

Mongolian State Alumni Magazine



Volume 2, Issue 2

February-May 2011

State alumni - Your global community
- <https://alumni.state.gov>

Inside this issue:



Please join the Global State Alumni Community at <http://alumni.state.gov> where you can: meet and stay in touch with fellow alumni from all over the world; hear about alumni news and activities; learn about job and grant opportunities; access over 1000 academic and prominent journals and periodicals; and share your stories and participate 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.

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Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) 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 you are a welcome member of this family.

MASA 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.

D.Jargalsaikhan

Current president of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA)

CEO, XAC Leasing

USAID Masters' Program alumnus, 2002

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Board meeting



Marissa Maurer, PAO, at board meeting



Board Members

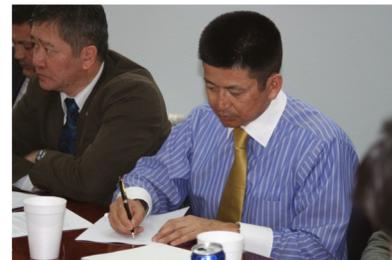
On February 16, 2011, the U.S. Embassy hosted a meeting for the newly elected board members of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni, also known as Ambassadors for Development. During this meeting Board member Mr. Jargalsaikhan, CEO of XAC Leasing and a 2002 USAID Exchange program alumnus was elected as the Board Chair and President and Ms. Gantuya, Director of Business Development at Tavan Bogd Group and a 2005 Fulbright alumna, was elected as the association's Vice President. The new board of the association consists of 15 alumni representing various exchange programs such as Fulbright, Humphrey, IVLP, UGRAD, Iowa Writers' Program and USAID Masters' programs.

The Embassy's Public Affairs Officer Marissa Maurer opened the meeting by thanking the previous President and the board members for their commitment and efforts for the association and wished the new board success and invited them to collaborate with the Embassy for its future activities. During the course of the meeting, the new board also discussed the main course of the association's activities and the majority of the board decided that it is best for the association to focus on making a difference in one sector, rather than go into many different fields. Given the association's previous experience in the disability field, it was agreed that the association should continue to pursue this field and work to create an inclusive society in Mongolia. For "equal opportunity for everyone" is what all of our the alumni see and experience in the U.S. as result of their various programs and what they as alumni should strive to bring to their country. Although, all the board members have busy full-time jobs, they are willing and enthusiastic to contribute their time and effort to the development of the association and its activities. This meeting was a result and a follow up of the Embassy's first national alumni conference in January and the Embassy congratulates the 15 alumni for their nomination and confirmation as board members and looks forward to working together for future alumni activities.

Alumni Association Elects New Board

List of alumni association's board members:

- Jargalsaikhan**, CEO, XAC Leasing, USAID Masters' Program, 2011-2013 President of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA)
- Gantuya**, Director, Business Development Department, Tavan Bogd, Fulbright alumna, 2011-2013 Vice President of MASA
- Enkh-Amgalan**, Vice President; Corporate Development Director, Energy Resources, Fulbright alumnus
- Oyungerel**, President, Democratic Women's Union, Fulbright alumna
- Ayurzana**, freelance writer/poet, Iowa Writers Program alumnus
- Delgerbayar**, Director, Department of Strategic Planning, Legal Affairs and International cooperation, Customs General Administration, IVLP alumnus
- Odontsetseg**, Oyutolgoi Health Advisory Team Leader, Humphrey alumna
- Khongorzul**, Senior Lecturer, NUM, Fulbright alumna
- Uyanga**, PR Specialist, Education Channel TV, Fulbright alumna
- Odontuya**, HR Director, New Com Company, Fulbright alumna
- Altantsetseg**, Former International Relations Specialist, NUM, PhD student, Wageningen, Holland, Humphrey alumna
- Munkh-Orgil**, Student, School of Linguistics, NUM, UGRAD alumnus
- Batbold**, Advisor, Erdnes MGL, Fulbright alumnus
- Bayasgalan**, Exploration Manager, Tethys Mining, Humphrey alumnus
- Boldkhuu**, Deputy Director, Fuel Policy, Ministry of Mining and Mineral Resources and Energy, IVLP alumnus



