

Carleton College 1966 50th Reunion Newsletter

RATIONALE FOR FURTHER READING.

1. What was the cost to one of our classmates when he critiqued comments made by President Nason in the *Carletonian*?
2. The term 'fatuous blather' was made famous by this individual.
3. Like many of us, Joe DuBray, a long-time contributor to Carleton, responded somewhat reluctantly to the request to make a more significant contribution. Read about his thoughts and eventual outcomes regarding this request.
4. Learn about Hinckley's recent trip to China.
5. Why is Sichuan food healthy? What is a nak?
6. Who or what is the Earth Liberation Front?
7. Go to the Reunion Web Page and Stories and learn about the classmate who was an ambassador to Tanzania and Jordan!



Content

1. An insight into the nature of President Nason's comments to the *Carletonian* regarding an issue that he felt was critical for the Carleton community. At least one of our classmates took him to task on that message.
2. Joe DuBray demonstrates how, with help from College staff, he was able to match his personal interests in indigenous languages and their preservation and his giving to Carleton.
3. Tom Hinckley spent three weeks in Sichuan Province in China with a faculty colleague in Anthropology and two former students. This was his 10th trip to that part of China and is part of a long-term engagement with two minority communities in the mountains of Sichuan.

Carleton: Then

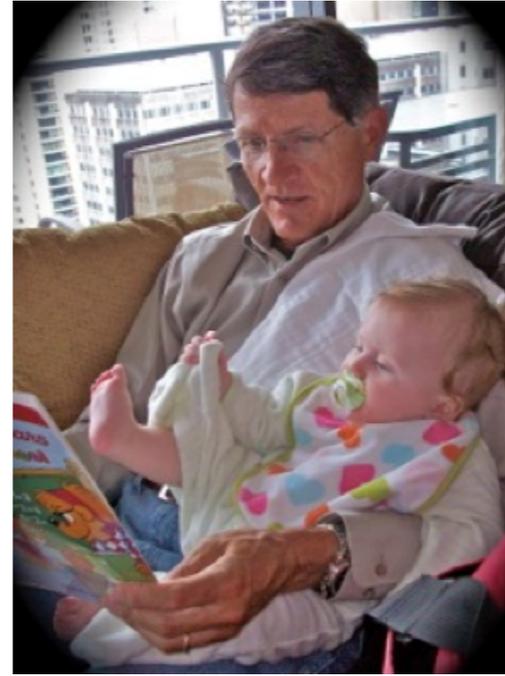
During our time at Carleton, Jeffrey Long wrote a letter to the *Carletonian* regarding an announcement (or pronouncement) made by then President Nason regarding pre-marital sex. It turns out that Mike Gordy saved a copy of Jeff's letter. Jeff was quite passionate about the topic and found President Nason's comments on the subject to have given him "a bloody-awful bellyache." This was one letter-writing effort that back-fired in that Jeff was forced to leave. Those interested in reading this letter should email me (hinckley@uw.edu)—sneaky way on my part to get new input into the *Newsletter* (this revelation is not associated with the recent hacking of the AshleyMadison.com database).

Carleton is making a positive difference, in many ways and places. Alumni gifts can help.

Joe DuBray ('66)

Mail at our house in Utah regularly comes from several of ten different, widely geographically dispersed, public and private colleges and universities, reflecting ties created by undergraduate, graduate or teaching-related experiences of our three grown daughters and myself. All of that mail promotes the high quality and value of the experience provided by each institution. Most of that mail solicits financial support. Carleton is among the most expensive of those schools for a student to attend today. So, no surprise when the request came from Carleton, and reunion classmates, to make a special contribution in honor of the Fifty Year class reunion.

I grew up in a small town, population 1300, in the Midwest, and was among those in our Carleton class for whom college attendance represented a new experience for almost the entire family. The only prior college graduate in my family was an aunt, who graduated from William and Mary in 1936. So I had little experience on which to draw, when I arrived in Northfield and saw Carleton for the first time, on move-in day of our freshman year. The annual cost of Carleton was much less



then, still not an easy choice for my family. I was able to finish college debt free, thanks to supportive relatives, vacation employments and work-study aid.

