The ACMS held its annual membership and board of directors meetings on March 22nd, 2013 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. The meetings were held in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference. Meeting attendees included ACMS members and friends, as well as members of the Los Angeles Mongol Association, who co-sponsored the cultural program for the evening.

US Director David Dettmann led the business meeting on behalf of the president and board, and provided updates on ACMS activities, budget, and membership. Highlights included our Spring speaker series in UB that celebrated the 25th anniversary of US-Mongolia relations, as well as Fall 2012 events in UB and Madison. Membership was reported stable above 300, and member patrons have increased over the past year. After ACMS updates, incoming Resident Director Marc Tasse was invited to introduce himself and talk about his background and plans for the near future in UB.

The President of the Los Angeles Mongols Association Zula Damdin led the cultural program with a presentation about her organization and its activities, and informal mingling followed with traditional Mongolian food, traditional dress, and a book display provided by the Los Angeles Mongols Association. Support for bringing Zula and her group down to San Diego was generously provided by the Mongolian Consulate in San Francisco.

Editorial Published on Future of “Mongolian Studies”

ACMS Vice-President Julian Dierkes and Executive Director Charles Krusekopf co-authored an editorial encouraging tighter collaborations between the Mongolian government and the ACMS in regards to the future of “Mongolian Studies”. The editorial was published in English and Mongolian online and in print in June 6th’s Mongol Messenger. It is reprinted here in full:

Supporting Research in Mongolia

The Mongolian Parliament has been considering a proposal for the creation of a special fund for the implementation of a National Program for Promoting Mongolian Studies adopted by the Government in 2012. This proposal was initiated by President Ts. Elbegdorj and recently endorsed by the Parliament’s Budget Standing Committee. The ACMS strongly supported this proposal, and called for the Mongolian government to consider supporting research in Mongolia.

(Continued on page 8)
I want to start by offering an introduction and welcome to Marc Tasse, our new Resident Director in Ulaanbaatar. Marc brings new energy and vision to the organization. He is our first Canadian Resident Director, and an alum of my home institution, Royal Roads University in Victoria BC. Marc has been very active in Ulaanbaatar, meeting with representatives of numerous Mongolian institutions and international organizations to re-establish ties and seek collaborations. Marc and I will be working with the Board of Directors over the coming year to develop a new Strategic Plan for the ACMS, and your input and ideas are actively sought.

The ACMS recently held its 9th anniversary celebration at the National History Museum in Ulaanbaatar, with former US Ambassador to Mongolia Jonathan Addleton as a keynote speaker. The ACMS and the Museum of National History have worked closely on several projects in collaboration with ACMS President Bill Fitzhugh and his colleagues at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. The ACMS is currently working with the National History Museum and other partners to improve the documentation and preservation of Mongolia’s cultural heritage through the creation of a database of archeological materials at field sites and museums in Mongolia. We look forward to partnering with other organizations to expand this work.

Jonathan Addleton, our keynote speaker, has been a great friend not just to the ACMS, but to several of our partner centers in the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Amb. Addleton helped us open our ACMS US office at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and he worked with American Overseas Research Centers in Jordan and Pakistan. In 2011 he helped the ACMS host over 70 scholars from 20 American Overseas Research Centers for a conference in Ulaanbaatar. Amb. Addleton is an active scholar and writer, and once he retires from his day job with the State Department we look forward to seeing his application for one of our ACMS Field Research Fellowships so he can conduct further research here in Mongolia for his next book.

The 9th anniversary brought back many memories of our start. Our first office was in Building Number 1 at the National University of Mongolia, staffed by Peter Marsh, our first Resident Director, Enkhabaatar, our Deputy Director and first employee, and myself for a few months as a visiting Fulbright lecturer in International Economics. The accompanying photo captures the festive occasion of our grand opening in May 2004.