Mr. Jargalsaikhan President of MASA

Elected Board Members of MASA





Ambassador Welcomes the New Board



MASA board members with Ambassador Jonathan Addleton at the lunch

On February 28, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Jonathan Addleton welcomed the new board members of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni “Ambassadors for Development” at his residence. The Ambassador thanked the founding members of the alumni association for their effort and commitment and wished the new President and the board every success in continuing the great work of the association and taking it to the next level of success. The Ambassador shared some of his experiences as a board member of an NGO and a school in Mongolia, and noted that although the President and the board members of the association are all very busy people, serving on the board is an important volunteer endeavor, and it is

volunteer work that often brings the most rewarding satisfaction. The new President of the association Mr. Jargalsaikhan thanked the Ambassador and the Embassy for supporting alumni activities which enable them to come together and network. At the lunch, Alumni Coordinator Uyanga Erdenebold presented the President of the association the membership fees collected at the alumni conference in January during which the alumni association gained over 50 members. She also presented a large donation from an IVLP alumnus given to the association in appreciation and support of its work in supporting people with disabilities and promoting their rights and awareness.

Ambassador Jonathan Addleton, Fulbright alumna Khongorzul and MASA president Jargalsaikhan



Mrs. Fiona Addleton hosted the lunch with delicious meals





Alumni on air: Radio programs for the promotion of

U.S. Government alumni and scholarship programs

The Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy started a series of ten weekly radio programs with the Family Radio FM 104.5 as part of its on-going efforts to promote educational opportunities in the U.S. and the program alumni of U.S. Department of State. Each of these 10 programs addressed one specific U.S. Government funded scholarship and exchange program and two alumni from that program were invited to share their experience by participating in that program. The first of these 10 programs aired on March 15 and two staff of the Public Affairs' Section, Uyanga A and Uyanga E, the Cultural Assistant and the Alumni Coordinator, gave general overview of the long-term and short-term exchanges and scholarship programs offered by the U.S. Embassy. They also gave advice on finding information; how to search for scholarships and where to find advice. 8 of these programs have successfully aired so far and the programs will close off with a program about the activities and goals of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni and student visa procedures. The program airs every Tuesday at 16:00 with a replay/repetition every Thursday at the same time. All of these programs will also be available on the public website of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA): masa.org.mn. Below is the complete schedule of the all 10 programs:

Tuesday, March 22 at 04.00 pm

Second program: Global Undergraduate program
Subtopic: how to prepare for a scholarship; taking the TOEFL, writing a good essay

Tuesday, March 29 at 04.00 pm

Third program: Fulbright Masters
Subtopic: academic environment in the U.S.; different academic expectations/ethics, research/information resources, and international student assistance such as writing centers, and internship opportunity.

Tuesday, April 5 at 04.00 pm

Forth program: Humphrey
Subtopic: adjusting to a new culture; pre-academic language training, bringing your family, health insurance, housing etc.

Tuesday, April 12 at 04.00 pm

Fifth program: FLTA
Subtopic: cultural diversity at U.S. universities, promoting your culture and learning to deal with cultural and religious differences, as well as strategies for learning English.

Tuesday, April 19 at 04.00 pm

Sixth program: SUSI
Subtopic: professional development; academic resources and opportunities to establish professional networks.

VolVis alumni with Radio program host at Family radio



VolVis alumni at the Radio program, Family radio

Tuesday, April 26 at 04.00 pm

Seventh program: IVLP and VolVis
Subtopic: Establishing institutional ties: opportunity to share experience and do focused area-specific study trip and establish contacts in U.S.

Tuesday, May 3 at 04.00 pm

Eighth program: U.S. scholars in Mongolia (ETA, Fulbright visiting scholar)

Subtopic: Difference between Mongolian and U.S. academic environment, strategies for learning English.

