



# FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA

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January 2002

*Friends of Mongolia (FOM) is an incorporated nonprofit organization conducting operations in both Mongolia and the United States. It is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association and its membership includes both Americans and Mongolians. It is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational and developmental purposes. FOM exists to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development.*

## FOM GETS FUNDING FOR ZAYA SCHOOL PROJECT

Since October 1999, FOM has been working to develop and build support for an innovative education project to provide students in the Mongolian countryside with an accessible education that balances the often competing forces of (1) a well-resourced modern education with training in computers, languages, mathematics, etc. and (2) a traditional education with rigorous training in traditional Mongolian values and culture.

The intention of this school project is to give young adults, regardless of income or social standing, an education that equips them to succeed in the modern



*RPCV Susan Buchanan (M3) raises money for FOM at Zany Brains in Montgomery County, MD. See page 2.*

economy, as well as an appreciation of their country's history, tradition and values.

The FOM Zaya Bayun School Project is intended to be the first of many such schools in Mongolia. The Zaya Bayun School would be located in the capital of Arkhangai Province, Tsetserleg. This project has generated strong interest from potential funders and is well on its way to implementation in early 2002. Both the Prime Minister of Mongolia and the Minister of Education have requested that the project be started as soon as possible. The Mongolian-owned Hasu Holding Corporation and the US-based Foundation for the Preservation of Mahayana Tradition (FPMT) have committed financial support.

In August 2001, Patrick Sommerville and Ichinhorlo Zenko conducted a mission to Mongolia to assess the feasibility of the Zaya project. The mission was made on



*Boys in Tsetserleg, Arkhangai.*



*The town of Tsetserleg (formerly Zaya Bayun), Arhangai Province. Photo by Patrick Sommerville.*

## **1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL FOM ZANY FUNDRAISER BRINGS IN \$600 TO SUPPORT MONGOLIA PEACE CORPS VOLUNTERS**

Residents of Montgomery County, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC, opened their wallets and gave generously to support Peace Corps Volunteers in Mongolia during this holiday season.

On December 22-24, FOM sponsored a fundraiser/awareness raiser at Zany Brainy, a toy store franchise that provides community service by allowing charities to work the free gift wrap booth. In return for the service, toy store clientele generously leave tips, ranging

behalf of FOM and funded by FPMT. Iho spent the majority of her time in her hometown Arkhangai, where she worked as a teacher for several years, surveying nearly 500 community members to assess the level of need for the project. Community members identified education as an area in dire need of improvement. People said that the public education system in Arkhangai is in a state of disrepair. The overwhelming majority of the people surveyed believed that there is a need for study materials, technological supplies and better teachers in the public schools. They thought that the Zaya school could help to develop the province of Arkhangai. It could also help to positively influence the local school system.

Patrick Sommerville spent over two weeks in Ulaanbaatar conducting meetings with various funders and potential partners and eventually securing a substantial commitment of funds from the Arkhangai-based Hasu Holding Company. Hasu Holding has committed to donating nearly all of the necessary school facilities, including the building itself and several means of self-sustaining income generation, including land to grow vegetables and raise livestock. The Minister of Education expressed his strong support for the project and the belief that it would be of great assistance to the development of this fledgling sector of Mongolia.

We hope that you will be interested in supporting the Zaya Bayun Alternative School Project. To learn more, you can review the proposal document at <http://zaya.friendsofmongolia.org>. Tax-deductible donations can sent by check or money order to:

**FOM**  
**Attn: Zaya Project**  
**PO Box 1269**  
**New York, NY 10276**



*Wrapping for Mongolia. Photo by Susan Buchanan.*

from \$1 to \$40. The three-day total raised was \$600. The Zany fundraiser gave FOM members the opportunity to focus on the Peace Corps' third goal by answering questions about the experience of living and working in Mongolia.

"There are many returned volunteers from Mongolia living in the Washington, DC area now," said organizer Susan Buchanan (M3). "I thought this fundraiser would be a great way for us all to come together and start new traditions and continue old ones as we work to support development in Mongolia."



*Donations for FOM greatly appreciated. Photo by Susan Buchanan.*

Buchanan hopes the success of this project will inspire others to participate next year and in many years to come." There are Zany Brainy stores all over the country. All it takes is for someone to ask the question or to figure out what other fundraising opportunities exist in their communities."

## 2002 FOM OFFICER ELECTIONS

There's still time to volunteer or nominate someone as an FOM Officer. The term is one year and it requires a time commitment of about 10 hours a month. We particularly need officers with good bookkeeping, web and fundraising skills. New York City residents especially needed. Email Rick ([smithrichardj@yahoo.com](mailto:smithrichardj@yahoo.com)) for more information.

## FOM REUNION

FOM planned a reunion in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Peace Corps, but it was cancelled due to increased security following the events of September 11th.

Local members of FOM gathered at FOM Co-Coordinator Rick Smith's house for an evening of buuz, salat and arkhi. Member of the FOM Board of Director Former Justice G. Ganzorig and his wife provided a bottle of Chingiss Khan to share. The Americans made the buuz and really impressed the Mongolians in attendance.

