

A large-scale Chinese calligraphy artwork in cursive script (caoshu) dominates the upper half of the page. The characters are bold and expressive, with varying line thicknesses and dynamic movement. The background is a light, textured grey. In the bottom left corner of the calligraphy, there is a small red square seal.

# Yale-China

## REVIEW

SPRING 2007

## Welcome

*From the Executive Director*

One of the defining characteristics of life in China in the decades following the establishment of the PRC was the almost complete lack of geographic mobility of its population. The vast majority of citizens lived and worked in the same village, town, or city for their entire lives, with higher education and government service providing practically the only channels by which people could lawfully change their abode or place of work. A rigid system of household registration and food rationing ensured that only people with official authorization to leave home did so.

The relaxation of these controls in the past two decades has had far-reaching social and economic consequences for Chinese society. In this issue of the

*Yale-China Review*, we highlight the diversity of China's large migrant population, which today includes roughly one out of every ten citizens, and some of the ways in which Yale-China's program work intersects with migrant communities. We also provide updates on recent developments in our teaching, health, and service programs, and introduce new members of the Yale-China community.

We are grateful to Guolin Shen, whose lovely calligraphy graces this page. Guolin's work will be featured as part of Yale-China's first-ever online auction, described on page 7, in which we hope all of our friends and supporters will participate.

—Nancy E. Chapman

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Community health providers and local teachers after a ceremony for the Chia Community Health Service & Health Education Program. Hongping Tian, Yale-China program officer for health programs, and Cao Ya, vice mayor of Changsha, are in the center.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM BEGINS FIRST PROJECTS

Two community-based health projects are underway in Changsha as part of the new Chia Community Health Service and Health Education Program. The three-year program's inaugural projects are a community-based mental health services program and a nutrition education initiative for primary school students. The program was developed in 2006 to build upon Yale-China's existing Chia Family Fellowship Program to address unmet health needs among vulnerable populations in communities in Hunan.

The mental health services project was established in the Wangyuehu community of Changsha's Yuelu district with the goal of establishing a model of community-based psychiatric health services. Led by former Chia Fellow YAN Jin, the volunteer team works closely with the Wangyuehu Community Health Center. Thus far the team has collected baseline data on psychiatric patients in the community, and produced free brochures on mental health and the elderly and on psychiatric medications. They have also established a telephone hotline, and have organized educational activities for World Suicide Prevention Day and World Mental Health Day.



Brochures available at the mental health services center.

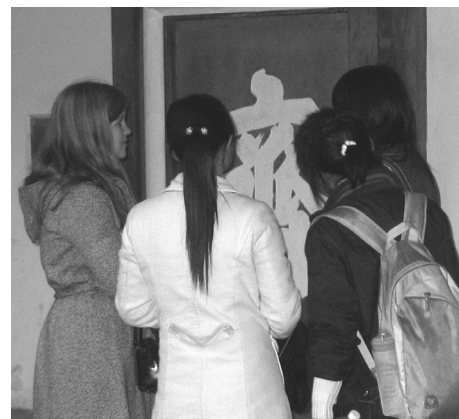
ership of Chia Fellow LIN Qian. The team collected information regarding students' knowledge and attitudes toward nutrition, and then used the data from 29 elementary schools to design a nutrition education curriculum that is initially being implemented in two elementary schools.

Because the outreach program also aims to foster volunteerism, we are particularly excited by synergies that have emerged between this and other Yale-China programs. As an example, Yale-China Teaching Fellow at Yali Middle School, Dan O'Neill, and four Yali Middle School seniors have become volunteers with the nutrition education program under Lin Qian's guidance.

Now in its ninth year, the Chia Family Fellowship Program has created a network of 17 program alumnae, 15 of whom continue to collaborate on research and public health work in their home province of Hunan. Chosen through a highly competitive selection process, Chia Fellows spend a semester

The nutrition education project is also concentrated in Changsha's Yuelu district, under the lead-

at Yale, during which they develop a public health project under the guidance of a Yale faculty mentor and Yale-China staff, and then implement the project upon their return to China. The Chia Family Fellowship Program and the Chia Community Health Service and Health Education Program are made possible with the generous support of the Chia Family Foundation.