Reviewing the photos and information on ACMS activities over these past 9 years reminds me of what we all have accomplished. In the last decade the ACMS has raised approximately $1.5 million for fellowships, training and resources to support research work and education related to Mongolia. We have sponsored over 70 scholars through fellowships, both international fellows coming to Mongolia and Mongolian fellows travelling abroad, organized over 120 Speaker Series talks and conference panels highlighting research work by Mongolian and international scholars, conducted numerous training, research and writing workshops for librarians, students and scholars, built a library of over 4000 books and online resources that is unparalleled in Mongolia, developed the first online Mongolian language classes and an intensive Mongolian language program in Ulaanbaatar, and hosted academic tour groups and hundreds of visiting scholars.

(Continued on page 8)
This Spring I have been continuing to work on building US-side collaborations with new partners, including US Mongolian associations. I attended the New Year party organized by the Wisconsin Mongols in Columbus, WI, where we thoroughly enjoyed their hospitality, food, music, and dance. I was thrilled to find such a community in my own backyard. I was also able to connect with the Los Angeles Area Mongols Association and the Mongolian Consulate in San Francisco as we collaborated for the ACMS Annual Meeting. More on this can be found in the story about the meeting on page 1.

In March and April our fellowship committees agreed on awardees for this year’s fellows. Those results can be found on page 6. These fellows are by now either in Mongolia or on their way to conduct their Summer research projects. We will be featuring fellows and their projects in future newsletters and on our website.

Also this Spring I taught my recurring class at the UW-Madison on Muslim minorities in China’s borderlands (largely focusing on the Uyghurs, Hui or Dungan, and Kazakh populations). I also was invited to give a general talk on the theme of Islam in China at Beth Israel Senior Center in Madison, and I also co-presented on a related theme for a teacher training workshop entitled “Rituals and Ceremonies Around the World”, also in Madison.

We at the UW-Madison look forward to once again acting as host for the upcoming Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) annual conference, (October 3-6, 2013). The ACMS has organized a special panel for the conference that will focus on the theme of Preserving Cultural Heritage in Central Eurasia. If you are planning to go to the conference, I look forward to meeting you there.

As we continue to build fruitful partnerships with communities and institutions in the US and beyond, I invite you to contact me with ideas you might have for possible collaborative projects. I can be reached at: ddetmann@mongoliacenter.org

(Continued on page 7)
This Spring Erdene Myagmar, of the National University of Mongolia, was a fellow in the ACMS Mongolian Visiting Scholar program. Her research project was titled, “Understanding Mongolian History through Collaborative Research and Public Discussion”, and she was based at the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. Below is her report:

“During my visit to the Department of Anthropology, WMU, I was able to accomplish several research goals. These are (1) research work at the Department of Anthropology, WMU, collaboration with Dr. Jacqueline Eng on anthropological research; (2) research work and data collection at the Cleveland Natural History Museum; (3) and conducting guest lectures and public seminars at the WMU.

With respect to research work at the WMU, we, with Dr. Eng and her graduate student J. Gomez, conducted comparative analysis of the large datasets of Asian archaeological populations to address interesting new questions about health among Asian populations during different time periods. As a result of this collaboration, a joint poster paper “Investigation of the Effects of Diet, Sex, and Age on Dental Health Among Ancient Asian Samples from China and Mongolia” was presented at the 40th annual North American meeting of Paleopathological association, which was held in 9-13 April 2013 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In addition to this collaborative work we also discussed about possibilities on publications of mutual research interests exploring the health of Mongolian pastoralists, as well as develop grants for continued research, which would include exchange of students. As the beginning of that collaboration program, one of the graduate students of the Department of Anthropology, WMU, Rieti Gengo, received a grant from his Department to conduct a research in Mongolia.

Part of my research work was conducted at the Department of Physical Anthropology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Two series of researches are conducted on the skeletal materials from the Hamann-Todd Osteological collection.

Cranial materials consisting of 93 craniums of Native Americans from Alaska are examined for cranial nonmetric traits. Examination is conducted according to the research methods used in my previous studies and by means of method worked out by Russian anthropologist Kozintsev as well. This data will be important contribution in the research of biological affinities of Asian and American populations.

