

Welcome M-19's!

Welcome semi-freshly
COS'ed M-19's!

By this point you may be missing your hashaa mom's buuz—and it's a balmy -10 C in UB today. We hope you find this newsletter informative and an ongoing link to Mongolia.



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November 2010

Volume XI, Issue II

Friends of MongoliaTM

A National Peace Corps Association Affiliated Organization



Arvaikheer dormitory renovation builds new partnerships, changes student lives

Esayas Wureta, M-19, on behalf of the Arvaikheer community

The Arvaikheer (aimag center of Ovorkhangai) dormitory was built in 1981. It is the only dormitory in the aimag center and houses 100 students from all four schools in the town. 95% of the students are from soums throughout the aimag, with many being the children of herders and some either half or full orphans.

After many years of occupancy, the dormitory became uninhabitable and was closed for a few years. In 2000, with the support of the Caritas Catholic NGO, it was refurbished and re-opened. However, after 10 years of use, the dormitory was in need of serious assistance. Historically, School Number One has been in charge of the maintenance of the dormitory, and the community raised \$30,000 to renovate. This, in addition to further generous funding from Peace Corps and The Asian Development Bank, enabled School Number One to purchase all of the typical furniture you would expect in a dormitory: bunk beds, wardrobes, refrigerators, study tables and chairs, washing machine

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Above: Students accessing books at the new Children's Development Center

Diplomatic Updates

John Gorkowski is new Mongolia Desk Officer at US State Department

John Gorkowski has taken over from Byron Tsao as Mongolia Desk Officer at the US Department of State in Washington, DC, after Byron was selected for a prestigious exchange program with the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

John came to the Mongolia Desk in July 2010 after two years on the Kyrgyzstan Desk where he handled issues related to the Manas Transit Center. His previous overseas tours include: China, India and Poland. His work on the Community of Democracies in Poland and his experience of China make John uniquely qualified to work on Mongolia at this time.



John recently added to his budding Central Asia resume by spending two night in a Ger just outside of Ulaanbaatar during a September trip to the region. John can be reached at GorkowskiJ@state.gov.

Mongolia's First Lady Visits Washington D.C.

Christian Packard is a law student at the University of Florida, has an M.A. in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies from Harvard and once worked for Anderson & Anderson's office in Ulaanbaatar.

Kh. Bolormaa, First Lady of Mongolia, gave a talk in late June at the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C.

She primarily addressed women's and children's issues, including Mongolia's reforms for compulsory education for ages 6 to 18, and the Ikh Khural's debating of a new Gender Equality Law.



Above: First Lady Bolormaa

She also talked about her family, which includes four sons and a daughter. That may seem like enough, but her and her husband have also taken responsibility for twenty-five more from an orphanage. As she put it, when traveling she shops not for five but for thirty! Those additional twenty-five still live in their orphanage, but new housing is being built for them.

Bolormaa also mentioned her charity, called "Bolor," and its programs to help street children. At present, Ulaanbaatar has about too many homeless children, and not enough help for them. The First Lady hopes that her charity will assist the plight of those children.

After her speech, the audience asked questions. Regarding the Ikh Khural's gender quota, Bolormaa acknowledged that the quota was recently lowered. However, the current government is considering restoring it to 30%. When asked about continuing education in Mongolia, Bolormaa noted that night-course-programs in the cities, and ger-education programs in the countryside have grown significantly in recent years. About the role of Buddhist monastic education in Mongolia, she said that Buddhism is of course traditionally revered in Mongolia and that its values must be taught by parents and families.

After the questions, a survivor of the Mongolian orphanage system emotionally thanked the First Lady for her efforts on behalf of orphans and Mongolia's children. She also gave the First Lady a small gift, which Bolormaa gladly received.

All told, First Lady Bolormaa was very kind, polite, and conversational. I enjoyed her talk, and was honored to meet her afterward. All I really know about her husband is what is already public knowledge, but if he's anything like her at all, then Mongolia is in good hands.

Friends of Mongolia Hosts Successful Panel on Social Issues in Mongolia

Ariel Wyckoff, M-11, FOM Board member

On October 4, 2010 about two dozen listeners gathered in the Meeting Room of the Arlington Central Library for a Friends of Mongolia (FOM) panel speaker event on Social Issues in Mongolia. FOM Board Member, Ariel Wyckoff kicked off the evening with a brief intro to Mongolia and introduced the three speakers: Anne Riordan of the Association University Centers on Disability (AUCD), Deepali Patel of the Institute of Medicine, and Brooke Sadowsky of RARE.

