

# MONGOLIAN

# STATE ALUMNI

# MAGAZINE

VOL.11 May – August, 2013

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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI**

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Please join the **Global State Alumni Community** at [www.alumni.state.gov](http://www.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.

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



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#### **D. JARGALSAIKHAN**

*Current president of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA), Economist, Defacto program host, USAID Masters' Program alumnus, 2002.*



# ALUMNI JOINS *Consul to Amplify Educational Outreach*

In the spring of 2013, the Public Affairs Office and alumni from U.S. Government exchange programs conducted educational outreach to more than 3000 rural and Ulaanbaatar city youth.

Traveling over 2300 kilometers, the PAS staff visited Arkhangai and Zavkhan provinces from March 24 to March 31, 2013 and met more than 2000 students and local professionals. One youth alumna and four Fulbright English Teaching Assistants joined the PAO and PAS staff on the trip. In each province, the acting PAO visited the cultural and educational organizations such as local theaters, museums, libraries, and colleges to discuss possibilities for expanding cultural and educational collaboration in rural areas of Mongolia.

The Fulbright ETAs and alumni visited six schools and four youth and disability centers and conducted promotional outreach activities about American culture, society and study in America. The local media covered the outreach activities and the group members took part in talk shows and TV interviews. The outreach trip was a great success and effectively promoted U.S. government goals and programs to



Acting PAO Phillip Hoffmann and PAS staff preparing to give lecture on studying in U.S. and Embassy scholarship programs.

rural audiences.

Between February and May 2013, PAS and the Consular Office, in collaboration with SUSI and UGRAD program alumni, organized outreach visits to eight universities in Ulaanbaatar and reached more than 1000 students. Eight alumni of SUSI and UGRAD programs joined the embassy staff for these visits and shared their experience participating in U.S. government exchange and scholarship programs.

The outreach program had three main parts: the introduction of U.S. Government scholarship programs, the perspectives of program alumni, and a session on student visa requirements and studying in the U.S. This gave the students complete and well-rounded information that not only improved their understanding of scholarships and visas, but also encouraged them through the example of fellow students. Each university was very welcoming and appreciated the outreach. PAS donated free publications about studying in America, American culture, and English teaching and learning to each university's library. The Consular Office distributed fliers and brochures at each outreach event. □



ETA Catelin Burk with kids from kindergarten in Uliastai, Zavkhan province.



PAS and Consular educational outreach at Otgontenger and Ikh Zasag Universities

# FULBRIGHT

## *Homecoming and Farewell Meeting*

In June, 2013, the Embassy Public Affairs Section hosted a pre-departure and welcome meeting that brought together more than 25 new and returning Fulbrighters.

The U.S. Ambassador and the Public Affairs Officer attended the event to congratulate the new Fulbrighters and to welcome the returnees. The President and Vice President of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) came as well. They encouraged the Fulbrighters to join the association and to support alumni efforts to contribute to the community.

During the event, many of the returning Fulbrighters applied to join the alumni association. Most importantly, departing Fulbrighters were able to ask questions and hear advice from the returning alumni.

This year's Fulbrighters represent a diverse group of fields such as architecture, mining studies, human rights, public health and literature. The universities they are going to are equally diverse, spanning the United States from the west coast to the east: from Berkley and University of Southern California to Columbia, Brandeis and Harvard. □



New and returning Fulbrighters with U.S. Ambassador Campbell, MASA President Jargalsaikhan D. and Vice President Gantuya B.

# MONGOLIAN FULBRIGHTERS

## *Share Their U.S. Experience*

On May 31, 2013, Mr. Davaasuren Baasankhuu, a 2010-2012 Fulbright alumnus, shared his experience of studying public policy/administration at Georgetown University (GU) in Washington, DC. He spoke at the American Cultural and Information Center to a packed house of students and young professionals who are aspiring to work for the government. This was the third monthly Fulbright speaker series and the last until September. The talks are aimed at promoting U.S. universities to Mongolian audiences and giving them a subject- and area-specific understanding of the requirements, challenges, and opportunities of pursuing a certain type of studies in the U.S.