In order to work out the standard for the determination of age of foetus, infants and subadults from their long bones, skeletal materials of fetus, infants and young subadults with known age, are measured. This data will be the important resource for the comparison in the bioarchaeological research of skeletal materials of infants and subadults found from archaeological excavations in Mongolia, and curated at our Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, NUM.

Public outreach activities were the crucial part of my visit to the WMU. I gave two talks for the professionals and public communities.

The first talk titled “Bronze Age nomads’ cultures of Southern and Eastern Mongolia” was intended for professors and graduate students of Anthropology Department and held on the February 8, 2013 at the Department of Anthropology, WMU.

The second talk was intended for broader audiences of public community and was titled “Mongolian nomads: History and culture”. The talk was held on February 26, 2013 at the Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education, WMU.

The lectures drew high interest in both professionals and public community, and wide-ranging questions on the archaeology, history and culture of Mongolian nomads, were asked at the end of the talks. Broad discussion on the potential of collaboration on different fields of anthropological research between two Universities was held after the talks as well. The lectures were great contribution in the Americans’ understanding of Mongolian history and culture enriching their knowledge about Mongolian nomads of both past and present.

In general, I am highly satisfied with my research trip to WMU by ACMS Fellowship program, which fully accomplished it’s academic and educational goals, as it advanced not only my research goals, but also fostered cultural and education exchange between our institutions and local communities.”
Marc Tasse Interview with the Mongol Messenger

Incoming Resident Director Marc Tasse was recently gave an interview for the April 26th issue of Mongol Messenger. Below is an excerpt:

-MM: Can you tell us about the American Center for Mongolian Studies? What does your organization do and how is it funded?

-MT: The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is a non-profit educational organization that supports the development of Mongolian Studies and academic exchanges with Inner Asia. The ACMS has been open in Mongolia for over 8 years, and works with students and scholars from all countries. We have a Research Library that includes more than 4000 books related to Mongolia and related academic research fields such as archeology, biology, economics, politics, history and other fields, along with access to thousands of academic journals through online databases.

We try to stay up to date with all international books published about Mongolia and make them available locally. Most of the books are in English and the library is open to all visitors. The ACMS also provides services to both visiting international scholars and local Mongolian scholars. Every year we offer fellowships to both international students and faculty as well as Mongolian students and faculty to support their research work. We also help organize conferences, visits by teachers and students, and a regular Speaker Series that you will see advertised in Ulaanbaatar. More information on the ACMS can be found at www.mongoliacenter.org. The ACMS is the only international research center of its kind in Mongolia, and provides a ‘home away from home’ for visiting students and scholars from around the world. The ACMS also works with local students, faculty and institutions to connect them to international academic resources, scholars and institutions. We offer training classes to help Mongolian university students and faculty with research, critical thinking and writing. Many international and local scholars get support from the ACMS to develop contacts and networks in Mongolia and abroad to learn the Mongolian language, to find apartments, translators, and help with permits and research requirements in Mongolia. We can tap into our wide network of friends in Mongolian universities and institutes and at universities and institutes around the world. The ACMS receives funding from a variety of sources, including over 40 universities and academic research institutions and 300 scholars from around the world that are our members. Our institutional members include many universities in the US, Canada and Mongolia. Our programs also receive support from the US State Department for fellowships and exchanges, from the US Department of Education to support international education outreach, and from several private foundations. We are always looking for partners in Mongolia and abroad who are interested in improving academic resources and training in Mongolia.

-MM: How large is the organization and where are other offices located?

-MT: The ACMS has five permanent employees in the Mongolian office, with a varying degree of part-time and temporary employees depending on the seasonal needs and events planned for the year. There is also a US office based in the University of Wisconsin that provides state side logistics and support. The ACMS office and Research Library is currently located in the Center 34 building across the street from the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts. More information on our location is available through our webpage, www.mongoliacenter.org.

-MM: What staff will be working with you here? Are they students, volunteers, or paid staff?