Anne Riordan, who is also FOM's Co-Director, USA, began the panel with a presentation on children with disability in Mongolia. Anne delineated some of the particular challenges faced by the families of these children, and the schools that are charged with their education. She stated that all too often these children are labeled 'stupid' or called 'problem children' and not given proper care. Anne stated that schools are not equipped with facilities for physically disabled (such as wheelchair access), and that mental disability is poorly understood, and sometimes misdiagnosed – or not understood at all. Anne's discus-



L to R: Deepali Patel, Anne Riordan, Brooke Sadowsky

lepsy or other mental disabilities were considered 'shaman' or special interlocutors with the spirit world.

Deepali then gave compelling presentation on 'food security' in Mongolia, with a special emphasis on diet and nutrition in Mongolia, with some basic epidemiological statistics. She noted that the primary staples of the Mongolian diet are cereal and fiber, followed by meat. Fruit and vegetable consumption, however, is quite low. Having done research work in South Asia prior to arriving in Mongolia, Deepali noted how surprised she was to find that deaths due to contagious disease are so low in Mongolia – with cardiovascular disease, liver failure, and consumption habits (smoking, alcohol, poor nutrition) ranking as much more common causes of death. She also was pleased that every province center and village has some sort of hospital or clinic. Her presentation led to a lively discussion among audience members about the lifestyle habits of Mongolians, the use/overuse of penicillin, the place of various food groups in the Mongolian diet, and the training of doctors and nurses.

Brooke completed the panel with her presentation about inspiring locals to take the lead in preserving

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Above: Anne presenting on her research

sion led to questions on the training of care-givers, existing facilities in Mongolia, and the level of acceptance of these children by their non-disabled peers. One audience member reflected that in an earlier age in Mongolia sometimes children with epi-

Mongolia RPCV Interview: Rebecca Watters, M-11, 2000-2002

Interviewed by Ariel Wyckoff, M-11

This is Part 2 of a 2-part series. Part 1 was in the Spring/Summer 2010 newsletter



Above: Rebecca Watters

Rebecca Watters grew up near Boston. She has a BA in Anthropology from St. Lawrence University and a Master's of Environmental Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Khar-khorin, Mongolia, where she taught ecology and conducted field surveys for wildlife. She has also lived, worked, and studied in Cambodia, Bosnia, Kenya, and India. Rebecca currently lives in Jackson, Wyoming, where she is the Project Manager for the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative and the coordinator for the Mongolian Wolverine Project. She spends her spare time writing, working on art, skiing, climbing, and otherwise being outdoors.

What was the most memorable part of your Peace Corps experience? What surprised you about the country and the people?

I can't isolate one thing that was the 'most' memorable. The entire

experience was alive in a way that's difficult to explain. Maybe this will sound romanticized, but I think there's a wholeness to the landscape that we've lost here, and an integration of daily life with the landscape, and this was a revelation for me. It made everything about the experience vivid.

Mongolians are incredibly tough people, but generally fair minded. There's a strong ethic of reciprocity that is foreign to Americans; we grow up believing that competition masked by formulaic politeness is the most important medium of social relationship. So it took me a while to get my head around the way in which Mongolians can be apparently inconsiderately blunt in one moment, and then ready to adopt you into their families and give you their last sheep the next. Like the language itself, it seems completely backward to an American until suddenly one day it comes into focus and from then on, makes absolute sense.

I should also mention that I was surprised by how much I loved my fellow volunteers and how they came to be a wonderful extended family. I went to Mongolia to be in Mongolia, not to hang out with Americans, but the other volunteers were a great part of the experience.

What was the most difficult of spending those first two years in Mongolia?

I was fortunate because I grew up spending summers at a cottage that my great grandparents bought in 1920, and it was in the remote wilderness with no plumbing. So the lack of ameni-

“I think there's a wholeness to the landscape that we've lost here... an integration of daily life with the landscape, and this was a revelation for me.”

ties didn't bother me much.

