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Happy



Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving!

A big thanks to our alumni for their continued effort "to give back to the community" and share their exchange experience. An experience and knowledge is twice as strong and meaningful when shared with others. The embassy and the Ambassadors for Development, Mongolian U.S.G alumni association, invite you all to join us in making a difference through our experience.



Mongolian U.S. Government Alumni Association (MUSGAA) was established in September 2007 as a community of all past and current Mongolian participants of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs.

Since 1989 more than 700 Mongolians have participated in U.S. Government sponsored programs and it is these participants who have created this community and if you have participated in any of the above programs, you are a welcome member of this family.

MUSGAA Mission

To contribute to the bilateral relationships of Mongolia and USA and promote the efforts of Mongolian U.S. Government alumni for the societal and community development.

S. Enkh-Amgalan
The current President of the MUSGAA
Vice president, Energy Resources LLC
Fulbright Alumni 1999-2001
M.A in International Economics at
Monterey Institute of
International Studies



Who are State Alumni?

State Alumni are the current and past participants of any U.S. Government sponsored exchange and scholarship programs such as:

- Fulbright Foreign Student Program
- Fulbright Science and Technology Award
- Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program
- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships
- Global Undergraduate Ex-change program (Global UGRAD)
- Eisenhower Fellowship
- International Visitor Leader-ship program (IVLP)
- Study of United States Institutes (SUSI)

(Please note that the above listing of the programs is meant to be suggestive not exhaustive.)

State Alumni - Your Global Community

<https://alumni.state.gov>

Please join the Global State Alumni Community at jwv4l1alumni.state.gov where you can meet and stay in touch with the fellow alumni from all over the world and hear their news and activities as well as learn about job and grant opportunities for alumni and access over 1000 academic and prominent journals and periodicals in addition to sharing your stories and participating in global discussions. The State Alumni website is an exclusive community network only for the U.S.G. alumni to ensure that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.



Jonathan McGuire is from New Jersey. He just graduated from Rowan University in May with a Bachelors degree in Health and Exercise Science and Education. He is here in Mongolia with the Fulbright program, and will be teaching English at both the Mechanical Engineering School and the Mechanical Engineering Vocational School until June of 2011. Jon’s hobbies include writing, hiking, traveling, and martial arts. He is currently training in Bokh (Traditional Mongolian Wrestling) at Avara Professional Wrestling School, and has made it a point to see a different part of Mongolia every weekend.



Audrey Schneider is from Long Island, New York and she recently graduated from SUNY Albany in 2009. She is currently an English teacher at the Mongolian Royal Academy which is a branch of Ikh Zasag.

Introducing the first English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) to Mongolia



ETAs with Cultural Assistant Uyanga. A



Carime Lechner graduated from the University of Louisville with a bachelor's of Sociology and Anthropology then received her Master's degree in Cultural Sociology. She taught Sociology for 2 years at the University of Louisville and taught English for one year in Busan, Korea. Carime is now teaching English at Gandhi school of Arts and Production in the Sukhbaatar District. “Mongolia is a wonderful experience not only for teaching but also a cultural experience. I have met many great people and passionate students. I look forward to traveling within Mongolia and learning more about the people and society.”

Megan Bagwell is from Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. She graduated from Georgetown College with a double major in Biology and Psychology. She is now working at the Health Sciences University of Mongolia teaching advanced English. “I am enjoying every bit of my time in Mongolia. “



Helen is a native of Atlanta Georgia and she has just graduated from the Agnes Scott college with an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Anthropology. “Modern Mongolia is growing quickly and the people are making their mark on a global level. Slowly I am learning about Mongolian culture and how the traditional lifestyle is fusing with the fast-paced, modern ways of UB.” Helen’s favorite thing to do is take a trip out to the countryside. Mongolian Music has most interested her and soon Helen will begin taking Morin Khuur lessons.