While I have regularly supported Carleton since our graduation, I was not quick to respond positively to making a special or larger contribution. My career has been professional services and other businesses, both for-profit and non-profit, all challenged by inflating costs, and regularly exposed to ad-

vice and pressure, from boards of directors and consultants, to make business plans and operating expense decisions to "match peer and business competition behavior." It has been disappointing to not find from Carleton, or any of the other schools in our family experience, a commitment to deliver or sustain a quality experience while reducing operating costs, rather than rationalizing annual inflations. Income inflation has not been annual or regular for many families I know, particularly those who work for salaries or hourly wages.

Listening to my concerns about inflating costs and my interest in supporting a grounded educational experience, Carleton staffers have been patient, receptive and diligent in answering questions and offering helpful information. I learned of recent efforts to cultivate a broader cultural understanding for Carleton students, including internships and faculty skill-sharing in civic engagement, with objectives such as delivering long-term benefit to Indigenous peoples, native to the geographic location of the College. I decided two activities were of special interest to me, an effort to save and facilitate broader access to an endangered Indigenous language, supported by Carleton faculty, donation of needed technical skills, and a student internship at a reservation preschool that includes native language learning and culture preservation.

As gift communications from Carleton and others find your mailbox, I encourage you to ask questions and seek answers. I expect you will find, as I did, Carleton activity that both informs and inspires a generous response. I'll close with a favorite lodestar expression, Paying Do's: do for, do with, do self, done, and a hope that you are doing well.

Best regards, Joe DuBray



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Remember to check out our [50th Reunion Web Page](#) for latest photographs, stories, and news.

Reunion Information

There are now 54 published stories: the new stories come from Jonathan Kaufman, Robert Lee, Jim Rogers, Lawrence Rothstein, Shintaro Sasaki, William Stanley, and Emmett Terwilliger.

Trip to China: Tom Hinckley

History of Personal Engagement: From August 20th until September 8th, I was in Sichuan Province, China (see Figure below). This was my 10th time in China—first initiated in September 1999 as a fact finding trip regarding a potential exchange program for rising juniors from

