



# Evergreen Education Foundation Newsletter

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December, 2007

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are now into our seventh year at Evergreen. Looking back over these seven years, I am amazed at what we were able to accomplish. We have sponsored 38 libraries across six provinces and Beijing. Of these 38 libraries, 4 are public libraries, 2 are at farms and one is an agricultural technology development center, and we also have one at a complex for children of parents who are in jail, as well as 2 at migrant schools. All of these libraries are computer automated.

We are supporting nearly 200 scholarship students each year. This year we have over 70 of our supported students going to colleges or universities. Below is an example of the achievements of our students from Tong Wei's YiZhong.

## 青树获奖毕业生大学录取名单

姓名	录取院校
李翔	清华大学: 工程力学与航天工程
魏冬冬	浙江大学: 机械工程及自动化
王军	西安邮电学院: 国际经济与贸易
蒋魁强	中国计量学院: 应用物理
赵国柱	青岛科技大学: 俄语
郭一汉	国防科技大学: 自动化
刘伟	西安理工大学: 测控技术与仪器
刘学良	同济大学

We have held 2 international conferences to which a total of over 500 hundred attended from all over the world and 5 workshops for the teachers and librarians throughout our system. These workshops addressed software usage, library operations as well as building teaching/learning modules.

The year 2007 is very propitious. We found our roots. This came about during a casual conversation Eileen Tang had with her literary agent after our conference last year. The first Evergreen School was established in Huzhou, Zhejiang over 75 years ago by a philanthropist who also provided the university scholarship over 60 years ago for our 1<sup>st</sup> contributor, Richard Hsin. In fact, this is the reason why we are named Evergreen. The first school is now a well know high school called LinHu High School in Huzhou. Next year, we will hold our ITIE2008 conference jointly with LinHu High School with the assistance of the local government at Huzhou. The theme will be "Connecting Rural Communities". Thus far, we already have a number of well known scholars committed to give presentations. These includes the Deans of the school of Library Information

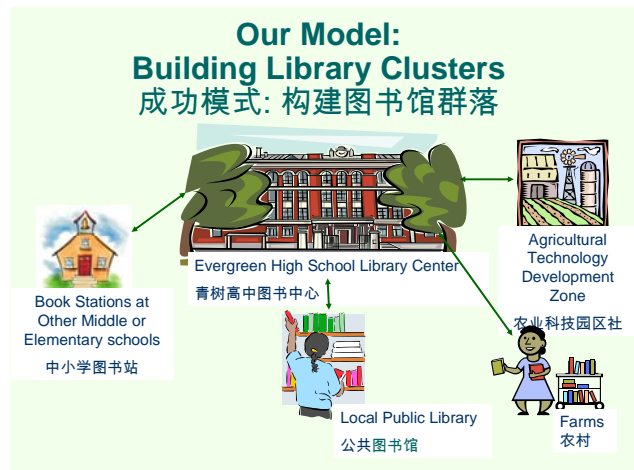
Sciences at University of Wisconsin and Simmons College in Boston.



Prinicipal Zhu of LinHu High School showing us the Evergreen Bridge at his school.

This year, we have started to work with other foundations by putting together a school library for the Soar Foundation . In addition, we have already started discussions on providing assistance to Shin Shin Foundation with the development of their library program for elementary schools. Both of these foundations are in the San Francisco bay area. We are also exploring the possibilities of doing joint projects with other international organizations such as Read Nepal.

Evergreen was represented at the IFLA conference, the largest annual conference of librarians, in Durban, South Africa this year. We were part of their Best Practice Session. We presented our library program in China and attracted a great deal of interest. We emphasized the building of library clusters and providing ongoing programs:





Our LiJiaShan High School Librarian doing outreach programs at local farms.



Professor JoBell Whitlatch giving a talk at our 2007 Workshop in Danfeng. Lo Qing Qing from Dream Corp did the translations.

We added a public library as well a high school (No. 5 High School) in Zhongdian, Yunnan. We supported the Sun Village in Beijing with computers and software to start a library that services children of parents who are in jail. They are doing an exceptional job helping to provide a safe and loving environment for these children so that they would become productive and valuable citizens.

Looking towards the future, we will be putting together a library warehouse in Beijing that has the capabilities of serving many migrant schools. This will avoid our investing heavily in any one migrant school, since they are unstable. We will, of course, be sponsoring more libraries. Some are already planned for Yunnan and Guizhou.

*Faith Chao, President*

***Expanding Access to Information Resources in Rural China  
Report on Danfeng Workshop, July 2 – July 6, 2007***

*by  
Jo Bell Whitlatch, Ph.D  
School of Library and Information Science*

This summer I was able to present information on United States library practices at a workshop for librarians and teachers who were committed to enhancing access to information through school and public libraries in rural China. China and the United States have issues in common because urban schools and libraries are much wealthier in terms of staff and resources in both of our countries. Through conversation and discussion we also discovered another issue in common – in schools that “teach to a required test” students have little opportunity to benefit from all that the library has to offer and to develop critical thinking and life long learning skills. Teachers are too busy teaching many facts that are likely to appear on a mandatory test! Topics that I covered were the Role of the Public Library in the United States, the Role of the School Library in the United States, Developing Collection Profiles for Libraries, Sharing Information with Other Libraries, and Libraries Networking with Other Agencies.