Later in the evening RPCVs who served in Ecuador and Ghana joined the crowd. Joining together with people who believe in international cooperation and peace was a much needed end to that troubling week that changed each of us.

## NPCA 2002 CONFERENCE

The rescheduled conference will be held June 20-23, 2002 in Washington, DC.

The theme for the 2002 conference is "The Peace Corps Family: Bringing the World Together". A tentative conference schedule will be posted on the NPCA site in January, so make sure to check the NPCA website at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org). FOM will host an informal happy hour and sell Mongolian arts and crafts at the international bazaar. Be on the lookout for more information. If you want to serve on the planning committee or volunteer selling gifts

at the bazaar contact Rick Smith at [smithrichardj@yahoo.com](mailto:smithrichardj@yahoo.com).

## THE MONGOLIAN RESPONSE TO COUNTER TERRORISM: PRIME MINISTER ENKHBAYAR



In November, Prime Minister Enkhbayar came to Washington to meet with the White House and pledge Mongolia's support to the war on terrorism. "I took my children to tour the damage and they said, 'Daddy, who would do such a thing?'" said the Prime Minister in front of a full house at the National Endowment for Peace. He went on to

explain how a small investment in countries today might stop future terrorist attacks in the future. He felt that terrorists are not only at war with other cultures, but with the future. They are afraid of ideas that differ from their own. "I think that a country with internet access is the greatest threat to terrorists," he explained. He urged listeners to visit low-income countries, do business with them and live in places to make a difference and end the pervasive hopelessness and suffering that breeds terrorism.

After the talk, he met with RPCVs, including Paul Dewey, NPCA Director of Development, Annie Schleicher (M10) and Rick Smith (M5), FOM Co-Coordinator. He was happy to meet people who were living his call for international understanding and asked us about NPCA and FOM relief efforts as well as the Zaya School Project.

## FOM BOARD MEMBER AL LAPORTA ASSIGNED TO NAPLES, ITALY

FOM Board Member and Former Ambassador to Mongolia Al LaPorta has been assigned as the Political Advisor to the NATO regional commander (C1NCSOUTH) for the Mediterranean. This provokes several questions: What is a Political Advisor (POLAD, as they are known in "the trade"). What is NATO doing in Naples and why is this at all important?

Al retains his personal rank of Ambassador for this job, but he also has two additional "hats" -- as Political Advisor in the Admiral's capacity as head of U.S. Naval

forces in Europe (USNAVEUR head - quartered in London) and as NATO Political Advisor. This means that AI heads up a unit of a dozen people to support NATO's commander in the Mediterranean (a U.S. 4-Star admiral) with foreign affairs advice, political analysis and operational information, mostly related to fast-moving events in the Balkans (Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia, etc.).

Although he has spent most of his recent career in Asia, this assignment with the NATO command came about unexpectedly, but nevertheless was warmly welcomed. The NATO southern region command covers the Mediterranean, from Portugal to the Black Sea and includes much of central-south Europe, such as Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania, in addition to the Balkans. This wide geographical reach has necessitated a great deal of travel, sometimes 1-3 days each week and it is a true challenge for AI and his staff to keep on top of political and security developments throughout the region.

## **BAMBERG SIGNS UP FOR WIC**

By Rick Emert of *Stars and Stripes*

Charlotte Riersgard (RPCV Mongolia 1997-2000) now serves as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Project Team Leader for U.S. military community in Bamberg, Germany. The program offers nutritional help and counseling for expectant and new mothers and their children. "The Bamberg program is one of 18 WIC Overseas locations in England, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Belgium and the Netherlands," according to Lt. Col. Muriel Metcalf, TRICARE and WIC program coordinator based in Sembach, Germany.

"Because one of the eligibility requirements involves residence, similar to the program in the States, each WIC office can support only the installation it serves," Metcalf said. By November 2002, 46 sites will be in operation, giving all military communities in Europe access to WIC, she said. In Bamberg, estimates before the office opened predicted that about 795 people would be eligible for the program, said Riersgard. It is open to service members, retirees, U.S. civilian employees and Department of Defense contractors and their families. Eligibility is based on financial, residential, nutritional or medical need.

"The WIC program provides certificates for pregnant and post-partum women as well as infants up to 12 months and children up to age 5," Riersgard said.

Eighty people are already participating. The certificates can be used to purchase items such as cereal, juice, cheese, eggs and peanut butter at the Bamberg

Commissary where eligible items have been marked "WIC approved." Cashiers at the commissary have been trained on which items are acceptable for WIC and the registers' scanners have been programmed to accept the certificates, Riersgard said.

Riersgard said the staff sees between 15 and 20 people daily. "Our goals are healthy moms and healthy children, because they will grow into healthy adults," Riersgard said.

