



News from the Evergreen Education Foundation



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

November 2014

www.evergreeneducation.org

Global Interest

Our Conferences are aimed at bringing together participants from both within China and abroad

Acting on a Local Level

Encouraging rural libraries to preserve and study local culture

Globally Inspired Local Culture and Oral History at ITIE 2014



In October 2014 Evergreen Education sponsored Our 6th International Conference on Information Technology in Education (ITIE) in Changsha, Hunan Province, China. “Oral History is a very important topic for librarians. The most valuable feature of the conference is the training opportunity, the chance to talk to each other about their work, not just read!” says Wang Qian, Manager of Public Services at our ITIE conference venue the Hunan Public

Library in Changsha. The October 2014 conference emphasized exchanging ideas, methodologies, and practical experiences of libraries engaged in projects dealing with Local Culture and Oral History. Representatives from the Beijing Changping Shengxue Library remarked, “we have been working in oral history for a very long time and still learned a lot about methods, theory, principles and standards.” The conference opened with the keynote address *Oral History in Times of Change* from Donald Ritchie, the Historian of the US Senate, setting the tone for what was truly a globally inspired conference experience addressing local oral history. The closing keynote *Realizing the Humanistic Spirit in the Context of Local Culture* by Tu Weiming, Director at Peking University and a Senior Research Fellow of the Asian Center at Harvard University, moved Steven Miao, who staffs teacher support from the Communist Party leadership in Changsha, Hunan, to commenting, “Tu Weiming provides a great bridge; he knows the meaning of Chinese traditional culture and Western culture. These perspectives are important in recording memories and stories.” *Continued on Page 4.*

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Tour Guide Presents Oral History Research to IOHA Congress

I arrived in Barcelona in July 2014 to attend the eighteenth International Oral History Association (IOHA) Congress. I had imagined a lot of ways to reach Europe, but never imagined to go there as a volunteer Oral Historian. Because of my oral history paper, which luckily got an invitation from IOHA, I set foot on this piece of both familiar and unfamiliar land. It is not an exaggeration to say that this was a very happy encounter in my life.

Three years ago, I was an English tour guide in Jiuzhaigou in Sichuan Province. I was guiding a group from the US, and as usual, I introduced them the local conditions and customs. Because Jiuzhaigou is located in the Tibetan area, I like the Tibetan cultures and traditions very much. Although commonly a tour group will stay for only 3 days, I hope my tourists are able to know more about Tibetans and like them as much as I do. Perhaps my true feelings came out in my explanations and touched them, or perhaps it was decreed by fate, that on the second day of this Jiuzhaigou tour, one of the tourists who can speak Chinese in my group asked me whether I would like to do oral history research as one of their volunteers. I then learned she was Faith Chao, the President of Evergreen Education Foundation. *Continued on Page 4.*



School Libraries Taking Cognitive Technology to Become Creative

Librarian Ms. Long Mei, writes about her impressions of the IASL Conference in Moscow.
Under the recommendation and sponsorship from Evergreen Education Foundation, I attended the annual conference in Moscow organized by the International Association of School Libraries (IASL Conference) from August 25 to 30, 2014, with Ms. Zhang Yu, director of China Program for Evergreen Education Foundation, and Ms. Wu Qiuru in Danfeng Secondary School in Shanxi Province. The theme for the conference is “School Libraries in the Society of Knowledge: Taking Cognitive Technology to become creative.” In accordance with the requirements of the conference, we shared the essays about the road to cognitive education for the high schools in the remote areas in China. In addition, we listened to the other participants describe their experiences in the cognitive education of the school libraries. We also absorbed some good new ideas: the school library is the information center, the cognitive center and a place where readers transfer



Attending IASL Wu Qiuru, Zhang Yu, and Long Mei

information into knowledge; in-depth reading is the foundation of in-depth learning; libraries are the teachers’ partners; Librarians are transformed into teaching librarians; libraries are the research center of teaching methods and the research center on teaching; libraries help readers manage their learning abilities, social abilities and abilities in information. These new ideas and experience will serve as great examples for us to study, while helping develop our libraries.
By Long Mei, Kai Li No.1 School Library, in Guizhou Province.

With your help, rural school libraries can use Evergreen small projects to help the teachers and students practice inquiry-based and collaborative learning

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Evergreen Innovates Teaching With New Projects for the Coming Year

With our Oral History initiative making a milestone as the headline subject of our 2014 ITIE Conference, we are following up with an essay competition for rewarding students, who write excellent Oral History interview essays. Our goal is for the students to not only demonstrate great research and information literacy skills, but also their awareness and understanding of their local culture and history. Additionally we are incubating some new projects which we hope will follow the success of our Oral Historians. We are exploring a Health



Learning with no boundaries

Literacy initiative in conjunction with our rural schools and libraries. More details on this project are forthcoming. Our Science and Technology initiative is taking its next big step since the successful Solar Lamp project, in true scientific fashion we are running a pilot program in only 2-3 schools using a microcontroller circuit board which can be used as the brain while reading sensors (light, buttons, movement, etc.) and making action (LED, motors, speakers, etc.). Students will be using the open source Arduino microcontroller board and software environment to first build simple circuits to learn the basic hardware and software; after which they will only be limited by creativity to make their own projects. We want to see the student projects documented, perhaps including a video to show their creation in action. The pilot program experience that EEF will gain along with the schools will teach us together how we can put a more expanded program in place going beyond electronics to enable our young scientists to experience practical learning methods and use experimentation to learn.

