IN THIS ISSUE:

Announcements..............1
Central Eurasian Studies Conference.....................2-3
Asian Politics and History Association Conference.3
Italian Association for Tibetan, Himalayan and Mongolian Studies........4
Book Review..................4
Naadam Celebration........5
The Mongolia Society Wishlist............................5
Lecture on Resources and Democracy in Mongolia..6
A Unique Source on the Alar Steppe Duma...........6-7
The Significance of Mongolia-U.S. Relations.........8-9
Annual Chinggis Khan Ceremony.........................10
Research on Horse Domestication.......................10-11
In Memoriam: John R. Krueger...........................11
In Memoriam: John “Jack” C. Street...............11-12
In Memoriam: Paul V. Hyer................................12
In Memoriam: Françoise Aubin..........................12
Membership Fees ............13
Life Members, Donors...13

Local residents of Bloomington, guests, and students of Mongolian language and culture at Indiana University celebrate Mongolian traditional holiday, Naadam. Story on page 4.

Announcements

ANNUAL MEETING: The 2019 Annual Meeting of The Mongolia Society will be held in conjunction with the AAS (Association for Asian Studies), when they meet in Denver, Colorado on March 21-24, 2019. The exact time of the meeting and panels will be announced as plans are formalized.

CHANGE TO DONATE: The Mongolia Society joined AmazonSmile and now you can contribute to our activities while shopping on Amazon. To donate to the Mongolia Society, begin at smile.amazon.com, rather than simply Amazon. You’ll be asked to pick a nonprofit. Amazon has many nonprofits to choose from and spotlights a different one from time to time. In this case, pick Mongolia Society Inc (or search for "Mongolia Society Inc"). Push select. A note should appear “You’ve chosen to support Mongolia Society Inc.” When you start at smile.amazon.com, your purchases will support the Society.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS: Mongolian Studies, the scholarly journal of the Mongolia Society, is in need of reviewers of books as well as articles for the journal. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please send an email to Tim May at monsocjournal@gmail.com with a one-page CV indicating publications and areas of interest.

A NEW WEBSITE: A new website, Études mongoles et sibériennes, has just launched for French-speaking Mongolists and Siberianists: https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr. The goal of the website is to circulate information about Mongolian and Siberian studies in the French language.
The 18th Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society was held at the University of Washington on October 5-8, 2017. A few papers related to Mongolia and Mongolian history and culture were presented.

There were two panels on the Mongol Empire. The first, “Source Analysis for the Mongol Empire,” chaired by Timothy May (University of North Georgia) included Paul D. Buell (University of Salzburg and University of North Georgia) and Christopher Eirksom (University of Pittsburgh). Dr. Buell presented “Arabic Medicine in the Mongol Empire: Huihui Yaofang, Muslim Medicinal Recipes,” while Mr. Eirksom discussed “Diplomatic Correspondence in the Song-Yuan-Ming Transition, 1000-1425.”

At the second panel, “Administration and Politics in the Mongol Empire,” chaired by Daniel Waugh (University of Washington) with Timothy May as discussant, four papers were presented: Jesse Sloane (Yonsei University) “Balancing Qa’ans and Warlords in the Promotion of Religious Confucianism in 13th Century North China”; Anne Broadbridge (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), “The Linked Deaths of Grand Khan Ogodei and His Sister Al Altan, Queen of the Uighurs: What Explanations Can Be Found?”; Michael Hope (Yonsei University), “From Herat to Haleb: A Comparative Analysis of Population Displacement and Urban Revival After the Mongol Conquests”; and Michael Brose (Indiana University), “Personnel and Policy in the Yuan Southern Censorate Bureau”.

Another panel of great interest, “Mongolia’s Engagement in Central Eurasia: Geopolitics, Energy, Transportation and Natural Resources,” was unfortunately canceled at the last moment. It was to have featured Robert Bedeski (University of Victoria) as chair and Alica Campi (The Mongolia Society) as discussant. Presenters included Mendee Jargalsaikhan (University of British Columbia) whose paper was titled “Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan in Renewed Geopolitical Settings”; Marissa Smith (De Anza College) with “Three Projects of One Belt One Road’s Mongolia/Russia/China Economic Corridor and Three Bilateral Relationships”; and Julian Dierkes (University of British Columbia) with “The Variety of Governance Models in Mongolia’s Resource Industry.” Hopefully, the presenters will find another venue for their papers.

