



## The Inauguration of Kunsel Kyetsal

(Formerly known as the Tibetan Institute of Science and Technology)

*Dear friends,*

In this issue of our newsletter, we invite you to join us in celebrating the completion of our first project. The new three story facility at the Capital City Tibetan High School in Golok, provisionally called the Tibetan Institute of Science and Technology, is now officially named **Kunsel Kyetsal** (*The Pleasure Garden of Full Knowledge*). Please read on for more details about our travels to Golok for the inauguration of the new facility in the summer of 2007. As we develop and launch our next project, we will continue to share news about Kunsel Kyetsal on our website and in future mailings.

While we write to celebrate the fulfillment of our promise to the Tibetan community in Golok and the new opportunity it offers, we are saddened by the knowledge that many there and in neighboring regions are suffering in the aftermath of the Tibetan protests this spring and the violent earthquake that recently shook Sichuan Province. Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends in Golok, and all affected by the recent traumatic events.

**Photo at top: Shown standing in front of Kunsel Kyetsal are (from left): Phuntsok, chief administrator of Kunsel Kyetsal; Ven. Sogan Rinpoche, TSF Chairman; Luktso, Kunsel Kyetsal project manager**

In July 2007 TSF board chairman and Golok native Ven. Sogan Rinpoche led a small group of board members and TSF friends on a journey to Golok to celebrate the opening of the Tibetan Institute of Science and Technology (now named *Kunsel Kyetsal*). The building's doors would open to students in just a little over one month.

After over three years of working to make the project a reality, we were filled with excitement to see the new building first hand. We glimpsed



Kunsel Kyetsal the morning after our arrival in Dawu town, the capital of Golok.

As we drove up in a caravan, the imposing building stood gleaming in the sun behind a sea of waving katags, held by students who lined the school entrance in a spectacular

welcome to all those attending the celebrations.

Our tour of the building would wait until after a day of extended ceremonies, which also commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the campus that in 2002 was restructured as a high school, and for which Kunsel Kyetsal is now the flagship. The day was filled with energetic choreographed dances by students, beautiful traditional songs performed by famous Tibetan singers and speeches by those instrumental to the school's success, including Sogan Rinpoche, Kunsel Kyetsal project manager Luktso, school administrators and local officials.

At the conclusion of the first day of ceremonies, Sogan Rinpoche and the head administrator of Golok Prefecture were guided by the school's headmaster, Pudrap, on a tour through the rooms of the new building. The rest of us followed in an exhilarating crush of students, teachers and locals, straining to capture as much as possible on camera and video. We were shown

(See Inauguration on page 2)



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(Inauguration from page 1)

the pristine computer and science labs that had yet to be touched by students, given explanations of the science laboratories and demonstrations of the new multi-media equipment and language labs. The shelves of the two libraries – one for Chinese language books and the other for books in Tibetan – were only partially full. Before long, the libraries would be completely funded, thanks to the kindness of our friend Peggy Einzig and the many who responded to her request for support (see below).

The ceremonies culminated the next day with a ribbon-cutting when the school was christened with its new name, Kunsel Kyetsal. We

joined the students afterwards for a raucous party in their huge new dining hall, over plates piled high with traditional local food. The students shouted and chanted in eating and drinking competitions of the most innocent kind – they plowed through slices of watermelon, and chugged shots of 7-Up!

The celebrations were fantastic, and also a striking contrast to the next leg of our trip, when we traveled to Sogan Rinpoche’s monastery about three hours journey from Dawu. Please read on about the next phase of our trip in an article by board member Teri Harrigan. And for more images of the trip, visit the photo galleries at [www.sogan.org](http://www.sogan.org)

Photos, counter-clockwise from top right:

1. Kunsel Kyetsal ribbon cutting ceremony
2. A library reading room in the new building
3. Ven. Sogan Rinpoche accepting gifts from school officials
4. Student dancers performing at the inauguration ceremony
5. Yemchen Tsono, Kunsel Kyetsal English teacher explaining the new language lab technology
6. Just after our arrival in Xining, the Capital of Qinghai Province.

