



**PO Box 44132**  
**Washington, DC 20026-4132**  
**[www.friendsofmongolia.org](http://www.friendsofmongolia.org)**

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#### **FRIENDS OF MONGOLIA NEWSLETTER**

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**Winter 2005**

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*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. Friends of Mongolia exists to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development.*

#### **FOM OFFICER ELECTIONS**

In order for Friends of Mongolia to grow to the next level of excellence, we need your help. Bring your new ideas, inspiration and leadership to the FOM officers. You need only have energy, commitment and a love for all things milk tea. Positions available include membership, communications, treasurer and co-coordinator. Make sure you give us an email if you want to participate.

Amb. (ret.) Al LaPorta is this year's impartial election monitor. You can email him nominations to [a\\_laporta@yahoo.com](mailto:a_laporta@yahoo.com). Deadline for nominations February 15<sup>th</sup>. You can mail nominations to ELECTION, P.O. Box 44132, Washington, DC 20026-4132.

#### **ONLINE STORE!**

Thanks to FOM board member John Napoleoni, we now have an online store! Members may renew membership by indicating the type of membership in the text field. You may also purchase FOM T-Shirts with our new logo. Indicate XL, L, M or S. Also, have items from our craft collection on line.

#### **MONGOLIAN COLD WEATHER CONSTRUCTION FROM PROFESSOR LUKE M. SNELL AT SIUE**

In 2002, a building, which was under construction in Ulaanbaatar collapsed. In a detailed investigation conducted by the Mongolian Engineers, part of the collapse was due to concrete that froze during the construction.

This construction problem has provided a unique opportunity for some collaborative research. Through a research grant provided by the Excellence in Undergraduate Education Program of Southern IL University Edwardsville (SIUE), students from SIUE and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology Ulaanbaatar (MUST-UB) are working together to investigate what are proper cold weather techniques to use in concrete construction. Mongolia has bitter cold weather as does part of the United States. Each country uses different techniques during cold weather concrete construction, thus the students can learn new procedures.

Luke Snell, Professor from SIUE, Duinkherjav Ya from MUST-UB, and Khishgee Radnaabazar, a Mongolian graduate student at SIUE and on leave from MUST-UB are directing this project.

#### **COLD WEATHER TECHNOLOGY IN MONGOLIA FROM KHISHGEE RADNAABAZAR, MONGOLIAN GRADUATE STUDENT AT SIUE**

The newly democratic country, Mongolia, is a landlocked area between Russia and China. It has 1,564,116 square km in land, which is slightly smaller than Alaska and has a population density of 1.5 people per square km.

The main feature of Mongolia is its extreme temperatures with hot summers and extremely cold winters, which can be as low as -40C (-40F). The Mongolian Building Standard defines Cold

Weather as a period when the average daily temperature is below 5C (40F). In Ulaanbaatar, the capital, this is typically late in October to mid April or about 6 months.

The most popular building system is reinforced concrete frame, curtain wall of autoclaved aerated block, hollow core slab floor and brick veneer. To cure concrete in cold weather, an electrical heating technique is widely used. The principle of this method is when low voltage electrical current is passed through the concrete between electrodes, its temperature rises due to electrical resistance. Although there are exact formulas to calculate the heat, most contractors use their past experiences to control the temperature. The advantages of this method are: (1) opportunity to control concrete temperature based on ambient temperature; (2) opportunity to control curing duration that formwork can be removed in 2-4 days; and (3) concrete can attain about 2/3 of target strength in 2-3 days.

The source of electrical current is alternating electrical current of 380 voltages and through the transformer, it can be converted into low voltage of 40-60. Heating usually begins after presetting period of 1 to 2 hours and the temperature of the concrete should be increased gradually. Electrodes are soft steel rebars of 6mm (1/4 inch) to 12mm (1/2 inch) in diameter and placed with a distance of 200mm (8 inches) to 250mm (10 inches) and connected in different phases. Aluminum wires are used between transformer cables and electrodes, which have a low melting point. For safety concerns, short circuiting should be avoided, thus, this method cannot be used in heavily reinforced concrete members or metal forms.