There were also other papers that might be of interest to scholars and students of Mongolian Studies. At the panel “Nomads and Empires: New Perspectives on Central Asian Encounter with Imperial States and Spaces,” Joo-Yup Lee (University of Toronto), who also won the 2017 CESS Book-of-the-Year award, presented “The Frontier Spaces in Qichaq Steppe and the Kazakhs during the Post-Mongol Period.” Takahiro Onuma (Tohoku Gakuin University) presented “Dispatch of the Nusan Mission: The Negotiations between Qing and Ablay in 1757.” In “The 19th and Early 20th Century History” panel, Darima Amgolonova (Institute for Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences), presented “Religion-State-Society: Buddhism in Late-Imperial Russia.” In the panel “Cultural Contact and Diachronic Change in Turkic Languages,” Jonathan North Washington (Swarthmore College) and Christopher P. Atwood (University of Pennsylvania) discussed “The Relation of some Yuan-era Turkic Words to the Siberian Sibilant Shift.” In the “Music and Folklore in Central Eurasia” panel, Robert Beahrs (University of Pittsburgh) presented “Nomadic Perspectives on Envoicing in the Sayan-Altaic Mountains.” Also of interest was the paper by Kira Van Deusen (Independent Scholar), “Life and Death: A Tuvan Shaman in Fact and Fiction,” in the panel “The Rider, the Storyteller, and the Shaman: Women and Oral Traditions in Central Asia and the Caucasus.” In the panel “Central Asia in the Middle Ages,” Zachary Hershey (University of Pittsburgh) presented “Alcohol and Diplomacy: Khitan-Chinese Relations in the Early 11th Century.”
In the panel “Mongolia and China,” there were two papers on Mongolia: Sureyya Yigit (Yalova University) presented “Mongolian Transition: The Normative Role of the European Union,” and Sharad Soni (Jawaharlal Nehru University) presented “Reassessing Mongolian Foreign Policy Amidst the Quest for ‘Permanent Neutrality.’” Sureyya Yigit was unable to attend the conference, unfortunately, but this did allow Sharad Soni to expand beyond the normal time limit. The conference wrapped up on Sunday, October 8 with a final Mongolia-related paper. In the panel “Archaeology in Central Asia,” Ablet Kamalov (Turan University) presented “The Burial Site Shoroon Bumbagar (678 AD) in Mongolia as a New Source on the Early History of the Toquz-Oghuz (Uyghur).”

As a long long-standing member of CESS (since its founding), I found this conference notable for the sizeable number of papers related to Kazakhs and Kazakhstan (36). There is no reason why scholars working on Mongolia-related topics could not find it a suitable home for their research as well. I encourage everyone to keep the Central Eurasian Studies Society conference in mind. The 2018 conference will be in Pittsburgh.

Asian Politics and History Association (APHA) Conference
Dr. Alicia Campi

On October 28, 2017 in Reston, Virginia the Asian Politics and History Association (APHA) together with The Mongolia Society, Clarewood University of Reston, and the He Zheng International Foundation for Peace sponsored a daylong conference on "National Identity and Regional Security in Asia." The event was organized by Dr. Mark Zhong, Administrative Dean of Clarewood University. Keynote speaker was Dr. Gibler Rozman, Emeritus Professor of Princeton University and editor-in-chief of The Asan Forum. His research has been focused on the Korean peninsula and strategic thinking in Northeast Asia. Dr. Rozman spoke on "History, National Identity Gaps and Triangular Relations of Japan, South Korea and the U.S." Mongolia Society President Dr. Alicia Campi led a panel on "National Identity and the Impact of National Security on Northeast Asia" and presented a paper on "Mongolia's 'Trilateralism Strategy' with China and Russia."
The first seminar of the Italian Association of Tibetan, Himalayan and Mongolian Studies (AISTHiM) convened on the island of Procida, at the School for Higher Education of the University of Naples “L'Orientale,” on September 12-15, 2017. Over 30 Italian scholars of Tibetan, Himalayan, and Mongolian civilizations participated in the seminar and established this new association. The seminar was an initiative of Giacomella Orofino, Professor of Tibetan Language and Literature at the University of Naples “L'Orientale,” and was successfully organized by Emanuela Garatti (Ph.D. student at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris and at the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität in Munich), Valentina Punzi (post-doc at the “Orientale” of Naples), Carmen Simioli (lecturer of Chinese language at the Istituto Statale d'Istruzione Superiore “Leonardo da Vinci” in Naples), and Davide Torri (post-doc at the University of Heidelberg).

Themes addressed by the seminar program included research on religious traditions as well as on the more pressing questions of the contemporary Himalayan sphere, encompassing subjects such as ecology, medicine, art and iconography as well as disciplines such as history, anthropology, philology, linguistics, and archaeology. The scholars who participated came not only from Italy, but also from France, Germany, Greece, Canada, and the United States. However, all the participating scholars received the foundations of their education on Asia in the major schools of oriental studies of Italy (Rome, Venice, Turin, Bologna and Naples).

On September 14th the association held its founding assembly and approved the bylaws, which define its main objectives. These include the advancement of research on Tibet, Mongolia, and the Himalayan regions through the promotion and organization of seminars and other cultural events, the issuance of academic and non-specialist publications, and the dissemination of information on the civilizations of these areas through initiatives of cooperation with other national and international associations.