Mr. Davaasuren held a casual and dynamic question and answer session that kept the audience engaged. He said studying at Georgetown University was not easy, and that “I had to work extra hard to keep up with the speed and broad knowledge of American students.” However, he said “one valuable advantage of studying a school like GU was the opportunities to meet and hear from ‘political celebrities’ such as former secretaries of state and heads of countries. It is hard to have such opportunities at any other school. The location of GU gives it a real advantage given these people’s busy schedule.”

He also discussed the other opportunities provided by studying at GU, emphasizing the variety of academic studies one can pursue there, the school’s academic resources, strong faculty, and reputation. Once again, this was a very successful talk that provided not just useful advice, but one

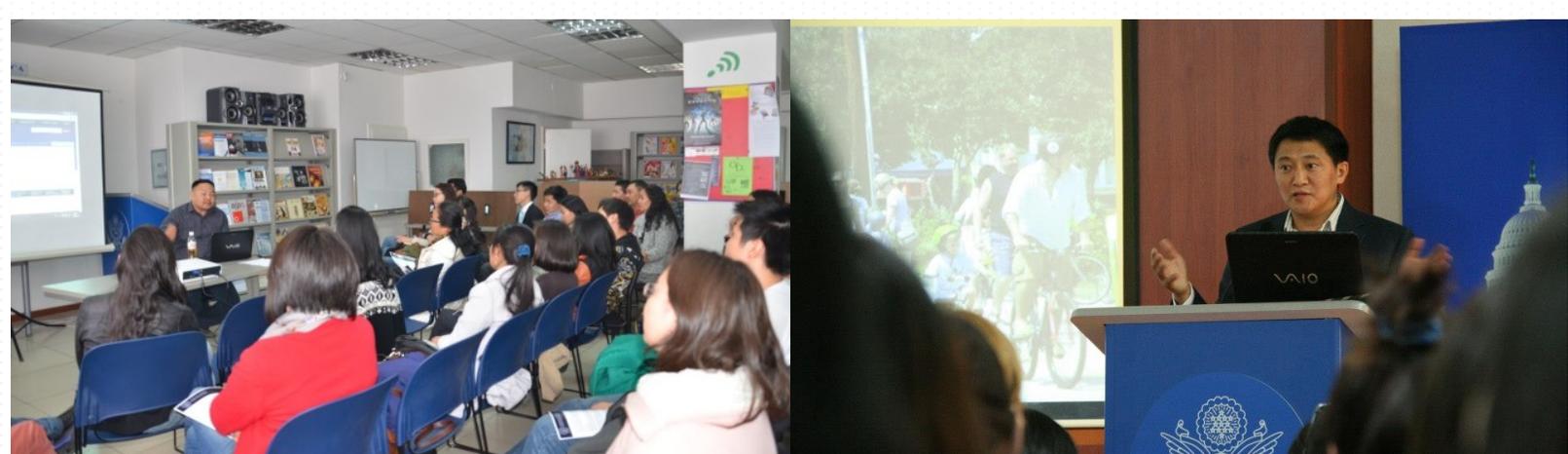
that also gave students encouragement and inspiration.

Our speaker for the previous month was Dr. Erdenekhuu Nansalma, a 2009-2011 Fulbright alumnus, who shared his experience of studying public health at Georgia State University (GSU) on a Fulbright scholarship. Over 70 medical students and young health professionals attended his talk. Dr. Erdenekhuu spoke passionately about the development of the health sector in Mongolia and the role of young professionals in bringing it about. He said “Fulbright opened my eyes to the world beyond Mongolia and gave me an invaluable opportunity to expand my professional network that I could never have been able to do on my own.” He named academic ethics and honesty, a professional network, and the spirit of volunteerism as the three most important rewards from his Fulbright experience.

He also introduced GSU to the audience. He highlighted the school’s diverse academics, its strong faculty, and its academic resources, including well-established accommodations and support for international students.

The talk was followed by an active Q&A session which continued even after the talk. Dr. Erdenekhuu handed out GSU t-shirts to three students who correctly answered his questions about Georgia state and GSU. Students were seen following Dr. Erdenekhuu out the library doors and to his car asking questions and for advice.

Our Fulbright talks will resume in September. □



Mr. Davaasuren shared his Fulbright experience with students.

Dr. Erdenekhuu sharing his experience studying at the GSU as a Fulbrighter.