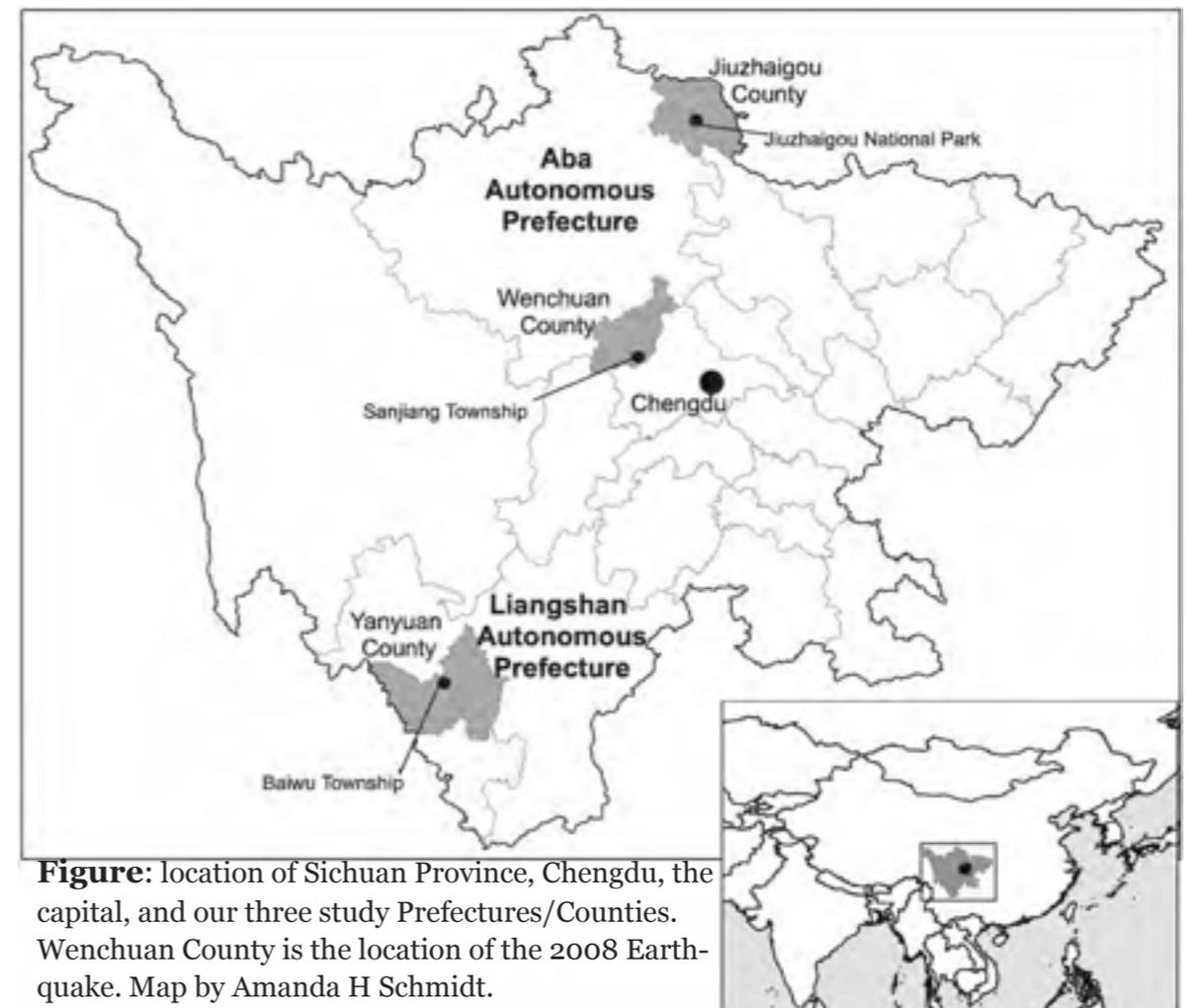


Figure: location of Sichuan Province, Chengdu, the capital, and our three study Prefectures/Counties. Wenchuan County is the location of the 2008 Earthquake. Map by Amanda H Schmidt.

the University of Washington (UW) and from Sichuan University (SCU). There were two interesting goals of the proposed year-long exchange: (1) a meaningful, deep exposure to a different culture and (2) an immersion in an undergraduate research project. Faculty from both institutions and from five different parallel disciplines within UW and SCU were involved and these were: (1) anthropology-archaeology, (2) biology, (3) civil and environmental engineering, (4) forest ecology, and (5) material sciences and engineering. I self-selected to be the UW faculty person in forest ecology. For me, this fact finding trip was an endeavor both to see a country I only knew through courses (three from my Carleton years), reading and watching electronic media and, with my counterpart, to develop collaborative research projects in which undergraduate students could participate. On this trip, I met my counterpart at SCU, learned about SCU, Chengdu and its immediate environs especially the Min Jiang (i.e., Min river) and the Minshan (i.e., mountains associated with the Min river), and visited **Jiuzhaigou** and **Wolong National Nature Reserves** and **Huanglong National Scenic Reserve** (see Figure on top of next page) (naming is awkward as there is no official national park system in China; from here on for simplicity sake they will be referred to as National Parks). The outcomes of this first trip seemed very promising.

In 2000, I returned with Arline and Katie and spent considerable time with my counterpart from SCU, Professor Zeng Zongyong and his family learning more about the area and its interesting ecology and ecological problems. In mid-June 2002, 28 exchange students and five faculty from the UW joined their counterparts in Chengdu for the official opening of the exchange program. Most of the UW students had had 6 quarters of Mandarin and all of the SCU students had had multi-years of English. All of us in three buses traversed the Min Jiang watershed from Chengdu to its headwaters and beyond; we were divided into disciplinary groups to work on learning about and discussing local ecological and environmental issues together. We specifically spent time in Jiuzhaigou Nation Park (JNP), a park occupied by a **Bon-Tibetan** Minority. Immediately following the official part of the opening, a



smaller group of anthropology, biology and ecology students and faculty left for SW Sichuan and a relatively small, remote, largely subsistence village that Professor Steve Harrell had been engaged with since 1992. This trip required an overnight train to Xichang then buses to Yanyuan and Yangjuan, a community in Baiwu Township occupied by the **Nuosu**, a group within the Yi Minority. We camped in the elementary school that had been built in 2000 with funds raised by Professor Harrell and colleagues in Taiwan, Sichuan, Spain, France, and the U.S. (the principals provided the funding—the construction, staffing and curriculum were all determined by the community and local laws). Since the founding of the school, a 501 (c) (3) organization, the **Cool Mountain Education Fund**, was founded in order to provide continuing support for the school, teachers, and students.