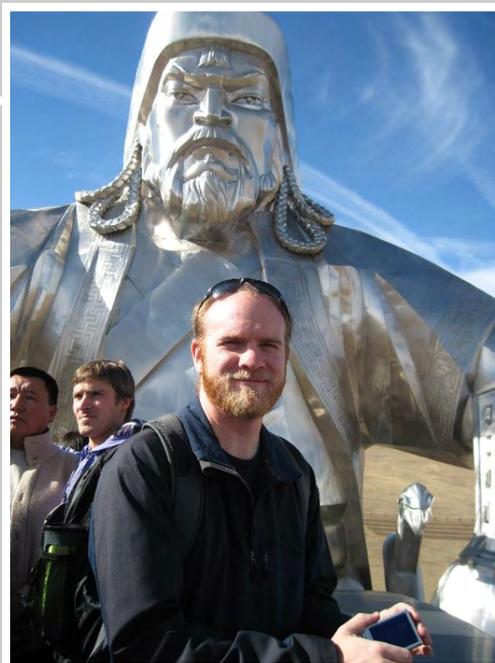
Miraya Jun hails originally from Orange County, California (but considers the East Coast her real home) and is conducting a qualitative study on the Factors Influencing Alcohol Use Among Adolescents in Ulaanbaatar with the Health Sciences University of Mongolia. She first came across this topic when she asked her Mongolian friend and past Fulbright alumni to tell her about the biggest health problem in Mongolia. While their replies highlighted the need to address the high levels of drinking in all levels of the Mongolian population, Miraya chose to focus on adolescents because of the recent increase in drinking habits of young people in the city within the last five years. She plans to use her Fulbright grant to train data collectors who will conduct In Depth Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with students, teachers, parents and other experts on this topic.



"Hunter recently received a M.S. from Georgia Institute of Technology and is pursuing using his current research as a PhD dissertation topic. His interests lie in the effect of climate change on the water resources of Mongolia and in particular those of the capitol. He plans to develop a computer model of the Tuul river and use climate projections to investigate the potential impact of climate change on the river and the growing

Mr. Colin Large is originally from New Mexico. He received his BA in English Literature from the University of New Mexico and his MA at Georgia State University. In 2003 he joined the Peace Corps as part of the Masters International Program and spent two years in the town of Nemyriv, Ukraine. While there, Colin studied Ukrainian, taught English in the local secondary school, and gave teacher training seminars to teachers from the school district.

Before coming to Mongolia, Colin lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas where he joined the faculty at Spring International Language Center. His primary area of interest is in the integration of computer technology into the ESL classroom. He is serving as an English Language Fellow at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He is teaching university students, helping to train teachers in the English department, and working on improving the online language services of the university.



Global Undergraduate alumni welcome World Learning



Welcome dinner group photo

On Tuesday, August 24, 2010, delicious smells of western and Mongolian food and drifts of many excited and friendly conversations and laughter filled the air of the Ulaanbaatar Hotel lounge. This was due to the fact that more than a dozen Mongolian Global Undergraduate alumni were meeting U.S. college students who came to study in Mongolia for one semester on the SIT World Learning program. World Learning is a global non-profit organization with operations in more than 75 countries. Through its international education programs such as The SIT Study Abroad, World Learning aims to foster global understanding and bridge cultures by connecting young people across cultural differences and social barriers. Since the Global Undergraduate program also aims at connecting cultures and lives through learning, our UGRAD alumni were happy to meet and welcome the eight U.S. students who came to study in Mongolia for the Fall 2010 semester and share some helpful hints for their studies and stay in Mongolia as their U.S. peers did when they visited the United States on their programs. The UGRAD alumni were a very important group to meet for the World Learning students as they not only know the Mongolian culture, especially the academic life, but also have seen and experienced the U.S. culture and therefore can bridge the both cultures for the visiting students.

Among the guests attending the welcome dinner were Mrs. Fiona Addleton, the spouse of the current U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, and many representatives of the different universities in Mongolia.

All throughout the welcome dinner, the students and the alumni were engaged in various active conversations over a variety of tasty meals, the topics ranging from how to use the libraries, different internship opportunities and to latest fashion among students in Mongolia. The alumni were especially excited when they met someone from the state they lived in or the university they went to.

Although it may seem simple, these kinds of events provide opportunities for the U.S.G. alumni to stay connected to their experience and understand and enjoy their role as ambassadors of their own culture and of the world through their exchange experience.



Mrs. Fiona Addleton with UGRAD and SIT students



UGRAD Alumni Yumjirmaa and Zoloo talking with SIT students

President of the alumni association gives overview of the Business and Economic Situation in Mongolia to the first ETAs

In August 2010, the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia welcomed its first five English Teaching Assistants (ETA), five new graduates of colleges from the U.S. who are full of energy and enthusiasm about teaching English and living in Mongolia.

English Teaching Assistantship is a U.S. Department of State program designed to assist with the English language teaching in foreign countries by sending new U.S. college graduates to help with English teaching. This is the first year of the program in Mongolia.

In order to introduce the ETAs to the culture, society and the academic life in Mongolia, the Embassy organized a three-week orientation program for them at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. One of the important topics to be covered during the orientation was the history and the current economic situation/trend in Mongolia.

