

A story of hope and inspiration from Anhui County in rural China



Last weekend, I was in Highland, Indiana for a table tennis tournament where kids under 15 years-old were competing for \$2,000 of prize money in the Wasserman Cadet Championships.

A \$500.00 first prize is pretty good money for a 15 or 13 year-old kid in a sport where prize money in local tournaments is generally not very high. In fact there was more money in the Cadet events than in the Open division, where 1st prize was \$400.00.

It's good to see so many new young faces in the tournament, the United States sorely needs some table tennis talent to go up against the international players where the sport carries much more respect and has national heroes who are role models. China dominates the sport, where both men and women walk away with most of the gold, silver and bronze medals.

In the Men's World rankings, 14 of the top twenty players are from Asia, 9 of the 14 are from China. In the Women's rankings, 17 are from Asia. But aren't those Chinese names for the three Europeans? It seems that the top players in the Netherlands, Germany and Austria are Chinese players who have left China and now represent a new home country! In fact, the top two women on the US Olympic team, Gao Jun and Wang Chen are originally from China.

12 year-old Brandon Lam from Minneapolis, MN was playing one of my students, David Perrine, also 12, from Wheaton, IL. Brandon's father, Chi, said that he had Brandon training in Beijing for awhile. Over on another table Peter Yang, a 10 year-old from Madison, WI was just pounding away at an opponent much taller than Peter. I think Peter is still under 3 and a half feet.

I stopped to talk to his father, Dr. Tonghai Yang, a professor of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Yang told me that Peter has done well in past



9 year-old Guoyi Zu with Dr. Yang and his grandmother

tournaments. In fact he had donated half of his winnings to Dr. Yang's foundation for elementary school and high school education in rural China, Ningguo County in the Anhui province.

Half of Peter's winnings was \$50.00. How far does \$50.00 go for educating children in rural China? After all, \$50.00 here in the U.S. barely gets you a month of hot lunch in our school system.

According to Dr. Yang, \$60.00 would sponsor an elementary school student for a year, \$80.00 for a middle school student, and \$150.00 for a high school student. The money covers school fees and book fees. Not unlike the U.S., getting through high school is important, its your next step to college. Almost every elementary student goes to high school. In rural China, getting to high school is a huge achievement, only 50% of the students get into high school. They must pass a highly competitive entrance exam, only the best get to go to high school.

Complicating many rural students educational hopes are the problems that affect areas where poverty is an issue. The children lose one or both parents due to accidents, disease or illness. Chronic diseases make it hard for parents

to work and provide for their children.

Despite the hardships, there is still hope and inspiration, thanks to Dr. Yang's own personal story. Dr. Yang was born in Ningguo County. As a child he would walk six miles to go to school, even in the winter. He would sell things in town to make a little money. He made it to high school, and then to Huizhou Teacher's Academy, and on to university for his Master's and eventually his PhD at the University of Maryland.

From his humble beginnings in rural China, to professorship at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Yang is a real success story, but not without help from many people along the way.



15 year-old high school student Yangli Cheng with Dr. Yang

In creating his foundation, the Hometown Education Foundation, he hasn't forgotten his hometown. So I salute Dr. Yang, and hope that you can help him help others. His foundation can be found at www.hometowneducation.org.

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Immigration Law News

It's Not Too Late To Apply for Diversity Visa 2011:

"The Green Card Lottery"

The online entry registration period for DV-2011 ENDS November 30, 2009, but there is still time to apply!

Persons currently caught in the immigration backlog may want to take advantage of applying for the DV Lottery because those who are currently in the U.S. or registered for an immigrant visa in another category may apply. Our firm is also able to file entries on behalf of those here in the U.S. or even friends and relatives abroad that are interested in entering the DV Lottery.

Don't Miss Your Chance to File an H-1B Petition!

As of November 13, 2009, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has only received approximately 55,600 H-1B petitions counting toward the 65,000 cap. The USCIS will continue to accept petitions for FY2010 until the cap is reached.

With so few visas left, now is the time to consider H-1B needs for next year and file now. Once the limit is reached, employees and employers will have to wait till the FY2011 filing deadline. In addition, stringent H-1B changes are being suggested in Congress, and predictions are being made that the cap will be met quickly next year.

Applicants Should Apply For Travel Documents Early

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminded individuals that they must obtain Advanced Parole (permission to reenter the United States after traveling abroad) from USCIS before traveling abroad if they have:

- Been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS);
- a pending application for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident (LPR);
- a pending application for relief under section 203 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA 203);
- a pending asylum application; or
- a pending application for legalization.

With the holidays fast approaching and heightened travel along with it, it is important to apply as early as possible. Processing times for travel documents are approximately 3 months currently. Those that require advanced parole and leave the U.S. without it may be unable to return and their petition could be denied or closed. Note that refugees and asylees apply for a Refugee Travel Document prior to traveling.

It is very important to know that those that have been unlawfully present in the U.S. can be barred if they leave the U.S. Additionally, permanent residents with criminal histories or those residents planning to travel for 6 months or more should consult a competent immigration attorney as soon as possible as residence may be affected. In certain cases, Re-Entry Permits are required.

For more information on these topics, contact Joanne Moy, 1-773-960-8494



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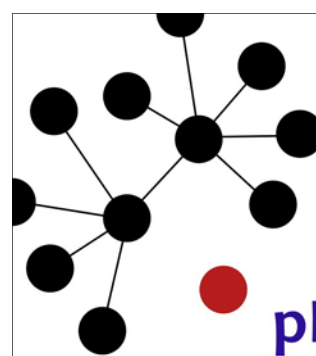
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