The election of the advisory board of AISTHiM also took place during the first meeting. The board will serve for three years and comprises five members: a president, a general secretary, a treasurer, and two board members. As per the election results, the first President of AISTHiM is Giacomella Orofino, Professor of Tibetan Language and Literature in the Department of Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean of the University of Naples “L'Orientale.” The General Secretary is Andrea Drocco, lecturer of Indo-Aryan Linguistics in the Department of Studies on Asia and Mediterranean Africa of the University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari.” The treasurer is Carmen Simioli, lecturer of Chinese language at the Istituto Statale d'Istruzione Superiore “Leonardo da Vinci” in Naples. The two board members at large are Chiara Letizia, Professor of Religious Traditions of South Asia in the Department of Religious Sciences of the University of Quebec in Montreal, and Federica Venturi, researcher in the ERC-sponsored Tib-Army project at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris and visiting research scholar in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. The publication of the proceedings of the seminar is among the first tasks for the advisory board.

Book Review: The Great Mongolian Bowling League

Robert Turel

When I think of a bowling league, I certainly don't think of Mongolians! The title of this book captured my attention and made me wonder from the start. Will this be a historic perspective on how Genghis Khan invented the game?

The story is presented as a first-person account by Harold, one of the two main character. It focuses on the pending trek of two American-Jewish friends, Harold and Murry, about to enjoy some time away in the small, yet ever so large world of Disney. As happens to most of us, fate steps in and changes the path of these two lifelong. One doesn't think of bowling as leading to the drama and challenges these friends experience, which comes about because Harold unexpectedly bowls the games of his life. Yet there it is, a need by Mongolian bowlers for some teammates and Harold's stellar bowling acumen links them all to a wacky and wild adventure through racketeering, loving relationships, and a national television broadcast culminating in the Mongolian bowling tournament.

The characters Harold and Murray dominate our attention for most of the story with their neurotic personality frailties. Then these intimate friends accept an offer that will astound Harold as he becomes Zen-like in his bowling style, which leads to a world-renowned achievement—a perfect 3-game series in the Mongolian bowling tournament. The introduction of characters Frankie and Sal, bowling lane owners and fringe racketeers, gives a high-anxiety twist to the joy being experienced by Harold as he tries to understand his perfect bowling ability.

This is a fun and easy-to-read adventure that provides a peek at human relations, sports excitement, and how funny life can be as we try and roll strikes!
Following tradition, the Mongolia Society organized the annual celebration of the Naadam Festival on July 14, 2017 in Lower Cascades Park in Bloomington, Indiana.

Co-sponsoring the event with the Society was the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, Department of Central Eurasian Studies, and the Bloomington Mongolian community.

Participants in the celebration enjoyed Mongolian food prepared by the community. They also played versions of the three “manly games” of Mongolia—wrestling, archery, and horse racing. Students of Mongolian language and culture at Indiana University performed Mongolian songs and poems.

Photo captions (clockwise from the top): 1) Local residents, Angar and Nansalmaa, dance yokhor with students; 2) Students of Mongolian sing a Mongolian song; 3) Children from the Mongolian language and culture camp visited and danced the Mongolian dance zadgai isagaaw; 4) An intense competition takes place during wrestling between Saruul-Erdene Myagmar and Brian Cwiek

THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY WISH-LIST

The Mongolia Society is in need of these items for the office:

1) LED projector for Powerpoint presentations at meetings.
2) Sound system, i.e., microphones and stands, amplifier and speakers, for amplified sound at receptions.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Susie Drost at the Society office. The Mongolia Society is a 501(c)3 organization and a tax deductible receipt will be given for any donation. Telephone and Fax: 812-855-4078; E-mail: monsoc@indiana.edu
Lecture on the Effects of Mongolia’s Natural Resource Dependence on Democracy

The Mongolia Society co-sponsored with the Department of Central Eurasian Studies of Indiana University a lecture by Delgerjargal Uvsh, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on November 30, 2017. Her lecture, “Resilient in the Face of a Curse? Resource Dependence and Democracy in Mongolia,” focused on the effects of Mongolia’s natural resource dependence on democracy, paying special attention to key indicators of the symptoms of the resource curse identified in social science theories.