## THE ROBERT S. EINZIG MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A daughter’s tribute inspires fund raising



Full funding for the Kunsel Kyetsal library arrived with the help of the many friends, former students and family of Dr. Robert S. Einzig (left) who passed away on July 29, 2007. Dr. Einzig, the son of Hungarian Jewish immigrants, pursued his education in economics, enjoyed an outstanding career as a professional economist and taught at UC Berkeley’s Haas School

of Business. In recognition of his giving nature, his appreciation for books and his value for education, his family and many friends were moved to support the library, which has now been named after him. We extend our deepest thanks to his daughter, our friend Peggy Einzig, who organized a funding drive for the library, and to all who responded to her efforts.





While science and technology alone will not bring happiness to the mind or peace to the world, without them we Tibetans cannot succeed in the modern world. Skill in science and technology is necessary to develop the strength of our Tibetan communities and to contribute to the prosperity of our country. Without skill in science and technology, we will remain a poor and isolated region, and will not have the strength to maintain our precious

cultural and religious heritage. For the sake of Tibetan people, for the sake of our country, and for the sake of the world, the Tibetan culture must be a strong and vital force in the world. This can only happen if we bring the best of modern education into our Tibetan communities, and study it in our own language. The ancient Tibetan language of Tibet is a great treasure, and one of our most important gifts to the world. ”

### *Excerpt from Sogan Rinpoche's speech in Golok,*

given at the opening ceremony for Kunsel Kyetsal in Golok on July 29, 2007. To read the full text of his address, go to [www.sogan.org](http://www.sogan.org).

## Another Glimpse of Golok BY TERI HARRIGAN

During our travels through Golok and Tibet, we were treated like royalty and cared for as if we were family.

One of the highlights of our journey was a visit to one of Sogan Rinpoche's monasteries, Bayan, which is beautifully situated at the base of Bayan mountain at an elevation of approximately 13,500 feet. A few of us took an opportunity to climb the mountain and were rewarded with "breathtaking" (literally) views of lush, green, rolling mountains as far as our eyes could see. The following day, we were entertained by the Bayan monks who performed the King Gesar epic dressed in elaborate costumes.

After obligations to our friends in Golok were fulfilled, many TSF members needed to return home to their families and jobs. Sogan Rinpoche and two of us were able to remain in Golok for a while longer and relax with Rinpoche's immediate family in the home where he was born. This was a great opportunity to get a sense of what life is like for a traditional nomad family.

Over the course of the next few days we would herd yaks and dris (female yaks) with the children, watch as Rinpoche's father gave sage advice to family members and friends, and would delight in massive amounts of tasty, freshly churned

(See Glimpse of Golok on page 4)

Monks at Bayan Monastery performing the King Gesar epic



Sogan Rinpoche with some of his young relatives





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**Through  
compassionate  
giving and service  
The Sogan  
Foundation  
aspires to bring  
hope and  
opportunity  
to those most  
in need.**

- 1. Sogan Rinpoche and his immediate family
- 2. Board member Teri Harrigan milking a dri
- 3. Monks at Bayan Monastery after their performance of the King Gesar epic

(Glimpse of Golok from page 3)

and prepared local specialties. People were constantly stopping by to see Sogan Rinpoche, a very prominent lama of the region, to request his blessings and prayers. In the evenings we gathered in the largest of two rooms and surrounded the stove, which was fueled by dried yak dung. The young children would find a warm lap to curl up on while the adults told stories, made jokes, and caught up on what was happening in each other's lives. When we got tired, we would make our way through the pitch-black night to a tent, cocoon ourselves in layers of blankets, and fall asleep to the sound of rain drops hitting the tent fabric.

One of my more memorable moments came after accepting an invitation (challenge?) to try milking a dri. After instruction by Rinpoche's sister and sister-in-law, Tsapo and Dronga,

it was time for the hands-on experience. I sidled up to my suspicious victim who had one eye fixed on my every move. I positioned myself and then pulled and tugged in a variety of ways as instructed. The wary dri was not having any of my clumsy business. I did not get results until Dronga stood in between me and the confused dri's unwavering gaze. At last, there was the sound of milk hitting the bucket...as well as my face and clothes, but this was enough of a success for me to relinquish the task to Dronga's skilled hands.

Soon, the time came to say farewell to our Golok friends and family. Amidst sad faces and tears at being separated from their beloved Sogan Rinpoche, we embarked on the long journey home.