Librarians and teachers came to the workshop from many areas in rural China, not only from Shaanxi province but also from Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan, Jiangsu provinces. In addition to my presentations, librarians from Danfeng, Lijiashan, TongWei, LiHu, ChongMing Island, Huining, Tianzhu high schools provided progress reports. We also heard from the Migrant Worker Children’s school in Beijing. Public and satellite book stations were an important form of outreach and we were able to visit some branch libraries near Danfeng. We also heard from Faith Chao on the history of math reform in the United States.

Although we spent most of our time in the workshop, I really enjoyed visiting Danfeng. Our hotel was located on the very scenic river, Danjiang. Wonderful mountains provided a great backdrop for our workshop. Just across from the hotel was a local temple dedicated to the river god so that boats and their passengers would return safely. Although Danfeng is a rural area, the population of the surrounding community was about 300,000!! Danfeng middle school had an enrollment of over 3000! Chinese librarians and teachers were most hospitable and very interested in improving library collections, technology, and educational practices related to enhancing student learning.

***Thoughts for the end of the year***

*by  
John Lee  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Evergreen Education Foundation*

As 2007 comes to a close, it is time to reflect on progress made towards the Foundation's mission and share with you a couple of stories and some of my thoughts on how our work can positively contribute to communities in rural China.

Firstly, reflecting on progress towards Evergreen Education Foundation's mission:

To improve education opportunities for children and young adults in rural China by providing books, computers, relevant equipment and supplies, workshops and seminars to schools or libraries.

To grant scholarships and/or educational loans to scholastically excellent students in rural China who are financially disadvantaged; and

To serve as a bridge in collaborative efforts whose purpose is to enhance information literacy or other educational exchanges between China and the United States.

In improving education opportunities, our program now benefits 25000 students, 1500 faculty members in 15 schools in 7 provinces. A couple of mini-conferences were also conducted to enhance librarians' knowledge and skill sets thereby expanding their effectiveness to guide students and faculty members about information and knowledge acquisition.

In scholarship, we continued with grants while planning to shift our focus to complement Government fulfilling their pledge of free education and subsidies to the outlying rural areas.

In serving as a bridge, besides mini-conferences mentioned, we also facilitated students from US to teach English in a school during summer.

And, if you like to have more details, check out our website [http://www.evergreeneducation.org/Evergreen07/program\\_library.htm](http://www.evergreeneducation.org/Evergreen07/program_library.htm) . We post information from these beneficiary schools. The only caveat is, most of the information is in Chinese. On this note, if you know of someone who would like to try their hands to do English translation to help us reach English speaking visitors, we would certainly like their help. Please let me know via <http://www.evergreeneducation.org/Evergreen07/missionfeedback.htm>

Now, let's talk about the stories I heard or read about.

One story is about student outreach in rural areas. Students went to visit farmer to talk about what they can do to help. As they learned from their studies, crop yield from land depends on how fertile the land was. Land fertility can be enriched by fertilizer, but with the right fertilizer, one might get better result from it and less wastefully. Students asked and got soil samples from farmers they visited. They returned to school and did soil analysis using school lab. From these analyses, they determined the kind of fertilizer that would be good to improve the land's yield from these farmers' fields. What a wonderful story of knowledge, outreach and advices that if followed through by the farmers, would likely give them better crop, harvest and increase their income and quality of their lives.

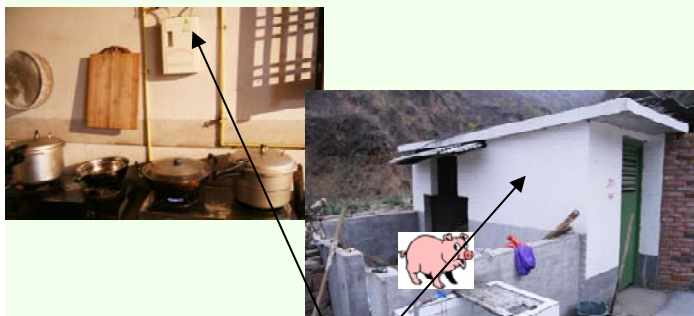
I then let my imagination ran free as I recall a recent news about Malawi, an African country that was the beggar bowl of the world for many years. For a couple of years now, the country has produced excess corn that is now used to support their neighboring poorer countries. What World Bank and other NGO's could not get this country out of famine for decades, is now lifted out of hunger by one thing alone. Fertilizer. Malawi government subsidizes fertilizer to a level that the farmer can afford. For more than 2 years, the farmers produce more from their land to feed their families and have enough left over to feed their neighboring countries. Imagine if the farmers in arid part of China can do the same....

