FIRST HCC CHILDREN’S DAY CARNIVAL:
DANCES! DRUMS! AND DRAGONS! OH, MY!

By Elaine Lin ’10

The voice of the storyteller crescendoed to the rhythm of the beating drums. As the story reached its dramatic climax and the last echoes of the drums reverberated through the building, every child jumped and leaned forward just a little, watching intently, eagerly awaiting more. Even the paper-plated dragon that mentees collaborated to create early April appeared to shiver slightly in anticipation as it hung on the wall.

Captivating children, students, and parents alike, the performance of noted storyteller and artist Li Min Mo marked the commencement of the first annual Harvard China Care Children’s Day Carnival on April 19, 2008.

Remarkably, the carnival presented the first opportunity for all of HCC’s families and friends, of any age, to enjoy an event together.

With over 100 in attendance on a Saturday with opportunely beautiful spring weather, the carnival buzzed with activity as families living in the New England region participated in a wide range of activities, from arts and crafts to games and performances.

Creative “All-in-One” Design

As its name suggests, the Children’s Day Carnival honored the wonderful spirit and imaginative talent of kids all around the world. In celebrating children, HCC coordinated a unique combination of activities, never allowing for a dull moment.

Kids of all ages tried out a variety of games and arts and crafts that related to Chinese culture and history at the 12 booths. Families learned to make tissue paper origami, their own Chinese (Continued on Page 2)

BJCH PREVAILS AFTER EARTHQUAKE

By Ann Chao ’09

The past few months for the Baoji Children’s Home (BJCH) have been rocky, but through the unmitting efforts of staff and the improvement of circumstances, the situation is now much better.

Aftershocks of the May earthquake centered in Sichuan Province rolled through neighboring Shaanxi Province, affecting the city of Baoji. Most residents moved out of their homes at night to sleep in tents for fear that buildings were unstable. The Baoji Social Welfare Institute (SWI) where the BJCH is located also followed this course of action, moving all children into tents at night, often in rainy and cold weather. After several days of this, the BJCH staff moved its children to Care homes and foster families in Beijing, Taiyuan, and Baotou at the end of May.

Sadly, one beautiful, healthy child named Wang Gaili passed away suddenly on the afternoon of June 5. She had been moved to a foster care family in Taiyuan who took excellent care of her, and she was visited every day by the foster care (Continued on Page 4)
FIRST CHILDREN’S DAY BRINGS TOGETHER HCC FAMILIES

(Continued from Page 1)

They have pretty dresses,” said Lily, who herself had posed with the costumes and the dancers’ Chinese-style fans. The performance of the Harvard Breakers brought the carnival to an enthusiastic conclusion and surprised many kids with their dance style. A few immediately tried to imitate their moves.

Children’s Day Prizes!

The raffle items, which included everything from books to ice cream and a Veggie Planet dinner, generated much excitement. The waiting families even audibly sighed as Marianna Tu ’09 announced another child’s name as the winner of the lovable Build-A-Bear.

With families buying rolls of tickets to make arts and crafts and play games time after time, HCC successfully raised over one thousand dollars to support its many programs in the action-packed Penthouse of Harvard’s Student Organization Center at Hilles (SOCH) on that most auspicious spring day.

Thank you all for taking part in HCC’s first Children’s Day Carnival!

HCC HOSTS CELEBRATION TO THANK SENIORS FOR DEDICATION

By Sherri Geng ‘09

Please join us in wishing the best for the following Class of 2008 graduates who had served actively on our board and without whom HCC would not have survived past its infancy back in 2004:

Eva Liu (President 2006 & 2007, Dumplings Coordinator, Secretary, Mentoring Coordinator, Mentor to Amanda, Luoyang Intern 2005, Saiqi Intern 2006)

Jessica Yang (Vice President 2007, Dumplings Coordinator 2006, Mentor to Rori 2007-2008)


Adam Sang (Internship Coordinator 2006, Luoyang Intern 2005)

Indispensable, brilliant, and with hearts of gold, these seniors have left their mark on HCC, on us, and on the children and families we hold so dearly to our hearts forever. We thank them for an incredible four-year journey. The honor was all ours.
**DR. CHEN: HEALTHY CHINA 20/20**

(Above) Chen Hui Liu and Dr. Lincoln Chen speaks on China’s health care system.

The medical committee ended the year with yet another successful event: HCC and non-HCC members alike gathered in the Fong Auditorium at the end of the semester on Wednesday, April 30, to hear Dr. Lincoln Chen speak about moving towards a “Healthy China.” Reflecting on the country that has been wrecked by epidemics, virus spreads, and the myriad illnesses that come with a burgeoning population, Dr. Chen, renowned founder of the Global Equity Initiative and President of the China Medical Board, spoke eloquently and passionately about the merits of public health and the changing direction of China’s health system throughout history. Chen was joined by Chen Hui Liu, a medical student in China.

Dr. Chen and Liu fielded questions on social epidemics, mental health, and other medical issues. This event was unique because it allowed HCC members and other audience members to participate in a conversation on issues that are rarely touched upon in China, such as the issue of mental health. As Adam Sang ’08 remarked after the event, “Lincoln Chen provided China Care members and students a brevy of insight into the current health care situation of China. I thought he appealed to students with an interest in health care from a medical standpoint as well as students who are interested in health care as a political agenda. Having a guest who has worked in China for so many years tell us his stories was very inspiring, especially as a premedical student.”

