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## Announcing the 2013 Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey Scholarships!

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy to Mongolia is now accepting applications for the 2013-2014 Fulbright Student Fellowship Program and the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship program. The application deadline for the Fulbright Student Fellowship is April 15, 2012 and the deadline for Hubert Humphrey Fellowship is April 01, 2012. We invite our alumni to assist the Embassy in recruiting the best possible candidates for these programs by passing on this announcement to potential applicants. Alumni of other State Department programs such as Ugrad, IVLP, SUSI, etc, can apply for these programs if eligible. For more information, please go to page 13 of this newsletter or visit:

[http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational\\_exchanges.html](http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational_exchanges.html)

## CELEBRATING THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MONGOLIA AND THE U.S.A



January 27, 2012 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Mongolia and the USA. In order to commemorate this important event the U.S. Embassy is planning number of activities the first of which was to organize a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo contest.

In December the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar announced a Logo Contest open to amateur and pro-

fessional graphic artists, designers and the broader public. The contest was to design a logo to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations between United States and Mongolia.

Seventeen participants entered 23 logos, and all the Facebook fans had the opportunity to vote by "liking" their favorite design. The votes narrowed the entries to three finalists and an Embassy committee chose the winner: Anar Enkhbaatar, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at "Bolor" high school.

On January 18, 2012, Anar met with Ambassador Ad-

dleton, who presented him with a certificate and an iPod Touch.

Our Embassy congratulates Anar for his winning design and thanks all participants for their entries. The logo will be broadly used by the Embassy in various publications, posters, printed and multimedia materials, to promote the anniversary year.



## MONGOLIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE ALUMNI

**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 1000 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

If you would like to join MASA and learn more about its activities please visit:

<http://www.masa.org.mn/>



## ALUMNI NEWS: Ulaanbaatar in the Regional Highlight



MASA president Jargalsaikhan giving opening remarks

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Chinggis Khaan International airport in Ulaanbaatar received its usual four international flights, two from Beijing, one from Seoul, and another one from Moscow. But the interesting factor was that all of these flights each contained people flying from 11 different countries to participate in one event in Ulaanbaatar. While on the plane, sitting side by side, these people had no clue that they were headed for the same event. Because, from an outward glance, it is hard to tell what can bring such a diverse group together, people ranging from a medical student from Myanmar, a corporate lawyer from Japan, a marketing specialist from Cambodia, a supreme court Prosecutor from China, a linguist from East-Timor and many more...

It makes one wonder what could have made these seemingly unconnected people pack up and come to Ulaanbaatar on this day. It is no wonder therefore that it came as a surprise that after departing the plain, these people found themselves all heading towards the same van with the sign reading "The East Asia Pacific Regional Alumni Conference." Indeed these people all were alumni of U.S. government scholarship and exchange program and was coming to Ulaanbaatar to take part in a Regional East Asia and Pacific Alumni Association Enrichment Conference that was being organized by the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) and the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, there are over 74,000 alumni of U.S. Government funded scholarship and exchange programs. For three very productive days, from October 8-10, 2011, the conference hosted over 55 representatives of this large community from 12 countries: including Burma, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam under the general theme "Ambassadors for Development." The goal of the conference was to facilitate dialogue and exchange of ideas among the alumni associations on Alumni Association Development/Best Practices, Youth Alumni Engagement and Leadership, and Regional Collaboration on Global Issues. Alumni Association leaders from six countries gave presentations on their best practices and all associations represented had an opportunity to share their

experiences through panel discussions and a case study session. Although many of our alumni from the warmer parts of the region were fearful lest Ulaanbaatar decide to show its wintery face, it turned out that even the weather was in support of our conference and wanted to welcome our guests with a smiling face. Indeed, for the three days of the conference, the weather treated us to three gloriously sunny and unseasonably warm days. This sunny and cheerful weather was reflected in our conference spirit as well. The presentations from the different associations were both inspirational and informative, the panel discussions were platforms of open, and sometimes heated, discussions about real-life challenges and ways to overcome them, and the case study and thematic break-out sessions were times for exhilarating and energetic brainstorming and problem solving. It was amazing to see how this one experience of studying in America can bring so many people from all spectrums of society and nations together and it was even more interesting and rewarding to see how this diverse group, not only in terms of profession and work, but also in terms of age difference, can have so much fun in each other's company and enjoy working as a team.

One of the positive outcomes of this conference is that it has a follow-up project. In order to enable the continuation of networks and collaborative ideas that formed during this conference, the organizers held an actual project competition among the participants during the conference. Based on their interests, the conference participants selected one of the following groups: Global Health and Education; Democracy and Human Rights; Climate Change/Environmental Issues and Youth Alumni Leadership and Engagement.