## **FELLOWS/USA: "STATESIDE" SERVICE IN THE PEACE CORPS TRADITION**

By Gina Wynn, Fellows/USA Marketing Coordinator, RPCV Russian Far East

Peace Corps Fellows/USA is a third goal program that places RPCVs in positions in under-served U.S. communities while they study with financial assistance toward master's or doctoral degrees. The program is offered at universities nationwide in a variety of subjects. In addition to helping RPCVs achieve their personal academic goals and share knowledge of other cultures with diverse groups of American populations, Fellows/USA helps fulfill needs within the United States that would otherwise go unmet.

RPCVs are assets to any institution, company or organization because of their cultural sensitivity, language proficiency, adaptability and professional knowledge. For example, they are perfect candidates for working on Native American reservations where teachers face cultural challenges or in inner-city school districts where there are often language barriers and limited resources. Community and economic development or business volunteers who served in areas such as Eastern Europe deal with challenges such as lack of business plans organizational structures or funding, can also use their talents to overcome the same types of obstacles in American companies in urban or rural communities.

These are just two examples of the types of fellowships available. Currently 13 programs are in education while all others are in community and economic development offering degrees in a multitude of other fields. Degree programs exist in subject areas including: American studies, anthropology, business, communication, economics, English, environmental studies, geography, history, language, non-profit management, nursing, philosophy, political science, public administration, public health, the sciences, sociology, social work, recreation, park, tourism management, teaching, urban planning and

more. Some of the more than 30 partner universities are also flexible in allowing RPCVs to tailor a degree to suit their own interests.

Although the Fellows programs vary by institution, all include a combination of course work and an internship with a "community partner." Some programs require courses to be taken prior to the internship, but others allow them to be taken concurrently or even afterward, as at the University of Oregon. The length of the internships also varies from six months to two years.

Many Fellows' internships lead to permanent positions. Repeatedly, community partners tell Peace Corps Fellows staff, "Send us more Fellows!" Besides gaining valuable on-the-job training and networking opportunities, Fellows may receive scholarships, reduced tuition, health benefits, housing or living allowances, depending on the program. Therefore, Fellows/USA enables RPCVs to earn degrees, establish their careers and pay much less than students who have not served in the Peace Corps or those enrolled in degree programs not affiliated with Fellows/USA.

To be eligible for the program, RPCVs should have completed their full two years of service or the full tour minus up to 90 days because of emergency leave. Applicants are also eligible if they were granted Early Close of Service or a Non-Disciplinary Discontinuance of Service or if they were medically separated after having completed one year of service including training. While a few of the programs are competitive, many are eager to enroll more Fellows. In addition, it does not matter how long it has been since an RPCV has served. Some have been back in the States for one year and some for 19 or more. Sometimes being an older student can help a person to better define and focus on one's career goals. No matter what a returned volunteer's age or interest may be, Fellows/USA offers unique opportunities.

Join an elite group of RPCVs who have extended the Peace Corps philosophy to assist their compatriots at home. For more information visit or contact the Fellows/USA staff at [fellows@peacecorps.gov](mailto:fellows@peacecorps.gov) or at (800) 424-8580 press 2, then ext. 1440.

#### Currently Recruiting Fellows/USA Partner Universities:

- Arizona State Univ. Tempe, AZ CED
- California State Univ. at Sacramento Sacramento, CA CED
- DePaul Univ. Chicago, IL ED
- Duquesne Univ. Pittsburgh, PA CED

- Florida Institute of Technology Melbourne, FL CED
- Florida International Univ. Miami, FL Both
- George Mason Univ. Fairfax, VA ED
- George Washington Univ. Washington, DC ED
- Illinois State Univ. Normal, IL CED
- Johns Hopkins Univ. Baltimore, MD CED
- Marquette Univ. Milwaukee, WI CED
- Michigan State Univ. Lansing, MI CED
- New School for Soc. Research New York, NY CED
- Northern Arizona Univ. Flagstaff, AZ Both
- Santa Clara Univ. Santa Clara, CA CED
- Shriver Peaceworker Prog., UMBC Baltimore, MD
- Southern New Hampshire Univ. Manchester, NH CED
- Teachers College, Columbia Univ. New York, NY ED
- Temple Univ. Philadelphia, PA ED
- Texas Southern Univ. Houston, TX CED
- Univ. of Arizona Tucson, AZ CED
- Univ. of New Orleans New Orleans, LA CED
- Univ. of North Texas Denton, TX CED
- Univ. of Oregon Eugene or CED
- Univ. of South Carolina Columbia, SC CED
- Univ. of Texas at El Paso El Paso, TX ED
- Univ. of Wyoming Laramie, WY CED
- Western Illinois Univ. Macomb, IL CED
- Western New Mexico Univ. Gallup, NM ED
- Wichita State Univ. Wichita, KS ED
- ED - Education, CED - Community and Economic Development and other programs

Gina L. Wynn  
Marketing Coordinator  
Peace Corps Fellows/USA  
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(202) 692-1421 fax



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The Mongolia Society, Inc., is America's first and most prestigious organization promoting the study of the Mongol peoples, their history, language, and cultures. It is also one of the largest resellers of books, recordings and souvenirs from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Buryatia and Kalmykia. For more information, visit us at:  
<[www.indiana.edu/~mongosoc](http://www.indiana.edu/~mongosoc)>

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