Using data from various sources, Delgerjargal argued that the question of whether Mongolian politics is cursed by its natural resource exploitation cannot be answered simply; rather, the evidence is mixed. On the one hand, Mongolia exhibits signs of the political resource curse. Statism (frequency, intensity, and importance of state intervention in various aspects of life, including the economy) may have increased. For example, the size of Mongolia’s state bureaucracy has been consistently growing as data since 2004 shows. Further, there is suggestive evidence that political parties are increasingly seen as gateway to access resources and opportunities. Sources report that approximately 28.3% of Mongolia’s population over the age of 15 hold party membership, which is considerably high in comparison to countries like Norway where about 3.5% of its population above 15 are party members. This is a curious trend in face of survey data that shows that the public’s trust in parties are declining. In data from the Sant Maral survey agency, when Mongolians were asked, “In your opinion, do political parties represent public opinion?” in 2009, 60.6% of respondents said no. This figure jumped to 65.3% in 2013, and to 81.3% in 2017. Mongolia has also been experiencing political instability, which is predicted by theories that suggest when government revenue from natural resources increases, the value of staying in office rises leading to political infighting. In the 27 years since Mongolia became a democracy, there have been 14 governments, almost one every two years or so. The quality of political leadership also may have declined.

On brighter side, natural resources appear not to have made the citizen-state connection weak. The level of taxation has not gone down in Mongolia as some theories would suggest; in fact the effective tax rate may have increased in Mongolia since the 1990s. This in turn kept demands for accountability from citizens relatively high. The government has not succeeded in buying off silence and support through spending significant amounts on public goods, such as health and education. There is also suggestive evidence that election turnover in areas with “strategic mines” are slightly higher than in other areas. Experiences of other countries would suggest that governments using considerable portion of natural resource revenues to strengthen the military may be a sign that repression is a real possibility and thus democracy is weakening. In Mongolia’s case, this is not the case. In fact, military expenditure as percentage of GDP has been on decline since 1992. These and numerous other theories and evidence were discussed during the lecture. The lecture was attended by IU students and faculty, including a former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia and Professor of Practice at the School of Global and International Studies, Dr. Mark Minton, as well as members of local community.

A Unique Source on the History of the Alar Steppe Duma: A Review
Dr. Robert Montgomery


The Alar region of southern Siberia’s Irkutsk Oblast’ has long occupied a notable place in the history of the Buryat Mongols. For one thing, it possesses the largest Buryat Buddhist institution west of Baikal—the Alar Datsan founded in 1814. It represented a rare island of the dharma in the sea of Russian Orthodox Christianity and native Shamanism that covered the Cisbaikal Buryats’ territories. Moreover, the Alar natives have contributed numerous distinguished figures to Buryat intellectual and political life, for example the historians Gennadii Basaev (b. 1928), Nikolai Shulunov
(1913-1976), and Morkhoz Khabaev (1903-1980, director of the Buryat Pedagogical Institute, now Buryat State University, from 1931 to 1936); the ethnographers Pëtr Batorov (1850-1927) and Klara Basaeva (b. 1946); the chemist Marks Mokhosev (1932-1990), who directed the Buryat Institute of Natural Sciences and the Presidium of the Buryat Branch (filiial) of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences from 1975 to 1987; the short-story author Nelli Matkhanova (b. 1935); the folklorist and literary historian Aleksandr Soktoev (1931-1998); the linguist Garma Sanzheev (1902-1982); and the Communist dignitary Miikhe Erbanov (1889-1938), who led the Buryat A.S.S.R.‘s Party organization from the Buryat Republic’s creation in 1923 until his arrest in 1937 as a victim of the Stalinist purges.

During much of the nineteenth century, the Alar Buryats were administered through a system of local self-government devised by Tsar Alexander I’s advisor Mikhail Speransky (1772-1839) as part of his 1822 Siberian administrative reform. Under the Speransky system, the Buryats possessed twelve “Steppe Dumas”—seven in Irkutsk Province west of Lake Baikal and five in Transbaikal Oblast’ to the east—that mediated between the individual Buryat communities housed in their domains and the Siberian Russian administration, and carried out numerous governmental, economic, social, and legal functions for the Buryats. Among the western organs, the Alar Steppe Duma flourished from its founding in 1824 until its abolition in 1889 as part of the autocracy’s Russification drive. The numerous documents that it created, received, or handled provide invaluable insights into Western Buryat social, economic, political, religious, and cultural life in the nineteenth century, as we discover in the pages of Istoriia Alarskoi Stepnoi dumy v dokumentakh Gosudarstvennogo Arkhiva Respubliki Buriatii (1824-1889), by Butit Tsydympunkueva Zhalsanova, director of the State Archive of the Buryat Republic, and Leonid Vladimirovich Kuras, head of the Department of the History and Culture of Central Asia of the Institute of Mongolian Studies, Buddhology, and Tibetan Studies of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The present book is part of these two institutions’ ongoing series of document collections and monographs on the Buryats’ prerevolutionary organs of self-government, which so far has produced treatments of the Aga, Alar, Barguzin, Khor, and Kudara Steppe Dumas.