Tuesday, May 10, at 04.00 pm

Ninth program: "giving back to the community" MASA
Subtopic: what after returning home; alumni association and its goals and activities.

Tuesday, May 17, at 04.00 pm

Tenth/last program: Student Visa
Subtopic: visa procedures and requirements
Guest: U.S. Embassy Consular Officer





AEIF Update: Mongolia gets two finalists

As we all know, the State Alumni Office has announced the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) to foster great ideas from within the State alumni community and more than 700 project ideas have been submitted for the first round from alumni throughout the world.

From these 700 ideas, 137 were selected to compete for the second round and we are delighted to inform the Mongolian State alumni community that two projects that were submitted from Mongolia have both been included in the finalists' list:

“Orchard”: Raising Employment and Business opportunities for People with Disabilities in Mongolia which was submitted by the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA), and “Youth Artists for Better Environment”: raising awareness about environmental issues the world is facing through media such as video clips and photos which was submitted by our “youth alumni” from the UGRAD and Intensive English programs.

The Embassy encourages our senior alumni to support those great ideas with their wisdom and experiences and our young visionary alumni with their energy and enthusiasm. As, taken collectively, the State alumni network encompasses some of the nation's brightest and most visionary minds, united by common experiences and common ambition to improve their society.

At the State Alumni and the Embassy, we believe that the united strength of the State alumni network is one of the most dynamic forces for positive change this country possesses. With alumni support projects such as AEIF from the State Alumni and with our local current and future alumni efforts, we hope to find effective ways to gather State alumni members together around particular issues like the environment and around particular fields of endeavor such as promotion of equal opportunities.

To get more information on the two projects please go to:

https://alumni.state.gov/aeif2011/finalist/march_1_2011/youth-artists-for-better-environment

https://alumni.state.gov/aeif2011/finalist/march_12_2011/raising-employment-opportunities-for-physically-challenged-people-in-mongolia



Alumni and Consul join forces to amplify outreach for education

During the period of past 6 months, November 2010-April 2011, the U.S. Government program alumni and the Consular Officers of the U.S. Embassy have jointly visited 6 universities and colleges in Ulaanbaatar to promote opportunities to study in the U.S. and in particular U.S. Government funded scholarship and exchanges programs.

In total over 600 students and faculty from 6 universities: Institute of Finance and Economics, State University of Agriculture, Mongolian Health Sciences' University, Mongolian National University, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, and International College of Business and Economy, attended these meetings and received information about student visa and U.S. Government funded exchanges and scholarship programs.

Over 10 alumni participated in these meetings and gave scholarship presentations specifically targeted at university faculty and students on U.S. Government programs. Following these presentations, the audiences had opportunities to hold informal discussion with the alumni and ask them about their experience of participating in the program and living in the U.S. The alumni shared practical and helpful hints for preparing and applying for scholarship programs and distributed promotional hand-outs about U.S. scholarship programs and free U.S. magazines and publications.

The students and the faculty of all the universities were highly appreciative of these outreach meetings and requested more opportunities for organizing similar meetings more often. This outreach effort was very successful as it gave the audience an opportunity to directly address and get comprehensive and true information on the two most important aspects of studying in the U.S.: financial support and Visa issues.

The Embassy recognizes and appreciates the help and contribution of its alumni for volunteering their time and effort for the promotion of the programs they participated in and for helping more and more fellow Mongolians to benefit from these programs as well.

Consul, an Embassy staff, the two alumni and a representative



Consul alumni lecture at University of Agriculture



Consul alumni lecture at University of Agriculture



Photo taken at the stage to show all listeners



U.S. Embassy and Alumni Join Forces to Amplify Outreach on Education

In March and April 2011, the Public Affairs' Section of the U.S. Embassy undertook two separate outreach trips to 7 central and eastern provinces of Mongolia covering in total over 2500 kilometers, meeting over 750 students and faculty, and visiting over 12 local orphanage and disability centers.