During the three days of the conference, the participants divided into their chosen groups and as groups came up with project ideas for regional collaboration and gave presentations on the last day of the conference. After highly competitive presentations and a very energetic question and answer session, the team on Youth Alumni Leadership/Engagement with members representing nine countries won the competition to implement a regional collaborative project in their countries. On the last evening of the conference, MASA held a closing dinner for the participants and received many gifts and souvenirs from other alumni associations with promises to host the next regional conference in their countries. On the next morning, heading back to the airport, sitting in the same van that brought them from the airport, the participants remarked how even the weather reflected their feeling about leaving Ulaanbaatar and the friends they made here. Alas, after three gorgeous days, the sky was grey and overcast and it was finally cold in Ulaanbaatar.

Follow these links to view additional photos and videos:

- <http://www.facebook.com/#!/media/set/?set=a.307642165919487.95945.278500355500335&type=3>
- <http://www.facebook.com/#!/MASA4Development?sk=videos>



Ms. Dary Dek presenting about Fulbright and Undergraduate State Alumni Association of Cambodia



Alumni team brainstorming



Alumni teams presenting case study solutions



Alumni at the Mongolian Secret History camp



At the closing dinner, MASA receiving gifts from other associations



The winning team of the project competition doing a chicken dance



Group project presentation by democracy and human rights team



Winning youth alumni team with Ms. Lisa Heilbronn, director of Office of Alumni Affairs

## ALUMNI NEWS: Alumni and U.S. Embassy continue rural educational outreach to Gobi



PAO Allyson Algeo and Uyanga.E  
at the lecture to OT staff

From our previous issues, our readers will remember that in spring 2011, the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy conducted two educational outreach trips to seven Aimag of Mongolia: Darkhan-Uul, Orkhon, Bulgan, Khentii, Dornod, Dornogobi and Sukhbaatar. These two trips were the first rural educational outreach trips conducted in many years. In order to give the audience more realistic information about our scholarship programs and give them a realistic understanding about America, we often invite our program alumni and our American Fulbright teaching assistants to accompany us on these trips. Both during and after our trips, it was easy to see how much the people of these areas appreciated having us visit their town; hearing about our programs and meeting our American teachers. Many of them said that America and the American Embassy to them were something very distant and they never considered the possibility of participating in our scholarship programs. Our trips helped them to understand about not only scholarships, but also about the overall activities of the Embassy. Therefore, it was gratifying to see many applications coming from such places as Sukhbaatar and Dornogobi after our trip for our scholarships. Encouraged by these successes, the Public Affairs Section again con-

ducted a week-long educational outreach trip to Ovorkhangai, Omnogobi and Dundgobi in early November. On this trip, we were accompanied by two alumni, one experienced Humphrey alumna and one youth alumnus of Intensive English program, and four of our 2011 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants. On this trip, we traveled over 1770 kms and visited more than eight schools and local vocational training centers and colleges and held over 20 meetings with local education department officials, media, employees of mines, Peace Corps Volunteers, and the general public. The local teachers and the public were very appreciative of the opportunity to meet our alumni and hear about their personal experience of learning about the scholarship, applying for it and going through the selection process and finally to see their photos and hear their accounts of studying and living in America. It was evident that everywhere we went, people were inspired and encouraged by our alumni and many of the questions we received after our talks were for them. These trips often have an educational importance for our American ETAs as well as they see more of Mongolian life and culture outside Ulaanbaatar and meet many different people. This time it was a special privilege for us to visit the Tavantolgoi and the Oyutolgoi mines in Omnogobi and meet their employees and talk about our scholarships. As mining is becoming the primary economic force/field in Mongolia, it is important to reach out to the professionals in this field and inform them about the scholarship opportunities that we can offer. At Oyutolgoi more than 70 people came to attend our evening lecture; even though it meant taking time from their much desired rest time. They expressed much interest in

our programs and the presentation by our Humphrey program alumna Dr. Odnoo was most warmly received and inspired many questions. It was rewarding to note that people were interested in all of our programs and to see parents writing down information about our undergraduate programs for their children. Everywhere we went, we saw people from rural areas welcome collaboration and outreach from us and our alumni. The ETAs alike found these trips to be a very rewarding experience. At many of the schools we visited, it was hard to leave the classrooms as the students so enjoyed meeting our ETAs and having a class taught by them. Indeed, when they asked if the students had any questions from a 5<sup>th</sup> grade, they all said in unison "when will you come again?" In Ovorkhangai, we visited a school for the blind and the hearing impaired. This currently is the only such school outside Ulaanbaatar and they had students from neighboring aimags. At the school, the students treated us to a surprise concert prepared and performed by them in one of their classrooms. After the concert our alumni and ETAs had so much fun playing Simon Says and telling Halloween stories and presenting the students the gifts donated by the Embassy staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our two alumni Dr. Odnoo Brown and our youth alumnus Amartuvshin who despite their busy work and studies accompanied us on this week-long trip to help spread the word out about opportunities to study in America to the people of the countryside.