Mr. Enkh-Amgalan, the president of the Mongolian U.S.G. Alumni Association (MUSGAA) volunteered to cover the topic. Enkh-Amgalan works as the Vice President at Energy Resources, one of the biggest foreign-invested mining companies in Mongolia. He studied international policy development on a Fulbright scholarship at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

As an experienced business leader who worked in international and national economic environments, Enkh-Amgalan explained about the macro and the micro economic situations in Mongolia and the country's transition from the "centrally planned economy" to a market economy.

The meeting gave the ETAs an interesting and effective overview of Mongolia's economic and business sectors. After the meeting the ETAs said that they were grateful for the chance to hear about the economic situation in Mongolia from one of the important business leaders as well as meet the President of the alumni association.

Alumna elected as the president of the Mongolian Democratic Woman's Union

Mongolian Fulbrighter, Oyungerel Tsedevdamba, a Stanford MA graduate (class of 2004) and a Yale World Fellow (class of 2006), was recently elected as the president of the Democratic Woman's Union. The DMU is the woman's organization of the Democratic Party of Mongolia. By serving as its new president, Oyungerel aims to bring more woman's positions in all levels of government decision making.

Mongolian U.S.G. Alumni volunteer at the Diplomatic Wives Fair



On the beautiful sunny Saturday morning of September 18, the main hall of the Ulaanbaatar Hotel was packed with people. Interesting sights of people in various bright colorful traditional costumes arrest one's eyes while delightful smells of delicious food and bakeries reward one's nose and interesting sounds of various traditional music of different cultures attract one's ears.

On this day the Diplomatic Wives Club in Mongolia organized a fund-raising fair among the embassies in Ulaanbaatar to help support different events and activities for children from disadvantaged families and children with disabilities. Diplomatic Wives Club (DWC) is a non-profit common-interest group established by the wives of Mongolian diplomatic officers and they work in close relationship with the International Women's Association of Mongolia (IWAM), a non-profit and non-governmental association established by the wives of the ambassadors of different nations to Mongolia. DWC and IWAM are both devoted to supporting various charitable causes for the disadvantaged women and children in Mongolia.

More than 13 embassies and IWAM took part in the Diplomatic Wives Fair and showcased their culture and tradition. They set up stalls and sold various traditional souvenirs, arts, home-made bakeries and performed short art numbers to promote their traditional music and art.

More than a dozen alumni from different programs such as Humphrey, UGRAD, Fulbright, FLTA, SUSI, and the Intensive English came to volunteer at the event. Some of our alumni made brownies and donated them to be sold at the event.

Our alumni enjoyed working alongside with the U.S. embassy staff and the Ambassador and his spouse Mrs. Fiona Addleton at the U.S. Embassy stall and fund-raised over \$300. They also appreciated the rare opportunity to see and enjoy so many cultures at once and at the same time help support charitable causes with their every purchase and sale.



FLTA alumna Ninj-Erdene volunteering at the Fair



Ambassador and Mrs. Fiona Addleton with some alumni and embassy spouses.



Fulbright alumni with Ms. Victoria Augustine and Mr. Andrew Imperato

On Friday September 3, 2010, the Mongolian Fulbright alumni met with MS. Victoria Augustine, the East Asia Pacific Desk Officer for Fulbright, at the American Corner and discussed the future and role of the Fulbright program in Mongolia.

The main goal of the meeting was to gather feedback and suggestions from the Fulbright alumni about the role of Fulbright program in Mongolia and in their lives as well as discuss the possible expansion of the Fulbright program in Mongolia due to increased interest and possible donation from the Mongolian government. All the alumni stated that they were grateful to the people and the government of the U.S. for their opportunity to not only expand professionally, but also to grow and mature as individuals and be the happy owners of the wonderful memories and experiences.

Many of the more experienced

alumni stated that it is a crucial time for Mongolia to pay attention to its higher education as the country's economy is undergoing a major change with the discovery of the new mining resources and increased interest and involvement of foreign companies and organizations in the market. As the market expands, new jobs and positions come out that the universities in the country traditionally did not prepare for. Therefore, Mongolian market is in more demand for foreign-educated human resource than it has ever been before. Many big universities in Mongolia are moving to a higher education model based on the U.S. model and are making many changes. Many stated that the annual hike in tuition and fees places a severe burden on Mongolian students and families who find it nearly impossible to cover the costs without assistance.

