

## Boya Fever

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as soon as possible. "It was such a headache when I found out my favorite class was filled up within half an hour. I had no choice but to register for a science course, which I was not interested at all," another student Sun Lin told CWU Times.

Since Boya courses are open to all students, they usually take place in odd hours, like in the late afternoon or evening. To keep students in high spirits, teachers come

up with various ideas and tricks.

"I use many examples in my class. Sometimes I even discuss popular soap operas and movies from a historical perspective with the students," Liu Zhaohui, teacher of Qing Dynasty History, told CWU Times. Li Zhiguang, who teachers Foreign Song Appreciation said the students are encouraged to sing in class and he gives small rewards to good singers.

Their efforts are nit in vain. Many students like the way Boya courses are offered. "I am in the course of my choice. It's my favorite. I like it so much that I look forward to it every week. I even like the exams," Jin Jing, a computer major student said.

On the other side, teachers are delighted to see students' passion in class. "I see students who are not registered come to my class, I feel flattered," said Jin happily.

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to afford them, are able to offer far more diverse methodologies, many of which are characterized by an emphasis on independence, freedom within limits, and respect for a child's natural psychological, physical, and social development.

By way of example, the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and the American Montessori Society (AMS) cite these elements, inter alia, as essential:

- Small, mixed age classrooms, with classrooms for children ages 2/2 to 6 years old by far the most common
- Student choice of activity from within a prescribed range of options
- Uninterrupted blocks of work time, ideally three hours
- A constructivist or "discovery" model, where students learn concepts from

working with materials, rather than by direct instruction

- Specialized educational materials developed by Maria Montes-sori and her co-laborators; and
- Freedom of movement within the classroom.

Systems such as Montessori are now available in the larger cities of China, but are yet to expand into its outer regions. The sad news is that this is one of the many inequalities between urban and rural areas still existing in China. The good news is that the current Government are well aware of these imbalances and are working hard to redress them. This is more than I can say for many countries in the world where we can clearly see the difference between the "haves" and the "have-nots" expanding at alarming rates!



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## Boya Fever

By Wang Tianyue Wang Qian Zhang Li

Boya electives are new hits of the semester although frustration from its registration a fresh in many

students' minds.

Boya are liberal arts electives in five categories at CWU: Literature & Art; History & Culture; Society & Philosophy; Technology

& Nature; and Gender & Development.

They are quite appealing to the student. "I was surprised to find courses like Family & Marriage, Gender & Health, and women's growth & education," said Li Yaling, a CWU English major student sophomore.

Thirty-eight Boya electives were offered for the fall semester, but students had only three days for online registration, so many rushed to the computers without much research. To make things even worse, if a class is full, the system kicks out students at random. Then the students had to choose another one

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## “Night Run” Gives Free Meals

By Yin Kaiyue



The foreign teacher is leading students to do warm-up exercise.

Photo: By Wu Qingqing

The CWU Sports Union (CWUSU) kick-started a one-month-long “Night Run” Campaign on the playground at 8:30 pm, September 15.

Over 100 students took part in the event. Bradley Erasmus, a CWU English teacher from South Africa were running with the students

after leading the warm-up exercises.

This is the event’s third year in a row. Unfortunately, only to students participated in the last two years. “We were under great pressure for changes,” Duan Jie, CWUSU Deputy Liaison Officer told CWU Times.

This year the campaign gained support from Tianyi Xiaoguan (TX), a restaurant chain. Each runner receives a card when she first participates. For each “night run”, she gets a stamp on the card. Five stamps can be used as 36 Yuan in TX, ten stamps as 58 Yuan, and fifteen as 78 Yuan.

“The campaign will last for a month, 8:30-9:00pm, Monday through Thursday. So if you want to keep fit and get free meals at the same time, come and join us on the playground.” said Duan.

## Volunteers at Beijing Triathlon

By Wu Qingqing

Over 40 CWU students served at the 2014 Beijing International Triathlon Competition as volunteers with their enthusiasm and good manners on September 13 in Fengtai, Beijing.

The Competition included a 1.5km swim in the Yongding River, a dawning 40km bike race and a final 10km run along the Garden Expo Park. The long distance and tight schedule posed a challenge to the volunteers.

After a long day’s training on Sept 12, CWU volunteers were assigned to group C and D. Group C was to collect athletes information, and group D to guide athletes to the start line.

Volunteers got up at 3am, travelled across



The CWU students were taking photo together after finishing the volunteer work.  
Photo: By Wu Qingqing

the city to start working at 5:30am. When work briefly finished at noon, they were all exhausted yet happy.

“A felt more excited than tried,” Said Wu Siyu, an English major at CWU “Seeing the athletes working

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## Education in China

By Bradley Erasmus

Interestingly, the topic of my English Major students (Seniors) this past week, was to analyze the pre-CWU education they received in their home provinces in terms of 6 categories:

1. Free of charge or not
2. Equality of race, religion and financial status
3. Free of creed or religion
4. Controlled by local administrations
5. Compulsory attendance
6. Enriching body, mind and spirit.

These six points are considered to the traditional values that have developed in the American education system of many years. Having had first-hand experience of the high school system as an exchange student, I can say with total clarity that the American school system is far from living up to these values, but that is not the point of this article!

This exercise has no right or wrong answers, of course, but it was interesting for me as a teacher to read the responses of my students.

In summary and in general, they read as follows:

Sadly, this is true in all the Government

1. The first 9 years, primary and middle school, are free in most provinces
2. Mostly true, but some minority groups would get additional scores on the Gaokao exams, simply because they were minorities
3. Yes
4. Yes, all under the Department of Education
5. Yes
6. Here the students tended to agree that Chinese education up to a University level was too restrictive, focused too much on Mathematics, Science and the Gaokao examination, and did not encourage creativity enough.

(public) education systems of which that I am familiar! These systems are all designed to get the maximum number of students through a set curriculum in a limited amount of time. Understandably, it is thought, this can only be achieved by forcing children to comply with restrictive rules and regulations, thereby stifling their natural curiosity and creativity.

But, on the other hand, private education systems that are available to those with the money

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so hard, I had no choice but to try harder.”

No pains, no gains. “Volunteering in big events like this will not only broaden the student’s horizons, but also enhance their practical skills. For example, there were many foreign athletes, so students used English a lot,” said Dong Yanjun, chairman of the CWU

sports league.

The competition management spoke highly of the CWU volunteers. “All CWU volunteers devoted themselves to the services with passion in a professional manner,” said Liu Yanling, team leader of group D. “Being a volunteer is an honorable experience for everyone.