The main purpose of the two trips was to reach out to students, universities and the general public of provinces outside of the capital city and encourage more participation of local people and students in U.S. government scholarship and exchanges programs. The outreach groups provided information on U.S. government-funded scholarships and programs and explained about the general requirements and procedures for pursuing studies in the U.S. U.S.G. program alumni joined the Embassy staff on each trip to share their experience with the students and the faculty of those rural provinces. Five Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) to Mongolia also joined the trips and together with the alumni conducted outreach visits to local orphanages and disability centers.

The assistance and involvement of our alumni living in each of the local areas was crucial to the success of the trip. In Darkhan city, alumni of IVLP and SUSI programs helped arrange the visits and meetings, and attended and shared information at the public and university meetings.

Each of our trips consisted of three main components: outreach to the local universities and the students, outreach to the socially disadvantaged groups, especially children, and the outreach to the local media.

During the two trips, U.S. Embassy staff visited 9 local universities and vocational training centers and held meetings with the heads of the local education departments. At these meetings, the Embassy staff discussed possible ways of collaboration such as extending the Fulbright ETA program and increasing the promotion of the U.S. Government scholarship and exchanges programs among their faculty and students. The local universities highly appreciated the opportunity to learn about the exchanges and educational programs from the Embassy and expressed their interest in collaborating with the Embassy in the future.

Alumni and ETAs visited 12 orphanage and disability centers in these 7 aimags and conducted outreach programs. The centers they visited ranged from a vocational circus training center for street children to a shelter for girls who were victims of domestic violence.

During their visits, the ETAs and the alumna enjoyed music performances by the children and taught the younger kids English songs, the alphabet, and played fun games with the kids. They also gave the kids English story and coloring books and other supplies, and presented at each center some donations of clothes and toys collected from Embassy staff.

In each aimag, the Embassy staff organized a public lecture on scholarships and visas free of charge for the local public and in total over 700 people attended. There was television and press coverage of events throughout the trips. The Embassy staff also visited Erdenet Mining Corporation, the largest employer in Erdenet, and one of the largest in all Mongolia, and made a presentation on study and business travel opportunities in the U.S. for managers and engineers of the company. As mining and engineering are becoming the priority sectors for the country's economy and development, this meeting was very important and the audience asked numerous questions.

There were many positive outcomes of this outreach trip. The presence of the alumni and the Fulbright participants allowed more face-time at the children's centers and was a great example of the American spirit of volunteerism. Utilizing the complementary expertise of both Public Affairs and Consular staff as well as the alumni, the embassy staff were able to give comprehensive presentations about educational opportunities in the U.S. to the local high school and university students, teachers, administrators, businesses and the general public.

With so much of the political, economic, and people power of the country concentrated in Ulaanbaatar, the impact of outreach efforts outside of the capital is great and highly appreciated. The presence of U.S. Embassy staff in regional centers goes a long way to building positive public perception of the U.S. and encourages more diversity in the U.S. government scholarship applicant pool.



Dornod EARC meeting with students



Audrey one of the ETAs reading book in Dornogobi 6th kindergarten



Group picture at Shonkhodoi center, Darkhan

ETAs teaching English Alphabets at Enerel center, Erdenet



Dornogobi kids enjoying sweets

ETAs donating English books and educational materials to Enerel center Erdenet



English Speaking club in Dornod



A girl and a puppy at Gerel center in Dornod



Two ETAs with a girl with wheelchair at kindergarten in Khentii



Kids are busy reading their books which ETAs donated

Carime Lechner, ETA, singing with kids kids at Children of the Sukhbaatar



Public lecture audience



Factory tour, Erdenet factory



Kids holding up their illustrated English learning materials

Munkh-Orgil a UGRAD alumnus at Sukhbaatar children center



Gerel center in Dornod, opening the donation box



Anna home orphanage, group photo





Working Locally to Protect Grasslands Globally

“Hundreds of years ago, grasslands covered more than a quarter of the planet. Today grasslands are among the most imperiled major habitats with only a small fraction remaining, and they are essential for sustaining life on planet Earth.” Says Ms. Enkhtuya Oidov, a 2002 Humphrey alumna and the CEO of Nature Conservancy Mongolia.