Therefore, an expansion of the Ful-

bright program in Mongolia at this time would be most desirable as it can bring the much needed skilled human resource and provide more real exposure to the higher education model of the U.S. for the public.

Some suggested that the Fulbright program should do more outreach to those who are working in the private sector since it is the private sector that produces the majority of the Gross National Products of the country and runs the market.

Among other suggestions were request to start a Fulbright Foreign Researchers program in Mongolia to give the Mongolian professors an opportunity to share their professional expertise and knowledge with the others in the U.S.

During this meeting the alumni also got a chance to meet Mr. Andrew Imperato, the head and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities who was visiting Mongolia on a Department of State Speaker program to talk about disability rights and issues. The alumni talked with him about the ADA, the U.S. federal law protecting the rights of the Americans with disabilities and their experience and interest in working for people with disabilities in Mongolia. The alumni said that so far the alumni association has organized two major events for people with disabilities and encouraged by their successes and understanding, the Alumni Association will continue to look for ways to help create a continually inclusive society in the future.

Fulbright alumni discuss possibilities of expanding Fulbright program in Mongolia and promoting disability awareness



UGRAD alumnus Zoloo with Ari Roland jazz quartet

I did my internship at the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of US Embassy in Ulaanbaatar for 6 weeks. For students like me majoring in international relations, interning at the US embassy was a rare and valuable opportunity. During my 6 week internship, I've expanded my knowledge of how the Embassy functions and experienced the atmosphere of working with people from different generations and backgrounds. I am glad that I worked for the PAS, the most interesting section of Embassy. I took part in organizing various events, translating interviews and meeting and contacting with so many people. The most enjoyable program was organizing concert of Ari Roland Jazz Quartet, in Selenge province. Having fun with Ari Roland and learning about jazz music was an awesome experience. Also it was great to watch the blending of traditional and jazz music.

Internship at the Embassy

I was so “accidentally or luckily” informed about an internship opportunity at the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar by my Alumni Coordinator, as an USG alumnus when I was not sure to choose my internship host organization. Now I am thinking it was another benefit of being an USG alumnus. The first task I was given was to work on Global UGRAD students’ application finalization. I was very proud of the chance as an alumnus of the program itself, consequently, it was very close for me. As every new beginning follows some obstacles or questions like “how” or “why”, my first days could not avoid that truth; however, when facing something I was not used to, my kind colleagues were more than willing to provide me both technical and professional assistance. As an intern, in total, I made over 40 pages of translations including the embassy website, press releases and alumni newsletter, etc. While practicing my translation skills on website translations, I was getting valuable information on U.S. embassy events or activities, English language and research opportunities, and various U.S. Government exchange and scholarship programs. One of my highlighted works was the recently published alumni e-newsletter, “Ambassadors for Development”. The task itself, one of my biggest translation projects of the internship, not only gave me meaningful experience on media translation but, as an alumnus, introduced me to the Alumni Association and its members’ tireless efforts to develop their community, and I enjoyed reading productive stories about the other peers including mine.

The six weeks enabled me not just to practice my translation skills but to learn how to be detailed oriented, effectively communicative and highly motivated staff member in terms of personal development. It lightened my present path and revealed my advantages and showed a way to correct my weakness. Even though the six weeks just flew by, the period made me an individual who is more focused on my professional development and career goal than ever before.



UGRAD alumnus Orgil with the State Department's Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy Ms. Judith McHale and Mr. Ambassador Jonathan Addleton



Orgil at his embassy works station



Gantuya, known as the cheerful Ganaa among her friends and the alumni, is one of the most active and devoted members of the Mongolian U.S.G. Alumni Association (MUSGAA). Ganaa, a strong and active businesswoman who works for one of the most prominent business corporations in Mongolia, believes in the importance and strength of volunteerism and community service.

“I believe that all exchange program students go back to their countries not only with academic advances, but also with deeper understanding about American culture and people, with inspiration to make changes to their life, community and country from what they have learnt while living and studying in the U.S.” says Ganaa “because the unique advantage of studying in the U.S. on Fulbright scholarship and at such a university as Williams College, is that you get a chance to explore the world just by coming to your classes and studying alongside students and scholars from all parts of the world”. She says Fulbright orientation and enrichment programs bring together the bright and devoted scholars and these events teach one “to think out-

side the box and motivate to want to do more”.

Ganaa is one of the leading alumni who played a key role in the formation and promotion of the Mongolian State Alumni Association (MUSGAA).