Staying healthy was probably the biggest challenge. I was a vegetarian when I arrived and I stuck to that in my own ger the whole time I was there, although I did eat meat at friends' houses. There were weeks when there wasn't much in the way of vegetarian food at the market, and I wore

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FOM scholarship awardees

Lindsay Holmes, M-19, FOM Co-Director

All work for the 2010-2011 FOM Scholarship Program is now complete, aside from the scholarship recipient dinner, which will be held in November. Out of the 15 applications received, a total of 13 students received scholarships of up to 800,000 tugriks. Of the 2 that were rejected, one was rejected because his application was incomplete and his grade sheet was suspicious, meaning that it looked like he wrote his grade sheet himself (it did not have the school's official stamp or letterhead). The other was rejected because the applicant does not need financial assistance.

The Scholarship Selection Committee was comprised of:

D. Enkhbaatar, training superintendent of Oyu Tolgoi.

Gerelmaa, scholarship program coordinator at Zorig Foundation.

Ch. Munkhjargal, program assistant at Peace Corps Mongolia.

D. Sayamaa, director of the EARC (Education Advising and Resource Center).

Khan Bank supported 6 students, the FOM Scholarship supported 5 students, the Zadrozny Family supported 1 student from Dornod, and the M-7 Women's Scholarship supported 1 student.

As you all know, the bulk of annual dues goes to this program, so a huge thanks to our FOM members for continuing to contribute to Mongolia's future. A list of scholarship recipients follows.

Last Name	First Name	Soum/Bagh	Aimag	College/University
Amgalanbaatar	Vanchinsuren	Duursak	Bayankhongor	Mongolian National University
Enkhbold	Erdenebileg	Tsagaan-Uul	Hovsgol	Mongolian National University
Gantulga	Monh-Erdene	Shar Gol	Darkhan-Uul	Science and Technology University
Cocorburam	Dorjpalam	Arvaikheer	Ovorkhangai	Science and Technology University
Tovchinsuren	Delgermaa	Darkhan	Darkhan-Uul	Mongolian National University,
Enebish	Battulga	Bayankhongor	Bayankhongor	Otgontenger University
Uak Shoga Ali	Hazbek	Olgii	Bayan-Olgii	University of Defense
Tomorkhuyag	Badamtsetseg	Sergelen	Dornod	Mongolian National University
Galsanjamts	Enkhikhagva	Uulastai	Zavkhan	Mongolian National University
Narangerel	Bayarbaatar	Darkhan	Darkhan-Uul	University of Performing Arts
Monkhtor	Bayartsetseg	Darkhan	Darkhan-Uul	Soyol Deed School
Erdenebileg	Batkhuuyag	Sukhbaatar	Selenge	Mongolian National University
Baasanjav	Lkhaasuren	Hureemaraal	Bayankhongor	Mongolian National University

Thanks for support

We would like to thank the following FOM members and partners who have contributed to the FOM Scholarship Fund:

The Zadrozny Family
Barbara Ann Klein

Melody Balcet
M-7 Group

EsOldoh (Eska) Tuizen
Khan Bank Foundation

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myself down because I didn't eat.

I was constantly sick. I think I had pneumonia a couple of times, and I would do my best to recover in my ger, but you can't really just lie back and sleep, you always have to get water or cut wood or keep the fire going...I was stubborn, I'd put on my deel and go traipsing out on wildlife transects when I could barely walk. Sometimes, looking back, I'm amazed I didn't just drop dead on the steppe someplace. It made me pretty tough in the end, though, for which I'm grateful. I was not a tough person before Mongolia.

Would you care to comment on the state of environmental conservation in Mongolia?

There is a deep environmental ethic in Mongolia. People really love the landscape and wildlife, and want to protect it as part of their heritage. So I think there's a powerful foundation for conservation in Mongolia, and that makes me hopeful, but there are also clearly a lot of challenges.

Last spring, several Mongolian monks visited Wyoming to learn about American-style place-based environmental education, and the American teachers who were accompanying them talked about the need to 'build a connection to the landscape.' One of the monks said that in Mongolia, people have a connection to the landscape, but no understanding

of nature's limits. I think that this is the big challenge to conservation in Mongolia now, because for the first time Mongolians are dealing with tremendous market pressures that create incentives to exploit the environment to a degree that they haven't necessarily in the past.

“There is a deep environmental ethic in Mongolia. People really love the landscape and wildlife, and want to protect it as part of their heritage.”

I'm encouraged that the Buddhist leadership is becoming involved in environmental education. Beyond education, though, conservation in Mongolia will require proactive leadership and a sense of national commitment to certain values. Mongolia made an initial commitment in protecting large areas of the country, which is a positive step. But it's only the beginning.