ALUMNI  
NEWS

# MASA'S ANNUAL *Celebration of U.S. Independence Day*

On Friday July 5, 2013, the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) held its annual celebration of U.S. Independence day with alumni of U.S. universities and expats. During the celebration, MASA inaugurated its "Social map for disabled job search," the first ever Google based interactive website in Mongolia that helps physically challenged people in Ulaanbaatar communicate with potential employers.

Ambassador Campbell attended the celebrations and congratulated MASA and its leadership on their success at promoting social equality and their effort for raising awareness.



U.S. Ambassador Campbell, PAO Allyson Algeo, MASA President Jargalsaikhan D. and MASA Vice President Gantuya B.

Ambassador Campbell and the President of MASA, Mr. Jargalsaikhan, toasted the audience, hoping for a more equal society and more success for MASA.

The highlight of the event was a wheelchair dance performed by disabled artists and dancers from the Tumin-Ekh ensemble. The guests also enjoyed the performance of a live orchestra who played selections from soundtracks of Academy award winning movies and the music of Michael Jackson. □



# EMPOWERING RURAL MONGOLIA

## *Mongolian Alumni Win AEIF*

Empowering Rural Mongolia, a program developed by Mongolian alumni, was chosen for the FY13 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF). It is one of 53 projects chosen from a pool of over 680 applicants.

The project is designed to help young Mongolian professionals from rural areas obtain leadership skills necessary to steer their country to stability and prosperity. Forty percent of Mongolia's population is scattered across rural areas, cut off from the advantages that urban residents enjoy. They also face challenges from environmental degradation, mining activities, and migration to cities. Empowering Rural Mongolia is designed to help rural areas by creating a network to exchange ideas and promote cooperation not only between young professionals of urban and rural areas, but also among professionals in different

rural areas. This project will provide young rural professionals with the tools they need to make positive changes in their communities.

The program will be based at the Zorig Foundation and will bring young leaders from all of the Mongolian provinces for a 2-week Young Leader Program in Ulaanbaatar. The participants will meet with social and political leaders, many of whom are state alumni, conduct field trips to state and business organizations, and hold discussions with their urban counterparts. They will also be given a chance to develop and implement a community support project after their training. The alumni team and Zorig Foundation hope to make this an annual program that will create a network of strong and dedicated rural leaders. □

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

## *Now Accepting Applications*

The Community Solutions Program brings the best and brightest global community leaders working in Transparency & Accountability, Tolerance & Conflict Resolution, Environmental Issues, and Women & Gender Issues from around the world to the U.S. for an intensive professional development program.

### **Program Activities:**

**Four-month U.S. Fellowship:** Community Solutions leaders work in community-based, non-profit organizations or government offices across the U.S. where they work in partnership with American counterparts to address local issues.

**Community Leadership Institute (CLI):** Community Solutions leaders develop leadership and organizational management skills through online courses and in-person training that complements their community placements.

**Follow-on Projects:** Community Solutions leaders develop follow-on community projects in partnership with their U.S. hosts. Follow-on projects will be completed after leaders return to their home countries.

**Application Information:** The application deadline is Friday, September 20, 2013. For eligibility requirements and the program application, please visit: <http://www.irex.org/application/community-solutions-information-applicants> □



ELTAM

## 7<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL TEFL 3<sup>rd</sup> MONGOLIAN TESOL *Conference: Sharing Language Learning Experiences (October 4-6, 2013 Ulaanbaatar)*

English language teachers' association of Mongolia (ELTAM), founded in 1997, aims to develop English language teachers at a national level and promotes all kinds of English programs. It supports English language teachers' development and, therefore, one of its the major activities is organizing an annual conference to bring teachers together for sharing teaching practices and experiences and promote their networking. This year there will be the 7th TEFL and 3rd Mongolia TESOL International Conference held at the Mongolian University Science and Technology, Ulaanbaatar.

The Annual TEFL Conference organized by ELTAM will be held on October 4-6, 2013 under the theme SHARING LANGUAGE LEARNING EXPERIENCES. University and

secondary school teachers, prospective students, English language teacher professionals and educators are invited to present and participate in the conference. If you would like to present at the conference, please download the presenter proposal form on the website provided below. There is also an opportunity to volunteer during the conference preparation and organization. It is possible to contact us through e-mail or telephone.