-MT: We currently have a Canadian Resident Director, three Mongolian administrators and an advisor working in the Ulaanbaatar office. During the summer we also have interns from overseas, part-time personnel and some local volunteers that assist with the various projects underway. The number of active personnel varies depending on the types of projects we are working on at the time.

-MM: Does the ACMS primarily work with government, academia, NGOs or is most of your work done independently?

-MT: The ACMS works with all stakeholders involved in Mongolian research. We work with the Mongolian government to try and identify areas of collaboration that will improve access to research opportunities for both foreign and Mongolian academics. We work with local and international NGO’s to share knowledge and resources in order to gain greater access to essential research data. We partner with Mongolian Universities to facilitate collaboration between academics and institutions of higher learning both in Mongolia and the United States. We have our own projects that we sponsor in order to better identify the needs within Mongolia and how the ACMS can better serve those needs. One project we are currently working on is an effort to document and preserve Mongolia’s special tangible and intangible cultural heritage. We are working with the Smithsonian Institution, several universities in North America, and the main museums, the Academy of Science and universities in Mongolia. We will sponsor research work and training, and are helping to build a comprehensive database with information on Mongolian cultural heritage.

(Continued on Page 10)
In the spring grant cycle, the ACMS awarded 9 fellowships in the areas of Field Research, Language Studies and Library Services. The recipients represent a broad spectrum of areas of interest. We would like to congratulate them all and wish them a great experience this summer in Mongolia. The awardees and their proposed projects are listed below by fellowship program.

**US–Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program 2013**
The US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowships permit US citizens to spend 1-3 months conducting field research projects in Mongolia. Funding is provided by the US Department of State.

**William Taylor, University of New Mexico.** Early horse domestication, ritual inhumation, and cranial morphology on the Mongolian steppe

**Chisato Fukuda, University of Wisconsin.** Globalizing Health at the Hearth: The Clean Cook-stove Intervention in Urban Mongolia

**Andrew Colwell, Wesleyan University.** Networks of Tradition: Mongolian Khöömii (“Throat-singing”) Performance in the Post-Socialist Era

**Tanya Petach, Harvard.** The Boundary: A Refined Model for Isotopic Ratios at the Cambrian/Precambrian Boundary

**Christine Murphy, University of California.** Contemporary Funeral Practices in Ulaanbaatar and Rural Mongolia

**ACMS Library Fellowship 2013**
The ACMS Library Fellowship supports US librarians conducting resource development and training projects through the ACMS Research Library in Ulaanbaatar. Funding is provided by the Department of State.

**Enerel Dambiinyam, Middle Tennessee State University.** Cataloging the Tibetan Manuscripts

**Benjamin Meader, Middlebury College.** Developing a GIS database and lab, with training workshops, to create a “Center of Geography” at the ACMS

**ACMS Language Fellowship 2013**
The ACMS Language Fellowship supports US citizens. Funding is provided by the Department of State.

**Allison Hahn, University of Pittsburgh.**

**Sam Bass, Indiana University.**
access to quality journals, research materials and methodologies. This is stimulating an increased interest in online libraries and journal databases. Unfortunately there is a limited understanding of the actual value and skills required to effectively use these resources. There is interest in providing training in the use of such resources to graduate level students and up. There currently are some preliminary attempts in developing Mongolian digital libraries, but these efforts are fragmented and experimental at this stage.

The NGO environment seems to be undergoing some interesting changes. According to Open Forum Society there now are over 10,000 Mongolian NGO’s operating in Mongolia, many at the village level. Nearly all of the long established NGO’s, both foreign and domestic, indicated they were shifting their more towards governance, policy analysis and advisory roles. They were downloading some of the program delivery responsibilities to the smaller local NGO’s through partnerships or direct support. There is also an apparent trend for developing strategic partnerships with other agencies in areas of mutual interest, possibly for resource maximization.

All of the NGO’s indicated a need for more research in areas related to youth issues, social environment, population migration, governance, finance and economic policy, human rights and settlement. There is a noted lack of research expertise within Mongolia, as indicated by the UNDP representative. They have funded projects that are waiting and available for the right people.

