



News from the Evergreen Education Foundation



The Evergreen Education Foundation Official Newsletter
Bringing Educational Opportunities to Rural China

November 2017

www.evergreeneducation.org

Our 2016 Global Giving Campaign sponsored more than half of the 90 teachers attending the EEF Conference: Makerspace: Creativity in the Library

Help train rural teachers to teach oral history — Give to our ongoing campaign on Global Giving

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/train-rural-teachers-to-nurture-student-historians/>

STEM Workshop at Mushroom Cloud Makerspace

Shanghai, China was the venue for Evergreen Education Foundation August 2017 STEM Workshop, providing an opportunity for EEF teachers to learn more about Maker Education. This workshop featured Design Thinking and Maker knowledge, which educators need to facilitate Maker education in rural schools. Several of the teachers have participated in previous workshops and the EEF/DFRobot Swap programs.

The Workshop started with an introduction to design thinking and sharing of STEM cases in other international venues; followed by instruction on designing a STEM classroom. Popular hands-on sessions provided practice opportunities: teams of teachers were tasked to design a wallet. More hands-on activity included a Makerspace Hackathon Workshop that focused on the introduction of maker activity and sharing in the community.

Teachers enjoyed participating with DFRobot's Boson Kit and Makerspace Explorer D1 Mobile Kit sessions. To pull everything together a "Smart Campus" Hackathon Competition was held to teach the teachers how to use intelligent technologies to bring convenience and fun to their life. The hackathon cultivated the teachers' team facilitation skills and brainstorming ability. At the conclusion, teachers presented their creations to gain feedback, share experience, and exchange ideas. Additionally, teachers discussed experiences and challenges with promoting and implementing maker education at their schools.

All the participants highly rated (8 or higher on scale of 1-10) this workshop in their feedback. Teachers think the workshop was fun, useful, and informative. Brainstorming, case studies, and sharing sessions were the most popular. Teachers also indicated that they learn best when involved in hands-on sections. Special thanks to the workshop facilitators: Mr. Paul Chan, the founder & principal consultant of PaulDesign, Mr. Ken Yip, the founder & CEO of Movie Marketing Co., Ms. Juice Ju, operations manager of Makerspace, Ms. Xue Jin, Mushroom Cloud Makerspace's Trainer, and Mr. Xia Qing, the founder of Mushroom Cloud Makerspace.



STEM is hands-on

A Teacher's First Encounter with Oral History at EEF Workshop



Teachers at Ancient Papermaking

Because I am deeply interested in history, I was very excited when I learned about oral history that puts the ordinary and unknown in the spotlight. However, I also kept asking myself, "How shall I do it? And how shall I enable my student to do it?"

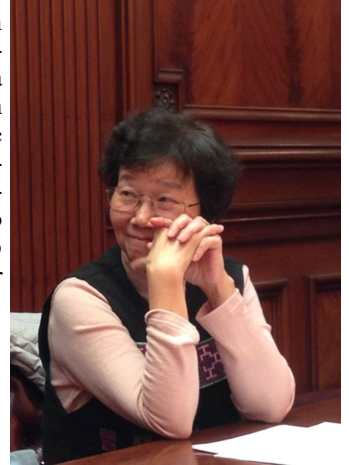
During the project-based summer oral history training, I interviewed my father-in-law about his life history regarding his career. My father-in-law was a citizen-managed teacher, one of a special group of teachers, quite common in rural China, without official certification from the Ministry of Education in China and paid much less in salary than certified teachers. Through listening to his vivid narrative and observing his deep feelings about his past experiences, I learned about the hardship and struggles his generation went through in our country. I was also impressed by his belief "Knowledge will change your destiny", and his diligence in pursuing achievements in academics and interests such as painting and folk music. During Danzhai Oral History Tour in Kaili workshop, I was astounded by the ancient paper making I witnessed. "How can we make sure that the parchment paper and the exquisite skills, with more than a thousand years of history, withstand the technology era?" This question has haunted me since then. Such a diverse, open learning process gave my learning new depth and vigor.