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## AN EXCLUSIVE WEBCCHAT WITH *Anant Agarwal*

When: Thursday September 5, 2013 8p.m. ULAT

URL: <https://conx.adobeconnect.com/eca>

Are you interested in the role of the internet in education? Want to learn more about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)? Don't miss the exclusive online discussion the International Exchange Alumni is hosting with the President of edX, Dr. Anant Agarwal!



Tune in for a live webcast as he describes his work with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. During the webchat, he will be taking questions from Exchange Alumni. □

# INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR *Piper Anne Wind Campbell*

In this issue of the newsletter, we are very pleased to bring you an interview with U.S. Ambassador Piper Anne Wind Campbell. She was sworn in as Ambassador to Mongolia on August 6, 2012 and presented her credentials to President Elbegdorj Ts. August 24, 2012. Ambassador Campbell is happy to greet our alumni through this newsletter and shared with you a little about herself, we hope you enjoy the interview.

*Uyanga (U): Please introduce yourself to us, share about your family a little:*

Ambassador Campbell (A): Even though I have spent so much time traveling during my twenty-four year career as a diplomat, I am still very close to my siblings. Altogether, we are four: two girls and two boys. One of the ways I stay close is to visit with my siblings every chance I get and immerse myself in their kids' daily life. I am also lucky that my siblings and parents love to travel: my sister and her four children spent the summer with me here and my parents have already visited as well. I get my love of action from my family; when we're together we play many sports and games. We also all love animals and I am accompanied here in Mongolia by a cute dog named Stella and a cat named Karma.

*(U): What is your favorite book/author?*

(A): When I was growing up, I was what Americans call a "book worm", with my nose always in a new book. Lately,

however, I read so much for work and forget to read for pleasure. A recent resolution is to try to get back to reading fiction for pleasure.

*(U): What is your favorite holiday? And why?*

(A): I love the American tradition of Thanksgiving. I like to cook and I like the fact that this celebration is about gathering friends and family together over a meal.

*(U): What is your favorite color?*

(A): I like the color of fall leaves – which are so beautiful in my native state of New York and near my parent's home in Massachusetts. The colors of gold, orange, red and leaf green are my favorites.

*(U): Do you have any hobbies?*

(A): I run for exercise and relaxation. When I am training for a long-distance race (like I am now), I put peppy music from singers such as Lenny Kravitz and Black-eyed Peas on my ipad to inspire me.

*(U): Tell us about your career: What made you choose Foreign Service as a career? From your overall Foreign Service experience, what is the hardest and what is the most rewarding part?*

(A): I love my job. People often ask why I have focused on war-torn countries, such as Iraq and the Balkans. I have a real passion for trying to work together with diplomats and specialists from other countries on the challenges of rebuilding countries emerging from conflict. Although it's emotionally tough, it's also immensely satisfying when things improve.

*(U): What are highlights and some of the hardest parts of the job?*

(A): A highlight was watching the flag of the new country of Timor L'este raised as part of the U.S. delegation at that country's independence. I had the pleasure to catch up with



Ambassador Campbell with her parents, siblings, nieces and nephews in Ireland.

a Timorese friend, who is now Foreign Minister, when Mongolia hosted the Community of Democracies in April. Talking with him reminded me of this wonderful memory. However, this great memory also ties to the hardest part of the job; I have lost many friends to violence, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, Nadia Younes and Fiona Watson – who were all killed in the 1993 attack on UN headquarters in Iraq. The UN established World Humanitarian Day in their honor, which we just marked on August 19. More recently, we mourned the death of Ambassador Chris Stevens and others killed at our consulate in Benghazi.

*(U): Please share with us your thoughts on Mongolia and alumni: As an American, what would you say are the biggest difference and similarity between Mongolia and the U.S.?*

(A): This is partly joking, but the first thing which comes to mind is Mongolians' love of MEAT. Granted, there are many Americans who love a big steak, but I am nearly a vegetarian so this was a shock for me.

*(U): Did you encounter any cultural shock? And if so, what were they? Were there any funny incidences due to cultural difference for example?*

(A): As a woman, one of the things I like about working here is the comfort and confidence Mongolian women display in their professional roles. You've even had a female candidate for President! And, I enjoy seeing Mongolian men interacting with their children – they are so comfortable showing love and caring. Especially after working in more closed or biased societies, I really appreciate the equality I see here – although I know there are still challenges to overcome.