In Istoriia Alarskoi Stepnoi dumy, Zhalsanova and Kuras present eighty-eight documents from the Alar Steppe Duma’s holdings in chronological order dating from 1840 to 1901: this time span is dictated by the absence of documents from earlier years due to a fire in the Alar Steppe Duma’s building that destroyed the records within, and the choice to include several items relevant to the Alar area after the Duma’s dissolution. All of the documents appear in print here for the first time, and all are held in the State Archive of the Buryat Republic in Ulan-Ude. The bulk of them are contained in the State Archive’s fond 6 (“Alarskaia Stepnaia duma (1832-1912),” but a few are housed in fond 17 “Alarskaia inorodnaia uprava (1850-1915),” fond 39 “Khiginskoe rodovoe upravlenie” (1867-1889),” and fond 46 “Shalotskoe rodovoe upravlenie (1840-1904).” They consist of internal records of the Steppe Duma itself, such as yearly summaries of its activities and collections of demographic and economic statistics; correspondence with other Siberian administrative bodies and officials, e.g. the Irkutsk and Balagansk District Courts (zemskie sudy), the Governor of Irkutsk Province, and the Main Administration of Eastern Siberia; and items received from or dispatched to Buryat communities in the area under its purview, for example the resolutions of Buryat public meetings (suglaams), the reports of the clan administrations (rodovye upravleniia) subordinate to the Duma, and the Duma’s orders to the clan heads to appoint local men for fire-prevention duties. Some of the most interesting documents gathered by Zhalsanova and Kuras deal with the decades-long power struggles between rival native aristocratic clans—the Batorovs, Matkanovs, and Samsonovs—who used denunciations, violence, and intimidation to place their own candidates in the post of taisha, or head, of the Steppe Duma, and to block or remove their rivals; the operations and staff of the Alar Datsan (particularly statistical and personal information on clergymen and parishioners); traditional Buryat practices of the communal care of orphans and supervision of their property (livestock, buildings, household items, land, etc.) until their adulthood; Buryat communities’ and wealthy Buryat individuals’ support of schools, hospitals, and religious institutions (both Buddhist and Christian); and the staffing and operations of the inorodnye uprav (native offices) that replaced the Steppe Duma after its closure in 1889.

Istoriia Alarskoi Stepnoi dumy will prove to be an extraordinarily useful source for the researcher of the Western Buryats in the nineteenth century. Along with the documents themselves, Zhalsanova and Kuras supply fifty-five pages of thorough and instructive endnotes (based on a wide range of archival and published sources) that provide crucial background information on the events, individuals, places, terms, and institutions treated or mentioned in the documents. The labors of researchers will be eased by the name index (which covers both the documents and the endnotes), map, and forty-four-page list enumerating and describing almost five hundred documents of the Alar Steppe Duma held in the State Archive of the Buryat Republic.
In the modern world, peace and friendly relations enable the implementation of foreign policy, maintenance of territorial integrity, the development of an international society, and development in the fields of politics, economy, culture and education, science, and technology. Foreign relations between Mongolia and United States have made full, peaceful cooperative relations possible for people of both countries. Mongolia and United States had no historical conflicts, share many political values and understandings of democracy, and have free electoral governance along with a multi-party system. Both political systems are designed to have “checks and balances” and both nations seek to address vital social issues occurring in the world. The countries of Mongolia and the United States are geographically located around 14750 km from each other. Although playing very different roles in the global economic and political system, relations between these two nations have made key strides over the last 30 years.

US began to express interest in Mongolia since the 1940’s, when US Vice President Henry A. Wallace made an unofficial visit to Mongolia with Mongolist Owen Lattimore on July 2, 1944. During his visit, Marshall Choibalsan described obstacles to Mongolian independence and expressed wishes to establish foreign relations with the US. Vice President Wallace gave an interview to “Unen - Truth” with the title “I have seen the rise of Mongolia”1, and in 1945, Owen Lattimore – in his book “Solution in Asia”— wrote that “Mongolians shall preserve their national independence”.2 It is highly likely that these two events had some impact on President Roosevelt’s political decisions. At the end of World War 2, Japan and China were elevated to global political discourse and a newfound focus on Mongolia by the leading countries of the world was evidenced by the decree that the “International status of Outer Mongolia (MPR) shall remained untouched” in the agreement signed by international leaders3 at Yalta in Ukraine, in spring of 1945. As result of the agreement at the Yalta Conference - where participants were US President Roosevelt, Prime Minister of UK Churchill, Leader Chief of Soviet Union Stalin - the independence of Mongolian people has become an international subject, and the Soviet Union started to participate in war against Japan to free China.