Gobi camels



Lecture at Omnogobi secondary school



Lecture to OT staff



ETA Holly teaching an Irish dance to the dance class students of Dundgobi



ETA Philip playing a guitar to children of Dundgobi children center



ETAs Allison and Anja and embassy staff Uyanga.E doing an outreach at an Omnogobi kindergarten



The outreach team having a tour of the OT mine site



A winter tree in Gobi

## ALUMNI NEWS: Humphrey alumna conducts nationwide educational research



Enkhtuvshin Sengee, reporter is presenting the research project outcomes and workshop goals



Sumiya Tsegmed, director of School of Education Studies, MSUE is presenting needs assessment results



Workshop participants are discussing the research results

*Contributed by Enkhtuvshin Sengee, Humphrey Fellow (2009-2010)*

In the academic year of 2011, the research team of the School of Education Studies at Mongolian State University of Education conducted research on the real needs of professional standards for teachers in Mongolia with the support of the Hubert H. Humphrey program Alumni Impact award.

The research consisted of two parts: International mapping of the best practices of teacher professional standards development and a needs assessment of renewing/updating teacher professional standards in Mongolian context. In this survey, 384 primary and secondary school teachers were interviewed and assessed out of which almost half (%44.5) were teachers from rural schools. Research analyses of teachers' responses strongly suggest that competence based teacher standards should be developed.

The research results were presented and discussed in a nationwide workshop on September 30, 2011. Forty people including senior officers of Ministry of Education, presidents, deans and professors from

teacher training colleges and educational universities (private and state), teacher educators of the National Institution of Educational Studies, and educational program officers of Mongolian Education Alliance participated in this workshop. The workshop participants all expressed much interest in learning more about the best practices of international standards such as Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC, USA), Qualified Teacher professional Standards from the Training and Development Agency in Britain.

As a result of the discussions, professional consensus on framework of teacher professional standards for Mongolia has been established. Key stakeholders were consulted and suggested for the future and the next step of this project. At the end, I would like to express the Mongolian research team's appreciation for the Humphrey Alumni Impact Award. The Hubert H. Humphrey program support is incredibly helpful and allow us to reach OUR GOAL – QUALITY EDUCATION for YOUNG MONGOLIANS.

## ALUMNI NEWS: Introducing 2012 Fulbrighters



"Zoljargalan. G is pursuing a master's degree in social work at SUNY, Albany. Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, she worked at Caritas, a Czech NGO in Mongolia.

Ms. Naranbulag. Kh is pursuing a master's degree in law (LLM) concentrating in international trade and business law at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to receiving the Fulbright scholarship, she worked as a Legal Counsel for QGX Mongol LLC.



Mrs. Bayasal is studying management of information systems (MIS) at University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, she worked as Senior Graphic Designer and Production Team Manager at Mongol Content LLC.

Ms. Uuganbayar. B is pursuing a masters degree in biological science at Delaware State University in Delaware. Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, she worked as a Quality team leader for MCS Asia Pacific Brewery, Mongolia.



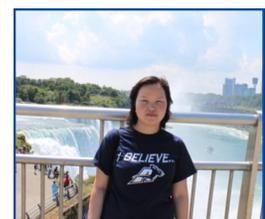
Oyunsuren. D, lecturer at the School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia, received the Fulbright scholarship in 2011 and is currently pursuing MA studies in international affairs at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, USA.

Mr. Batlkhagva.B is studying at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania) pursuing a master's degree in energy system engineering. He is an electrical engineer who worked in Mongolian energy field more than 10 years prior to receiving the Fulbright scholarship.



**Mr. Bayasgalan.N** is pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University. Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, he served as a senior officer in charge of foreign relations & international legal matters in the Independent Authority Against Corruption in Mongolia.

Saruul, previously customs team supervisor in Oyu Tolgoi's contracted company MCPL, now is pursuing a masters degree in supply chain management at the University of Akron, in Ohio, under the Fulbright scholarship.



## ALUMNI NEWS: Introducing 2012 Fulbrighters

Ms. Terelj. B, previously a human resource specialist, is currently pursuing Master's degree in environmental management at Montclair State University, New Jersey, under the Fulbright scholarship.