*(U): What was the most difficult adjustment you had to make?*

(A): I hate the fact that I don't speak Mongolian. Although so many Mongolians are amazing linguists, I really regret that language barriers sometime complicate clear communication.

*(U): What would you say so far is the highlight of your experiences as an individual in Mongolia?*

(A): Earlier this week I borrowed a horse (from a guy who was really surprised!) and just went galloping over the steppe. Maybe I was inspired having just seen a mini-nadaam race. I grew up riding horses and having chances to see the countryside from horseback is wonderful.

*(U): What do you see as the future of the U.S. Mongolia relationship?*



Ambassador Campbell swearing in.

(A): The U.S.-Mongolia relationship is strong and healthy. It's exciting to be leading the embassy as the relationship matures and transitions from being primarily development focused to being more about commercial and economic ties.

*(U): How do you see the role of USG alumni in bringing our two countries closer?*

(A): Mutual understanding is the most important ingredient to bringing our countries closer together. Alumni of U.S. programs are key in that regard, as you have experienced the U.S. in depth. Individually and collectively, you are the bridge between the cultures.

*(U): How would you like to see USG alumni involved in Mongolia's future?*

(A): Every time I meet our alumni, I am impressed with their capability, confidence and the important positions many are filling. But, more than that, I am struck by the passion so many have to improve the lives of their fellow Mongolians and to share, in the broadest way possible, their knowledge. I am proud about how the USG alumni already are a positive force for Mongolia's future and simply want to encourage more of the same!

*(U): Finally, what would your advice be to our alumni and other young people to reach their goals and potentials and to be successful in life?*

(A): I often tell people to look for work which stimulates their creativity and which challenges them. When someone is passionate about having positive results, this shows through in their work and in their level of commitment. Beyond that, it is so important not to define your ambitions too narrowly. Sheryl Sandberg wrote a book urging women to Lean In and take on more and more responsibility; to speak up; volunteer ideas; and demand change. This is good advice for everyone, male and female.□

# MUNKHZUL SAINBAYAR

## *Fulbrighter Story*

My name is Munkhzul Sainbayar and I graduated from Ohio University in 2012. It was a great honor for me to be awarded with Foreign Fulbright Award in 2010 to pursue my Master's Degree in the U.S. The two years I spent as a graduate student were made complete with a lot of memories, hard work and encouragement that will forever define the person who I have become. Thus, it is a pleasure for me to share my experience through this newsletter.

and Finance, Economics of Poverty, and Microfinance. Moreover, the fact that Ohio University was founded back in 1804 makes it quite unique as one of the first universities to be founded in the Midwest. As for the program, it brought together a diverse group of students with interesting backgrounds and experiences that also served as a big rewarding lesson for me. Besides my academic experience, I had a chance to participate in the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar held in February 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. If it wasn't for the program I would have never travelled to New Orleans and gotten to experience the taste of Southern cuisine and the incomparable Southern hospitality. This trip also opened my eyes and made me realize how hard-working and supportive Americans are. We visited the area which was catastrophically affected by the Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Nevertheless, with the people's dedication for reconstruction and redevelopment, the affected area was being rebuilt again. Although I had never been very interested architecture and construction, I should mention that it was quite intriguing to see the new technology being used for the redevelopment. Another exciting moment was when we visited the district which is redeveloped through the funds donated by Brad Pitt, one of Hollywood's famous actors. I thought it was such a great way to give back to the community and support those who are in need.



Munkhzul at Her Graduation, Ohio University

A few years ago I had a chance to meet with a group of Peace Corps Volunteers who were working in Mongolia for various projects. I was quite intrigued by their dedication, courage and enthusiasm and thought to myself how lucky they were to serve as ambassadors of their country. Most importantly, I learned the true definition of volunteerism from them. Then I felt kind of sad for not having the same opportunity for Mongolians to work abroad and or voluntarily represent our country. Fortunately, I learned from them about Fulbright scholarship opportunities. Soon after that I encouraged myself to apply for the scholarship.