For over a week, with the help of local individuals, the area was explored (from 2400 to almost 3800 m). We established ecological plots; we measured tree ages, sizes and growth rates; we collected and identified local plants; and we mapped households and their fields (see picture on next page); we learned directly from the people about their



home and how recent political and economic changes had shaped and affected their interactions with their environment and decisions regarding resource management. A series of UW student projects

emerged from this visit—several of these projects won undergraduate research and technical writing awards. Some also became the foundation for subsequent and continued research.

Many of the UW students prospered as a result of their experiences during this exchange and have gone on to earn graduate degrees from a variety of institutions (e.g., Cambridge University, City University of New York, Emory University, Oregon State University, Universities of North Carolina, Hong Kong, Kansas, Penn State, and Washington, and Yale University). Almost all of the SCU students earned or are working on higher degrees in the U.S. or Europe. In addition, the overall student experience at the UW has been enhanced by the over 250 students from SCU who became full members of the student body at UW. In addition, the presence of Tibetan and Yi graduate students and scholars has further enriched the campus. Tribal members of both the **Makah Tribe** and **Yakama Nation** have visited and worked with the Nuosu and Tibetans. Both Tibetan and Han staff members of JNP have spent time at the UW.

Background on Sichuan Province and the Min Jiang and Minshan: As can be seen in the Figure on page 3, Sichuan Province (for-

merly Szechuan) is near the center of China although it is often referred to as being located in SW China. Geographically, it can be divided into three areas from east to west: (1) the agriculturally critical Sichuan Basin, (2) a band of north-south oriented mountain ranges with peaks between 4900 and 5550 m within 50 km of the basin to the highest peak Gongga Shan (7556 m or 24,790 ft) somewhat further to the west, and (3) a zone of high grasslands and mountains just before the Tibetan Plateau. A number of major rivers flow from the Tibetan Plateau and the mountains towards the east and these include the Min, the Dadu, the Yalong, and, most important, the Jinsha or the middle reach of the Yangtse. The first three all flow into the Jinsha. There are 81 million people in a province larger than the state of California, but smaller than Texas. There are three major minorities, the Yi, Tibetan, and Qiang. An advanced Neolithic culture was present in the Sichuan Basin earlier than 2000 BC; the relatively recent Sanxingdui archaeological site is probably the best known (there were exhibits of some of the bronze and gold plated masks and figures from the site exhibited at the Guggenheim in New York [1998] and Seattle Art Museum [2000]).

The Min Jiang or Min River showcases some of vast history and culture of this area. The river leaves the mountains and enters the Sichuan Basin at Dujiangyan where there is located a remarkable 3rd century B.C. **irrigation project** that takes the Min River and divides it into multiple, relatively sediment free irrigation channels that flow into the Sichuan Basin. One of these channels flows through Chengdu. This remarkable system enabled (and continues to do so) the Sichuan Basin to be one of the most productive agricultural regions of China. A secondary benefit of this system is flood control. The area around Dujiangyan is an area rich in the origins of Confucianism and Taoism whereas Chinese Buddhism dominates in and around Chengdu.

Just beyond Dujiangyan, the Min enters the mountains. In 1999, the road followed the river and when the mountainside became too steep, it moved to the other side. By early 2008, major improvements in the road had been made including the construction of long tunnels and

bridges. At almost 2:30 in the afternoon of May 12, 2008 a relatively shallow earthquake of magnitude 7.9 to 8.0 struck with an epicenter between Dujiangyan and Wenchuan. Since then, the road has been rebuilt and improved. Now there is a four-lane toll-road to Wenchuan.