Yale-China Teaching Fellow Julia Lauper tours the Yuelu Academy in Changsha with Yale-China Scholarship recipients.

## SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS, TEACHING FELLOWS SHARE DAY IN CHANGSHA

Fourteen Yale-China Teaching Fellows spent an afternoon with 60 Yale-China Scholarship recipients from Hunan University and Xiangya School of Medicine in November in an activity designed to deepen cultural understanding. The Teaching Fellows were in Changsha for their annual November Teaching Conference.

The event included a lunch at Hunan University and a tour of the historic Yuelu Academy, one of China's oldest educational institutions, which is located on the campus of Hunan University. The afternoon was an exciting opportunity for beneficiaries of two Yale-China programs to share their lives and cultures—using both English and Chinese—and to form new friendships. The scholarship students led the Fellows through the academy's chambers and corridors, explaining the history of the buildings and the meaning of the Confucian sayings etched on the

academy's walls. For most of the scholarship students, the outing was their first opportunity to interact with foreigners. At the end of the afternoon, the Fellows and the scholarship students exchanged email addresses and phone numbers, and several have since kept in touch. Later that evening, one scholarship student sent a text message to one of the Fellows that said, "Thanks for a happy day."

The Yale-China Scholarship Program is providing financial support, as well as academic support services and extracurricular opportunities, to more than 1,000 undergraduate students in Hunan province this year. The majority of recipients come from backgrounds of extreme hardship, and many must make the difficult transition from rural areas to life on a busy urban university campus. The Yale-China Scholarship Program is made possible by the generous support of the Hong Kong-based Chung Kin-kwok Education Foundation and an anonymous donor.



## YUNA EXCHANGE STUDENTS EXAMINE 'ETHICS & MORALITY'

Students from Yale University and New Asia College at The Chinese University of Hong Kong visited each

other's campuses this spring as part of the 14th annual Yale University—New Asia College Undergraduate Exchange (YUNA). The exchange brings together eight students from each school to explore a common social, political, or cultural theme. This year's theme was "ethics and morality."

Highlights of the Yale students' two-week visit to Hong Kong over Yale's spring break included a meeting with a Hong Kong legislator, a talk with a media ethics professor, and a visit to a Hong Kong prison. The Yale students also gave a symposium at New Asia College on topics that included law and government, family values and religion, business ethics, and bioethics.

The trip followed a visit by the New Asia students to the U.S. in February, during which time the group met with speakers such as a former senior Enron employee and an environmental journalist, and visited places including Yale's Sustainable Food Project. The students also toured Leeway, Connecticut's only nursing home solely dedicated to people living with AIDS, and volunteered at a local soup kitchen. The New Asia students also gave presentations on their own research on ethics and morality at a symposium at Yale.



Yale and New Asia College participants in the annual YUNA Exchange stop for a photo in front of the White House. The group spent two days in Washington, D.C. as a part of the Hong Kong students' visit to the U.S. in February.

"The exchange gives the students an opportunity to get an insider's view of the city they visit and understand another culture better," says Xiao Zhang, Yale-China's Program Officer for Student Programs. "The Yale students have also formed close friendships with each other and their New Asia counterparts."

The YUNA Exchange is made possible by the generous support of the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University.



A page from Yale-China's new website at [www.yalechina.org](http://www.yalechina.org).

## YALE-CHINA UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

We are excited to announce the launch of the newly-revamped Yale-China website. The website is bilingual and includes an interactive map of where we work, online slide shows that feature photos from our programs, and online giving capacity. The website is located at [www.yalechina.org](http://www.yalechina.org).

