



When Jenny Chiu (left, with Aanchal Aneja) went to China on the 2008 CIBE study abroad program, she knew it would be an exciting part of her Ross BBA degree. The three-week program, based at Tsinghua University, brought her to Beijing in May 2008, just as the city was gearing up for the Olympic Games. The 32 Ross undergraduates, accompanied by CIBE Director Brad Farnsworth, arrived on May 11 for three intensive weeks of learning about the Chinese economy, foreign investment in China, Chinese business culture, and the Chinese legal environment.

On their first full day in Beijing, a cataclysmic earthquake struck the distant province of Sichuan, killing more than 69,000 and left 11 million people homeless. Although the group was hundreds of miles from the affected area, Jenny was so moved by the national tragedy that she decided to do something positive to help the survivors.

As a Co-founder and Director of Public Relations of a Michigan student organization, [Association for Chinese Economic Development](#) (ACED), Jenny built on her experience in China to organize a student service project the following summer. The 2009 Sichuan Earthquake Relief project gave University of Michigan students an opportunity to demonstrate international concern for the individuals affected by the earthquake. It was the first ACED event to extend the group's impact outside of campus. The group of 10 students, 8 from University of Michigan and 2 from Hong Kong, traveled to Chengdu, Sichuan for 2 weeks to conduct English teaching projects and activities for local middle school students. The intent was to help restore the children's spirits and rebuild social bonds. The trip also included visits to villages damaged by the earthquake to observe the social and economic impact of the damage, as well as to historical and cultural sites to further explore the other side of the city.



Planning the trip was challenging, since it required not only finding lodging and making travel arrangements but also negotiating with local officials and charitable organizations to meet with the group and allow ACED into the schools. It also required funding, which the students raised by means of fundraising sale, a charity dinner and on online donation site. Furthermore, the success of this endeavor has strengthened both Jenny's love

of China and her conviction that non-profit management is where she would like to focus her professional energies.

In Jenny 's own words:

“ The trip was made up of 10 college students from a diverse background with the same hope of creating an impact on local students who were severely affected by the earthquake. The students' curiosity to learn and their friendliness soon broke the cultural barrier between us, and such a close encounter is what makes this trip an amazing lifetime experience.”



CIBE is proud to count Jenny Chiu as an alumna of our study abroad program, and we wish her every possible success