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## This Month in Mongolian Studies - August 2005

A publication of the American Center for Mongolian Studies

This is a monthly compendium of important and interesting events taking place at the ACMS in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolian Studies and among the Mongol peoples of the world. This list is based on information our center has received and is presented as a service to ACMS members. If you would like to become a member, have information you would like to submit to future newsletters or have received this message in error, please contact the ACMS at [acms\\_2005 at yahoo dot com](mailto:acms_2005@yahoo.com).

*For more information on each entry, please see the "Announcements" section of the ACMS webpage <[mongoliacenter.org](http://mongoliacenter.org)>*

### News from the Center

It's the first day in September, and with the ringing of bells and the singing of the national anthem, schools throughout Mongolia begin a new school year. The Center is helping to organize the visit of a group of American cowboy poets and singers to Ulaanbaatar. All are invited to join us for a 'cowboy'-themed Speakers Series next Thursday and a concert next Friday (details below).

### ACMS Announcements

#### ACMS Speaker's Series Resumes

*"Sagebrush to Steppe: Lives of the Cowboys in America and Mongolia", by Dr. Charlie Seeman*  
**September 8, 2005, 5:00 pm in the 'Round Lecture Hall' (second floor) NUM, Building no. 1**

The ACMS Speaker's Series gets underway in the 2005-2006 school year with a lecture by Dr. Charlie Seeman, Director of the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada. Those who ride horses and tend livestock speak a common language across nations and cultures, and the American cowboy has much in common with the Mongolian *malchin*, such as a love of horses and a reverence for wide open spaces, a legacy of independence and a culture challenged by a changing modern world. In his talk, Dr. Seeman will discuss issues common to herders around the world such as grazing practices, water quality, environmental impacts, and meat prices.

*"Perspectives on Mongolian Pastoralism", Troy Sternberg*  
**September 22, 2005, 5:00 pm in the 'Round Lecture Hall'**

A recipient of the 2004-2005 Fulbright award, Troy will examine the political implications of Mongolian pastoralism, focusing on the suitability of the market economy and effectiveness of the Mongolian government in the countryside.

*"Sagebrush to Steppe: The Cowboys in Concert"*  
**September 9, 2005, at 'Great Khan Irish Pub,' beside the Academic Theatre, Ulaanbaatar**

To keep that universal "cowboy" culture alive, the Western Folklife Center of Elko, Nevada, USA is in it's 23rd year of the world famous "National Cowboy Poetry Gathering". In 2003, the Gathering in Elko included Mongolian performers who brought the life of the Central Asian steppe alive for the "buckaroos" of the American Great Plains. Five performers of praise songs, moorin khor, khoomei and traditional signing shared their skills with the cowboys of Elko.

In 2005, it's the Mongolians turn to open their gers and saddle their horses for a contingent of performers and guests from the Western Folklife Center. A group of 16 American cowboys and cowgirls, representing the musical traditions of the American west, will spend 14 days in Mongolia playing music, riding horseback through Arhangay and sharing in the traditional hospitality of Mongolian culture.

### Conferences in August and early September

#### Mongolian Culture in the Age of Globalization, August 5-7, 2005

The Center for East Asian Studies of Western Washington University will host this international research conference on August 5-7, 2005. On the eve of the 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood, this research conference seeks to assess contemporary Mongolian culture and the challenges it is facing in the current era of globalization. This conference will focus on globalization's cultural and societal dimensions, with Mongolia used as a test case. Some questions participants are asked to address include: What changes in which aspect of Mongolian culture have taken place during the last decade, and in what ways are those changes related to the process of globalization? What are the similarities and differences of globalization 800 years ago and now? How did globalization affect any aspect of Mongolian culture then, as compared with its effects on contemporary Mongolia? For more information, contact the conference chairman, Dr. Henry G. Schwarz, at e-mail: [schwarz at cc dot wvu dot edu](mailto:schwarz@cc.wvu.edu).

**Natural Resources and Sustainable Development in Surrounding Regions of the Mongolian Plateau, August 22-24 2005**

A geographical perspective on sustainable development and natural resource usage on the Mongolian Plateau is essential to support and implement programs and practices that are environmentally sound, benefit local people and improve regional development. This conference, to be held in Ulaanbaatar, aims to bring together regional and international experts from related fields in an effort to use existing resources sustainably, learn from previous international research, and promote recent ideas and development in the field. For additional information, contact Dr. J. Oyungerel, Institute of Geography at e-mail: [geo-dgv@magicnet.mn](mailto:geo-dgv@magicnet.mn).

**Anthropology Conference, August 25-26 2005**

[Put text here]. For additional information, contact Dr. Tumen, Department of Anthropology, National University of Mongolia, at e-mail: [tumen@num.edu.mn](mailto:tumen@num.edu.mn).

**Uyghur Studies in Kazakhstan: Tradition & Innovation, September 2005**

The Conference, which will be hosted by the Center of Uyghur Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty, will discuss a wide range of problems relating to Uyghur Studies from a perspective of traditional and new theoretical and methodological approaches. While the Conference is primarily planned for Central Asian scholars, experts in Uyghur Studies from other regions and countries are also welcome to participate. For more information, contact the conference organizer Dr. Ablet Kamalov at e-mail: [abletk@yahoo.com](mailto:abletk@yahoo.com).

**Volunteer Opportunity****Alliance for International Women's Rights, Mongolia**

The Alliance for International Women's Rights (AIWR) is devoted to supporting international women's rights efforts by tapping into the adventurous and generous spirit of American professionals and students who love to travel and who are also interested in furthering women's rights. The Alliance is now actively recruiting volunteers to spend two to three weeks providing training, consulting and assistance to five of Mongolia's most dynamic and effective women's rights organizations. The Mongolian women's rights organizations are eager and excited to host volunteers in many different capacities – just some of the possibilities include assisting with sexual harassment workshops and training sessions, helping design programs to promote the recently enacted domestic violence legislation, teaching English, accounting, or computer skills, helping to write funding proposals and educational materials, consulting on legal issues, and even helping draft recommendations for new legislation. You can learn the details about the mission, history and projects of the Alliance on our website: [www.aiwr.org](http://www.aiwr.org).

**New Publications & Resources****On-Line Resource – Mongolia Development Gateway**

Mongolia Development Gateway (MnDG) [www.gateway.mn](http://www.gateway.mn) is a site with "comprehensive information on development issues in Mongolia. It serves as a platform for sharing a local development knowledge, solutions and opportunities." For more information, please contact: Enkhchimeg, Cooperation manager, at email: [enkhchimeg@mongolia-gateway.mn](mailto:enkhchimeg@mongolia-gateway.mn).

**On-Line Resource – New Mongolian Arts and Culture Site**

The website <http://mongolianartist.com/art> is a newly developed site that contains information about Mongolian arts and culture that have been culled from websites and other sources. The site also features information about events in and around Mongolia and news of cultural events taking place around the United States.

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