The talk was followed by an intimate reception in Ticknor Lounge, where audience members also browsed the “Encountering Asia” photo exhibition and enjoyed classic Chinese appetizers. HCC sincerely thanks Dr. Chen and Ms. Liu for taking the time to share with us their experiences.

**DUMPLINGS AT DUMPLINGS: STUFFING, THEN EATING THEM**

*By Dianne Xiao ’11*

As per annual tradition, this spring’s Dumplings playgroups wrapped up with “Dumplings at Dumplings.”

This playgroup on May 3, 2008 was a great success! The basement that morning was a flurry of activity, as the playgroup started with a massive dumpling-making workshop, with a few children making over twenty dumplings each. The dumpling filling was made according to “Jessica’s Family Recipe” (which you can find on our website) for pork and spinach dumplings. Each handmade dumpling, like the children themselves, was special and unique—some were traditional crescent-shaped ones, others were round, some were stuffed with filling, others less.

Volunteers were on the lookout for accidental ingestion of raw meat, but fortunately there were no such mishaps! While the dumplings were cooking, the Dumplings attendees learned about the history and traditions associated with dumplings. Each dumpling was stuffed with filling, and freshly made wrapped up with dressing. The children were provided with plates and plates of the delicious dumplings, and hopefully the children did too! Dumplings at Dumplings capped off a semester of food and fun. From learning about the history of dumplings to watching a puppet show featuring China’s famous Monkey King, everyone enjoyed the dumplings. Dumplings are one of the major foods eaten during the Chinese New Year, and it is associated with family reunions as well as wealth and prosperity.

For the arts and crafts activity, the Dumplings attendees learned about another common Chinese dish called baozi, or steamed buns. The children made beautiful paper steamed buns as well as elaborate round containers to hold them. The playgroup ended with eating plates and plates of the delicious and freshly made dumplings. Because so many dumplings were made, no one left hungry.

At this year’s Dumplings at Dumplings, the HCC volunteers learned a lot about how dumplings are prepared and cooked, and also had a ton of fun—hopefully the children did too! Dumplings at Dumplings capped off a semester of food and fun. From learning about the history of dumplings to watching a puppet show featuring China’s famous Monkey King, everyone, Dumplings was once again a wonderful experience for all involved.
INTERNSHIP UPDATE

HCC VOLUNTEERS HEAD TO CHINA

Before volunteers traveled to various Chinese orphanages, HCC Internship Coordinator Annie Yao ’10 organized an intensive schedule of workshops that covered visas, health, adoption history, and more. Interns also had the opportunity to learn about the adoption experiences of parents who participate in HCC’s Dumplings and XiongDi/JieMei Mentoring programs as well as hear from Bonnie Ward, who had adopted two abandoned Chinese girls. Ward has since discovered that they are biological sisters. During a workshop, she relayed how her daughters have inspired her to fundraise money for orphans and to advocate that paperwork be submitted so children with special needs can be adopted.

Part of the first group of summer interns in the Baoji’s Children’s Home, which had temporarily relocated to Beijing, HCC volunteer Erica Lin ’10 wrote:

“Being at the [home] was probably the closest I’ve felt to being three again. My favorite kid, Huei-huei, was a ‘toddler’ in BCH3 (she couldn’t quite toddle yet). The first time I sat down next to her, she handed me the little picture book she had been holding almost immediately. I was flattered for a few seconds before she reached out her hands and claimed it back. For the next fifteen minutes or so, we engaged in this simple ritual of passing the book back and forth. I have never seen anyone so overjoyed over something so simple. Every few passes, she would stop, look up at me, and beam…

She [soon] discovered new sources of amusement. She loved the sound of clipboards, containing all details of the babies’ conditions, against the wooden shelf… She loved smiling into the mirror and would always giggle when I helped her lean forward and touch the mirror. She loved watching a next-door neighbor ride a bike past the window. I loved that she loved these things, and I loved that she could do all of these things over and over again. The best part was how she would smile ridiculously, absolutely ridiculously, every single time.”

XIONGDI / JIEMEI MENTORING FUN: A GROUP OUTING FOR DIM SUM

By Jessica Wen ’10

With the Mentoring 2007-2008 Year wrapping up, the mentors, mentees, and parents enjoyed a leisurely trip to Chinatown for the final group event of the year.

The first stop was lunch at one of Chinatown’s great Dim Sum restaurants, Empire Garden. The words Dim Sum come from a Cantonese phrase meaning “a little token” or “touch of the heart,” and has come to describe a meal that includes many different kinds of small dishes and food. Everybody enjoyed traditional dim sum food like shrimp dumpings, steamed pork buns, sesame balls, and more! The inside of the restaurant resembles a theater, and the mentoring pairs filled three tables in the back with a great view of the stage and very crowded restaurant floor that’s always busy during Sundays at noon.

After a group picture outside the entrance of the restaurant, the mentors and mentees went right next door to a Chinese supermarket. After getting a chance to explore the rows of sauces and spices, teas, snacks, and even live shrimp and lobsters, mentees left with treats including White Rabbit milk candy, dried fruit, and Pocky. The final stop of the day was BaoBao Bakery, a popular shop that sells a long list of flavored bubble teas and warm Chinese pastries.

The annual trip to Chinatown is always a great chance for mentoring pairs to hang out at the center of Boston as well as a great way to experience authentic Chinese food, culture, and atmosphere close to home—the perfect way to finish off the year!