In meetings with business groups, financial organizations, legal firms, business representatives and Ministry of Finance officials, the overall perception is that the Mongolian economy is in a slowdown but should begin to recover over the next several months. The legal and political battles seem to be resolving themselves and the suppliers to the larger mining projects have not seen any of the supply and equipment orders being cancelled, but merely delayed.

There is a strong interest in the business and financial sectors to see proper research done on the Mongolian financial markets, business environment and impacted sectors. There is a need for qualitative data to truly indicate what the impact of current activities are and identify what is needed for effective policy making. There is some interest from the business community to sponsor research and academic activities, although this would be for very specific types of research.

An initial assessment of the ACMS operation in Mongolia has shown that the current personnel have a good understanding of the needs and operation of the center. All of the required tasks and deliverables are being met. As the new Resident Director develops a better understanding of the requirements imposed by regulatory bodies both in Mongolia and America, he will be better able to assess and identify potential areas for streamlining and workflow re-engineering, should they be required. The areas of primary evaluation will be the financial tracking and budgeting systems, the upgrading of the ACMS server and the redesign of the ACMS website. A short term business plan for the next twelve months is currently being drafted and will be submitted for review sometime in May.

**ACMS Speaker Series**
The ACMS invites scholars visiting Ulaanbaatar who are eager to share their knowledge and research with other scholars and the general public to contact us at info@mongoliacenter.org to arrange a lecture in the Speaker Series. All lectures are in English.

**Spring 2013 Lectures:**

**Air Pollution in Ulaanbaatar: Public Health Impacts and Research Opportunities**
Ryan Allen, Ph.D. Simon Fraser University

**Making and Managing Mongolian Heritage**
Teresa Nichols, Ph.D. Candidate, Indiana University and Fulbright Fellow

**Understanding Mongolia: Fact, Fiction, and Everything In Between**
Brian White, Editor, The Mongolist

**Wolverines (Gulogulo) in Mongolia: protecting Climate-Sensitive Mountain Wildlife in the Age of Global Warming**
Rebecca Waters, Director, the Mongolian Wildlife and Climate Change Project

**Mongolia and the United States: A Diplomatic History**
ACMS 9th Anniversary Lecture & Reception, Guest Speaker Jonathan Addleton, Former U.S. Ambassador
Committee. As international academics conducting research work on Mongolia, we want to applaud the overall aim of the proposal to promote academic research and build global understanding of Mongolia’s culture, environment and contemporary society.

Based on our more than 20 years of research experience in Mongolia and our work with the American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) supporting academic research and exchange in Mongolia through our office, library and programs in Ulaanbaatar, we would like to offer four suggestions to maximize the impact and effectiveness of the National Program for Promoting Mongolian Studies:

1. Adopt an inclusive definition of the term “Mongolian Studies”;
2. Use an inventory of research on Mongolia to plan further activities and to integrate researchers in different disciplines around the world;
3. Make the results of research on Mongolia more accessible; and
4. Build research capacity among Mongolian Studies scholars in Mongolia and abroad.

First, it is important that the Program adopt an inclusive definition of the term “Mongolian Studies”. We suggest that the term should include academic research on Mongolia in any discipline, from anthropology and the social sciences, to history and the humanities, zoology and the natural sciences. From our experience, researchers in Mongolian Studies traditionally dedicated their careers to Mongolian history and linguistics, and were clustered around a few established centers of Mongolian Studies. Today, universities and researchers worldwide are moving away from geographically-defined research and toward more comparative and theory-driven approaches. Researchers are now more likely to be trained in disciplinary fields, and then select a particular country for their empirical work, rather than focusing exclusively in one country.