During the 1950’s, as the Cold War became more severe, foreign relations between Mongolia and United States were severed for a decade. In 1961, when Mongolia became a member of United Nations, United States proposed to establish foreign relations with Mongolia. Unfortunately, through the interference of Soviet Union this was obstructed.4 On January 27, 1987, through persistent efforts from the United States, diplomatic relations between the countries were established.5 Between 1990 and 2017, relations have flourished, resulting in an expansion of cultural, scientific and economic relations as Mongolia discarded communism and adopted democracy.6

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,7 Mongolia strongly opposed against terrorist activity and expressed their mutual support of the United States. Soon thereafter, Mongolian armed forces began to participate in international peacekeeping activities in western Asia. The cooperation of the armed forces of Mongolia and the United States furthered their partnership. A strategy to establish a comprehensive partnership based on mutual interests was established8, and from 2005 to 2017 Mongolia’s heads of state and ministries made a visit to the US nearly every year – to participate in UN conferences, as well as to visit President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry for government purposes. In 2011 Vice President Joseph Biden and in 2014 Minister of Defense Chuck Hagel made official visits to Mongolia,9 to express America’s vital interest in Mongolia and develop an active effort to promote regional stability. Mongolia and United States have become valuable partners, and relations appear to be at their peak.10

Celebrating 30 years of established foreign relation between the two countries, US President George Bush noted “Americans and Mongolians, both established their nation on horseback”11 when he made his first official visit to Mongolia on November 21, 2005. The first empire in the territory of Mongolia was established in the 3rd century BC (known as the Xiongnu Empire) and in 13th century AD the Great Mongol Empire conquered Eurasia on horseback. With their

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1 Batbayar Ch. “Mongolia and nations in the first half of 20th century”. Khukh khot, 2011. pp 267-269
2 Ibid.
3 Based on the note “US President Roosevelt made big contributions to US policy in Asia and to adapting to the interests of China” in Batbayar Ch. “Mongolia and nations in the first half of 20th century”, 2011.
4 In 1960’s as a result of “Cold War”, socialist countries of Asia and Europe implemented their international activity under strict control of the Soviet Union. At that time, MPR’s legitimate initiative to establish foreign relation with US never came to realization.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld made visit to Mongolia on October 22, 2005
10 Ibid.
separation from Great Britain in the 18th century and through the colonization and settlement of the western Plains, America’s political and economic dominance was also achieved largely on horseback. As US President George Bush stated, the “goal of Mongolian people to have a government that would be selected by the people to serve the people” is same for both countries. The two countries therefore share both cultural and historical traits as well as political goals.

As relations between the two countries improve, Mongolia’s reputation has also grown internationally, and they have cooperated with countries of EU (European Union), US allies, and countries of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) on equal terms. Doctor of Economics B. Namsrai summarized the significance of foreign relations between the two countries as a main driver for “financial investments from World Bank, Asian Development Fund, and the Asian Development Bank.” The participation of Mongolian armed forces in international activities against terrorism has been highly commended by US leaders and by other countries. The organization of annual cooperative field trainings between the armed forces of the two countries – known as “Khaan Quest” – that is focused on promoting peace began in 2003. This has made it easier for Mongolians to participate in activities for maintaining stability in the Asia Pacific region. Thus, the open exchange of ideas and experiences between the military of the US and Mongolia shows an interest by “third neighbor” countries in unifying against terrorism worldwide.

Summary: Through more than 30 years of friendly relations with the US, the fields of regional and international discourse, politics, economy, science, and technology have become increasingly open. The 45th US President Donald Trump, at his speech at inauguration on January 20, 2017, expressed the main tenet of his administration’s foreign relations with the statement that “We shall pursue friendly and good relations with all countries of the world” – a designation that would appear to include Mongolia. Although it may be naïve to take this statement directly at face value, recent developments between the United States and North Korea— which have included discussion of Mongolia as a possible meeting place – highlight the strategic importance of friendly US-Mongolia relations. Khaltmagiin Battulga, at his inaugural speech, made it clear that Mongolia “will pay special attention to the third neighbor policy”, and has made it a key goal to further development of foreign relations with the US.

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11 Jambaldorj D. and others “Years of relation and cooperation between Mongolia and US” UB. 2008
12 Ibid.
14 From 2003 to 2016, in “Khaan quest” the armed forces of Asia Pacific countries gathered and undertook military trainings. Chinese People's Liberation Army participated in the training in 2015 and 2016. Overall, 2000 military units from 48 countries, such as Mongolia, US, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Bengal, Czech, and China participated in “Khaan quest-2016”. This became a good test for cooperation against terrorism threats.
15 The “Mongolian foreign policy” adopted by Ikh Khural in 2008 refers to the “third neighbor policy” as “to develop partnership relation and cooperation with US, Japan, EU, India, South Korea, Turkey and with countries of the west in the frame of “third neighbor” policy”. US President George Bush said “I am proud, that ancient country of steppe - Mongolia - made US their “third neighbor”.
17 Reference from Battulga Kh’s Inauguration speech published in Montsame newspaper on July 10, 2017.
On November 4, 2017 at the NJHA Conference and Event Center in Princeton, NJ the Mongolian-American Cultural Association (MACA) celebrated the 30th anniversary of its annual Chinggis Khan ceremony. Dr. Sanj Altan is the President of MACA. The Chinggis Khan Memorial Foundation, which operates as a separate entity under MACA, has its own management and fund raising dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the annual ceremony. The Chinggis Khan ceremony that is performed by MACA has been a Mongol tradition for over 700 years. Under the reign of Kubilai Khan (circa 1260 – 1294), 500 households were gathered from all over the Mongol Empire and from all the different Mongol groups to form the Darkhad tribe. The Darkhad, along with the Ordos Mongols, were entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the memorial relics and rituals performed in the memory of the founder of the Mongolian State, Chinggis Khan. The memorial services carried out by the Darkhad and supported by the Ordos Mongols were held year-round in historical shrines all over the Ordos region. The most important and largest ceremony was held on the 21st day of the lunar month in the Ejen Qoroo banner of Ordos, attended by representatives and pilgrims from all Mongol tribes. Many of the rituals that were performed originated from ancient times, and were carried on throughout the generations with little change, until the mid-1950s. In 1956, a modern mausoleum was built near the original Ejen Qoroo site in the modern PRC and the traditional rituals were consolidated to a shorter, modernized version.