There's so much that we still don't know about basic natural history of Mongolia's species, and there's a lot that still needs to be done in terms of laws and regula-

tions - and informing Mongolian communities about these regulations in a way that doesn't make them resentful or deprive them of livelihood. This is an incredibly delicate and difficult balance to achieve, even here in the US, where we see many conflicts between environmental interests and people who use the environment for livelihood. But I think there are also ways to use market forces for good.

In Wyoming a huge amount of money comes into the state through energy development, a portion of which is set aside for conservation purposes, to offset the environmental costs of oil and gas drilling. We also use fees from hunters and anglers to pay for wildlife management. I hope that as energy and mineral investment in Mongolia grow, and as more foreign hunters pay for big game tags, a similar fund might be set up to pay for the needed research, rangers, and environmental education programs to keep Mongolia at the forefront of the world's great intact ecosystems.

Above all, I hope that people who are interested in Mongolian conservation recognize and respect the incredible wealth of knowledge that exists among Mongolians who live with and care for the environment. If biodiversity conservation is going to be successful in Mongolia, it's going to take creative collaboration and a lot of original thinking. I'm looking forward to being part of that.

Dzud response nets over \$1500, but hardship expected to continue

Thank you to those who contributed!

The amount raised to date by FOM has been \$1,770, and the account is still open for contributions. Weather predictions forecast another severe winter this year, so it's not too late to donate.

Impact of 2010-2011 dzud

- Harshest winter in 50 years
- 8.5 million livestock dead
- 80,000 Mongolians affected
- 8,500 families have lost their entire herd
- Negative impact already seen in family malnutrition and immunization levels



Photo by Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

How to help

Join FOM in supporting Mercy Corps' efforts to help rural herders recover from the tragic loss of herding livelihoods in Mongolia during the Winter of 2009 and Spring of 2010. Contributions will go toward animal removal to prevent the spread of disease and support for developing alternate sources of income.

By mail

Send a check with "Mongolia Dzud Response" in the memo line to:

Mercy Corps
Dept W
PO Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208-2669

By phone

Call Mercy Corps at 1 (888) 256-1900 and speak with Geri Manzano to donate via credit card. Mention it is for the Mongolia dzud.

Online

Go to <http://bit.ly/mng-dzud-help>. On the checkout page, enter "Mongolia Dzud Response" in the comments section.

Donate online:

<http://bit.ly/mng-dzud-help>

Learn more about the dzud:

<http://bit.ly/mng-dzud-info>

About Mercy Corps Mongolia:

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



Badruun Gardi joins Board of Friends of Mongolia

FOM is pleased to welcome Badruun Gardi to Friends of Mongolia. The following is a brief introduction written by Badruun.

I lived in Arlington, VA for 3 years from 2002-2005, where I attended Yorktown High School. I went on to study at Stanford University, double majoring in Psychology and Communication, and graduated in 2009. I focused most of my studies in college on Cultural Psychology, more specifically looking at the differences and similarities between Mongolian and American cultures. I am currently a project officer at the Zorig Foundation NGO in Ulaanbaatar. At the Foundation, I work mainly on the scholarship program and the other youth development programs.

I am looking forward to working with FOM and getting to know its members.



 **25th Anniversary
Fellows/USA**

It's about careers...



Cross the Bridge to Your Future

peacecorps.gov/fellows

The graphic features a decorative border at the top and bottom. The central text is in a serif font. The photo shows a young Black woman in a black t-shirt and an older white woman in a pink t-shirt, both looking at a small packet of medicine in the older woman's hands. They are in a pharmacy with shelves of medicine in the background.

Mongolian Children's Camp gives children a chance to reconnect with traditional culture

Narantsetseg Tseveendulam, Mongolian Language Teacher and Manger of the Mongolian Children's Camp

FOM was able to support 2 students' tuition to attend the Mongolian Children's Camp 2010 held in Bloomington IN. This year 33 Mongolian kids between the ages of 7 and 16 from six different states came to Bloomington to learn more about Mongolian Language, History, Culture and Traditions, Dancing, Singing and Crafting.

The 4th Annual Mongolian Children's Camp held in Bloomington, IN, has successfully completed its activities. This year 33 Mongolian kids between the ages of 7 and 16 from six different states came to Bloomington to learn more about Mongolian Language, History, Culture and Traditions, Dancing, Singing and Crafting.



