



- ☺ Our volunteer star: John Millspaugh
- ☺ Third Dairy from former volunteer

Shanghai Xu Bo Art and Culture Exchange

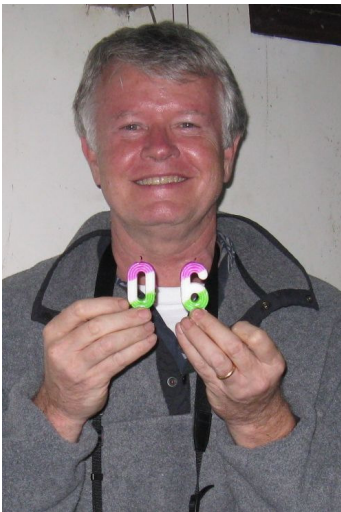


Christmas Party at volunteer flat, Dec 2009

December, 2009

# Volunteer *Time*

## Our Volunteer Star: John Millspaugh



I get to know John Millspaugh several weeks before his first coming to China. I still remember that our director, Jessie Duanmu, was very excited to tell me about him. Before his coming, John already had talk with Jessie by emails and John asked many questions about how to teach in China. He even made teaching videos for the kids in China. As far as I know he was the first volunteer who made own teaching video for the placement. Apart from that, John learnt Chinese before coming. I was surprise that because in China I do not think I know any sixty plus people learn a new second language. All what he did has been impressed me so much. I really admire his attitude

toward volunteer job.

John is friendly, easy going and flexible volunteer. You can see he always greet to others on island. There are no foreigners on island apart from our volunteers. Therefore local people are very curious about foreigners. Although they could not speak English to John they still used body language to communicate each other. It worked. John made great friends with local people. He has always been invited by local people. When he walked

on the street near the school, you can find that all the people we met say hi to him. He really became the superstar around the school.

John was fond of Chinese culture. He visited all he could about China during his weekend and holidays.

After his placement with us last year, he became our webmaster. He built up and keep maintain our website. Moreover, he helps us to communicate with our overseas partners, as well as current volunteers, to support them, to share his experience, to give them suggestion.



John will return China again next year! We are looking forward to seeing him again!

He is our star! Let me take this opportunity to say big thanks to him!

*Tom Zeng, Volunteer Coordinator in Xu Bo*

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**Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2009**  
**Canals, dances and typhoons**



Here I am, back to apartment again. Our weekend went fast exploring the “small town” close to Shanghai: actually, what we pictured to be a small and quiet country village turned out to be a city roughly the same size of Berlin, it's just that sizes here become extremely relative when the counterpart for the confrontation is a city as immense as Shanghai! Anyway, it's been a wonderful weekend, we've been on top of China's tallest

pagoda and walked around Tiger Hill, we've been on a nice boat trip on the canals, tried the local food and managed to get lost a good number of times. All in all, a complete success! As I suspected, the similarities with Venice are limited to the fact that there are

canals in some part of the city, but anyway Suzhou is an extremely nice place. Our hostel in particular was in a very pretty area of town, extremely venetian-style, a pedestrian street with loads of small shops and bars.

Once we came back to Shanghai we found out that there were not-too-comforting news because of the arrival of Morakot, the typhoon that made loads of damage in Taiwan in the past few days, and that now appears to be moving towards China's east coast. About a million people have already been evacuated in the area south of Shanghai, but the city itself should be pretty much safe since it's located north of the typhoon. Nevertheless, the atmosphere is a bit tense even though for the moment we only had a very strong wind and rain and if everything goes right there shouldn't be anything more than that.

In the meantime, my life as a volunteer goes on. My job in the Center has officially started and today was a great day. Jinwei was in a good mood, he recognized me and he was happy to have me as his big sister during stretching and games. I'm trying to learn all the different songs that the other "sisters" sing to the children during the exercises, but they're so many! I'll have to work extra-hard on that. :) Today during a break I took Jinwei in my arms and started dancing around spinning and jumping from one side of the room to the other, he absolutely loved it! He started to laugh like crazy and didn't want me to stop! I asked him "do you like dancing?" and he nodded and gave me the sweetest smile ever. It's things like that that make me really happy to be here.

*Caterina Fugazzola, from WEP, Aug, 2009*