Ms. Tuya. Z is an architect who under the Fulbright scholarship is pursuing a master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Undrakh-Erdene. E is pursuing a master's degree in international health policy management at Brandeis University, Massachusetts. He is a radiologist specializing in MRI and intravascular radiology who worked at the State Central Hospital before receiving the Fulbright scholarship.



Mr. Batmunkh. E is a software engineer who, under the Fulbright scholarship, is studying management of information systems at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Ms. Ariunaa. E is pursuing a master's degree in higher education administration at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, she worked at the Educational Advising & Resource Center for five years as OSI Scholarship Program Coordinator and Education USA Advisor.



Ms. Jargal. E is studying marriage and family therapy at Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota. She worked for Peace Corps Mongolia for 5 years before receiving the Fulbright Scholarship.

Dr. Dulguun. B is pursuing a masters degree in public health at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He is a dentist who worked as a lecturer at the Department of Dentistry of the Health Sciences University of Mongolia.




**EVENT SPOTLIGHT: 25th Anniversary**

The readers of our newsletter will know that we highlight the story of one of our alumna/us in each of our issue under the Alumni Spotlight section of our newsletter. However, this new issue of our newsletter coincides with an event that is worthy of the “spotlight.” The 27<sup>th</sup> of January of the year 2012 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties between Mongolia and the United States of America. The Embassy plans to commemorate this anniversary with a number of activities the first of which was to organize a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo contest on Facebook (see page 1 of this newsletter). The highlight of these activities will be the publishing of a book about the history of diplomatic relationship between the two countries by Ambassador Jonathan Addleton titled “A MOST HELPFUL FACTOR: U.S.-MONGOLIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1987-2012,” which will come out in January. In recognition of this important anniversary, we present a biography of the Ambassador followed by the speech “Why Mongolia Matters” by Ambassador Addleton. Please note that due to the space constraints of the newsletter, we were unable to reproduce the full version of the speech. For the full version please go to: [http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/remarks\\_101712.html](http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/remarks_101712.html)

***Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America  
to Mongolia Jonathan Addleton***



Ambassador Jonathan Addleton, a career member of the US Foreign Service since 1984, most recently served as Counselor for International Development at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. Previously, he served as USAID Mission Director in Pakistan (2006-2007), Cambodia (2004-2006) and Mongolia (2001-2004). Prior to that, he served as USAID Program Officer in Jordan, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Yemen. Ambassador Addleton also worked briefly at the World Bank, Macon Telegraph and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He has a PhD and MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a BS from Northwestern University. Jonathan Addleton was born and raised in Pakistan where his parents served as missionaries. His memoir on his childhood in Pakistan was published by University of Georgia Press under the title "Some Far and Distant Place". He has also published articles in a variety of publications, including Asian Survey, Asian Affairs, Muslim World, Foreign Service Journal and the Washington Post. Married for 25 years, he and his wife Fiona have three teenage children.

***Ambassador Addleton's Remarks at the University of Washington in Seattle: Why Mongolia Matters Given October 17, 2011***

Reflecting on past decades when I was studying at a graduate school similar to the Jackson School, there were certain towns or countries that somehow evoked the idea that they were very far away from anywhere else and ultimately didn't really matter. ...

... And, having been associated with Mongolia for at least the last decade, I am aware that sometimes people still talk about “Outer Mongolia” as if it were located on the far side of the moon.

In fact, these seemingly distant places are not quite so far away any more – if anything, it is increasingly clear that no part of the world these days is truly “remote” and that what happens in one part of the planet can quickly affect other parts.

At some level, the sudden rise of the Mongol Empire in the thirteenth century can even be viewed as an early indication that the world is not such a large place after all.

Indeed, the Empire that Genghis Khan and his sons and grandsons forged briefly stretched from Beijing to Baghdad, embracing the largest span of “real estate” as well as the most diverse set of religions, ethnicities and cultures that the world up to that time had ever seen.

In unexpected ways, the Mongol Empire also brought Europe and Asia closer together, for a time protecting the transmission of ideas as well as goods along the Silk Route that connected the Pacific to the Mediterranean.

In fact, visitors to Mongolia are reminded of this when touring the old Mongol capital at Karkorin or the National Museum in Ulaanbaatar: one item, found in Karkorin and displayed in Ulaanbaatar, is a small carved head depicting one of the early pharaohs of Egypt, evidently a souvenir brought home by a Mongolian traveler to the Middle East. As it happens, some of the most vivid written descriptions of the Mongol Empire were provided by European travelers to Karkorin more than seven centuries ago.