Above: Camp group shot

As you may know, we have been chronicling the daily activities at the camp via various online portals such as www.dayarmongol.com and www.orloo.com and, therefore, below are a few highlights.

On August 7th, 2010, kids had outdoor activities all day long. A group of 6 volunteers headed by coach Brody came to the camp to teach the kids how to play Frisbee Golf. The volunteers were really nice. They took the time and endured some high temperatures to come to the camp to play with the kids and even brought refreshments and treats for everybody. After the game they gave each child a frisbee for a gift.

The next day, August 8th, kids studied in 2 different classes. Naraa and Enkhee taught Mongolian language to the younger group, while Saruul taught an interesting lecture to the older kids about the evolving use and style of Mongolian writing.

In the afternoon a group of boys and girls from Jeffersonville, IN, came to visit our camp. The kids had a couple of friendly sports matches in volleyball and basketball. I am very pleased to say that our kids at the camp won both matches. In the evening, the kids enjoyed a dance party together with their guests.



Above: Casio time!

On August 9th, the parents of Munkh-Orgil, our camper, came from Chicago. Mr. Munkhbat and Mrs. Suvdaa are members of the Mongolian "Soyombo" band. They played keyboard and taught a couple of popular Mongolian songs to the kids.

After that we had yet another couple of guests. This time John Mellencamp's wife supermodel Elaine Mellencamp and her mother Lynn came to the camp and taught our kids how to make Buddhist bead wristbands used in chanting and prayers. The kids made wristbands for themselves and Arja Renbuchi per-

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sonally blessed each one of them. These wristbands were surely to be cherished.

In the morning of August 10th, Naraa and Enkhee taught the younger group conversational Mongolian and Saruul took over the older group for a lecture about the role and image of Mongols and Genghis Khan in Hollywood movies.

Starting the morning of August 12 the kids began to feel sad as the thought of separation began to descend. The kids signed each other's autograph books and discussed the fact that these 10 days at the camp just flew by. In the evening we had a "Thank you" party. The kids showed their guests what they have learned, danced and sang Mongolian songs. Afterwards, we had a small reception. The day ended with a dance party.

And so, on August 13th, our kids left the camp one by one. Though they were leaving with tears in their eyes, they were also taking with them unforgettable childhood memories in their hearts. Next year's camp is too far away...

On behalf of the Mongolian Cultural Center's staff and all the kids at the Mongolian Children's Summer Camp in Bloomington, IN, we would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to our 8 teachers/volunteers, our wonderful cook Mrs. Amraa for her delicious everyday meals, the staff at the Tibetan Mongolian Cultural Center, especially Arjaa Renbuchi, Chunpei and Ms. Saran, for providing us with beautiful facility and spacious campground.

We would like to thank Mongolian-American Cultural Association headed by Mr. Sanj Altan,

Friends of Mongolia, Tsagaanbaatar and Alimaa's family, and Ariel and Khandmaa's family for their donations and unconditional support for this wonderful event!

We also would like to thank Mongolian Honored teacher P. Uvsh, IU's Professor L. Tserenchunt for providing our kids with a delicious dinner and IU student Ch. Uran-Uchig, U. Delgerbat for their volunteer work at the camp.

Also special thanks to Tengis' father, a member of Chicago's Mongolian soccer team, Tulga for bringing drinks and treats for the kids.

Thank you to all our wonderful kids and their parents for participating in our summer camp.

Your support and contributions gave us hope and motivation making this year's camp a great success! We look forward to working with all of you on many

FOM letters

Thank you very much for supporting me and letting me enjoy the Mongolian Children's Camp. The experience was a great one and it really was a fun time. I'm really glad that I got to be a part of it.

In the camp, I did a lot of fun things. We played with cards, and played many sports, including basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Additionally, we did many things outside of the TMBCC, such as going to the pool, playing frisbee golf, and doing other entertaining activities of that nature. Furthermore, I learned a lot of things about Mongolian language, culture, and history. Also, it was a nice opportunity to meet other Mongolian kids like me.

So anyway, thanks for the support in letting me stay at the Mongolian Children's Camp.