Not far from Wenchuan is the road leading to Wolong National Park and the panda breeding center (as a result of the earthquake, the pandas were moved to the breeding center near Chengdu). This is also the region of the Qiang, one of the major minorities of Sichuan Province (Figure to left illustrates what a Qiang village might have looked like. The watch towers and drying corn and peppers are iconic).



There are four major impressions one has driving up the Min River: (1) the change in agricultural crops (rice to corn to wheat, barley, beans, and potatoes), farm animals (pigs and cows to yaks) and native plant species (from sub-tropical forests to extremely dry regions with shrubs and cactus to temperate hardwood and pine forests, to spruce-fir forests and finally to open alpine shrubs and grasses, (2) large cultural changes in religion, dress, and architecture/construction materials, (3) the change in ethnicity and quality of construction with the arrival on an increasing Han popula-

tion (the earthquake killed many school children as a result of the inferior construction of the schools), and (4) the interaction with the river itself. For the full length, there is extensive extraction of rocks, gravel, and sand. For the first 150-plus kilometers from Dujiangyan, there are multiple diversions and a couple of dams for hydroelectric production.

As one approaches 2700 m, wood becomes an increasingly important part of the construction of homes (both interior and exterior). Homes share a striking resemblance to those in the alps of Austria. One also sees villages with minarets indicating a Muslim population. These settlements of Muslims are likely associated with the ancient silk road by which Lanzhou was linked to Chengdu. At Songpan (~2850 m), there are both mosques and Tibetan Buddhist temples as it was a very important trading center (horses and tea) and military outpost (see Figure below).



Near Songpan is the road to Huanglong National Park. There is also a very large statue of Chair Mao celebrating the 1935 presence of the retreating Chinese Communist Army, led by Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. Here the Army regrouped and then began its successful push to the northwest. Soon after Songpan, one enters a landscape of grazing animals (many yaks and naks), pastures, and fields along the Min and on loess-deposited terracettes on the hillsides. Above are forests of spruce and fir, then alpine and finally rock and sometimes snow and ice. Tibetan villages with their prayer flags and, for the larger villages, temples are scattered on either side of the road. Over time, many of these temples have been rebuilt (during the Great Leap Forward, many relig-

ious structures were burned, destroyed or severely damaged). Now, tour buses dominate the scene and hordes of people visit these temples. During the visit in 1999, I was fortunate to catch this very old woman going counter-clockwise around the temple, turning the prayer wheels also in a counter-clockwise direction (see picture below).



Another 50 km brings one to the pass (3460 m) between the Min River and Jiuzhaigou. On a clear day, the drive from Songpan to Jiuzhaigou is probably one of the most beautiful mountain trips in the world. Layer on the cultural and historical images and it becomes a gem. Every time I have the opportunity to go through this landscape, I wear my tourist hat. However, that was not the reason I was in China just recently!

Personal Transition: I need to back up and talk about the genesis of my involvement in China, as my entire graduate and academic career

had been locally focused (whether in Missouri or Washington) on technical and applied aspects of environmental stress and its influence on carbon fixation and water loss in woody plants. The change in focus was catalyzed by two events. First in the mid-1990s, I became increasingly involved with some of the creative K-12, undergraduate, and graduate teaching initiatives developed by Professor Gretchen Kalonji in Material Sciences and Engineering. These ranged from a multi-week summer program for promising (as identified by their math and science teachers) and underrepresented rising 9th graders, to a year-long undergraduate exchange program, and finally to a multi-year, interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. For the rising 9th graders, my role was to engage these students in field situations where they worked on individual and group data collection, observation, and problem solving. The interdisciplinary Ph.D. program was entitled “Multi-National Collaborations on Challenges to the Environment” and was funded under the National Science Foundation’s IGERT umbrella.