Viewed through this lens, Mongolia’s past history is interesting and worthy of study, if for no other reason than for the light it sheds on the rise and fall of empires as well as the early role that the Mongol Empire specifically played in bringing parts of the world, previously separated, together. Put another way, if history matters, then Mongolia certainly also matters. Or, as some commentators have suggested, it may be that it was the Mongols who first “invented” globalization – or, at the very least, set in motion the events that made it happen.

In the end, the Mongolian Empire represented only a relatively brief period in history, eventually breaking into different pieces. Within decades, Mongolia itself had departed from the international stage, re-emerging only in 1911 – one century ago this year, when it once again returned to the world map as an independent entity.

In that last century, Mongolia has also once again begun to make a larger mark on the world, sometimes in surprising ways.

For example, in the 1920s Mongolia became the first Asian country – and the first country anywhere after Russia – to embrace Marxism and adopt a Soviet form of government.

Also in the 1920s, Mongolia briefly entered the popular American imagination as a result of the several Roy Chapman Andrews dinosaur expeditions to the Gobi, which among other things conclusively proved that dinosaurs hatched from eggs. Nearly twenty years later, in 1939, Mongolia was the site of an admittedly still little known battle that had historic implications – the defeat of the Japanese forces by a combined Soviet-Mongolia force at Kalkyn-Gol in eastern Mongolia, on the border with Manchuria. According to some historians, it was this unexpected defeat on the eve of World War II that led the Japanese to turn their attention and interest in natural resources away from Siberia and toward South East Asia instead, ultimately leading to the campaigns in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indo-China, the Dutch West Indies – and even Pearl Harbor. Much more recently, Mongolia became part of the movement for democracy that swept across the Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In Mongolia’s case, that movement led to its emergence as a truly independent and democratic nation. While still facing significant challenges, Mongolia has been more successful than many countries from that time in following a transformative path toward both democracy and a market-driven economy. In returning to the world stage in this fashion, there is an increasing number of ways in which Mongolia really does matter.

First, Mongolia matters because of its location. Situated between Russia and China, it also spans two important geographical regions – Northeast East Asia to the east, Central Asia to the west. Mongolia's East Asia connections are important for any number of reasons, including the fact that it links Mongolia to the most vibrant region of the world economically. Indeed, Mongolian commentators sometimes use the word "Asian Wolf" to indicate what they aspire to become – a competitive economy that, while learning from the experience of the "Asian Tigers" such as South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia, becomes successful in its own right and in its own way. ...

Second, Mongolia matters because of its economic potential. Mongolia's GDP was approximately \$ 1 billion when I first arrived in Ulaanbaatar in 2001; exceeded \$5 billion when I returned in 2009; and reportedly reached \$8 billion last year... Over the next decade, Mongolia potentially could emerge as one of the world's fastest growing economies -- if it manages to address the many challenges faced by resource-rich economies everywhere. If Mongolia is successful, it is not hard to imagine a national annual GDP number in the range of ten, fifteen or even twenty billion dollars. By some accounts, the mineral wealth buried in Mongolia – copper, gold, coal, among other resources – measures in the hundreds of billions of dollars. With an economically vibrant China close at hand, the market for Mongolia's natural resources seems almost unlimited.

Third, Mongolia matters because of the example it sets to other emerging democracies. Mongolia's relative success in moving forward on the democratic front compared to other Central Asian countries has already been highlighted. ...

Fourth, Mongolia matters because of the contributions it makes in terms of international security. Mongolia's approach to foreign affairs is based on what it calls its "third neighbor" policy. Among other things, that means maintaining good and cordial relations with its first and second neighbors, Russia and China. It also means reaching out to "third neighbors," including not only the United States but also Japan, Korea, Europe, Canada, Australia, India and other countries. And, beyond even that, it means actively pursuing multi-lateral approaches to foreign policy, including a strong engagement with the United Nations. ...

Finally, Mongolia matters because it provides a visible example of mutually beneficial relations in ways that go beyond geography, security, politics or economics. As many Mongolians will acknowledge, one of the most important benefits of the move toward democracy in recent years has been the ability to travel and engage with a wider world. As a result of this opening, US-Mongolian relations at a personal level have prospered. For example, an estimated 2,500 Mongolians are currently studying at colleges and universities across the United States. As Mongolia's economic prospects improve, so will the incentive for Mongolian students to return and make a difference. Similarly, Americans are also increasingly discovering the attractions of Mongolia, certainly as a travel destination but also as a country with a fascinating history, unique culture and inspiring landscapes. The U.S. Embassy also plays a useful role in strengthening relations between Mongolia and the United States in any number of ways. For example, we have used the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation to help strengthen Mongolian museums, document the fate of the dozens of monasteries destroyed during the 1930s and repair Amarbayasgalant, a magnificent eighteenth century architectural masterpiece located in a remote valley five hours north of Ulaanbaatar.