Sincerely,
Nomin Khudree

Arlington, VA

2010 Friends of Mongolia Clothes, Books, Toy Drive for Orphans

FOM is hoping we can count on your charity and generosity once again to help some needy kids this winter. We all have items in the closet that we've "been meaning to give to charity". Here's a great opportunity to donate those items to a special group of children in need. Between now and Dec 01, 2010 Friends of Mongolia will be working in partnership with a caring group of friends and parents to organize our second annual collection of books, clothes, and toys for orphans. This year all donations will go to the Sun Child's Orphanage in Darkhan, Mongolia – the current post of Peace Corps Volunteer, Stephanie Hackbarth.

The Sun Child's Orphanage shelters vulnerable children, street children, half orphans, and full orphans. In order to improve their quality of life, Sun Child nurtures, educates, and trains these kids in useful vocational skills, and facilitates the kindergarten education of 150 children between the ages of 1-5 in Darkhan. Currently there are also 20 children with disabilities at the orphanage. The care of disabled children is difficult, but Sun Child offers them the best possible medical and personal care.



Specifications: all donations are welcome, but please do not send items that are broken or in a significant state of disrepair. ***Please send to us by December 01, 2010***

Toys

- Gently used/new, in working condition, no parts should be missing.

Books

- Books for any age, fiction, nonfiction, children's books, coloring books, educational books, dictionaries.
- Unused coloring pencils, watercolor sets, markers, etc. are greatly appreciated!

Clothes

- Gently used/new, clothes for ages 6 month to age18, for both genders, for all seasons (Mongolian winters are very cold!!), and no large stains or tears/rips
- New and unopened: shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes
- School bags, warm blankets are greatly appreciated!

Please send all items to the address below by December 1, 2010:

Friends of Mongolia, c/o Sarnai Gantumur at
2587 South Park Lane
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Phone # (408)329-2832 cell

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and dryer, and much more.

Moreover, with the contributions of an anonymous donor through Friends of Mongolia, School Number One created a children's development center within the dormitory. The Children's Development Center is a space where student clubs such as the homework help program, English club, crafts club, and life skills classes are held. In addition, the development center serves as a quiet place where students can study and relax outside of the confines of their rooms. This room now has safe flooring, insulated windows, a television, 3 computers, a DVD player and stereo, sofa, carpeting, a blackboard and whiteboard, tables and chairs, and various academic and pleasure reading books.

The project was difficult and required a great deal of time and

energy, but the Arvaikheer community rose to the occasion. The changes made to the dormitory have made a huge impact on the the students' quality of life.

“I don't get cold at night...It feels like a home now.”

—Tsesagma, student

Tetsagma, who has lived in the dormitory for 7 years, stated, “when I first moved into the dormitory, my bed was an old iron bed that was very small and I had no mattress. I used to get very cold in the winter because I only had one thin blanket. The dorm is very beautiful now. I have a big bed and I don't get cold at night. It feels like a home now.”

A 17-year-old student named Pujay is about to graduate and has lived in the dorms for 4 years. Pujay observed, “I love my room because it is comfortable now. I also love the development center because I can read books, watch my favorite T.V. series and use the computer. Before, I used to get bored, but not anymore because I can do many things now.”

One student, when asked what his favorite change to the dormitory was, replied, “the development center, because I can use the PC and hang out.”

Through the generous assistance of Friends of Mongolia and other organizations, we were able to truly make our dormitory a place where students are able to live and learn in a comfortable and encouraging environment. The Arvaikheer community noticed the degree to which the center impacted our students and other organizations, including the governor of Arvaikheer and UNICEF, donated books and various toolkits to further the development of the center. We hope to continue to make changes to our dormitory and make still greater progress with becoming a child friendly school.

The Arvaikheer community would like to thank the generous donors from Friends of Mongolia, Asian Development Bank and The Peace Corps. This transformation could not have been possible without you.



Above: Students with new dorm furniture

(Continued from page 3)

their local ecosystems. She talked about Rare's 'pride' campaigns that focus on preserving the Taimen fish in the Onon River system, and the white-tailed gazelle on the Eastern Steppe. She spoke about campaigns about changing minds and convincing sports fishermen to become river tour guides, and talking to school children about the need to preserve the fish with a media campaign utilizing comic books, T-shirts, and large fish suit that can be worn by a teacher or other educator. Brooke's presentation, including a T-shirt give-away to one lucky audience member, was also well-received. Audience members asked about the state of environment in Mongolia, the effects of tourism and hunting on the environment, and the growing consciousness of the importance of conservation among rural Mongolians.

After some final Q&A, food, and schmoozing, Friends of Mongolia called it a night on another successful local event!