The idea for the undergraduate exchange emerged in 1998 and came to fruition in 2002 with the first 28 students from the UW going to SCU and an equal number from SCU coming to the U.S. Tuition was free for the SCU students coming to the UW as the UW students paid for and registered for courses from the UW and then transferred their SCU credits directly to UW credits. For the 2015-16 academic year or the 14th year of the exchange, only three students from each institution are participating, a significant, but understandable decline from the first-half decade of the exchange. Initially, all SCU students received scholarships to support living in the U.S. Now, most Chinese student families can easily fund both tuition and living expenses at UW. The commitment to two years of intensive Mandarin language study and the duration of the exchange discourages many current UW students. The second and perhaps the most critical reason for my shift in focus was the May 21, 2001 arson fire set by the Earth Liberation Front. This fire destroyed Merrill Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the UW and did considerable damage to my office and its contents. Losing

data and grant continuity, as well as being immersed in the replacement of Merrill Hall, helped catalyze the shift.

For all of my trips to China, there has been significant participation by current and former graduate and undergraduate students from both UW and SCU. I have been back to Yangjuan in 2005, 2008, and August of 2015. Trips to JNP were in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and again in August and September of 2015. A wealth of interdisciplinary research.

How has China changed?

Mike Taylor's story about the special basket and his bike trips to Chengdu during his one year (1986-87) visiting faculty position at the University of Southwestern Finance and Economics was described in the July Issue of the *50th Reunion Newsletter*. Since that time, Mike has been back to China 14 times. My first visit to Chengdu was in September 1999 and my last just ended a couple of days ago. The changes in China over the period from 1986-87 to present or 1999 to present are mind-blowing. Today, the population of the core city of Chengdu (made up of nine urban districts) is 7.4 million (see Figure below). The



Figure. Skyline in 2002 from the arched bridge seen in the 2015 image. The arrow points to the same building. The water way is one of the irrigation canals coming from the 2000 year old Dujiangyan irrigation system on the Min Jiang or Min River.

population of the city and the greater metropolitan area has gone from 8.6 million in 1985 to over 14.0 million in 2010. The change in the character of the city has been even more dramatic (Figure below).



Figure. Local markets, shops and internet cafes just outside Sichuan University in 2002. A street near West Gate in 2015. Where the shops were is now a 25 story, 3-building apartment complex.

In 1999, the tallest object in the city appeared to be the 30 m tall Mao Zedong statue located on a 20 m high platform in Tianfu Square although the Minxing Financial Tower, constructed in 1998, was 163 m tall. Today there are 42 buildings taller than the Minxing Financial Tower with two at 248 m and soon to be one at 268 m. According to *de Zeem* magazine, a 468 m tall building was started in late 2014 although the recent austerity program in China may affect the completion time for this structure. Chengdu is 20th in the world in number of skyscrapers (buildings \geq 125 m). Three North American cities rank higher (New York #2, Chicago #4, and Toronto #7. Chengdu is third in China in terms of population. Chengdu had no subway lines in 2005, now has three. The airport in 1999 was about the same size as the old Bozeman Airport facility. In 2015, they are planning a second airport.

Changes in rural China are equally dramatic. In 1999, there was no primary (or secondary) school or electricity in Yangjuan. Today there are both. Fewer than 20% of the children went to school in 1999, now 98% go to school. The educational success of the school in this rural community and the strong support by families and the two local communities

(i.e., Yangjuan and Pianshui) in sending their students to the school have been so successful that this local primary school will likely disappear in another half decade. Most families are now having their children board in towns as far away as Chengdu in order that they receive the best education. Scholarship funds from the Cool Mountain Education Fund have made much of this possible. Between 1999 and 2015, the number of residents in both villages has decreased by at least 25% (see Figure below) as better paying jobs have materialized in distant cities.