This tendency is particularly evident in past few years in Mongolia. Academic interest in Mongolia across a range of disciplines has been increasing, and the ACMS has seen growth in our membership, which now includes more than 40 universities and almost 400 scholars from around the world. The ACMS office in Ulaanbaatar hosts a growing number of students and researchers every year who are conducting research work in a wide variety of academic fields, including more than 300 international visitors in 2012. Most of these researchers and students do not consider themselves “Mongolian Studies” scholars, but work and publish in their primary disciplines, including biology, political science, and anthropology. Field researchers find Mongolia to be an excellent site to study topics of global interest and importance such as climate change, economic and political transition, East Asian civilizations, and cultural continuity and change in the face of rapid development. The Program should capture and support this broader interest in Mongolia, particularly among new generations of scholars, while still supporting specialists who focus exclusively on Mongolia.

Another source of growth in academic interest in Mongolia has been the research conducted by Mongolian scholars, many of whom have received advanced degrees from prestigious international universities. These scholars also may not define themselves as “Mongolian Studies” specialists, but they are conducting research on topics crucial to Mongolia’s present and future development. It will be important to support these scholars and research topics that focus on contemporary Mongolia to provide better information and analysis to decision makers.

To support the active and growing group of researchers working with Mongolia, we would encourage several specific initiatives under the National Program for Promoting Mongolian Studies.

First, in order to plan for further activities for the Program, an inventory of contemporary research on Mongolia is needed. This should precede and inform decisions on the focus areas for the Program. The ACMS has been exploring ways to create a database of scholars and institutions working in Mongolia, similar to the databases of Japan Studies scholars and institutions created periodically by the Japan Foundation. This database might be updated and made useful.
through a social media site that allows Mongolian Studies scholars to meet and share information on their research work.

Second, we would support efforts to make resources related to Mongolia more accessible, both within Mongolia and online. Mongolian libraries and museums lack online catalogues, and digital collections are underdeveloped and generally not accessible. Databases, catalogues and digital collections can be developed using international standards, which would allow Mongolian materials to be accessible by both international and Mongolian scholars. Bibliographies of publications related to Mongolia can be created through the inventory of research we recommend above, along with archives of unpublished materials such as reports and research papers. These efforts will require training and the development of software, hardware and content, but Mongolia can partner with international organizations and build on the experience of other developed and developing countries.

Third, individual scholars should be supported in their efforts to build research and writing skills. Mongolian scholars need training through workshops and mentoring in developing and publishing academic papers in leading international journals and other forums, and in finding ways to link their research work with current policy issues. Foreign scholars need help building their networks and partnerships in Mongolia, and skills such as Mongolian language with possible publishing in leading Mongolian journals. Based on the experience of the ACMS, which developed the first for-credit online Mongolian language course, we believe online courses can be important tool to bring together a dispersed set of scholars from different universities and raise their cultural awareness and research ability.

Several of these suggestions would enhance the impact and support the implementation of the National Program for Promoting Mongolian Studies. We look forward to work with the Mongolian government, academic institutions and the ACMS to help promote Mongolian Studies and the development of a new generation of scholars who can contribute to both the preservation of Mongolia’s cultural heritage and the sustainable development of the country.
-MM: When did you arrive in Mongolia and how do you feel about working here?
-MT: I arrived at the end of March and have been very excited to learn more about Mongolia, to meet colleagues at Mongolian institutions, and to make many new Mongolian friends. I am both excited and humbled by the task at hand. The ACMS has been an active and respected member of the local community, something I aim to maintain and foster during my time here. As the first Canadian Director for the ACMS, I hope that I can live up to the legacy left by my predecessors.

-MM: Is this your first time to work in an Asian country?
-MT: This is my third tour through Asia, the first being a three-month term in Thailand as a volunteer research assistant with some time spent as a resident in a local Buddhist monastery. The second was a 6 year term in South Korea, working as an international trade consultant as well as being heavily involved in the traditional Korean culture scene. I have also been involved in the direction of several non-profit and community organizations, both in Canada and overseas.