Similarly, our assistance programs – primarily through USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation – promote everything from improved business practices to new approaches to energy and the environment. At a practical level, these partnerships also bring Americans and Mongolians closer together in addressing common concerns. During the coming years, I have no doubt that opportunities for interaction in a range of areas – including those related to culture, education, and research and, development, among other areas – will continue to expand. From a personal perspective, it has been an honor and privilege to represent my country in Mongolia during this time of historic transition.

## EXCHANGE REFLECTION: My experience in my Humphrey Year

It is a great pleasure for me to share with my fellow alumni some of my thoughts and memories of my Humphrey Fellowship Year in 2010-2011. I was fortunate to be selected as one of the 2010 Humphrey Fellows and I am very grateful to the U.S. Government, Institute of International Education, the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia and people of America for this opportunity .

Previously I had attended schools in France and Thailand, but there was a lot of uniqueness in the Humphrey Fellowship Program. It gave me opportunities to network with American professionals and people, to improve my theoretical and practical knowledge and skills through attending academic courses and professional meetings and conferences. I have tried to use this great opportunity to its fullest potential.

There are so many stories and memories that I can share with you. But considering the space constraint in the news letter let me share the ones, which might be beneficial for others to know.

During my Humphrey Fellowship year I was lucky to find life-long friends. My close friends are from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Botswana. We used to help each other, learn from each other and spend our times together. One of the core advantages of this program was to develop myself professionally through doing professional affiliation. I was lucky enough to work with two different organizations. Since in Mongolia the decentralization issue was on the top of reforms and my job requires knowledge of best practices in this area, I did my internship at the City of East Lansing in order to improve my knowledge of American local government structure and its way of managing financial resources. It was a pleasure to work with the city manager, Ted Staton, who generously shared his work on how to overcome budget deficit during the economic crisis and how to improve the taxation system. The course "Issues of Public Policy" was an additional help for me to understand the taxation policy in the United States, and I am proud of having had an academic interaction with one of the most well known professors in the U.S. Through my other internship I worked with a businessman who intends to invest in Mongolia. Both my bosses were truly impressed with Mongolia and promised to visit my country sometime in future.

During our experience, we, Humphrey fellows, were impressed by the legacy of Senator Hubert Humphrey, truly marked by integrity, compassion and initiative, fascinated by the personality of Hillary Clinton, and moved by the sincerity of purpose exhibited by President Carter. I also had a chance to listen to a speech given by former president Bill Clinton.

I lived in East Lansing, Michigan, which has weather similar to Mongolia. It was therefore natural for me to adapt to the climatic conditions prevailing in the Michigan State. Further, I was telling my friends and colleagues how to deal with cold weather, especially with snow. We had fun times while skiing, sledding and having BBQ. I had my host friend who introduced me to the niceties of the rich and vibrant American culture, especially during the holidays we used to stay together to celebrate diversity. It was nice chance for me to cook Mongolian food for them and I appreciate that they received the unfamiliarity of a different culture and food with grace and dignity.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude again to the Department of State and I will be happy to inspire other people with this great program and share the information and knowledge which I gained during the fellowship.



*With the City Manager Ted Staton.*



*With the students of class on Asian Economy after my presentation about Mongolian economy*



*Enjoying Halloween*



*With Humphrey Friends at the Year-End Retreat*

## EXCHANGE REFLECTION: My American experience



My trip to the USA began by getting interviewed and acquiring my visa at the American Embassy in Ulaanbaatar. People with various travel purposes, ranging from visiting a student daughter, attending a Dalai Lama lecture and travelling, were queuing to get a visa alongside me. Slightly nervous, probably because of the very common concept among Mongolians that a “U.S. visa is extremely difficult to get,” I came to understand that it is important “the visa requester herself give honest information/answers,”

Mentally picturing USA to be a dreamland, I took off from Beijing and landed in San Francisco where I met another big crowd of Chinese and other Asians, making me slightly confused as to where I had arrived. I was rather

amazed how people wherever I met, although all strangers, greeted me with smiles.

When I missed my flight from Charlotte to Gainesville, I got terribly distraught by the feeling of hopelessness in a strange country. But then my luck struck when an American who was a complete stranger came up to me and said “I missed mine, too. We can take a flight to Jacksonville and drive to Gainesville from there. You can accompany me if you don’t mind.” I understood one thing from this man’s simple conversation and many others, whether black or white – the pride of being an American. We stopped by “Waffle House” on our way, where he treated me with some fried eggs and said a very memorable line: “Of all the places, you’re in Waffle House for your first time in the USA. But still, Welcome to America!”