When the student oral history course started this September, guided by our understanding of the values and approach of oral history, I began to explore with my colleagues how to conduct in-depth interviews that will help those that we interview express all of their details and thoughts. We believe that our students will learn the essence of oral history and gain multi-faceted capabilities only after they have experienced the whole process. Learning must be viewed as a process: According to Educational psychologist J. S. Bruner, knowledge is a process of continual learning instead of a static result. Glad we are on the road!

By Teacher Xiongying Yang of Tongwei No. 3 High School, Gansu, China.

Saying Goodbye to Evergreen's Eileen Tang

Early on the morning of August 2, 2017, our good friend Eileen Tang (Yu LiChing) peacefully left us. She was one of the co-founders of the Evergreen Education Foundation and served as a Board member for the past sixteen years. Eileen was not only an active Board member, but also recruited new members for the Board, including her daughter Carol Tang. Eileen tirelessly travelled to rural China for the Foundation each year, from the inception of the Foundation until she could no longer travel; first to look for rural schools and libraries to support, then following up by organizing workshops for teachers and serving as an evaluator of school projects.



She planted seeds of hope for kids in the rural China. They told her their dreams:

"Whatever happens, my dream is getting stronger, blooming. Then I can protect and take care of people who matter to me, I love and love me," writes Guangming He, a student from Yunnan Shidian.

"I hope one day in the future, when I am sitting on the stage as a person who is helping others. I will contribute all I might to carry on the love I received from you to others," wrote Yu Yuan, a student from Guangxi DuAn.

"I want to be a judge. Sometimes I like to imagine that I am sitting in the court wearing the badge on my hat. I will distinguish clearly to provide justice to good people and sentences to the criminals," wrote YiXin Quan, a student from Shanxi Yaoshan.

"I want to be computer engineer. The exit screen on the computer always demonstrates magic views when my fingers touch keyboard and mouse," wrote Yanwu Wang, a student from Gansu Tongwei.

"I want to be a certified accountant. Then I can support my parents to buy stuff for themselves without hesitating just like buying stuff for me," wrote Yu Gu, a student from Jiangsu HuanAn.



Eileen's footprints reached into the far rural areas in China. She listened to the requests from people whose voices were never heard. She encouraged them to read, write, explore, and create stories about their life, dreams, thoughts, talent, and passions. She and two of her colleagues at the Foundation were collectively known fondly as the "Three Fools", with her being the "Second Fool." We shall miss her greatly. But, we will meet again in the "Garden of Tomorrow" described in her poem.

Garden of Tomorrow by Yu LiChing (Eileen Tang)

Sometimes, I write poems
More often, I read books

I read, to get close to the depth of life
I write, to throw out seeds of hope
In the garden of tomorrow.



Support Eileen's
favorite charitable
projects—contribute
to the
Liching Yu Fund
www.evergreeneducation.org/submenu16.php?topics=yulichin



A Scholarship Student's Whisper to Eileen Tang

I feel so very grateful that I had a chance to meet Ms. Yu (Eileen LiChing Tang). The first time I heard her name, I thought about what kind of person will have the same elegance as her name; The first time I read her words, I can feel her subtle perception of life; The first time I met her, I finally knew the kind and sensitive heart behind the beautiful words. It has already been three years, but I still remember her gentleness walking in the woods, remember her excitement when sharing her favorites, remember her encouragement for me to be brave, and remember her warm notes she gave to me. Every time I heard the news of her being ill, I felt so sad that she had to bear so much pain, but I know that Ms. Yu was still working to reach the goal of Evergreen; we all know that the world she lived and will live in are always full of sunshine and happiness. We will bring her hope and blessings...and march bravely. *By GuoJuan (Jessica) Shang, a former Evergreen scholarship student from Gansu Province, China.*

Scholarships were one of Eileen's passions. The LiChing Yu Fund will initially be used for scholarship funding. www.evergreeneducation.org/submenu16.php?topics=yulichin





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Global Giving Platform

Train Rural Teachers to Teach Oral History,
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**Professor Faith Chao
is the co-founder of
EEF and has served as
our President from
inception until retiring
in 2017**

Introducing our two New Evergreen Board Members

In the past year, two new members have joined the Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF) Board of Directors: both bring extensive experience and valuable knowledge that is directly relevant to the Foundation's mission.