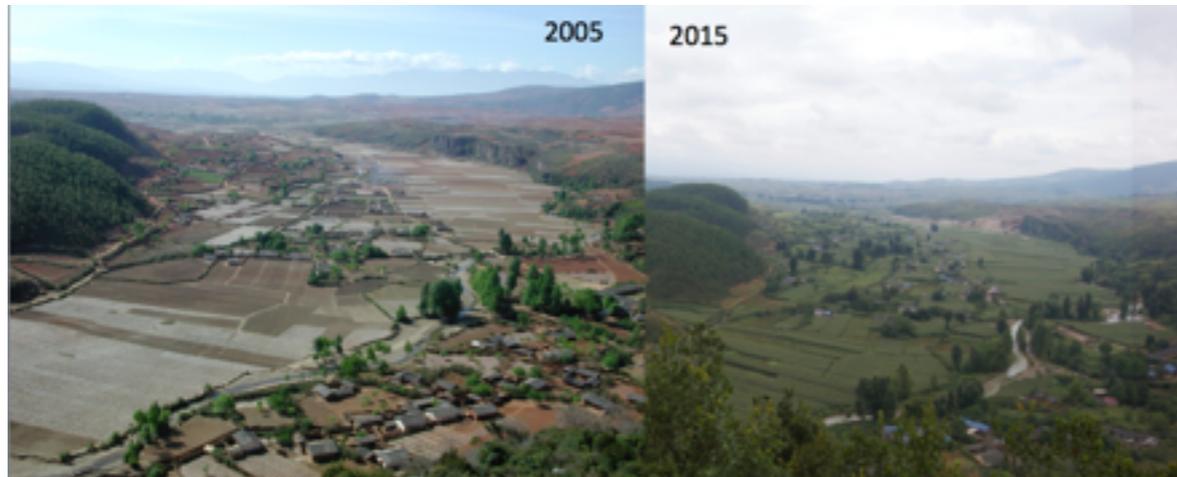


Figure. Fields, stream, hills surround Yangjuan in 2005 (picture taken towards end of April) and 2015 (picture taken near end of August). Silver or white color in 2005 is the plastic used for planting the hybrid corn seed.

In 1999, there were about 587,000 visitors to Jiuzhaigou National Park. There was only one road serving the park and it often took more than 14 hours to reach the park from Chengdu. In contrast, it is anticipated that the number of visitors in 2015 will reach 5,000,000. Only Great Smoky Mountains National Park has more visitors and Great Smoky Mountains National Park is three times larger than Jiuzhaigou. Now there is an airport at 3455 m, about 1.5 hours away; the road has been greatly improved; and soon there will be a high-speed railroad that partially follows the Min River and goes from Chengdu to Lanzhou with a stop in Jiuzhaigou! Even the magnificent Bon-Tibetan Buddhist Temple found in 2002 has been torn down and completely redone (see Figure on next page).



Figure. Bon-Tibetan Temple in 2002 and the rebuilt version in 2015. The new temple, using a very different style, is located on the same site as the old one in Jiuzhaigou National Park.

During the visit of President Xi Jinping to the United States and, specifically, western Washington, the *Seattle Times* for September 23rd contained an advertising supplement sponsored by *China Watch* (part of *China Daily*, the English language paper of the People's Republic of China). One entire page of the 8 page supplement was about Chengdu and its present and future links to the United States. Two examples were presented: if you or someone you know buys a Volvo S60, it was likely built in a factory near Chengdu. Intel has already invested 0.6 billion dollars in facilities in Chengdu and anticipates investing an additional 1.6 billion dollars over the next 15 years. It is important to remember that the political and economic strength of China is largely restricted to 200 km wide coastal strip. Chengdu and Sichuan are a long ways from the east coast of China. I know I totally underestimated China's ability to develop!

In later *Newsletters*, there will be specifics about the people and issues in Yangjuan and Jiuzhaigou. The pictures on the next page illustrate some of our interesting and rewarding interactions during this trip.



Figures above: Top left Sara and Keala renew friendships with a family from Yangjuan. Sara and two children look at a picture. Sara, Steve, and Guo Yu pose for how various simple tools were used to measure tree growth. A local policeman takes us on a six-hour tour of his remote village. Sara peels potatoes in a Tibetan home. Sara learns to cook buckwheat pancakes on an open fire with a seasoned group of on-lookers in a home in Yangjuan. The beer greatly enhanced their comments.



Probably one of the best aspects of going to Sichuan Province is the food. Recent medical information about the benefits of capsaicin only enhance one's eating experiences. We also were able to eat home-cooked meals. Above was a potatoes and lamb broth with rice and spices. The lacquer spoons are part of the Nuosu's table wear. Below: Qingxia Yang serves us home-made barley wine in her Tibetan home in Jiuzhaigou. She is Assistant Director of the Science Department.