We hope that all of the readers of this newsletter will visit the site frequently to keep abreast of developments at Yale-China. Members and other friends of Yale-China can also easily update their contact information by using the website's "Contact Us" feature. Please visit the site soon. We look forward to hearing from you.





# YALE-CHINA INVESTIGATES MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND HEALTH

by Anne Ofstedal  
Senior Development Officer

China's current rural-to-urban migrant population is estimated at 147 million. If, on a given day, just 0.5% of this population is in need of medical care, what are these more than 700,000 people to do?

According to Hongping Tian, Yale-China's Program Officer for Health Programs, who recently spent time conducting fieldwork on migrant health in the Pearl River Delta, most migrant workers in such situations will first try to get by without any medical care. If their condition does not get better or if it worsens, most will first self-diagnose and self-treat their illnesses with over-the-counter medications. Not surprisingly, migrants generally seek medical care at a clinic or hospital in only the most urgent cases. According to Hongping, migrant laborers avoid and distrust the medical system for reasons that are as varied and complex as the vast migrant population itself. Ability to pay for medical treatment is, of course, a major factor; hospitals in many cases will not admit patients without a deposit of at least a couple of thousand Chinese yuan (US\$200-\$300), the equivalent of several months' pay for an average migrant worker. To migrants who already face daunting day-to-day struggles of low wages, and who generally have no employer-paid insurance, hospitalization often requires borrowing money from relatives or from fellow migrants from the same village or province, or even returning home, where medical costs are lower. The stresses of ill health and inadequate finances are compounded by a lack of understanding of the medical system.

"There is considerable miscommunication between the health care system and the migrant population," says Hongping. "For someone who is not familiar with the medical system, even the basic steps for receiving care in a hospital, such as the need to pay the registration fee and finding the appropriate department before seeing a doctor, can be intimidating and confusing." The result of this miscommunication is the perception, on the part of migrants, of a system that is alien and not user-friendly.

China's contemporary rural-to-urban migration, which began in the early-to mid-1980's as rural co-operatives were dissolved and the newly-instituted household responsibility system for land tenure began, not only increased prosperity in some rural areas, but also created a large pool of excess labor. These laborers, primarily men, traveled to cities and towns, and especially to the new Special Economic Zones in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, and Xiamen, as well as the "open" cities along the coast, such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, to seek work in the bustling factories and enterprises that would quickly contribute to China's skyrocketing economic growth. Women gradually became a significant part of the migrant labor force. Since the 1980's, the migrant population has steadily expanded, increasing in only the past six years from 120 million to 147 million.

The migrant population, often stereotyped as a homogeneous army of laborers, has become a complex and dynamic social phenomenon with many subgroups. Some migrants move from one urban area to the next in search of higher wages, while others settle in one city for many years, and, possibly, gain the coveted *hukou* (户口), or urban household residence. Migration, previously an inland-to-coastal area movement, is now more varied, as urbanization takes hold throughout China. Another recent trend in the migrant population is the appearance of more and more families migrating together, as opposed to the earlier model of men and women, whether unmarried or married, leaving their hometowns, with resulting strains on family relationships. Advocacy on behalf of migrant populations has also increased through the activities of non-profit organizations, which work in areas such as urban integration, legal aid services, and education for migrant children.

There is relatively little systematic population-based research regarding health issues of migrant workers in China. Researchers, particularly in the areas of economics, sociology, and anthropology,

"Much of the health-related research on migrant populations in China has been focused on infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and has been driven by the fear of the spread of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) or avian flu, and the perception that migrant workers are vectors of communicable disease. Little research has been done on migrants' health needs and health risks, and strategies and interventions that can address health-related issues of particular concern to this population."