I studied International Development Studies at Ohio University which is located in a small college town called Athens. My concentration was Economic Development and some of the interesting classes I took were Money, Banking



Munkhzul with a friend, watching Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Besides my studies at my university, I really enjoyed the broad opportunities given to students in the U.S. For example, I had a chance to participate in the Young Leaders Program organized within the framework of North East Asia Economic Forum. The program was significant in a way that it brought together such a distinct group of scholars and young professionals from North East Asia. Interestingly, it took place in Honolulu, Hawai'i which was a paradise on Earth for me. As a student it was a tremendous chance for me to extend my cultural and historic view about America.



Receiving certificate from Former Governor of Hawaii after Young Leaders Program (YLP)

Another big difference between Mongolian and American academic lifestyle is definitely the university campuses. During my time as a graduate student I personally had the best study groups, discussions and reading times on my campus. American campuses stretch out for miles and were built hundreds of years before, thus preserving the historical and architectural values. Likewise, every time I was on campus I always wished to have a magical power so then I could bring at least a piece of the libraries with me back to Mongolia. I really wish that Mongolian youth read more and had more opportunities to enjoy the latest and the best of literature in every field.



Miss Munkhzul with her classmates, Ohio University.



Passing through Arizona during roadtrip.

As I mentioned earlier, I had quite a few chances to travel through the U.S. However, one of the most memorable one was when I drove across America with my boyfriend from East to the West Coast. Obviously, it was the cheapest way for us to travel through different states, but it was definitely the most rewarding one to enjoy the delightful nature as well as the distinctive cuisine of America. In four days we drove almost 4000 miles, visited several states and experienced four different seasons. When I think back about the trip one incident never goes out of my mind. While driving in the deserts of Utah we almost ran out of gas and had no cell phone reception, but still we made it to the nearest gas station. It was quite a chilling moment, but the best memory of the trip. However it reminds me to be ready for anything that life might present you.

Thinking back, I always get inspired and motivated by the stories I heard, the people I met and the places I visited during my stay in the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar. Without any doubt, this experience definitely made me a better individual professionally and personally. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, to Ohio University, to the State Department, and to my colleagues at the Educational Advising and Resource Center (EARC) as well as at the Millennium Challenge Account Mongolia (MCA) for their immense support and encouragement. □

# WOMEN'S CIVIC LEADERSHIP

## *from the Heartland: SUSI Story*

"Where are we? What are we missing? What hasn't been addressed in this room? Let's imagine we're at club and dancing. There is a second floor balcony where we can see what is really happening on the dance floor. Are we on the dance floor? Are some of us near the exit? Let's go to the second balcony." This was a common beginning of our classes of the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders program at the University of Kansas, a six-week program where we studied and practiced the concept of Adaptive Leadership.

We were impressed and were happy to have such skillful and diverse professors of KU as our faculty team. The highlight of the sessions was that we were led by ambiguity to create and build our knowledge about the process of leadership. We learned to diagnose situations, manage ourselves, energize others, make interventions and identify our stakeholders, etc. Everyone's participation was crucial, ideas were brought to the discussion, and some risks taken were further discussed from the first- then second-floor balcony.

During these four weeks we excluded the following words from our vocabulary: "to lead", "leader", "leading" and follower. That was quite unique and difficult at first because most of us had an opinion that authority is a leader, who makes decision on behalf of others and gives orders to followers.

We were also engaged in doing "Mission. Vision. Value" projects where we learned and enjoyed the process of creating our values using color, word, value toolkits and demonstrate them to others and be inspired by the work of others. Besides, we had guest lecturers from KU professors about stereotypes, feminism, gender studies, transnational networks and resources, community engagement, struggle for women's right, citizen philanthropy and grand writing for nonprofit. Also, we did some quizzes to know more about ourselves, our personality types that allowed us to know ourselves more thoroughly. At last, using the skills and knowledge gained at KU, 19 girls presented their own



We are receiving our certification from the U.S. Department of State.



19 girls from Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Mongolia, Morocco and Pakistan with KU professors and staff.

Leadership for Change projects that we are going to implement in our respective countries.