She believes in the importance of sharing exchange experience and knowledge with the larger community and takes an active part in any activities for promoting international and mutual understanding.

Ganaa not only brings her excellent knowledge and education from the Williams College to the development of the business sector of her native country, but also works to promote in Mongolia such important social and democratic concepts as equal opportunities, community support and volunteerism that she has seen and admired so much in America.

Informed by her experience of having a disabled sibling, Ganaa has a strong passion for promoting an inclusive society for people with disabilities.

Ganaa’s most notable contribution for strengthening alumni community was initiating and coordinating the English for Disabled project, one of the most notable and successful alumni project that brought together many alumni, American exchange students, cultural and educational organizations and sponsors in organizing a highly successful English teaching and leadership camp for a selected group of people with physical disabilities.

She says “One of the reasons behind the general lack of understanding about the people with disabilities is the significant underrepresentation of their voices in society. These people do not have much chance to socially integrate due to lack of educational, employment and most impor-

tantly infrastructural barriers. For example, there are virtually no roads, no public places and transportations that are accessible for people who use wheel chair.” She believes that the key to change the current situation of the disabled in Mongolia is to empower the motivated members of the disabled community so that they can voice the needs and the interests of the disadvantaged. One of the main goals of the English for Disabled project was to open-up new opportunities for disabled youth such as taking part in U.S. government sponsored scholarships like Fulbright and thus enable them to fully take part in the development of the society in which they are living. In June 2010 when the U.S. Embassy, Wind Bird NGO and the Mongolian Alumni Association organized a Children’s Day event for 300 children with disabilities and their friends titled “Inclusive not Exclusive” Ganaa donated 50 t-shirts from her organization for the volunteers who worked at the event. Ganaa is a definite example of how one devoted alumna can bring changes to so many people’s lives and motivate others to do the same.

Humphrey



It always gives me such pleasure and joy to remember my Humphrey year at the Peabody College, Vanderbilt university where I was blessed by new experience for educational innovation. My name is Enkhtuvshin and I received Humphrey fellowship in 2008. During my Humphrey program, I was provided with great opportunities to develop professionally and acquire the skills and contacts that are crucial to my goal of improving the current situation of the secondary and higher

education sector in my country. The Humphrey program was an invaluable experience in my life that greatly helped me to improve my research and leadership skills. After completing the program, I wanted to share all that I have learned with my colleagues and the professional community. Upon returning home, I developed a grant proposal on Teacher Licensure Standards for Mongolia based on my Humphrey experience. In August, I taught a Grant Writing Class for pre-school education officers from the western and eastern provinces of Mongolia. Currently, I am working with the Mongolian Education Alliance on conducting a training on 21st Century Learning for young teachers.

Finally, I would like to share my cultural experience of Humphrey year. As a person from the biggest landlocked country, driving a canoe was not easy for me, however, I could do it with the help and encouragement of my Humphrey fellows. This was a very unique and fun experience of my Humphrey year and I wrote a small poem about it.

*I will never forget my first experience
in the canoe
What had I gotten myself into*

*A landlocked country is mine
And water for me is not so fine*

*However, as a good team player
And a good Humphrey Feller*

*I supported the Humphrey spirit
Although I feared it, I canoed it*

*Nancy and Dolly laughed and talked
But I refused*

*"Please don't talk" I said
Be Quiet, this is dangerous*

*My hands were busy
Can you guess why?*

*They were holding the sides instead of
paddles*

*I thanked the Buddha when we reached
the ground
Thanks to my friends, I was quite proud*



I am Naraa, a Humphrey fellow at Cornell in 2009-2010 academic year. It was very special and important year in my life. There were many impressive moments, but here I would like to share one experience that remained in my mind most vivid and that made a strong impression in me.

It was a warm autumn day when 11 Humphrey fellows of Cornell University (2009-2010) were taken to a Challenge course camp to have fun and build team spirit.

We were invited to six various exercises that we either performed as a group or in pairs. The most challenging of all was to climb to approximately 12 meters tall pole that equals to the 4th floor of a building. Task for us was to equip ourselves with safety measures, and then climb to the top. At the top of the pole, having made a straight posture to jump to catch four ropes hanging in 2 meters distance (in the air).



It was a big challenge first, to climb because the steps were far apart from each other, then to balance oneself on the top of the pole, as the top of the pole is thinner and shaking a lot. Jumping to catch the rope required courage, and of course the ability to jump in long distance. Regardless, most of us completed the task, some catching one rope and some all four ropes. For most of us it was an extremely challenging exercise, but it reflected the road we all take and the barriers in it for all of us to reach our goals and not give up. The course in my mind was a good representation of our Humphrey experience because it was fun, challenging, instructive, and most rewarding when completed.