-MM: Will most of your work take place here in Ulaanbaatar, or in rural aimags?
-MT: The majority of the Fellowships and research projects we support take place in the rural and remote areas of Mongolia. The ACMS acts as a central hub, a home away from home, for scholars while they are in Mongolia. Although most of the activities and tasks undertaken by the ACMS are located in UB, we make research throughout the country a little easier and strive to make them productive and effective projects.

-MM: What is your background and how has it prepared you for this assignment?
-MT: Most of my prior career has been in business development and strategic management, both in the private and public sectors. While in South Korea, I worked with several emerging technology and biotech companies to develop their international markets. I was also involved in promoting the cultural tourism industry and the promotion of Korean traditional arts.

-However, while in Canada, I worked with local NGO’s to promote the development of trades and apprenticeships within lower income and immigrant communities as well as consulting related to immigration and settlement challenges. I was actively involved in overseeing several community development projects, cultural events and youth initiatives. I recently completed a Masters of Global Management from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC and a Masters in International Business Administration from the Munich University of Applied Science. I learned about the ACMS from one of my professors, Dr. Charles Krusekopf, who helped found the organization. He got me excited about both the ACMS and Mongolia.

-MM: What benefits will Mongolia realize from the projects in which ACMS is involved?
-MT: The ACMS is helping to improve higher education and research in Mongolia and to share knowledge between Mongolian and the world. Mongolia faces many challenges as it goes through rapid development. The ACMS is helping to prepare Mongolian students who can do the research and critical thinking necessary to make wise choices about Mongolia’s future. We also want to help document and preserve Mongolia’s cultural heritage before much of it is lost due to rapid development. For example, we are helping to connect Mongolian scholars and institutions to international networks and programs, finding funding and partners for training and research, and helping develop resources such as databases and digital archives.

-MM: Please tell us about your initial objectives as the new ACMS director?
-MT: During the next few months I will be working on strengthening our relationships with the local academic, NGO, government and private sectors in order to facilitate the activities of our members and the research community.

By developing new relationships, I hope to expand the options available and discover new areas where the ACMS can make a positive impact. “I look forward to hearing from all of you suggestions on how the ACMS can continue to grow and fulfill its mission of supporting the development of Mongolian Studies and academic exchanges,” Marc Tasse
Support ACMS Programs

At this time of cut backs in funding for international education efforts by the US Government and other funding sources, it is critical for you to support the ACMS and ensure that it can continue to offer high quality programs and services.

Your support will allow students and researchers to conduct field research in Mongolia, will help develop a vibrant Mongolian language learning program, and will build our library resources to benefit Mongolian and visiting scholars in Ulaanbaatar. Each and every member of the organization who dutifully renews his/her membership and each person who has given cash and in-kind donations should be proud of what their contributions have done to build this organization and meet this shared commitment to scholarship in Mongolia.

Donations and membership dues are the main source of unrestricted funds the ACMs can use to fill resource gaps, pilot new programs, and extend support to non-US scholars. This is particularly important for fellowship programs. Please make a donation today and build scholars and understanding.

—

ACMS is a US registered 501(c)3 non-profit, education organization. Donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

What Donations Support

- Your donation ensures the continuation of the US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship, which offers an opportunity for scholars early in their careers to experience Mongolia first hand and build collaborations with Mongolian scholars. North American students and scholars who visit Mongolia often get hooked for life. Mongolian students who work with North American scholars through the program find mentors and opportunities to attend and support US and Canadian universities and institutions.

- Your donation helps to develop the ACMS Research Library Collection in Ulaanbaatar. Although modest in size with about 4,000 books, a walk through the shelves reveals a collection with tremendous depth and richness. It is a collection with no clear local rival in Mongolia, especially given its easy accessibility to researchers and students. Cash and book donations from patrons are welcomed.

- Your donation supports ACMS outreach activities. The ACMS has organized over 100 lectures, 20 conferences and seminars, and given countless presentations in an effort to increase awareness of research and scholarship in Mongolia. The ACMS continues to build online resources to facilitate research and study. This Month in Mongolian Studies and this newsletter are also efforts to keep the academic community connected inside and outside of Mongolia.

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