Friends of Mongolia is proud to announce the scholarship recipients of the Matthew Girvin Scholarship Fund for 2018-2019. These scholarships are awarded to Mongolian students to study at institutions of higher learning within the country. We are also happy to share that our latest scholarship fund drive raised over $4,700. After funding the students, the extra donations received will be put to administrative use.

This fund was created in memory of Matthew Girvin, a UNICEF program officer who worked for the development of Mongolia’s children, health, and future. Matthew was killed in a tragic helicopter crash in Mongolia in January of 2001. UNICEF established a scholarship in Matthew’s honor in 2003, and in 2006 Friends of Mongolia began administering the scholarship. Our organization is honored to be able to have the chance to assist Girvin family with this important scholarship, and we look forward to working with them to honor Matthew’s legacy for years to come.

This year, 91 students applied for a scholarship, 50 were selected for interviews and three were awarded scholarships. In addition to their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated need, the scholarship recipients are notable for their volunteer work, civic engagement, and involvement with university clubs, competitions and student councils. Some selected quotes from the recipients are below (Recipients not pictured: Oyun, Sumya and Nyamtuya).

Alungoo, Architecture major

“My family and I are more than excited and I don’t know how to express my gratitude. I am truly thankful to Girvin family and Friends of Mongolia for making my dream come true. This academic year has been very productive, gained a lot of experience and making my mom smile and proud of me was the biggest and happiest moment of my life.”

Tserensambuu

“I received a scholarship in my freshman year and it was a huge help. I am so grateful to you for solving my and my family’s problem to pay my tuition. It gave a big inspiration to study harder and learn more. It also gave a chance to be active in many activities and events at university. For this academic year, I’ve worked at Students’ Association and became “Science and Technology” manager.”
“The benefits of this scholarship are changing the way I see life. My goal and purpose is to successfully graduate National University of Mongolia, to further develop as a global citizen and to participate in the development of my country. In the spring of 2018 I joined “Special Olympic Committee of Mongolia” as a volunteer and helped with people who have Down Syndrome.”

Bertsetseg, Public Administration major

“In 2013, I got into Etugen medical school in Tradition medicine. Back then, I really wanted to study but my family lived depending on mom’s disability allowance. I thought I will not be able to study, I will not burden my mom so I will work to make my tuition. One day, I was walking by Zorig foundation and saw Friends of Mongolia’s scholarship announcement. And you have opened a door for me and gave me a chance to study. I will become a good doctor who heals suffering people like my mom.”

Lkhagvasuren, Medical student

“When I heard I was awarded the scholarship, I was more than happy. For me, this scholarship has enabled me to study hard and has given me inspirations. I became friends with other recipients and learned so much from them as well. I enjoyed English class which helped me to improve my English. The scholarship has been a huge financial support for my family. This year’s accomplishments include a special place for Volleyball tournament for first year students, organized by National University of Mongolia. My next year’s plan is to improve my foreign languages and develop myself in many ways. I also plan to improve my knowledge and skills on my chosen major. Finally, this year has been very productive year for me. To conclude, I want to thank from the bottom of my heart to all people who have initiated this scholarship.”

Munkhdavaa, Network Engineering major
Munkhjargal, Financial Management major

“It is because of your generosity that I am able to my studies, volunteers and decrease the number of hours that I work during the week. My parents aren’t able of affording my university fees so I decided to take a gap year and to work. My family and I thank you so much giving me this incredible opportunity.”

Myagmarnaran

“I successfully graduated from School of Law, National University of Mongolia in the summer of 2018. The financial assistance you provided was of great help to me in paying my educational expenses and it has allowed me to concentrate more of my time studying. I am currently working at law firm. I plan I will attend on of the T14 University of USA to earn my master degree. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. Thank you again for your generosity and support. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

Nasanjargal

“I am looking forward to busy yet productive year ahead of me. I am very excited and responsible for receiving scholarship from Girvin family and FOM. It gave a chance to learn more, work with myself, develop myself, and challenge myself. Thank you! Before completing my bachelor degree, I wanted to participate in Academic conference to challenge myself. I participated by “Foreign currency effect in the market” and worked for two months in a team and presented the research in the final round. I’ve learned so much from this experience. I also volunteered for “warm winter” campaign. In Mongolia, there is no system for this kind of things. So, we opened a station at couple of places to gather old clothes (but in good condition) to give them to people in need. I learned a lot and made lot of friends.”
Solongo Ts.,
Finance Management major