Enkhtuya participated in the Hubert H. Humphrey program from 2001-2002 and has studied foreign policy at the American University. Upon her return to Mongolia, She has devoted her considerable talent and experience to protecting Mongolia’s Mother Nature and grassland.

Mongolian Eastern steppe contains one of the most extensive grasslands in the world and this seemingly endless steppe of Mongolia contains an abundance of natural wonders: enormous stretches of grassland, rich deposits of minerals, a number of rare plant and animal species. More than 400,000 Mongolian nomadic herders rely on this grassland to raise their animals and animal husbandry is a large integral part of the nation’s economy. “However— as development increases and Mongolia seeks to tap into its vast resources—those assets also place the region’s environmental health in danger.”

The Nature Conservancy in Mongolia is working to protect Mongolia’s grasslands so that they can continue to protect wildlife and aid people in Mongolia and throughout the world.

“We have a unique opportunity to conserve the extensive grasslands of Mongolia, while at the same time, preserving the region’s nomadic herding cultures and wide-ranging mammals.” Says Enkhtuya Oidov.

The Nature Conservancy is working to apply Development by Design planning that will safeguard Mongolia’s treasures. By ensuring that natural resources are used in sustainable ways that benefit both people and nature, Development by Design strategies help people conserve ecosystems while benefiting from their natural bounty.

Sustainable Development is certainly a hot topic today and it is finding its way to Mongolia as well. One of the pioneers to raise sustainable development in environmental policy field is the Nature Conservancy Mongolia and its director Ms. Enkhtuya, a 2002 Humphrey alumna.

“Development by Design planning will allow Mongolia to safeguard its most precious natural assets while ensuring that people still have access to the resources they need to build a healthy, thriving society,” says Enkhtuya, “Conservancy scientists are currently conducting a survey of Mongolia’s eastern steppe. By mapping the region’s ecosystems, the Conservancy is providing Mongolia with information necessary for charting a smart course into the future.”

The Nature Conservancy Mongolia realizes the importance of public and private partnership and makes it a priority to work with the national government and the president of Mongolia. They also seek to collaborate with other conservation organizations and local people in their quest to protect and preserve their mother land.

President Elbegdorj voiced his support for the Conservancy’s programs in Mongolia at his September 2009 meeting with the Nature Conservancy donors, trustees and staff in New York City and thanked the many donors noting that “by supporting the Conservancy, you are also supporting Mongolia.”

It is the belief of the Nature Conservancy that while development is important, changes should not come at the cost of Mongolia’s environment and natural resources.

More than 40% of Mongolia’s population is still nomadic, and many prefer that lifestyle, yet 80% of the population owns a mobile phone and the country boasts a 98% literacy rate — proving that economic development does not have to come at the cost of the environment.

The Nature Conservancy is playing an essential role in conservation in Mongolia, preserving a landscape and a way of life that is both unique and universal to humanity and we are proud that at the head of the devoted staff and volunteers in Mongolia is our Humphrey alumna Enkhtuya working tirelessly to protect and preserve the nature and the wonders of her mother land.

Information in the article obtained with permission from the Nature Conservancy Mongolia webpage: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/asiapacific/mongolia/>



Ms. Enkhtuya with her colleagues

Ms. Enkhtuya Oidov





International Visitor Leadership Program LGBT rights: Path of Courage and Defiance

The LGBT Centre in Ulaanbaatar is Mongolia's first and only LGBT human rights organization. In a country where working for LGBT rights is not only difficult but also dangerous, the LGBT Centre is building a better and safer society for Mongolia's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Under constant threat of violence by ultra-nationalist right-wing movements, the courageous leaders, staff and volunteers at the Centre provide legal, advocacy, and social support services for LGBT Mongolians and their families.

Munkhzaya, Youth Program Manager, LGBT Centre: "There is so much to do!"