— Hongping Tian,  
Yale-China's Program Officer  
for Health Programs



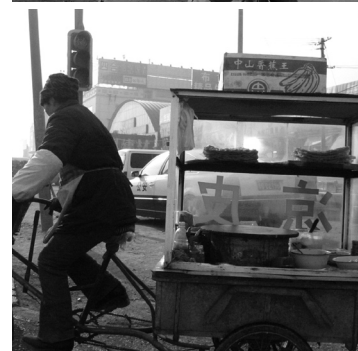
have paid attention to this vast source of human capital for over two decades, but little research has been done on migrant workers and health issues that recognize this population group's need for basic health care. Says Hongping, "Much of the health-related research on migrant populations in China has been focused on infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and has been driven by the fear of the spread of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) or avian flu, and the perception that migrant workers are vectors of communicable disease. Little research has been done on migrants' health needs and health risks, and strategies and interventions that can address health-related issues of particular concern to this population."

Yale-China's current work in migrant health is the initial phase of what will eventually include programs that provide health education and/or interventions for migrant workers. A three-year program, Assessing the Health Needs and Health Risks of Migrant Workers in the Pearl River Delta, began in 2005 and is being implemented in collaboration with Sun Yat-sen University's School of Public Health and Department of Anthropology. This assessment examines women factory workers and women in the entertainment industry and their health needs and risks of infectious diseases. The Sun Yat-sen University research team has conducted in-depth interviews of these two groups. Hongping has also surveyed institutions and organizations in Guangdong that work on health issues related to migrant workers. The data collected in this assessment will allow Yale-China to determine where it can make contributions to improving the health of this diverse and mostly underserved population. This assessment project also offers one-semester training fellowships at Yale for Sun Yat-sen University graduate students and researchers. The first trainee will examine the subgroup characteristics of the migrant workers in Guangdong in an effort to offer insights into this diverse population that will allow future interventions.

Another Yale-China health initiative is also focusing on migrants and health this year. The Public Health Challenges in South China Program is a new fellowship program that provides one-month research residencies at Yale for policy makers, public health scholars, and practitioners from China. This project also includes an annual academic symposium at Yale organized by Yale-China. This year's two visiting Fellows will arrive in New Haven in April (see page 6). The symposium that they will participate in, along with other scholars in the U.S., will be held on April 26 (see inset information at lower right). The 2007 issue of the *Yale-China Health Journal* will include articles on migrant health by some of the symposium's speakers, and will be available free-of-charge on the Yale-China website later this year. Although the precise nature of Yale-China's future rural-to-urban migration and health projects have yet to be determined, they will be designed to mesh with our Health Program's three-fold priorities of training public health and health care professionals, providing health education and health care for the underserved, and working on issues related to HIV/AIDS and infection control.

The impact of the large scale of China's internal migration on Yale-China's work is not limited to the health arena. Classes taught by Yale-China Teaching Fellows at Xiuning Middle School in Anhui province include a number of students whose parents have moved to cities in search of work that will help pay for their children's education. Yale-China Teaching Fellows in Changsha volunteer as tutors for migrant children. Migration-related issues and this population's need for advocacy and social services have inspired the formation of new non-profit organizations, as was highlighted at Yale-China's civil society workshops last year. Several Yale-China Service Interns have engaged with migration-related issues during summer internships, and this year our summer interns will team up with Yale-China Scholarship recipients for a one-week service project at a school for children of migrant workers in Nanjing. As with our health initiatives, we hope that these experiences will help to inform our understanding of migrant issues so that Yale-China might use its unique strengths and partnerships in China to make a difference in this complex area.

*The Assessing the Health Risks of Migrant Workers in the Pearl River Delta Program is made possible by the generous support of the Sun Hung Kai Properties—Kwoks' Foundation Limited. The Public Health Challenges in South China Program is made possible by the generous support of the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University, the United States Department of Education, and Sun Hung Kai Properties—Kwoks' Foundation Limited.*



**The Well-being of a  
Floating Population:  
A SYMPOSIUM ON  
MIGRANTS AND  
HEALTH IN CHINA**

**April 26, 2007  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Room 203  
Henry R. Luce Hall  
34 Hillhouse Avenue  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT**

Co-sponsored by:  
Council on East Asian Studies  
at Yale University  
and the  
Yale-China Association

Additional details, including  
registration information and a  
list of featured speakers,  
is available at  
[www.yalechina.org](http://www.yalechina.org).