Moreover, living in GSP hall in KU campus, becoming Jayhawks, receiving KU ID cards were most exciting part, we will never forget that we became one part of the big KU family. Besides, we were hosted by wonderful, hospitable American families in weekends to experience American lifestyle and went together to church service on Sunday, watched football, grilled some barbecue. We had an incredible opportunity to cook Mongolian traditional dish "khuushuur" and shared with our American families, professors, mentors and our fellows more about our motherland during cultural event.

Powerful women from different professional backgrounds who run their organizations and our mentors gave us a spirit of being supported and advised. We zip lined from the high pole, visited the Islamic center to learn more about our

sisters' beliefs and religion, ate Mediterranean food together to break the fast during Ramadan which absolutely unique experience for the Mongolian girls. During our tour to Kansas city we explored most delicious cheesecakes in the Cheesecake factory, got to know more about the Angus show, interviewed little hard-working cowgirl. Also, meeting Amish people in Yord Farm, visiting Cosmosphere and celebrating 4th of July with Abbie's family in Hutchinson, Kansas were new and informative to us that allowed us to broaden our view about American people. Furthermore, we asked questions from strong women who run offices about their experience and toured around the Capitol Hill in Topeka, Kansas. Having self-defense class, Jazzercising in the tempo of American pop music, asking questions from Fulbright students of KU, singing in karaoke and finally receiving our certificates was full of joy, fun and learning process during our stay in Kansas State.

We remember our last Saturday morning of our dorm stays, we were all packed and prepared for our last week tour, it was sad because we were leaving a place we met, a place we became friends and a place that gave us such a wonderful memories. This day we realized how it was hard to say goodbye to Lawrence, Kansas. On the other hand, we said hello to a breathtaking and incredible one-week trip

Philadelphia, PA, was our first stop. The independence hall, which is considered a birthplace of the United States itself, attracted us the most. We saw the view of the 1800s from the location of Declaration of Independence, 'the assembly room' inside the Independence hall that was used by George Washington when he presided over the Constitutional



In Mount Vernon, home of the first president of the United States of America, George Washington.



Khaliun, Sanchirmaa, Javkhaa at cultural dinner event in Lawrence, Kansas.

Convention. Another interesting place was the Liberty Bell Center. A video presentation and exhibits trace the bell's history from its debut at the Pennsylvania State House to its use as a symbol of freedom by abolitionists, and the women's suffrage and civil rights movements. At the end of the day, we visited Philadelphia's most famous international and domestic tourist attraction, the National Constitution center, a place that invites visitors to immerse themselves in the Constitution, its history and its ongoing significance. We were amazed by watching The Story of We the People show because it was the history of American liberty and their struggle for freedom. In the early morning of the next day we headed to the capital of the U.S. by bus. It took only three hours to get there and when we arrived what we first saw was the beautiful scenery of the Potomac River. What we did was the top 10 things to do in Washington. We can say that we really made unforgettable sightseeing tour. The instructors were awesome and our tour guide was very knowledgeable of every memorial and monument we came across. If we have to name the single most interesting place in Washington D.C. it would probably be the Smithsonian museums. These national treasures cover a wide range of subjects from art to space exploration and it's definitely one of the must-see places in the world.

Five weeks passed so fast in the USA where we met our sisters from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, Egypt and Morocco and the supportive professors and staff from KU. We went through our best and worst times, shared same feelings, got to know more about our countries, cultures and issues that concern us. We were hosted by friendly, hospitable and a safe community in Lawrence, Kansas. We would never forget this precious and memorable time. □



### Khanliun Ganbold (19)

4th year student at the School of Medicine, HSUM

After participation of this institute I could say that it was biggest discovery in my life and brought a big change to me. It wiped all the dark clouds in my mind and directed me to the way that I want to go. Not only making a life-long friends, experiencing different cultures but also it helped me to develop better person who knows who she really is, what she really can do and what she really want. □



### Sanchirmaa Altankhuyag (18)

Graduate of School of Mongolian Studies, MSUE

Nineteen different backgrounds, personalities, values and dreams from six different countries were united as a one big sisterhood in the campus of KU by hard-working skillful KU staff. This was one of my greatest experiences ever that both broadened my perspective and my views about U.S. I was impressed by the diversity of people, culture and its rich history. I wish this program keep empowering and engaging many dedicated young women all over the world that eager and passionate to make a difference in society. Personally, I believe in power of women and its important role in building and maintaining this enormous world. □