Our visit with the US Department of State started on 20 March 2011 when we arrived in Washington DC from New York City where we had spent the last two and a half weeks meeting various LGBT as well as donor organizations following receipt of the Felipa de Souza Award on behalf of the LGBT Centre. It's a signature human rights award from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission given annually to an outstanding grassroots organization or individual in recognition of their courage and activism for the promotion and protection of human rights for all people, and we were deeply honored to have received this award.

Our meetings through the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Department of State included Washington DC and Salt Lake City, Utah. While in DC, we met with the Congressional LGBT Caucus members, Amber Shipley and Diego Sanchez (incidentally the first out transman at the Capitol Hill), the staff of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Barney Frank, and of course, these two politicians need no introduction. We met with the public information, advocacy and legal staff at the Human Rights Campaign and the Director of the Sexuality Minority Youth Assistance League, dedicated and engaged staff of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the Global Council for Equality, and the Department of State staff, as well as Brett Parson, the very first LGBT Liaison Officer of the Washington DC.

Our meetings in Utah included such organizations as PFLAG, Equality Utah, the Human Rights Education Center,



Anaraa and Munkhzaya with writer award winner Jeff Sharlet and Mr. Daniel Lee from the Levi's Foundation

Utah Pride Center, and a home-visit with a lovely couple who lived up in the mountains outside the city. Needless to say, all these meetings serve a purpose of creating first points of contact with a view of fostering long-term cooperation with the organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to ensuring equality to everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Of importance to me were the youth programs and initiatives run by various LGBT organizations since I am in charge of the Youth Program at the LGBT Centre. All programs and organizations we met were geared toward creating a safe space for LGBT youth to be who they are, and to mobilize youth in the LGBT rights movement. I was especially inspired by two ladies we met in Salt Lake City: Kathy Goodwin was the mountain region PFLAG coordinator and Carla Kelley was the founder and Executive Director of the Human Rights Education Center of Utah. Both have not only accepted their children's sexualities, but have joined their own voice to ensuring equality to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and all that in a specific socio-religious environment of the Mormon Church in Utah.

Although the Voluntary Visitor Program was relatively short compared to the typical International Visitor Leadership Program, the duration and meetings arranged for us suited our needs very well and we were glad to be getting home sooner since there is so much to do for us in Mongolia on LGBT rights!



Anaraa, Advisory member of the Executive Board, LGBT Centre: “We aim to empower LGBT youth to become true agents of change”

What do LGBT kids do all over the world when their parents and traditional ethno-linguistic communities turn away from their own offspring in ignorance, disgust, shame and anger? Very often kids do the one and only easiest thing to preserve their sanity: they run away. They choose the seeming freedom of being on the streets because that is easier to take than the rejection and betrayal from your family. And that's the reality of kids everywhere, be it in the USA or Mongolia. I know I was one of those at the age of 17. Thankfully I had a friend who had taken me in and gave me shelter, food, and nurture, but oftentimes LGBT kids are just not that lucky as many do not have friends at school or other spaces they socialize in because of the ostracism and discrimination from peers.

The organization we visited in New York City, the Door, is an amazing, holistic concept of continually engaging youth to ensure the more vulnerable ones do not end up on the street, or, even if they do, that they are safer. The Door has been serving the New York youth for as long as four decades, with many thousands of kids having accessed various services and support systems available at the Door, starting from medical to educational to crisis survival. I've never seen anything like this before where the youth are encouraged to take the reigns of life in their hands to be who they are, to have a space to express themselves without fear or bullying - albeit, verbal slurs against the LGBTQ kids are often witnessed by staff and kids themselves. We met with James, the LGBT Program Coordinator at the Door, and he shared the realities of the kids and young adults they serve: many of our younger generation of LGBTQ kids are just as bad off as we were when we were coming of age and coming out. But the Door and other such community centers appear to be driven by the self-determination and autonomy of the children and young adults they serve by promoting ownership of the programming that is done at the Door. Mutual help, community building, are all encouraged, and groups are loosely structured to allow the kids to lead the process and to determine their priorities.