“The 2017-2018 academic year has been a very important year with a great accomplishment, a lot of experience. To be awarded scholarships means a student must be with a deep interest in learning and fulfilling goals but after getting scholarships, students have a responsibility to be the best version of themselves and to lead others with enthusiasm. Together with many clubs, organizations, councils, and associations, I have been able to develop myself and participate in many activities that benefits society. I have been selected as a member of the Board of Investment Fund established under the course of Finance management program. Also, we have volunteered our "Altai Group" volunteer with "Mongolia Needs You" NGO.”

Tumenjargal,
Electrical Engineering major

“For this academic year I didn’t take a gap year but continuing to study “electronic system automatics”. Thanks to you I didn’t take a gap year when time is valuable, especially in my career. By receiving the scholarship I was able to spend all time free time to develop myself, learn new things, read more books. I was selected to be in our university’s team for ABU ROBOCON international competition. It means I will be super busy and will be dedicating much more than expected time to prepare for the competition. It has been a very productive year for me being able to be part of all these events and activities. Thank you Girvin family and FOM. This scholarship made me closer to my dream and inspiration to study harder.”

Tuyatsetseg, Medical student

“For this academic year I did a research on “Valuing Postpartum Depression” and successfully passed OSPE-2 exam to continue the last year of medical school. After 5th year, I will intern this summer in Arkhangai aimag. After the medical school, according to the system, I will work for two years and then will continue to specialize my career in Gynecology.”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW OFFICERS
Mongolia Co-Director: Sarangoo Dambajav
USA Co-Director: Lauren Javins
Treasurer: Evan Donnelly
Mongolian Community Liaison: Tselmegtseg Tsetsendelger (Tselmeg or Tee)
Communications Coordinators: Cailey Biles, Shawn Kairis, Jenni Myung
Membership Coordinator: Cherlyn Antle

NON-OFFICER VOLUNTEERS
Events Committee Co-Chairs: Heath Mitchell and Zak Murray

ANNIVERSARY
2019 will be FOM’s 20th anniversary! Our existence and success is made possible to everyone who has volunteered their time and resources to benefit a country close to all of our hearts.

To celebrate this occasion, FOM will be holding an Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C. tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2019. Details will be forthcoming. Please let us know if anyone is interested in having a celebration in their own town.

SMALL GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES
FOM will begin advertising for our small grants opportunities in January 2019.

HIGHLIGHTING OTHER MONGOLIA GROUPS IN THE U.S.
FOM recently touched base with The Mongolia Cultural Organization (MCO) at the University of Michigan for a general information exchange. This is a U.S based Mongolian interest group located in Ann Arbor, Michigan and affiliated with the university. Founded in 2012, MCO works to foster awareness about the Mongolian community at the university and in the surrounding city and encourages students to seek involvement and leadership roles at U of M. In terms of service and social activities, their website notes, “We organize annual and monthly events such as Summer Seminar series, MCO Speaker Series, Volunteer Work at the World Medical Relief, Summer Potluck at the park, Summer Book Club, Making Buuz Day, Graduation Celebrations, etc.”

MCO also has chapters at Penn State, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, UC Santa Barbara, the University of Arizona and Peking University.

You can learn more about the Michigan chapter at https://mco-michigan.org/.
MONGOLIA RELATED NEWS

- Mongolia will be launching cryptocurrency
- Mongolian infant brought to Denver for heart surgery
- World Nomad Games took place in Kyrgyzstan
- Mongolia's largest solar park comes online
- US House of Representatives introduces bill to import Mongolian cashmere duty free

RECENT POPULAR SONGS IN MONGOLIA

- Toonot. Монгол, Өвөрмонгол, Буриадын дуучдын хамтарсан уран бүтээл
- Top Line - Zuudnii dagina
- The Wasabies - 'У-ГҮЙ' M/V