My Humphrey year was a once-in a lifetime experience and it gave me an opportunity to professionally grow and build networks.

After the exercises everyone shared what he/she felt and thought being on the top of the pole. In my opinion, standing on the top of the pole, I felt the ladder was the road I walked as an individual until that point and the pole top as the Humphrey program from on top of which I could review and assess my goals and dreams.



Naraa at the Humphrey Challenge course

USA through IV



Mr. Ragchaasuren at the Ranch 777 in Rapid city

For any Mongolian it is the most normal thing to have hot tea with their meals whether it is July or January. However, it was the most unusual thing to have ice cold water offered with my meal and to see the genuinely surprised faces of the restaurant wait staff when I asked for a cup of nice hot tea instead.

I, Ragchaasuren Ovgonkhuu, had the wonderful opportunity to visit United States in July 2010 on the IVLP program and learn about journalism in the U.S. and its role in the promotion of civil society and democratic values.

For 21 days I explored the U.S., the dream land of all journalists, from Washington D.C. to Rapid City, South Dakota, Reno Nevada, Buffalo, New York, and New York City, meeting journalists, NGOs, and government officials as well as exploring U.S. culture, tradition and people.

Each place and city held its wonders and uniqueness for me such as the Niagara Falls otherwise called the “curtain falling from the sky” and a visit to a ranch where I met a young American woman who tends more than 5 hundred wild bison in South Dakota.

The Niagara Falls is voluminous waterfalls on the Niagara River which is straddling the international border between Canada and the USA. The waterfall’s height is 51 meters and width is 1,120 meters and it is separated into three sections.

An adult bison can reach up to 2 m tall, 2.5-3 m long, and weigh up to 1,000 kg. The herders said some large male bison can reach up to 1,140 kg. Yet, for me who imagined American life and people as portrayed by the popular movies, it was very surprising to see such a young American woman so confidently herding hundreds of big wild animals.

Everywhere I went, I was greatly inspired by the clean streets, waste management system, traffic rules and obedience, including seat belts and “go green” or recycling activities in the United States.

Another thing that caught my attention was the popularity of the national flag in the U.S. Mongolians’ perception regarding national flag is that it should be honored and used for and during official ceremonies only. In Mongolia, a few government agencies including the Parliament raise the national flag in front or on the top of the building. However, I noticed that this was not the case in the United States. American national flag was seen everywhere from a residential house to the Capitol Building. Most American government officials and NGO representatives had a special place for the Flag in their offices.

In general, this program has greatly impacted my perception of public relations, press media and its freedoms. There are many fundamental differences in ethical standards and freedom of press between US and Mongolian journalism.

By attending this program, I came to appreciate more the importance of public participation in the development of civil society. I learned a lot about how local communities and nongovernmental organizations influence law makers to achieve their goals. Information about fund raising and public-private-partnership was particularly enlightening for me.

All in all, this was a wonderfully diverse and fruitful experience that fully satisfied both my professional and personal goals and curiosity.

Although it continued to take me by surprise throughout my entire program to find myself offered cold drink with my meals, it did not take any time for me to get used to tipping to show my appreciation for friendly and quality services.



Mr. Ragchaasuren exchanging experience



Awesome UGRAD



Hello, everyone! My name is Ulziimaa. I'm an alumna of Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, a program sponsored by the US Department of State for undergraduate students from over 40 developing countries. I participated in this program from the autumn of 2009 till the spring of 2010 after finishing my sophomore year at the Institute of Finance and Economics. The first word that comes to mind to describe this program is AWESOME. As you will see from my story, My UGRAD experience was as diverse and broad as it could be.

The program gave me a chance to study at a real US college as a full-time student for one academic year, and see what it is like to be a college student in the USA, I studied at Utica College in upstate New York.



What I liked most about my college is that the college offered not only very good major-related courses, but also variety of sport classes, language classes and other elective courses (such as, public speech, drumming, acting, etc) that students could choose regarding their interests. For me, I was more interested in sport classes, so I

took several courses; tennis, aquatics, golf and karate. I loved them!