Mongolia never had such a holistic children's/young adults' community centers. When I was a kid, the only choices available for after-hour extracurricular activities were interminably boring study groups and arts and crafts groups at school or the Pioneer's Palace, the latter availing more than just arts and crafts: music and dance classes were offered too, but strictly based on your talent (although why you would discourage kids from learning to play or enjoy music even if they were not your Liszts or Mozarts is beyond me). And if you felt you did not exactly fit in with the social norms and so-called normalcy criteria for girls and boys or women and men, if who you were or felt yourself to be was nowhere to be seen around you, making you feel like a freak of nature, well that was just unspeakable. Nowadays there are still no children's/young adults' community centers, nothing remotely resembling the Door in its amazing vision of allowing kids to be who they are on their own terms, but in a safe environment. Mongolia really does need it. And so does the LGBT youth. Any volunteers to help us out with all the things we want to do with the LGBT youth? Because what we aim to do is to empower LGBT youth and young adults to become true agents of change in the society where they will be afforded equal rights, equal respect and dignity, and this will take time as well as commitment.



Anaraa and Munkhzaya at the Celebration of Courage ceremony honoring the Mongolian LGBT Center



Anaraa and Munkhzaya with actor Mr. Alan Cumming at the Courage ceremony



Delaware: Days of exploring national security

My name is Bayasgalan.S. I am researcher and lecturer at School of Foreign Service NUM majoring on International Relations and National Security Policymaking. It is my pleasure to share my experience of participating in the SUSI program and visiting the United States in the alumni newsletter. I participated in the Studies at the United States Institutes (SUSI) program on U.S. National Security.

It is needless to say what a golden chance it was for me to be chosen to attend this program and having an opportunity to take lessons on U.S National Security issues from experienced professors and meet with diverse professionals in the field. The unique advantage of the SUSI program I attended was that it gave me a chance not only to hear some theoretical issues but also experience them in practice by visiting places of implementation.

During the program, it was also interesting to learn about the national security issues of other countries from the 20 other participants from all over the world. I had often been interested in the national security issues that "small" countries like Mongolia face and have often been argued that smaller countries have little to fear in that area. But for Mongolia, as a unique country with its own history, culture and civilization, the issue of national security is very important.

The program was full of interesting and sometimes challenging events starting from when I landed at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. For a novice traveler like me you can imagine what a hassle that was trying to go through the customs at this huge international airport and hurrying to catch my next flight to Philadelphia where at last I reached my final destination and was deeply relieved to see someone waiting there to pick me up.

After arriving to New Ark, a small city between New York and Washington DC, not far from Philadelphia ,I found out that almost all of the military and national security Institutions are located alongside of Atlantic coast. Maybe because this area has historical importance; where first 13 colonial states were formed, or it is because they are closer to Washington DC, I guess. After all, the State of Delaware, where I spent most of my days, is proud of being the first State which declared independence in the history of the U.S. Its pride was evident when I had a chance to visit places of historical importance, for example battlefield of civil war and war for independence.

Knowing that all states of the U.S have their own tax rules, my most pleasant surprise was when I found that the only state in the U.S without any tax is Delaware. I enjoyed the cheap prices there and was especially grateful to the Department of State for choosing Delaware for this SUSI program when I visited the book stores. One of my biggest goals of participating in the SUSI program was to collect as much reading and research materials on the national security topic as we have not many publications on the topic in Mongolia and bring them home for my own and my students studies. People in Delaware were proud that one can find almost all brand name companies there.

In Philadelphia, city close to Delaware, we enjoyed visits to many interesting places such as Museum of Arts, which im-



pressed me a lot. Also I had fun trying many sea food which I could hardly find in Mongolia.

When I was in Delaware it was middle of the winter. In Atlantic coastal areas there were huge amount of snow which sometimes caused schools and universities to close. I think some Americans prefer to leave their vehicles where they are, covered with snow, because nobody can move them in heavy snow.