# Our Community

## NEW STAFF JOIN YALE-CHINA TEAM

We've had the pleasure of adding several dynamic staff members to Yale-China over the last year and a half:



**Kari Heward**  
*Staff Assistant*

Kari Heward joined the New Haven office in October 2006 as staff assistant. She holds an associate's degree in graphic design, and previously worked in event planning and as a graphic designer in Orem, Utah. She supports the work of Yale-China's program staff, as well as contributing to the design of many of our publications and communications materials, including the *Yale-China Review*.



**Wangsheng Li**  
*Associate Director and Director, China Office*

Wangsheng Li has a broad range of experience in non-profit management, program development, fundraising and grant-making. Prior to joining Yale-China in July 2006, he was program manager for MetLife Corporate Contributions and MetLife Foundation, responsible for a \$40 million funding portfolio in arts and culture, youth and community development, health education and international philanthropy. Earlier in his career, he served as assistant director of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, a National Historic Place in New York City, and director of the legal services and citizenship project at the New York Association of New Americans. He has served on various non-profit boards, advisory committees, and national panels. Wangsheng consulted for the Smithsonian Institution and was an adjunct lecturer at the Management

Institute of New York University School of Continuing Education. He also previously served as an editor of the award-winning Chinese-English Dictionary (rev.) and a senior editor of the World Master Thinkers series. A native of Hangzhou, Wangsheng received his Bachelor's degree from the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages (now Beijing Foreign Studies University) and Master's from SUNY Stony Brook University.



**Xiao Zhang**  
*Program Officer for Student Opportunities*

Xiao Zhang directs Yale-China's student exchange programs, including the Yale-China Service Internship Program and the Yale University—New Asia Exchange. Born and raised in the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin, she is a graduate of the Harbin Institute of Technology, where she received a B.A. in English. She later came to the U.S. for graduate school in journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. Upon graduation, she worked as a reporter in the Midwest for several years, including positions at the *Grand Forks Herald* and the Associated Press. Her strong interest in nonprofit work and China led her to join the Yale-China Association staff in September 2006.



## VISITING PUBLIC HEALTH FELLOWS FROM CHINA ARRIVE IN NEW HAVEN

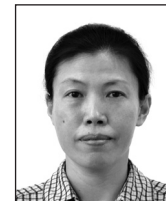
Two visiting Fellows from China will be in New Haven from April 8 to May 7 as a part of our Public Health Challenges in South China Program, a collaboration with the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University. During their time in New Haven, Fellows Hu Suyun and Li Xiaoliang will present lectures

to the Yale and local communities, join round-table discussions with faculty and students, and participate in a symposium on health and China's internal migrants (see page 5).



**HU Suyun** is a professor at the Institution of Population and Development Studies at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. She holds a

PhD in Economics from the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, an MA Demography from Fudan University, and a BA in Economics, also from Fudan. Hu Suyun's main areas of research include health systems and health insurance, rural-to-urban migrants, labor, social security systems, and urban and rural health system reform. She is currently conducting research on economics and population problems in China.



**LI Xiaoliang** is the director of the department of maternal and child health at the Kunming Medical College School of Public Health. A professor and medical doctor, Li Xiaoliang was educated

at the School of Public Health at West China University of Medical Sciences in Chengdu, where she received her MD. She also spent one year as a visiting scholar at the La Trobe University School of Education in Melbourne, Australia. Li Xiaoliang is a member of the council committee of the Yunnan Reproductive Health Research Association. Her primary areas of teaching and research include maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, and community-based health education programs in rural areas.