Optimal concrete temperature during electrical heating should be 40C (105F) to 50C (120F). The high temperature which can lead to low strength, damage by localized areas of steel, increase of thermal shrinkage and cracking is undesirable. Professors Luke Snell (Southern IL University Edwardsville) and Duinkerjav Ya (Mongolia University Science Technology – Ulaanbaatar) with students from both universities are working together on this project, “Globalization through Collaborative Research.” This project will also allow the students to investigate cold weather standards and techniques in both countries, find effective ways of monitoring concrete temperatures plus the opportunities to share the knowledge and the culture from other countries.

### NEWS FROM CHRISTOPHER MCKEE

Christopher writes that the Mujaan news will be in the next newsletter – the website is up and it’s being sold at the American Museum of Natural History and under consideration for exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute. Christopher will also be showing it in Park City, Utah at Slamdance in a few weeks. He sold a copy to Bill Reed and he (Bill) shared it with some friends and they all liked it, so Bill could give a short review for anyone.

Christopher is interested in brainstorming with FOM about future activities. He may also come to DC this winter to present his film at the Smithsonian. He does not know if this filming will be

public or private.



Scot and Chris at Slamdance

### RACHEL FIX, FOM BOARD MEMBER PRESENTS AT THE COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rachel Fix (FOM Board Member (200-present) and RPCV Mongolia (1996-1998), will be presenting at the Comparative and International Education Society’s annual conference at Stanford University in March 2005. Rachel is currently a PhD candidate in Comparative Education at the University of Buffalo. She will be presenting her research on gender and schooling Mongolia. Her presentation is entitled, “Legitimizing the ‘Abnormal’: Boys’ Schooling in Mongolia”. A brief synopsis follows of her presentation.

Scholars working to break down a polarized understanding of boys’ versus girls’ educational opportunities would do well to examine the relationship between gender and schooling in Mongolia. Data on this topic provides an alternative perspective on gender equity in education. Though there is little disparity in enrollments rates between boys and girls in the early years of primary education in Mongolia, the drop-out rate among boys is much higher than that for girls. Recent statistics show that there are two female college graduates for every male college graduate in Mongolia.

While some quantitative data are available on gender and schooling in Mongolia, there is limited qualitative research on this topic. In this presentation, Rachel will analyze the available data through a critical, feminist research lens. She will offer preliminary hypotheses as to what these data tell us, and will offer suggestions for how one might proceed in undertaking qualitative research on the topic. She will also discuss what such research might contribute to the field of comparative education, particularly in terms of a heightened understanding of the complexity of identity politics in a country in transition. Finally, Rachel will discuss the necessity of reaching beyond a bifurcated analysis of gender and education internationally.

## NEW FOM NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Billie Snell has assumed the responsibility for the FOM newsletter. She is currently the Educational Research Consultant with the Concrete Construction Resource Unit (CCRU) at Southern IL University Edwardsville (SIUE). She and her husband, Professor Luke M. Snell have been traveling to Mongolia since 2002 and as Richard Smith has stated, have become dedicated Mongolianists. To be truthful, the last time (May 2004, they traveled to Ulaanbaatar, they actually felt like they were returning to their second home.

Billie would deeply appreciate any news of the members recent travels, fundraising efforts or cultural exchanges regarding Mongolia and photographs are ALWAYS welcomed. Just send your information to Billie at [wsnell@siue.edu](mailto:wsnell@siue.edu)

## EDITORIAL NEWS FROM YOUR NEW FOM EDITOR

I just thought I'd share some social type activities of our last trip to Mongolia. I hope you'll enjoy them as much as we did. We were there in May 2004, for approximately 24 days.