It was also great that my college had many professional and non-professional clubs, and societies that students could join to further expand their academic knowledge acquired from courses, and to efficiently spend their free time. Clubs I was involved were Investment club, Dance club, and International club

The program enabled me to mingle with and meet new people from all around the globe, and to immensely broaden my view about other countries and cultures. As my college had many international students, and there were 5 other UGRAD students from Costa-Rica, Georgia, Philippines, Cambodia, and Uruguay at Utica College, I could make many good foreign friends. Every other weekend, we had the opportunities to do and participate in many different interesting activities such as picnicking, sport games, trips to different places (Niagara Falls, Stanwix Fort, Hove Caverns, etc.), and international dinner. My UGRAD friends and some other international friends set a custom to surprise one another on their birthdays. So, birthday was our favorite celebration that we could happily hang out and share our joy. Internship and community services are other beneficial things of Global UGRAD program. Scholars for one academic year are required to do an internship, and com-

munity service. I did an internship at Bank of Utica for 2.5 hours per week for 11 weeks.



With Marie, the vice president of Bank of Utica

Bank of Utica is a one unit commercial bank with assets of \$840 million. I had the advantage of working in every area of the bank with employees who are well experienced and knowledgeable of banking operations. This gave me a very broad and thorough understanding of banking in the United States.

I also did variety of volunteering such as working as a tutor at a public schools, sharing our Mongolian culture and artifacts with the rural school students, and helping an organization called Aids Community Resources to organize a fundraising activity "AIDS Hike". These community services helped me understand the importance of volunteerism and let me see social life outside of campus, as well as help me interact with many other people. Global UGRAD is a program that gives every opportunity to an individual to cultivate themselves in many aspects of life. I would willingly and surely suggest this program to other fellow students.



At Annsville elementary school

SUSI: Experiencing the U.S.



Chuluuntumur with her roommates

My name is Chuluuntumur and I am a secondary school English teacher from Darkhan. It is my pleasure to share my experience of participating in the SUSI program and visiting the United States in the alumni newsletter. SUSI program was an absolutely huge step in my life not only because it was my first time abroad but also because it allowed me to see and experience what I teach in classroom in real life. On the first day I was extremely worried about getting lost at the airport because it was not only first time on the plane but also my first long trip. At the O'Hare I tried to call the people who were waiting for me but I didn't have any coins, only banknotes. However, I soon met the person from UIC who came to pick me up from the airport and felt really relieved. Welcoming process was well organized. On the second day we had a day off in order to get out of the jetlag. When I woke up, I was really excited being in America and couldn't wait to look around, so I went out do shopping. My first food I bought was a doughnut which seemed too sweet to me I wondered why people are so fond of it. I tried it because some students of mine had asked about it several times during my English class back in Mongolia. So last September, when I returned from the SUSI program I showed my photos to my students and told them that I found the answers to their questions. The photos which were taken in the Millennium Park attracted them a lot especially pictures of an American couple and bridesmaids. There was a nice opportunity for us to see an advertisement for Backstreet boys's concert while in Chicago. I was very fond of some of their songs. Six of us decided to watch the performance and had fun all the evening. The way they performed was very different than their counterparts in Mongolia. So, not only it was great for me to hear their voice in person but also to experience a different style to watch an event. Americans were having dinner or drink sitting on the chairs next to the tables on the grass which

they had prepared intentionally before the concert. After 28 days we left Chicago for a tour. During this time we visited gorgeous places such as Las Vegas, Telluride, Salt Lake City /a church/, New York / Statue of Liberty/, Washington, /White House, museums/, and Philadelphia /Bell of Liberty / etc. Besides experiencing great places, I made many good friends who came from almost all over the world. I had 3 roommates from Pakistan, Belgium and Cyprus. My friend from Pakistan and I made milk tea together which is a common drink in our countries but I drank it with salt, she drank it with sugar. We still keep in touch online via the Facebook social networking and are still sharing our teaching experiences. Moreover, my Belgium roommate suggested that our students could make friends over the internet and we can ask them, for example, to get information about other countries for homework by communicating with their new pals. When I told my students the news, they were excited.

All in all, I have learned many things thanks to SUSI program from the U.S. State Department. Now I can explain about an American custom based on my real-life experiences, I can describe places and cities in America to my students and as such I can teach English more confidentially. Yesterday I read an article about the business sector in the U.S. and I found that Wall Mart, Target, Macy's and Dominic's now look very familiar to me. I greatly appreciate the U.S. Embassy and the SUSI program organizers for giving me this big opportunity to know more about the USA.



"There were so many types of doughnuts I didn't know which to choose"



American new couple in the Millennium Park.