Above: Brooke presenting on local conservation efforts in Mongolia

Business Council of Mongolia: selected weekly newswire bits

The poor still to benefit from Mongolia's riches

"Our leaders are getting richer and richer. But for us, everything is getting more expensive," says Altangerel, who works in a beauty salon in Ulaanbaatar. "A few years ago a liter of milk was still MNT700 (USD0.53), but now I have to pay twice that much." Many Mongolians are skeptical if the country's new-found geological wealth is being shared with its citizens. The benefits of recent payout schemes have been questioned, as politicians argue over what to do with the new money, and economists warn of the negative effects of cash handouts.

[\(read more\)](#)

Source: Earth Times

Mongolia asks for Finnish reindeer semen

President Ts. Elbegdorj has asked Finland for help in revitalizing the country's waning reindeer herding livelihood. Reindeer have been raised in Mongolia for about 3,000 years, but their numbers have dwindled to just over 1,000 animals.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi, President Elbegdorj asked if Finland could provide Mongolia with Finnish reindeer semen to be used for artificial insemination, to bring more genetic diversity to the largely in-bred national herd.

[\(read more\)](#)

Source: Helsingin Sanomat

Peace Corps Mongolia 20th anniversary and Peace Corps at 50

The year 2011 marks a milestone event in the history of Peace Corps: The 50th Anniversary of its establishment as an operation agency. This event is of great significance for all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), regardless of where they have served. For Mongolia RPCVs, 2011 carries extra significance as it also marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Peace Corps-Mongolia

In the run-up to these two milestone anniversaries, Friends of Mongolia has undertaken a partnerships with Peace Corps-Mongolia and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) to celebrate and promote the experiences of RPCVs, especially those who've served in Mongolia.

You may already have heard about one of our Mongolia-specific efforts: the production of an anniversary calendar called "Land of Blue Skies: 20 Years of Peace Corps in Mongolia". This calendar will feature some of the finest photos taken by current and former PCVs. The winning photos will be selected in two weeks. Then the calendar will be available for a tax-deductible \$20 donation to Friends of Mongolia, with all proceeds supporting our Friends of Mongolia Scholarship Program.

Beyond the calendar and our specific 20th Anniversary of Peace Corps Mongolia efforts, we also will participate in the broader 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps events taking place in the Washington, DC Area. We are in regular communication with the NPCA, and will be planning anniversary events for Mongolia volunteers, as well as facilitating the integration of Mongolia RPCVs into these broader celebrations to the degree possible.

Attention Mongolia RPCV'S!

We're surveying what activities you may be interested in doing through FOM during the anniversary time period. Please tell us what you'd be interested in doing through our survey: <http://www.friendsofmongolia.org/survey>.

Please respond by January 1, 2011.



Here are some key dates and events to keep in mind in terms of the 2011 Peace Corps Anniversary events, provided by NPCA

(more at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/peace-corps-50th-anniversary/#key>)

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

We're helping you to host House "Birthday" Parties around the world. Invite your friends, host country nationals, diaspora members, family, and anyone else who wants to come share a moment in Peace Corps time with you in your village, town, state, or country.

June 30- July 11

The Peace Corps will be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This free event is open to the public.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Advocacy Day orientation: Make plans to advocate for a bigger, better, bolder Peace Corps.

September 22-25, 2011

Hospitality Suite

Looking to meet up with members of your training class, country of service, or geographic group? Stop in at the NPCA hospitality suite to post information, find information, or just take a breather from the exciting weekend of events.

Friends of Mongolia Membership and Donation Form

Your contact information

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Why Membership?

Membership Dues are an important source of funds. Your membership dues are what make FOM possible. In addition, membership allows you to stay directly connected to Mongolia and PCVs.

You can also join FOM and donate online at www.friendsofmongolia.org.

Membership options

- FOM Individual (\$25)
- FOM Family (2 individuals; \$45)
- FOM/NPCA Joint Individual (\$50)
- FOM/Mongolia Society Joint Individual (\$50)

Donation options

General donation

- \$10
- \$20
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- _____

Community grant donation

- \$10
- \$20
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- _____

Scholarship fund donation

- \$10
- \$20
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks out to Friends of Mongolia and mail to:

Friends of Mongolia
PO Box 53314
Washington, DC 20009

Thank you for your contribution!

Friends of Mongolia is a US registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit, education organization. Donations and membership dues may be tax deductible.