In 1988, MACA brought an abbreviated version of the ceremony to the United States under the direction of the late Professor Gombojab Hangin, founder and President of The Mongolia Society. Since then, the performance has continued to draw Mongols and non-Mongols from all over the United States to memorialize Chinggis Khan and celebrate Mongol culture and history. The 2017 ceremony was attended by officials of the Mongolian Embassy to the U.S. and the Mongolian Mission to the United Nations. Many different Mongol ethnic groups representing Khalkha, Buriad, Kalmyk, Chahar, Hazara, and other traditions, as well as Americans interested in Mongolian culture were in attendance. The 2017 ceremony can be viewed on the MACA website http://www.maca-usa.org

**Research on Horse Domestication in Mongolia**

*Sapiens,* a digital magazine dedicated to studies related to human lives, has featured the work of a researcher of Mongolia and recipient of a Ph.D. degree from Indiana University’s Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Leland Rogers, in a story titled “When Did Horses Transform Mongolians’ Way of Life?” by Dr. Peter Coutras. Dr. Rogers is currently a post-doctoral associated at Yale University’s Council on East Asian Studies and has been working on using DNA data to examine a possible link between domesticated horses and horses excavated from under Bronze Age monuments.

The article notes “Rogers has spent years analyzing human aDNA from Central Mongolia and is currently turning his attention to horses. After nearly a decade of excavations by a joint Mongolian-American team of archaeologists, Rogers now has the remains of Late and Final Bronze Age horses recovered from dozens of monumental burial sites at his fingertips. In addition, he has plenty of comparative data: Thanks to modern horse breeding, the DNA of domesticated
Research on Horse Domestication in Mongolia (cont.)

horse lineages has been extensively mapped. Rogers has been sifting through this trove of information in the hope of identifying a link between domesticated lineages and the horses buried under the Bronze Age monuments. If the aDNA of the horse remains match known domesticated lineages, this study will provide the earliest definitive evidence for the presence of domesticated horses in Mongolia. [...] Rogers’ findings [...] may have major implications for how we understand Bronze Age communities that lived all across the steppe.” The full article is available here: https://www.sapiens.org/column/off-the-map/horse-domestication-mongolia/


CLEARWATER, Fla. — John R. Krueger, a retired professor of Uralic and Altaic Studies at Indiana University, died in Clearwater, Fla., on Feb. 7, 2018. He was 90.

After teaching at Reed College and the University of California at Berkeley, Krueger came to IU in 1960. He specialized in Mongolian language and culture, and other central Asian languages, including Kazakh and Chuvash. The journal Mongolian Studies described him in 2007 as “one of the 20th Century’s Great American Mongolists.”

Born in Nebraska, Krueger moved in the 1940s with his mother and grandmother to Washington, D.C. In high school, he once got the second-highest grade on a French test and thought, “If I did this well without trying, how well could I do if I actually tried?” After that, he developed a deep love of studying languages. He majored in German at George Washington University. Afterward, he worked for various federal agencies and eventually was accepted into a program administered by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. In this Cold War-era program, he studied Russian language every morning and code-breaking every afternoon.

Krueger received a Fulbright scholarship in the early 1950s, which took him to Copenhagen. It was there that he first studied Mongolian. He fell in love with it. After the Fulbright, Krueger enrolled at the University of Washington, where he received his doctorate. That’s also where he met Constance Peek of Missoula, Montana, a fellow graduate student. They were married and had two children, Curtis and Catherine. The couple divorced 23 years later. Krueger taught at Indiana from 1960 to 1983, and returned to Denmark with his family for continued research in 1968 and 1972. He also visited Mongolia multiple times.