Fulbright the Global Force

I'm Uyanga Bazaa, was born and raised in Ulaanbaatar. However, I wouldn't call myself a city girl. I love the countryside and outdoor activities but at the same time I cannot imagine my life without TV, Internet as I am in the field of journalism and media. In 2006 I won Fulbright scholarship and came to the States in August 2007. It has been already three years since I settled down in the Wild West of America – Lawrence, Kansas and completed my Masters Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication in the University of Kansas (KU).

Thinking back to my two years' of life spent in Kansas is somewhat similar to Wizards of Oz storylines. There were many times I wished I could return home by simply clicking my heels because of new environment, unfamiliar culture and different educational system from the one that I was from. However all these new experiences and challenges were worth it and life changing as I had met so many great people from all over the world and made life-long friends with them. As I was a practicing journalist, I had made series of stories that cover different aspect of American life style. Considering a limited space in this newsletter, I chose to highlight the Fulbright Association at KU and people who make it alive and fun.

Second day of my arrival in Lawrence Kansas, somebody knocked on my door early in the morning. I opened it. Two people are standing there: Aarya and Eta. They were surprised when they saw me and said: "Oh sorry, we are looking for a man. There must be some kind of misunderstanding," and they left. Ten minutes later they come back again. Sorry we are looking for Uyanga Bazaa. I thought the person must be male. In my imagination, I thought you are male. Sorry. We are Fulbrighters, who came to Lawrence in previous years.

"We help new Fulbrighters, to find an apartment, to buy things and settle down, anything we can help." We went to a Chinese buffet restaurant and met with other Fulbrighters who just arrived as I did from different part of the world and the ones who were welcoming us. Then we went to Eta's house. There, Suzi lectured us on buying cell phones or cars; finding an apartment; Walmart is cheap, but Checkers is better, organic food can be found on farmers' market; Lawrence public transportation sucks; you guys better be roommates with each other; tornado; obtaining social security card, being careful with our ID and any card numbers etc. These people helped me a lot. They helped me to look for an apartment, they gave us ride to grocery stores, and fun activities such as potluck where we can have authentic food from around the world, and sing and dance together.

A number of international students in KU has reached the record in 2007 with over 1600, about 6 percent of whole student body. Also KU has the highest number of Fulbright students, who got the tuition waiver from school or got scholarship from U.S Department of State. In addition to getting quality education in U.S. institutes, my experience in and around the country was exciting. Senator Fulbright! Thank you for initiating this program. Look, now it has become such a huge network that includes many great people from all over the world.



Uyanga with her Fulbright friends



Miscellaneous



LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Q: What letter of the alphabet is an insect?

A: B. (bee)

Q: What letter is a part of the head?

A: I. (eye)

Q: What letter is a drink?

A: T. (tea)

Q: What letter is a body of water?

A: C. (sea)



Q: What has many keys but can't open any doors?

A: A piano



A: Hey, man! Please call me a taxi.

B: Yes, sir. You are a taxi.



A: Why are you late?

B: There was a man who lost a hundred dollar bill.

A: That's nice. Were you helping him look for it?

B: No, I was standing on it



A: "I was born in California."

B: "Which part?"

A: "All of me."



Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Yes, because the Empire State Building can't jump!



Alumni Recipe



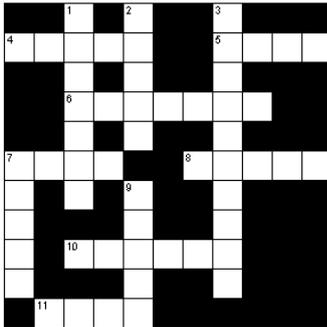
GALLOPINTO - Costa-Rican breakfast

Ingredients: cooked white rice, cooked black beans, chopped onion, chopped garlic, chopped red bell pepper, eggs

Steps: Fry the onion in oil, garlic and pepper. Add the eggs to scramble them. Put a little bit of salt on the eggs. Add the rice and beans and mix everything.



Cross word



Across:

4 -used for baking

5 -protein in a shell

6 -poultry

7 -the other white meat

8 -great with sauce

10 -American or Swiss

11 -liquid dairy

Down:

1 -movie snack

2 -best when ripe

3 -green is good

7 -type of pie

9 -t bone

Sudoku

9			1					5
		5		9		2		1
8				4				
				8				
			7					
				2	6			9
2			3					6
			2			9		
		1	9	4	5	7		

If you have articles you wrote or activities you plan to do and anything else you would like to share with the U.S. Embassy and your fellow alumni, please contact Uyanga Erdenebold, Alumni coordinator via phone or e-mail at:

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