Dr. Carol Tang, PhD has vast experience advancing STEM education. She is currently the Executive Director of San Francisco's Children's Creativity Museum, an interactive art and technology museum committed to fostering creativity and collaboration in all youth and families through open-ended STEM activities and design challenges. She was a 2012 recipient of the Leading Women in STEM award by the California STEM Learning Network. Carol is the daughter of the late EEF co-founder, Eileen Tang.

Dr. Lili Luo, PhD is an Associate Professor at the School of Information at San Jose State University. Her primary areas of teaching and research interests include information access and services in the digital age, library and information science education, research methods, evaluation of information services and virtual librarianship. She is interested in exploring



more about how the advent of new technologies has impacted the library world and library users. In the past few years, Dr. Luo has volunteered as a grant reviewer for EFF's small projects and has been impressed with the variety and quality of the projects that EFF supports to enhance information literacy in rural China. At the 2014 EEF Conference, she gave a talk on digital storytelling. This experience made her more aware of EFF's efforts and vision in advancing rural education in China. Currently Dr. Luo is working on research projects related to consumer health information services both in the US and in China. She is interested in studying the role of public libraries in meeting people's consumer health information needs and helping improve their health literacy. She believes that it is essential for the public to develop critical skills in seeking, accessing, evaluating, and applying health information in their everyday life. She hopes to explore opportunities for EFF to be engaged in these areas and provide support for educating a more health literate generation in rural China.



Faith Chao Retiring as EEF President After 16 Years at the Helm

Dear Friends and Supporters of Evergreen Education Foundation,

It has been an honor for me to work with all of you during the past 16 years to provide scholarships, workshops/conferences and project opportunities for rural China. I think we can be proud of what we have accomplished together: giving over 1,000 scholarships to students who would otherwise find it difficult to complete their education; holding 7 successful international conferences, which exposed our teachers and librarians to world class experts; arranging many more workshops where new skills and competencies were introduced and honed; supporting many innovative projects that resulted in about a dozen scholarly presentations and papers; and winning the Access to Learning Award, known as the Nobel Prize for libraries, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

During this past year, we awarded 28 small projects. These projects span many interesting topics including some focused on helping those children left behind by parents who became migrant workers in cities, encouraging extra curricula reading and students learning traditional calligraphy, doing oral history of elders and studying local ethnic culture and history. We held an extraordinary conference on the topic of Makerspace that spanned 4 major libraries and cities. Starting in Beijing at the National library, our theme was Makerspaces for Cultural Innovators, and going next to the Shenzhen library of Science and Technology with the theme of Makerspaces for Innovators and Designers. Our third collaboration was with the Guangzhou Public Library with the theme of Makerspaces for Everyone and the last venue was at the Wuhan University Library with the theme of Makerspaces for Students and Educators. It is safe to say that this was our most ambitious conference hosting more than 1,000 delegates with experts and major library directors of both Public and Academic libraries from the United States, Europe, Singapore, Hong Kong and China. We were able to successfully mount this extraordinary event thanks to the enormous effort and close collaboration of our volunteers and Evergreen workers.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our volunteers and workers for not only their hard work through the years, but for being my friends and close comrades, who gave me strength to carry on during difficult times. I feel confident that as I pass the baton to new leadership, we will achieve many more successes in helping China's rural students gain educational opportunities in the future. I ask for your continued support and good wishes.

Faith Chao