Luke and I, along with our host family (Duinkherjav Ya), went to a country monastery museum. This one was absolutely delightful - one museum building was full of nature type items - paintings made from items from nature, stuffed animals (bear, elk, deer, marmot, wolf, fox, weasel) and even some pelts from these animals. We climbed to one building which stored 300 year old prayer parchments - these were saved by the Mongolians to prevent destruction and thievery. We were about 7 thousand to 8 thousand feet up and it was SNOWING. We also saw a 300 year old kettle used for cooking, made of brass but had been used so much it looked like cast iron. Supper was a typical Mongolian affair - salad of tomatoes and cucumbers, soups of vegetables, and main dish of rice, vegetables, and meat (we call it mystery meat - was it cow, yak, horse, camel, we don't know but I think it might have been beef) The most unusual was the Salt Tea - it wasn't half bad - tasted more like a diluted watered down tea with MILK and a slight hint of salt. Imagine, I drank two cups but I was COLD! Within this village, I saw more trees than I did all together in the previous two years - fantastic!

After the Mongolian Concrete Conference, we still had some free time, so the professors and staff took us out into the country and.....The scenery went from gloriously lush looking mountains with trees to stark, startling bare rocks and I mean HUGE rocks of mountains. We saw gorgeous Mongolian hawks, even saw one dive bomb for his dinner. We saw magpies, ravens, crows, vultures, a beautiful black and white yak, cows, goats, sheep, camels and horses. Yes, we (Dick Stehly, Luke and I) took turns riding a camel. Sierna (Dunka's wife) insists that camels are comfortable and easy to ride. Please understand me - AIN'T NO WAY!!! Those critters are hard on the seat and rub where they shouldn't! Besides that, I, being so darn short (I'm only 4ft 10.75 inches tall), felt I had taken flight - these are TALL creatures and I don't like being up that high! But I must tell you, the camel was very

gentle and when he arose from his sitting position and when he sat, he was very careful and gentle. Thank you very much! I also took a turn also riding the Mongolian horse - it was wonderful except to get on. No, I am not too short except that their saddle not only has a horn in the front but also a tall one in the back. Picture me trying to raise my right leg to swing it over that dumb horn. Duinkherjav had to help! Other than this, it was a fabulous ride.

I saw a coal mine, 2 different pits (several sand dumb trucks - using the sand for construction), a sawmill, a cemetery (Khishgee says that Ulaanbaatar is now cremating their dead), and twelve different tourist Ger. villages (remember the Ger. is the nomadic Mongolian's home). We experienced a dust storm, while outside picnicking, rain, cold and rough roads but no one complained because we were having too much FUN! We went to a Ger Village and ate a snack in one ger (appeared to be about 20 gers for tourists) and even took a rest (the men slept for a while before we headed back), we got warmed up and headed for the local river that feeds into the Tule River in Ulaanbaatar (UB) and believe it or not, we skipped stones for fun. We relived our childhood - all of us.

Three of the men (Luke was one) skipped a stone each for 5 skips and one of the female staff members and I skipped a stone each for three skips. Beautiful atmosphere! I have never seen such slender people eat SO MUCH and CONTINUALLY - we left the river and went to the local restaurant and had a lunch of salad, soup, and the main entree (sheep, rice, potatoes, and another salad) No, I could not eat it all.



Luke Snell attempting to be the Rock Skipper Champ

We finally left the area and headed by to UB - however, we made two stops. They insisted we see the cave where the lamas (Buddhists monks) hid out in safety from Stalin - during his reign of terror. It started to pour and please remember these are BARE ROCKS covered with moss. SLICK AND VERY SLIPPERY! The rumor is that over 1000 of these monks hid in this cave - according to Luke and Khishgee - NO WAY, 10 MAYBE! Anyway, it makes for a good story!

Folks, I do want to say I can hardly wait to return. Yes, Luke and I work while we're in Mongolia but we also get a chance to play. This March Duinkherjav is coming to our town (Edwardsville, IL) and spending two months with us. We can hardly wait. Our turn to be his host family.