Although Gainesville is a small town where the University of Florida, in which my training course was being held, is located, I must note that it was also one of the nicest and quietest towns in Florida. At first, it was quite uncomfortable to me that everyone had smiles in their looks, but after a few days, I learned that these smiles gave me immense energy for the whole day. Besides deepening my knowledge of America’s domestic and foreign policies while studying in the USA, learning to smile was a huge achievement for me.

Through participating in the SUSI program, I learned that American people provide every possible condition for the student to learn and support them greatly. We’ve had the privilege to hear the lectures of professors famous not only in the USA, but well-known globally in their areas, and to dine with them, exchanging information in various topics or even, at times, regular conversations. One of those great people was Prof. John J. Mearsheimer whom I never even dreamt of meeting.

I’m deeply grateful for my professors Steve and Laura who took us on a 350 km vigorous trip in order to show us in practice what we learned in lectures. I still imagine the American people through the kindness of these 2 great people who not only taught us important lessons, but also cared for us like our parents. I consider myself extremely lucky because, besides the program, they took us through every city in Florida by frequently organizing trips to show us American culture and history. Among those beautiful cities, I loved the beach city Tampa the most. This breathtaking city keeps numerous historical and cultural heritages of the Spanish colony, and left us unforgettable memories of visiting the Tampa Tribune, hearing lectures about important lobbies that affect America’s internal and foreign policies from real life, professional lobbyists, and finally meeting Mongolian officers who worked at CENTCOM.

Also, we travelled back to our precious childhood through visiting Disney World, in Orlando. We were introduced to the daily activities of the famous Chicago Stock Exchange, paid respect to Washington D.C’s memorial of the soldiers who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, visited the Congress hall, and so on.

Looking back, I’ve realized that my experience in the USA gave me three important changes in my life. First, I learned that by greeting everyone with a smile gives me energy and happiness. Secondly, I understood that if you’re confident, globalization gives you the possibility to be accepted not only in your home country, but in the entire world. Third and most importantly, the greatest change was that I now have friends and colleagues in 18 countries. When I think of the USA, I now have only one picture in my mind. This country that gave me confidence and hope, is definitely the home of democracy. Why? Wherever you go, in other parts of the world, you feel you’re a foreigner and a stranger. Whereas in the USA, people talk to you as equal “human being,” regardless of race, status, wealth and origin. America is not a fairy-tale heaven. It is the motherland of Democracy.

I give my sincerest regards and appreciation to my dear little town of Gainesville, University of Florida, my dearest friends Laura, Steve, Justin, Johannes and Elizabeth Lettham. I’m deeply grateful for your sincere efforts in helping us know and understand that the foreign policy of USA depends directly on its domestic policy, that the people are the pride of this country, and most importantly the pride of every citizen is America.



At the State Department conference room



I loved Washington DC

## Announcing the 2013 Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey Scholarships!

**The Fulbright Student Fellowships** are part of a U.S. Government-funded academic exchange program and fund graduate-level (M.A., M.S) studies at U.S. universities. Fulbright Student Fellows are selected by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy. Applicants will be assessed on the contribution that their study would make to greater understanding between the United States and Mongolia, and the likelihood of the applicant performing successfully in a U.S. Academic setting. To qualify, applicants must:

- Hold a university degree (at least B.A. or equivalent)
- Be Fluent in English (IBT score of 80, Institutional TOEFL 550. (If you have not taken the test yet, it is important that you take the test as soon as possible.)

Note: Preference will be given to candidates who have not had extensive recent experience in the United States.

The Program supports study in most fields of social sciences and humanities, and some fields in science and technology.

Application forms for the 2013-2014 Fulbright Student Fellowship are available at:

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/mongolia/555429/uyangabx/FulbrightApplication13.pdf>

Completed applications must be returned to Public Affairs Section by 12 Noon on April 15, 2012:

Entry House, U.S. Embassy  
Big Ring Road, XI Micro district, Ulaanbaatar  
Telephone: 312372 or 329095; ext: 4424 or 4729

**Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** is a one-year, non-degree professional exchange program. It provides approximately a year of study and related professional experience in the U.S. to mid-career professionals working in the public service fields (to check list of fields please go to [http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational\\_exchanges.html](http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational_exchanges.html)) in either the public or private sector. Applicants can submit applications in two categories as Regular Humphrey program or Long Term English Required program. Regular Humphrey program applicants shall hold a minimum TOEFL score of 520 / 71 and Long Term English Required Applicants shall have a TOEFL score of 470/52. Long Term English Required candidates shall meet all other requirements set by the program except the lower TOEFL score. Those winning the grant under this category will be required to attend Academic English Language training prior to start of the academic program in the United States. Please see embassy website for eligible study fields: [http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational\\_exchanges.html](http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/educational_exchanges.html)