The climate in Atlantic coastal area was warmer compared to Mongolia. And I think that was a problem because the heavy snow on the road started melting at day and at night it became solid which made glaciers on the road by next morning. When we went from hotel the road was so dangerous that made even the most comfortable vehicles shake, sometimes I was worried that the tires may break because of the sharp frozen ice. It seemed to me that now I understood why people don't want to use their cars in winter.

During the program we visited many places of importance starting from battlefield ending with defense and national security institutions. Among them the most impressive for me were Ministry of Defense (known as Pentagon) and West Point.

During the program we had many interesting lectures concerning U.S foreign policymaking and national security issues. The lectures were led by prof. Mark Miller who became my close friend and adviser on research projects.

We had great opportunity to listen to major professionals, researcher, professors and high ranking officers. The lectures included variety of issues on national security including international terrorism, immigration, food safety and national defense.

I was very honored to have an opportunity to give a lecture on Mongolia's national security policy. It did not surprise me that I had to introduce Mongolia to those representatives from other countries, who had almost no knowledge about what country Mongolia is. However, I was happy that this provided me with an opportunity to introduce Mongolia to whom it was unknown.

Professors at University of Delaware didn't have much understanding about Mongolia either and they jokingly said that after listening to my lecture they have "concise knowledge of Mongolia within a day".

Upon the completion of the program we were granted certificates by an official from the Department of State.

Finally, I would like to say that I greatly appreciate the U.S. Embassy and the SUSI program organizers for giving me this unique opportunity to know more about the U.S. and make international friends and build professional ties.



Sudoku

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

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE



-What do you call a sheep with no legs?
-A cloud

* * *

A teacher asked a student to write 55.

Student asked: How?

Teacher: Write 5 and beside it another 5!

The student wrote 5 and stopped.

Teacher: What are you waiting for?

Student: I don't know which side to write the other 5!

* * *

Father: What did you do today to help your mother?

Son: I dried the dishes

Daughter: And I helped pick up the pieces.

* * *

The teacher to a student: Conjugate the verb "to walk" in simple present.

The student: I walk. You walk

The teacher interrupts him: Quicker please.

The student: I run. You run ...

* * *

- "I was born in California."

- "Which part?"

- "All of me."

* * *

Little Johnny: Teacher, can I go to the bathroom?

Teacher: Little Johnny, MAY I go to the bathroom?

Little Johnny: But I asked first!



Alumni Recipe

Vegetarian Steamed Dumplings

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound firm tofu
- 1/2 cup coarsely grated carrots
- 1/2 cup shredded Napa cabbage
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped red pepper
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped scallions
- 2 teaspoons finely minced fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro leaves
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon hoisin sauce
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Bowl of water, plus additional water for steamer
- 35 to 40 small wonton wrappers
- Non-stick vegetable spray, for the steamer

Directions

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees F.

Cut the tofu in half horizontally and lay between layers of paper towels. Place on a plate, top with another plate, and place a weight on top (a 14-ounce can of vegetables works well). Let stand 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, cut the tofu into 1/4-inch cubes and place in a large mixing bowl. Add the carrots, cabbage, red pepper, scallions, ginger, cilantro, soy sauce, hoisin, sesame oil, egg, salt, and pepper. Lightly stir to combine.

To form the dumplings, remove 1 wonton wrapper from the package, covering the others with a damp cloth. Brush the edges of the wrapper lightly with water. Place 1/2 rounded teaspoon of the tofu mixture in the center of the wrapper. Shape as desired. Set on a sheet pan and cover with a damp cloth. Repeat procedure until all of the filling is gone.

Using a steaming apparatus of your choice, bring 1/4 to 1/2-inch of water to a simmer over medium heat. Spray the steamer's surface lightly with the non-stick vegetable spray to prevent sticking. Place as many dumplings as will fit into a steamer, without touching each other. Cover and steam for 10 to 12 minutes over medium heat. Remove the dumplings from the steamer to a heatproof platter and place in oven to keep warm. Repeat until all dumplings are cooked.