## T.LAYTON CROFT REPORTS ON THE FARM PROJECT

T. Layton Croft reports that while there has been no news from the grantee (Mr. Baljnyam) on the family farming project that FOM funded two years ago, that there has been great progress, largely thanks to Allison Croft, on fundraising for FOM here in-country. Rick had sent us 40 FOM t-shirts to sell. To date, Ally has sold 30 shirts at \$15 per shirt, raising \$450.00 for FOM. Once we sell the remaining 10, we will send a check to FOM. One important lesson we learned from this has been to have a greater supply of children's t-shirts for sale, as many interested buyers wanted these.

Finally, I would like to note that I have proposed to the Board of FOM to identify and hire, on a pilot and performance-oriented basis, as country manager, whose scope of work would include in-country representation and networking; program development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and fundraising and marketing.

I firmly believe that finding the right person – with the right attitude, commitment, skill set, and time – and providing that person with nominal mechanism raising funds for programming is what we need to do. And while I don't yet see consensus on this question, I think our newsletter might want to address the larger issue of FOM's strategic plan and on-the-ground impact fulfilling that part of our organization's mission that speaks to supporting development initiatives in and for Mongolia.

T. Layton Croft  
Mongolia Country Representative  
The Asia Foundation  
[lcroft@asiafound.mn](mailto:lcroft@asiafound.mn)  
[laytoncroft@yahoo.com](mailto:laytoncroft@yahoo.com)



The Got Milk Brothers: Chaandmon and Sky and Croft

## AL LAPORTA REPORTS ON THE MONGOLIAN AND US CONFERENCE IN DC

There is a conference on Mongolia and the US at The Heritage Foundation, located at 214 Massachusetts Ave., NE,

Washington, D.C. 20002 on Feb.28 and March 1. It is being sponsored by the Mongolian Embassy and run by Georgia Tech (Professor John Endicott is the contact there). The Asia Foundation will support it and the speakers will be from Mongolia, as well as U.S. Government and others. The Mongolian Embassy contact person is Lt. Col. Mendee, who can be reached at [j.mendee@mongolianembassy.us](mailto:j.mendee@mongolianembassy.us). We would like to extend an invitation through FOM for all and sundry to attend.

## MONGOLIA-US COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF NORTHEAST ASIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Dates: February 28 – March 1, 2005:** *Events and times are subject to change.*

### Day 1 (28 February 2004, Monday)

0820-0850 Registration – Administrative Preparation  
0900-0915 Opening Ceremonies  
Introduction: R.Bold Ambassador (Embassy of Mongolia)  
Opening Remarks: Mr. Doug Bereuter (The Asia Foundation)  
Dr. Larry M.Wortzel (The Heritage Foundation)

### **Session One: Mongolia-US relations, its regional implication in the Northeast Asia**

0915-0930 Multilateral Security Dialogue in the Northeast Asia: Challenges/Perspectives  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
0930-1000 Mongolia-US comprehensive partnership, challenges and opportunities: Mongolian and US Perspective  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
1000-1015 Sino-Russian relationship, its impact on Mongolia: US Perspective  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
1015-1030 Sino-Mongolian relationship, its implication for Mongolia-US relations: Mongolian Perspective  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
1030-1045 *Coffee break*  
1045-1150 Discussion for Session One  
1150-1200 *Group photo*  
1200-1300 *Working lunch*  
Guest Speaker

### **Session Two: Trade and Investment for future of Northeast Asia**

1300-1315 Free Trade Agreement, its implication for Asia: US View, FTA between Mongolia and US:

- illusion or reality  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
1315-1330 Free Trade Agreement between Mongolia and US:  
illusion or reality  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
1330-1345 Mongolia-US Trade and Investment cooperation:  
Challenges/ Opportunities  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
1345-1400 Perspectives of MCC, its implications for  
Mongolia's national economic development  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
1400-1415 *Coffee break*  
1415-1600 Discussion for Session Two  
1600-1800 Free time  
1800-2000 Reception (at Residence of Ambassador) *address  
and direction is attached*