To be eligible for a Humphrey Fellowship, applicants must be Mongolian citizens currently living in Mongolia, and must have:

- A university degree (B.A. or equivalent)
- Five years of continuous and substantial professional experience in Mongolia immediately preceding the application
- Demonstrated leadership qualities and a record of public service
- An IBT score of 71 - 72, Institutional TOEFL 520 (Regular Humphrey Applicants)
- An IBT score between 52 – 68 or Institutional TOEFL between 470-520 (Long Term English required applicants)

Note: Preference will be given to candidates with limited prior experience in the U.S.

Non Eligibility: Recent graduates, university teachers with no management responsibilities (except in the fields of drug abuse prevention), individuals with less than 5 years of experience, individuals with recent U.S. experience (more than 6 months within the last 5 years) individuals who have attended a graduate school in the U.S. for one academic year or more during the seven years prior to August 2011, individuals with U.S permanent resident status. The Public Affairs Section will select three to five Mongolian candidates for the 2013-2014 Humphrey Fellowship competition. These individuals will compete against candidates from all of Asia for the fellowships.

Application forms are available at:

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/mongolia/555429/uyangabx/HumphreyApplication13.pdf>

Completed applications must be returned to Public Affairs Section by noon 12:00 on April 1, 2012:

Entry House, U.S. Embassy  
Big Ring Road, XI Micro district, Ulaanbaatar  
Telephone: 312372 or 329095; ext: 4424 or 3212

## State Alumni – Your Global Community – <https://alumni.state.gov>

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.



## AMERICAN CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTER

The U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar supports a small American style public library known as the American Cultural and Information Center at the Ulaanbaatar City Public Library. The Center's main goal is improvement of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Mongolia. Each Center contains reference works, periodicals, and a circulating book collection.

Free on-line reference searching and e-mail access enhance the ability of the Center to provide the most up-to-date information to their patrons. Events at the ACIC for wide audiences give first-hand exposure to American culture, as well as provide opportunities to meet native English speakers and American speakers on various topics. American Centers are often used by USG alumni as venues for their meetings and events.

[http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/american\\_cultural\\_information\\_center3.html](http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/american_cultural_information_center3.html)  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Corner-Ulaanbaatar/162640348874>

### “Let’s Talk About America” lecture series

Every Thursday at 4pm the ACIC holds an English lecture for the public on a variety of topics. The speakers usually include U.S. Embassy officers or American citizens who are working in Mongolia. These lectures grant the participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding about the history, culture, art and nature of America and improve their language skills. (Please note that this program runs from September until the end of June with a break in January)

### Table of Contents Service

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the Public Affairs Section, American Embassy in Ulaanbaatar is pleased to offer you the “Table of Contents” service. Table of Contents service is available in two broad subject areas:

- Economics and Finance
- Foreign Affairs, Politics and Defense

You may choose either, or both of the TOC services. In order to receive these articles, please visit the IRC website. There you will find the periodicals organized under the two broad subjects areas. Once you have found the periodical that interests you, click on it, and you will be provided with a PDF document that contains the most recent table of contents data available for that particular publication. Choose the articles that interest you most, and send your requests to [bolormaadx1@state.gov](mailto:bolormaadx1@state.gov). Please indicate the article title, periodical, and page number. You will promptly receive the articles electronically.

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Embassy of the United States of America, Public Affairs Section

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## U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar



For information regarding general activities and news of the U.S. Embassy including: Key Embassy Officers, Embassy reports and speeches, programs and grants, educational and scholarship opportunities, alumni news and much more

Visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov>

To learn about Embassy's Alumni news and activities please go to:

<http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/masa.html>

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## EDUCATION USA



Educational Advising and Resource Center (EARC) is a member of the global Education USA network of more than 450 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State. The EARC actively works in collaboration with the US Embassy in Mongolia. Moreover, the center disseminates accurate, comprehensive, current, and unbiased information about the US education system and scholarship opportunities to students and individuals who want to study in the United States.

Location: Sukhbaatar district, Student's street, building MKM-24, 1st floor, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Working Hours: Mon-Friday 09:00-18:00 Contact information: Email: [info@earcmn.org](mailto:info@earcmn.org) Website: <http://www.earcmn.org/>