Yangjuan, to plan for a larger-scale water project that will give the villagers year-round water. We hope to help build this project in the early spring of 2010.



Geoffrey Morgan, Katherine Liu and Dowdy Gilles spend some time with two Yangjuan Primary School students after class.

GIVING PLAN for ACADEMIC YEAR: 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 academic year is nearly here. This is a special year for Yangjuan Primary School and for the Cool Mountain Education Fund. The year 2010 will mark the ten-year anniversary of Yangjuan Primary School in its present building, and the five-year anniversary of the founding of the Cool Mountain Education Fund. Yangjuan School anticipates renovating the roof and repainting the school in honor of the 10th anniversary, and holding a big celebration for the event.

In 2008-2009, CMEF supported 93 new and continuing scholarships for Yangjuan Primary School graduates to attend middle and high schools across Liangshan Prefecture. This fall, CMEF anticipates that 11 returning sophomores and about 10 incoming freshmen from Yangjuan will attend high school classes. We will also be able to give scholarships to about 80 middle school students. Enrollment at the primary school has held steady at 300 students for the last five years.



Cont'd. from page 1— Silent auction unveils the CMEF "Nuosu Marketplace"

There are many hand-embroidered cloth and clothing items available for sale as well, including handbags, pillowcases, women's vests, men's capes, and a baby's hat. These items make excellent gifts and handsome decorations in the home. In the future, the Nuosu Marketplace may offer different kinds of handicrafts, including men and women's jewelry. Stay tuned!

The CMEF Board would like to recognize everyone who helped to host the Facebook.com Silent Auction and to construct the Nuosu Marketplace webpages, especially Scott Houck for his generous web publishing support, and Katharine Liang, Barbara Grub and Nancy Meenen for coordinating auction logistics. Thank you for sharing your considerable time and expertise for the students of Yangjuan Primary School.

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HOW to MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

With your support, the Cool Mountain Education Fund can continue its mission of improving education in southwest China. Here's how you can make a tax-deductible donation:

- **Buy or reserve one or more calendars.** The 2010 Yangjuan Primary School calendar, featuring UW and SU student photography will be available in November 2009.
- **Make an in-kind donation.** We would appreciate donations of the following items: digital cameras, digital voice recorders, memory cards, external hard drives, laptop computers, and donated brochure printing.

To discuss a possible in-kind donation, please contact Tami Blumenfield at tamiblu@u.washington.edu or by phone (206-200-8157).

- **Make an unrestricted contribution.** A one-time gift in any amount will be very useful to this year's graduates.
- **The gold standard!** Endow a three-year scholarship for a graduate of Yangjuan Primary School to attend the Prefectural Middle School in Xichang, or for two graduates to attend good middle schools in Yanyuan County. Pledge \$150 per year for the next three years, and receive a beautiful landscape or nature painting by artist Li JinYuan.

**All orders and contributions should be sent to
Cool Mountain Education Fund, 5038 16th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105**

Dedicated to the education of the Nuosu people and their neighbors,
Working for the preservation and improvement of Liangshan's environment.