### Javkhaa Gereltuya (20)

4th year student at the School of Geography and Geology, NUM

Studying here in University of Kansas gave me of a hands-on experience in learning adaptive leadership skills– it was “real-life” experience – not just sitting in class studying. It's not enough to do the classroom component. Immersion is necessary. More than that the most profound elements of my study experiences were the lifelong friendships that I built with people from a wide variety of nationalities and cultures. □

# INTRODUCING NEW ETAs



**Kristine Mosuela** is a Washington, D.C.-born suburbanite raised on Filipino food and the sounds of foreign tongues. She attended the College of William and Mary and was involved in the Student

Organization for Medical Outreach and Sustainability and the Filipino American Student Association. Following her graduation in 2011 with a degree in International Relations, she worked at Fairfax County's Soil and Water Conservation District and Park Authority and developed an interest in engineering related to international development. She is grateful for the opportunity to embrace the music, dance, history, flora, fauna, and all the fantastic things Mongolia has to offer. Most of all she looks forward to working with and connecting with Mongolian teachers, students, and neighbors. After her time here, she plans to pursue a Master's in environmental or water resources engineering. Her other passions include food, photography, and mental health awareness. □



**Vanessa Soetanto**, a future medical student, is happy to work as an English Teaching Assistant at the Health Sciences University of Mongolia and excited to exchange ideas with the medical

students. As a New Yorker, she is eager to live in the densely populated and energetic Ulaanbaatar. The art scene in Ulaanbaatar is rapidly changing and moving in a unique direction. As an art history major from Williams College, MA, Vanessa hopes that she will be able to find a niche in the art community here by working with local art institutions and art conservation groups in her free time. □



**Peter Bittner** lived overseas in France and Spain until age five, after which his family settled in the greater Boston area. For his undergraduate education Peter attended the University of Puget

Sound in Washington State where he majored in international political economy. During his time there he studied abroad in

Spain and participated in a nine month travel-study program in which he visited seven Asian countries, including Mongolia. After graduation Peter served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in a low-income housing development on the outskirts of Seattle, helping to provide educational opportunities for Somali refugee families. Strongly drawn back to Mongolia, Peter applied to the Fulbright ETA program to continue to develop his skills in facilitating cross-cultural exchange. While he is here, he is excited to learn more about developmental issues, nomadic culture, and Tibetan Buddhism. As an aspiring Foreign Service Officer, he would love to connect with Embassy staff who have time to discuss their experiences serving abroad. □



**Gina Sterk** grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, where much of her childhood was spent enjoying the many lakes, forests, and parks that Minnesota and Wisconsin have to offer. She graduated

last May from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she majored in psychology and minored in English and Asian studies. One of the highlights of her time as a Coe student was the semester she spent studying in Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Besides traveling, her interests include reading, biking, writing, hanging out in coffee shops, studying and exploring spirituality and religion in various contexts, and camping. During her time in Mongolia, Gina is excited to get to know Ulaanbaatar, try new foods, visit the countryside, and learn the Mongolian language. She is also eager to build relationships with Mongolians during her time here, especially at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, where she will be teaching. □



**Katie Niemeyer** of Chatfield, Minnesota, is eagerly awaiting her first day as an ETA at the Institute of Finance and Economics in Ulaanbaatar. Katie graduated in May from Carthage College

in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with a degree in economics and international political economy. After her Fulbright grant term, she plans to pursue a master's degree in international and/or agricultural development. Therefore, she is thrilled to be in Mongolia during such an exciting point in its continual development as a market economy and democracy. Katie also looks forward to experiencing Mongolian equine culture as a "horsemanship" who grew up with quarter horses and participated in western riding, performance, leisure, knowledge, and judging competitions since she was a young girl on her parents' farm. □

# 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. The 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 center 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 American corner 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.)*

## 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 please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov>

To learn about Embassy's Alumni News and Activities please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/masa.html>

U.S. Embassy also invites you to connect with us via Social Media sites.

 <http://www.twitter.com/USembMongolia>

 <http://www.facebook.com/USAinMongolia>

## 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 U.S. 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.

Email: [info@earcmn.org](mailto:info@earcmn.org)

Website: <http://www.earcmn.org>

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

Working Hours: Mon-Friday 09:00-18:00