Another subject that I find very interesting was the use of Anaerobic Digester to generate energy from farm animal and human wastes. It appears possible to find appropriate design and convince farmers who raise cattle or pigs to invest and operate their own Anaerobic Digester. They can reap the benefit of energy for some of their daily needs, and also address the waste disposal issue. Furthermore, the residue from the Digester can be used as fertilizer. If this Digester works as well as it sounds, it will improve their life despite the current world state of high energy cost, threat of global warming, not to mention fertilizer. Of course, some work will need to be done to provide a Digester model that will effectively lead to the claimed results. We hope that we can facilitate some of this work in 2008 to demonstrate the benefits of access to information.

While the two things that I mentioned sound attractive, there can be financial hurdles. It is quite certain that not all farmers can afford either the fertilizer or the Digester. The thought of the success of micro-financing comes readily to mind. To that end, I have looked around and found that while micro-financing are now in more than a dozen countries around the world, none exists in China. If it did, Evergreen student outreach and school librarians can guide them to consider that option.

### Providing Information and Documenting Biogas Program generated by Pig Manure

为农村社区提供的服务项目: 沼气



Farmers use Pig and Human wastes to generate biogas for cooking and lighting. The object on the wall is to remove the odor from the gas generated.

These are but some of the examples that can leverage Evergreen's core mission and the work that Evergreen has done. To bring them to fruition, we need more volunteers and financial resources to expand Evergreen's reach to additional rural areas and to facilitate practical application of knowledge from available access and students and librarians.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for supporting our mission. The stories that I just told are merely my invitation to you to give us your creative ideas. I would also ask you to share with your extended family, friends, and communities the wonderful work that you do or donated to make this possible.  
*Evergreen Education Foundation*

***Evergreen Library Penetrating into Classroom Teaching:  
Applying and Expanding***

***By Zhou Wenjie  
China Evergreen Rural Library Service Center***

Wednesday, May 5 2002, Mr. Zhang, a Chinese history teacher in Tianzhu No. 1 High School went to the Evergreen Library in the school with his 65 students. They neither wanted to visit the library nor borrowed any books from it. What they wanted to do was to finish their history classes there. In the library, Mr. Zhang showed a list of books and website address about their subject for his students and helped them to search for the information they needed, then the class was over. But few years ago, if a teacher had taught his/her lessons in the library, he/she would have been stopped by the principal of the school or head of teaching section immediately. What caused this change? The answer is: A useful school library did, both teachers and managers are conscious that the school library is not just a place to keep books but also an efficient teaching place.

The conception of the Evergreen School Library is to improve the students' information accomplishment by building an efficient school library. On the other hand, only when a school has an efficient library, will it have abilities to develop the students' accomplishment. And the school library can also affect the cultural ecology of local community.

A school usually is thought as a place where students can receive knowledge. But in fact, the higher value of a school not only offers knowledge but also improves students' various abilities. An initial goal of school library is to develop the students to have access to information and evaluate what they have. In high schools, classroom teaching is the main way for students to gain knowledge and develop their abilities. But in many places of China, especially in rural area of Northwest China, each class usually has more than 60 students. It's impossible to meet the need by individually developing students' abilities based on a large scale of classes. The key factor to make a school succeed or fail is whether it can widely develop the potentials of students. In this situation, what we can do is build a school library which suits all kind of students in school and let all students have access to any information they need freely. While they are reading or searching on the Internet, their abilities are developed. That's the original intention of Evergreen Library.

The high school students have burden under the massive examination papers for a long time. The reform of the curriculum proposed by government since 1990s has managed to change teaching methods. The reform has attached importance to students' feelings and advocated their personal development. To adapt for the reform, teachers in high schools will have to change their teaching methods to improve the innovative ability of students instead of constraining the feeling of students. On this reforming background, teachers aren't the machines of installing knowledge into students, but an intermediary and helper to the students' access to information. Libraries have a lot of information resources, and libraries also

as one of most convenient tool for teachers and students to have access to information resources. Based on what I mentioned above, we can see that only when teaching activities are connected with library, will students' information accomplishment be improved and function of both library and teaching can be demonstrated.

Both in Tongwen No. 1 High School and Tianzhu No.1 High School, which are subsidized by Evergreen Education Foundation, after the building of Evergreen Library, the teaching conception of the managers and teachers have changed a lot. I can summarize as follows:

- More efficient teaching activities should go on in the library.
- Information accomplishment is the most important one for students; the school library has advantages to improve information accomplishment of students.
- School library is the place to achieve the goal of student learning through teaching. Teacher is the bridge for students to receive information. The function of teaching is to transform a sea of information resources to students, who can choose and absorb. And the school library also helps students to master right methods to gain information instead of repeating from memory of the knowledge itself.
- Classroom teaching has the same goal as library, why don't we choose an efficient place, such as library to complete our teaching task.
- Librarian is the teacher.



Our Scholarship Students at Tianzhu's YiZhong serving as volunteers in the school library

***Your Views and Suggestions are Important to Us.***

Please let us know your opinions and any suggestions for improvements. To find out more, please visit us at our web site:

**<http://www.evergreeneducation.org>**

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