Throughout his life, Krueger continued his love of languages. He recently read “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” in Swedish and always loved finding people who could speak Danish, Spanish, German or Russian.

He is survived by his daughter, Catherine Johnson, of Atlanta; his son, Curtis Krueger, of Safety Harbor, Fla.; and grandsons James and Jackson Krueger, both of Florida. The family can be reached at kruegertimes@gmail.com


Madison, WI - John C. "Jack" Street, age 87, of Madison, died on August 6, 2017 at Agrace HospiceCare in Janesville. He was born in Chicago on April 3, 1930, son of The Rev. (later Rt. Rev.) Charles Larrabee Street and Louise (Rouse) Street, then of Sycamore, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Eve Baker Street (1945-2014).

After 1947 graduation from St. Mark's School in Southboro, Mass., Jack attended Yale University, earning a BA, MA, and PhD degrees by 1955, the last of these in the field of linguistics. Following two years in the U.S. Army, he taught at Michigan State University, Columbia University, and the University of Washington before taking a tenured position in the Linguistics Department at the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1963. Though teaching courses in general linguistics there, his research specialty for fifty years was the language used in Mongolia during the 13th century; and particularly The Secret History of the Mongols composed in 1227 - which in effect is a life of Genghis (properly Chinggis) Khan by those who know him. Most of his published books and articles related to that document, or other varieties of Mongolian. Jack retired as Emeritus Professor of Linguistics in 1993. After 1983, he also published six books on family genealogy. Jack was also the founding member of the Mongolia Society.
In Memoriam: John “Jack” C. Street (1930–2017) (cont.)

There was one non-academic accomplishment of which Professor Street was especially proud: the restoration of an 1878 stone salt-box house in Berry Township, northwest of Madison. Thanks to sheer luck he was able to purchase the fine old house with considerable acreage and part of a small lake for a very reasonable price in 1965. After much physical labor, and professional replacement of wiring and plumbing, he moved into the house in 1966, and lived there (with his wife, after marriage in 1975) for over thirty years. In the meantime, with the help of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, he was able to get the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 1974 sold the lake property on his farm to the Dane County Parks Department for what has since then been called Indian Lake County Park.

In Memoriam: Paul V. Hyer (1926–2018)

Paul Van Hyer, a founding member of Asian Studies at Brigham Young University and LDS mission and temple president in Taipei, Taiwan, died on January 22, 2018. He was 91. Paul was born in Ogden, Utah on June 2, 1926 to Ariel Christian and Johanna (Van Woerkom) Hyer. He served in the U.S. Navy in Hawaii during World War II and returned to Hawaii to serve a Japanese speaking LDS mission after the war. He married Harriet Catherine Johns in the Logan Temple on December 15, 1948.

Paul received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University; a PhD in History from the University of California at Berkeley; and taught Chinese History for 52 years in the BYU History Department. He received the Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Teaching Award. He was fluent in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese, and was internationally known for his scholarship on Mongolia and Inner Asia. He was a real “Indiana Jones” and loved adventure and traveling throughout the world. With his family, he lived in Japan, Taiwan, and China, and led members of his family on three round-the-world treks.

Paul is survived by his wife, Karen Shellabarger Claus Hyer; two sisters, Joyce Hyer Kotter and Barbara Hyer Montgomery; one brother, Blaine Hyer; five daughters: Paulette (Lynn) Patterson, Luanne (Paul) Olson, Jana (Bruce) McDonald, Carol (Michael) Toone, and Annette (Ted) Luymes; and three sons: Scott (Christie Powell) Hyer, Eric (Jeanie Kader) Hyer, David (Maren Clegg) Hyer; step-son, James (Heather Rooke) Claus; 39 grandchildren; and 75 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Harriet Johns Hyer, his parents, and other extended family.

In Memoriam: Françoise Aubin (1932–2017)

Françoise Aubin, Professor Emerita of French National Center for Scientific Research, has passed away on July 9, 2017. A lawyer by training, orientalist by passion, and humanist by nature, she has been known all her life to combine intelligence and knowledge of social facts.

Endowed with many skills in Oriental languages (Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Mongol), Françoise Aubin carried out a twofold career in Oriental studies and social sciences. The first bond between Françoise Aubin and Chinese Islam was tied through her study of Protestant missions in Northwest China among Chinese Muslims. She published ground-breaking articles, notably on Sufi brotherhoods and Chinese Islamic thought.

Professor Aubin conducted pioneering research in communist Mongolia on the experience of collectivization and the organization of rural cooperatives as well as the use of festivities and commemorations. Professor Aubin’s research on Mongolia continued as Mongolia transitioned to democracy—she produced insightful writings on the nationalistic use of the figure of Chinggis Khaan following the fall of communism. Her passion for knowledge and intellectual generosity will be greatly missed.
THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

Thank you to those who paid their 2018 membership dues. If you have not paid 2018 dues, please take the time to do so now.

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