## Day 2 (01 March 2004, Tuesday)

### Session Three: *Model of Northeast Asian Democracy*

- 0900-0915 Democratization process in Northeast Asia  
and Impacts of Mongolian democracy on Inner  
Asia  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
915-930 Civil Society and Democracy in Mongolia:  
Challenges/Perspectives  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
915-931 Mongolia-US cooperation through NGOs:  
0930-0945 Opportunities/Perspectives  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
0945-1000 Mongolian Study in the US, its impact on  
bilateral relations: Challenges/Perspectives  
(US presenter: 15 minutes)  
1000-1015 Cultural and Educational aspects of  
Mongolia-US cooperation  
(Mongolian presenter: 15 minutes)  
1015-1030 *Coffee break*  
1030-1130 Discussion for Session Three  
1130-1200 Wrap up/way ahead  
1200-1230 Closing Ceremonies and Remarks  
Closing Remarks: J.Endicott (Georgia Tech)  
R.Bold Ambassador (Embassy of Mongolia)

## THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND PANEL NOTICE

The 2005 Annual Meeting of The Mongolia Society will be held in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), March 31-April 3, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL. The Mongolia Society Annual Meeting will be Thursday 31 March 2005 in the Cominsky Room at the Hyatt. The Annual Meeting will start at 1 pm, to be followed by a keynote speech by Ambassador R. Bold, Mongolian Ambassador to the US.

The meeting will then be followed by panels at 2 and 4 pm. There will also be a panel Friday evening, April 1, 2005, in the

Grand Ballroom D North from 7-9 pm. Therefore, we are placing a call for panel participants. In order to participate, you must be a member of The Mongolia Society and submit an abstract for consideration no later than January 15, 2005. The abstract must contain the title of the paper and be no more than 300 words. If your abstract is accepted, you will have 20 minutes to present your paper, which will include five minutes of discussion. Please submit your abstract to:

### Susie Drost

322 Goodbody Hall  
Indiana University  
1011 E. 3rd St.  
Bloomington, IN  
47405-7005.

E-Mail: [monsoc@indiana.edu](mailto:monsoc@indiana.edu).

FAX: (812) 855-7500

Tel: (812) 855-4078

## JOIN THE GREATER MONGOL COMMUNITY

North America Mongolian Business Council  
([www.nambc.org](http://www.nambc.org))

The Mongolia Society  
(<http://www.indiana.edu/~mongsoc/>)

American Center for Mongolian Studies  
([www.mongoliacenter.org](http://www.mongoliacenter.org))

Online Mongolian Communities  
[HamagMongol@yahoo.com](mailto:HamagMongol@yahoo.com) (Washington, DC)

[www.assult.net](http://www.assult.net) (Los Angeles, CA)

<http://www.monstudnet.mn/> (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)  
Monstudnet has a great music site!

## BOOK PROJECT—SPECIAL THANKS TO KEN!

We request your support for the new Friends of Mongolia project: Wisconsin Books to Mongolia (WBTM). Launched late last year in Madison, this project will collect and ship a container of books to Mongolia in Fall 2005. We have successfully collected 10,000 books, completing the first phase of this exciting project. The books will be sent to schools in remote rural areas, arriving in time for the start of the school year in September. Khovd and other western aimags are under consideration for distribution. Special thanks to Ken Helenfelds who made a generous contribution to the book project through FOM's eStore. For more information contact Adam Zenko at [adamzenko@hotmail.com](mailto:adamzenko@hotmail.com).

**JOIN FOM (FOM)**

As a member you can:

- Subscribe to our e-mail list serve
- Receive our newsletter
- Vote in FOM elections and meetings
- Serve on ad hoc committees for scholarships, fundraising and development projects
- Join the National Peace Corps Association for an additional \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 individual FOM

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 family FOM (2 people at the same address)

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\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail

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Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Connection/interest in Mongolia: \_\_\_\_\_

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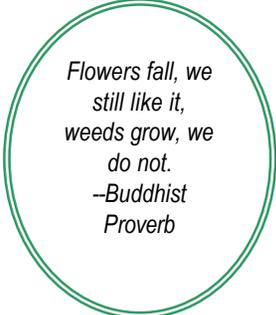
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