“Opportunity Always Favors The Ready Minds”



I am Guojuan Shang, an Elementary Educational major bachelor degree candidate at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. As a foreign exchange student, I am so excited about getting the opportunity to study at UNF. I have to say, that Evergreen Education Foundation has helped me a lot since I was in high school. Besides financial aid, Evergreen Education Foundation also led me to realize my dream. I come from a poor and backward town of Tian Zhu Tibetan Autonomous County in China, so I still remember how excited I was when I first heard that I won the evergreen scholarship. I was not a confident girl when I was in high school but I just knew my future depended on how hard I worked. I remember the time Evergreen Education Foundation came to my high school with many famous library specialists from all over the world. That was the first time I got an opportunity to be a volunteer and was able to talk to the foreign specialists. They taught me that there is really a big world which needs to be explored. And I knew then what I wanted to do is not only going to the college, but also learn more about the whole world. Since then I wished I could study abroad sometime. I have never told

anyone else about my dream because people in my hometown think it is hard enough just to go to college. But I never gave up. With encouragement and help of Evergreen scholars, I went to Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, Shaanxi. And the first thing I set in my mind was to strive to prepare for an exchange student opportunity. I know opportunity always favors the ready minds. I studied so hard and almost became the top student in my major. Now I did it, I'm at the University of North Florida. I feel so grateful for everyone who has helped me. I wish I could be a bilingual teacher of Computer Science in China after graduation. I will struggle much harder for my next dream.

By Guojuan Shang, an Evergreen Education scholarship recipient.

Meet Our New Board of Directors Member

Meet Mengxiong Liu, recently elected to the Board of Directors. Dr. Liu recalls while growing up one of her hobbies was reading books and frequently visited the library. After working as a student assistant in her high school library in Shanghai, China, she set Education as her career goal upon college graduation. She chose to major in Library Science because she believed the library is a place where people can have life-long learning, and it is the one of the most important components in education. After completing her Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from University of Michigan. Dr. Liu worked at San Jose State University in California for 25 years as a professional librarian in the University Library and adjunct faculty at School of Library and information Science. As a Professor, her teaching and research efforts have focused on science and technology resources, human information seeking behavior, reference and instructional services, and digital libraries. Being a prolific researcher and well-travelled, Dr. Liu has been invited to lecture in many libraries and universities throughout the world. Additionally, she was the past President of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA). Dr. Liu feels her greatest honor was receiving Fulbright Senior Specialist Award in 2007.



Dr. Liu says, “I believed in EEF’s mission: to improve educational opportunities for children in rural China by providing the essential educational resources.... I think I can make contributions to its effort. As a board member, I hope to give some useful suggestions in my expertise areas, such as information literacy and educational resources....”

Dr. Liu thinks the challenges for rural China's school libraries are, “Supply and Demand: There are many disadvantaged schools and school libraries in rural China (who) demand help and support, while it is not possible for EEF to supply to every rural area. We can only focus on a few specific areas. EEF is one of the earlier foundation initiating this effort. I hope “supply” will become more available.”

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ITIE 2014 *Continued from page 1:* ITIE held biennially since 2004, is a gathering of educators, librarians, and leaders from the information technology industry from both within China and abroad, who are interested in exchange of ideas and sharing of practical experience of information technology in education within various academic disciplines as well as comparison of educational practices between western and eastern cultures. For more details on our conferences please see our conference webpage <http://www.evergreeneducation.org/itie2014/>



Tour Guide Presents Oral History *Continued from Page 1:* Faith Chao opened a door that led me to a strange new world, in which, I myself, a common tour guide, recorded Tibetans' oral history; in this way, my personal small wishes went to the stage of the world. It was not easy to come to Barcelona. I cannot manage it without the help of my Evergreen colleagues. I met with a lot of experts and scholars in Barcelona, even the famous professor Donald A. Ritchie. I also found a lot people like me, with no professional background, but are oral history buffs and practitioners. We understand and explain oral history in our own ways and exchange our knowledge and experience. It was a good start for me, Evergreen gave my dream wings, and they will take me to fly higher and farther. *By Clara Tien*

Evergreen Education Foundation Chairman's Letter



Dear Friends,

It has been a good 2014 as you can tell from the articles in this Newsletter. The conference on Oral History will provide impact for the years to come as attendees learned the approach doing Oral History to preserve many cultures that would otherwise be lost, especially the cultures without written language.

That also marks our drive to further the mission of bringing Education Opportunities to rural areas of China by facilitating the Information users to create knowledge and information resources. In progress are Oral History projects, Health Information Literacy projects and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects that the schools will take on.

Each of these qualified projects will be given small grants where panels of experts will review proposals. I hope that many of you will join me in supporting the accepted projects so that the applicants and their teams will come through with specified outcomes per their application.

To that end, I will match incremental donations from individuals, \$ for \$, beyond the shares that I have donated this year. Last year, two dozen generous individuals met my challenge. This year, I will raise the cap of that challenge by 50%. So, leverage your network, tell them about the impact EEF program makes, encourage them to donate by Dec 15th, 2014, email to john.ele81946@gmail.com the incremental donation amount before Dec 15th to give me time to tally and write one matching check before the end of the year. Yes, stock share donations are welcome. It is a great way to reduce capital gains.

Warmest,
John Lee

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