

COOL MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FUND

凉山教育促进会

Newsletter, Summer 2008



Yangjuan in summer.

YANGJUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATES BEGIN HIGH SCHOOL IN FALL 2008

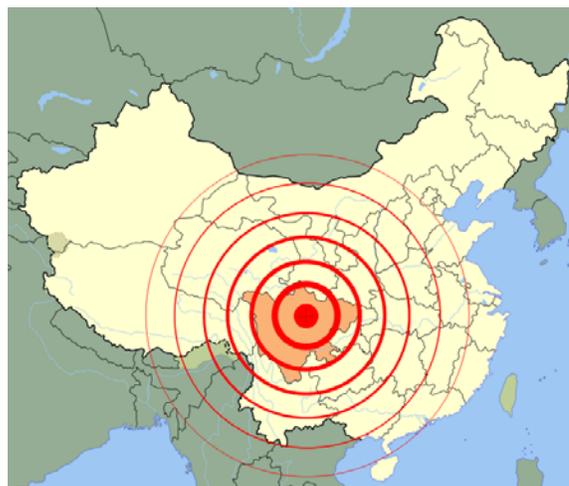
The 2008-2009 school year is nearly upon us. For the 2007-08, school year we were able to support 64 middle school students with your generous support. Based on middle school entrance exam scores from Spring 2008, CMEF projects that middle school students from Yangjuan and Pianshui villages will require 70 new and continuing scholarships to support their studies this year. We continue to provide teacher salary support at Yangjuan

Primary School and other supplemental operations support as needed. In a continued effort to expand the scope of our aid and reach out to more communities as CMEF grows, we will also award scholarships to 4 primary school graduates in the neighboring township of Baiwu. Due to continued scholastic achievement, 10 Yangjuan Primary School graduates will be incoming freshman at high schools across Liangshan Prefecture this fall. Unfortunately, this new success comes with a hefty financial burden. CMEF's obligations will continue to grow in the next two years as student complete their high school courses. We need your help to ensure these students have the best start at their new schools. Please contact President Stevan Harrell (stevehar@u.washington.edu) or Vice-President Lauren Brown (lebrown@u.washington.edu) with your special donation.

RECENT EVENTS

CMEF and China Earthquake Aid partner to help those affected by the May 12th Sichuan Earthquake

As you have no doubt heard in international news, China's Sichuan Province, home to Sichuan University and the UW-Sichuan Exchange Program, suffered a 7.9 earthquake on Monday, May 12th, 2008. It was the largest earthquake to hit China since 1976. The epicenter of the earthquake was located fifty miles north of the provincial capital, Chengdu. A city of about 4 million, Chengdu is 40 miles southwest of the epicenter, Wenchuan. The quake lasted about two minutes, long enough to level buildings and disturb dams in the mountainous province. The earthquake devastated several heavily populated



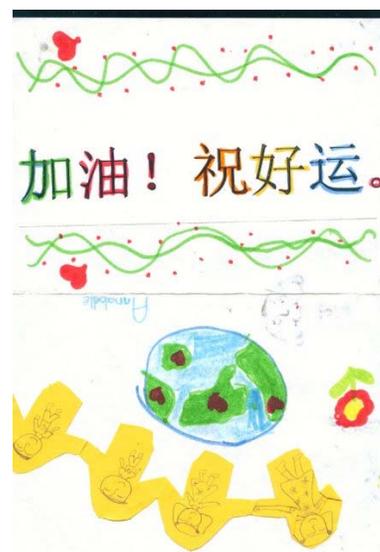
Sichuan's proximity to the convergence of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates make it a geologically active area.

RECENT EVENTS

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cities and numerous villages in the area. This region is an important agricultural region and any negative impacts here will reverberate around Eastern Asia and the world. Relief efforts began immediately, but it will take many years before life in Sichuan Province like that prior to the earthquake is restored. The death toll is nearly 70,000 and almost 20,000 are still missing. Over 5 million people were left homeless and still more do not have food or medical supplies. Concern over access to potable water is serious. Nearly 7,000 schools were destroyed, many with students still inside. Nearly 400 dams suffered structural damage in the mountainous river ways which irrigate the Chengdu basin, still threatening those downstream of the hardest hit areas.

Despite the severity of the situation, the Chinese government still limits foreign organizations' ability to aid with relief efforts. Since the earthquake, UW exchange students have formed China Earthquake Aid (CEA, www.chinaearthquakeaid.org), a newly incorporated non-profit organization. CEA is partnering with Chinese and international non-profit organizations, including the Cool Mountain Education Fund, to focus relief efforts on areas not receiving governmental aid. On May 20th, the CMEF Board of Directors held an emergency board meeting to reply to a solicitation for help from CEA founders to facilitate the transfer of international donations from the United States to China. CMEF is proud to be a part of the aid process. CEA has made a special point to aid schools by providing new classroom supplies and letters of encouragement from students around the world. CEA is collecting donations through the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS, www.fiuts.washington.edu) and through the University of Washington Combined Fund Drive (UWCFD).



Words of encouragement from a kindergartener in Hong Kong, used with permission from www.chinaearthquakeaid.org.

Board of Directors

Stevan Harrell, *President*
Lauren Brown, *Vice-President*
New member! Nancy Meenen, *Treasurer*
New member! Deborah Sung, *Secretary*
Tami Blumenfield, *Member-at-large*
Barbara Grub, *Member-at-large*
Li Xingxing, *Member-at-large*
Katharine Liang, *Member-at-large*

In coming issues of the CMEF newsletter, we will introduce each board member of the Cool Mountain Education Fund. In this issue, we feature CMEF Secretary Tami Blumenfield. Though we said goodbye to Nancy Meenen as UW Worldwide Program Manager, we welcome her as the new CMEF Treasurer. We also welcome recent UW graduate Deborah Sung as new CMEF Secretary.

We thank Victoria Poling and Phil Chi for their service to CMEF. Both board members stepped down in Summer 2008.

Tami Blumenfield, *Secretary*

What did you do in Yangjuan Village?

- 1: Two summer trips of educational research / support for arriving UW exchange students (2004 and 2005); and one teacher training, in March 2006.
- 2: Tried to avoid eating mutton.



When did you join the CMEF Board, and in what capacity?

I was one of the founding members of CMEF, and started out as the secretary and treasurer. Later, when I went to do fieldwork in China, Barbara Grub took over as treasurer.

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

I hope that we are helping children access meaningful educational opportunities - both through supporting their school attendance, and through providing enriching curricular content for the Yangjuan Primary School.

What is your day (and night) job?

At night, I teach anthropology classes (seriously! this quarter I teach from 7-9:20 pm). And I am a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UW (this is both a day and night job, depending on what Ethan is up to).

Tell us a little more about yourself.

My family includes my husband, Ryan; my son, Ethan, who is almost two; and our trusty dog Pukipu, who spent a week with me in Yangjuan, where I stopped to do teacher training in 2006 on the way back to the U.S. (From Yangjuan, Pukipu and I took a bus to Yanyuan, and another to Xichang - that was our hardest bus ride of them all - and then boarded a train all the way to Beijing, where we stayed for another week before flying back to Meiguo). Pukipu really enjoyed his stay at the Yangjuan Primary School, and especially appreciated the courtyard layout.



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 2009 Yangjuan Primary School calendar, featuring UW and SU student photography will be available in November 2008.
- **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 Blumenfied, CMEF Secretary, 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.