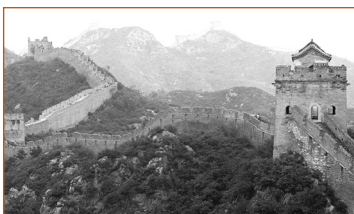
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# ONLINE AUCTION **June 1-25**

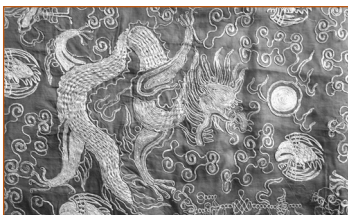
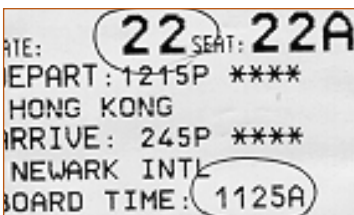
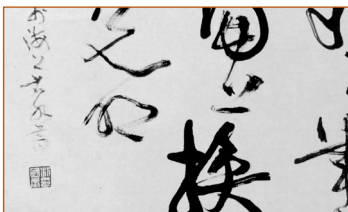
[www.yalechina.cmarket.com](http://www.yalechina.cmarket.com)



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- Weekend getaways
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Money raised from our first-ever online auction will be put to careful use in promoting education and cross-cultural awareness between the U.S. and China. We hope you'll join us in making this event a success by donating items to be auctioned and by sharing information about the auction with your friends and contacts. You can preview the auction now at [www.yalechina.cmarket.com](http://www.yalechina.cmarket.com).

To donate an item to the auction or to become a sponsor, go to [www.yalechina.cmarket.com](http://www.yalechina.cmarket.com) or contact **Beth Andonov** at [beth.andonov@yale.edu](mailto:beth.andonov@yale.edu) or by phone at 203-432-0884.

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# Calendar

## Yale-China REVIEW SPRING 2007

- April 13-14** **Dancing Ink and Singing Strings: Works by Guolin Shen**  
Calligraphy exhibit  
Yale-China Association, New Haven, Connecticut
- April 26** **The Well-being of a Floating Population:  
A Symposium on Migrants & Health in China**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Room 203, Henry R. Luce Hall, Yale University
- May 1** **Pre-departure Orientation for Summer Service Interns**  
Yale-China Association, New Haven, Connecticut
- May 30-June 1** **Spring Orientation for New Teaching Fellows**  
Killam's Point, Branford, Connecticut
- June 15** **Annual Members Meeting**  
9:00 am  
New Haven, Connecticut
- June 1-25** **Yale-China Online Auction**  
Preview the auction now at [www.yalechina.cmarket.com](http://www.yalechina.cmarket.com)

The Yale-China Association is a private, non-profit organization that contributes to the development of education in and about China. Yale-China's programs in health, law, English language instruction, American studies, and community service bring life-changing experiences to thousands of people each year.

The *Yale-China Review* is published by the Yale-China Association to keep our community up-to-date with rapid developments in Yale-China's programs and to feature the voices of our program participants in the field. The views expressed herein by individual authors do not necessarily represent the views of the Yale-China Association or its members.

Please direct any comments, questions, or requests for information on Yale-China to the staff by telephone at 203-432-0880, by email at <yale-china@yale.edu>, or by mail at the following address: Yale-China Association, PO Box 208223, New Haven, CT 06520-8223.

Cover photo courtesy of Guolin Shen. Photos on pages 4-5 by Wei Lu. All other photographs by Yale-China staff or program participants.

Ingrid M. Jensen, editor  
Original design concept by Jeanne S. Criscola | Criscola Design  
This issue designed by Kari Heward

For updates and to learn more about the Yale-China Association, visit us at [www.yalechina.org](http://www.yalechina.org)



Above: The main gate for the old campus of Xiangya School of Medicine at Central South University in Changsha. Yale-China collaborates with Xiangya on many of our health initiatives.  
Front cover: Detail of calligraphy by Guolin Shen, Fox Fellow at Yale University. Guolin has donated several of his paintings to Yale-China's first-ever online auction, which will raise funds for Yale-China's work.



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