The ACMS celebrated its 10th anniversary at its Annual Meeting in Toronto on March 16, 2012. ACMS President Bill Fitzhugh of the Smithsonian and Executive Director Charles Krusekopf provided an update of ACMS activities, budget and membership. The meeting also included a poster session presenting the work of several scholars, and cultural performances by both Mongolian and Hazara musicians. The Mongolian Cultural Center organized the reception. Over 80 people attended the meeting, including ACMS members and friends, members of the Toronto area Mongolian community, and members of the Toronto based Hazara Association of Canada (www.hazarasincanada.com). The Hazara trace their ancestry to the armies of Chinggis Khan, and several thousand Hazara have immigrated to Canada in recent years from Afghanistan.

At the meeting, ACMS Secretary Elizabeth Endicott reported that the ACMS membership had grown rapidly over the past year from 240 to 334 members, with the strongest growth among student members. It was also reported that the fall fundraising campaign raised over $5000 in new donations to support ACMS programs, such as fellowships, the Research Library and training workshops.

The next ACMS annual meeting will be held in San Diego in conjunction with the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting in March 2013.

The ACMS in partnership with Tod Nomin Gerel Group and the Digital Library for International Research has completed the digitization of hand-made Buddhist manuscripts written in both Oirat clear script and Mongolian old script. Access to extant texts for analysis is necessary in order to contribute to a ‘definitive’ history of the Oirat. Being able to access the scant information that exists on Oirat culture and history, in their own voice, provides important insights into this little understood but important transition area, and into the religious, literary, linguistic, and historical cultural heritage of the Western Mongols within a greater ‘Khalkha’ Mongolia.

Although Oirats share many of the traditional Inner Asian steppe traditions, they have always had an identity separate from the Khalkh and Inner Mongolian ulus. Oirats, by definition, did not have a claim to Chinggisid legitimacy of rule and they were
ACMS Announces New US Director

David Dettmann joined the ACMS in March 2012 as the new US Director. In addition to his work for the ACMS, David will continue to work as Assistant Director of the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

David’s interest in Inner Asia began with summertime travels to Uyghur, Kazak, Tibetan and Mongol areas of China while he studied and worked abroad in Guangzhou in the late 1990s. Since then, he has been absorbed in the study of these regions’ languages and cultures. He returned to University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete his Bachelor’s and then Master of Arts in Central Asian Studies, focusing on Turkic languages and literature and the history of Islam. During his graduate program David worked as Project Assistant for CAILS (Central Asian Interactive Listening Series), a groundbreaking series of lessons to help learners achieve advanced-level Kazak and Uzbek listening proficiency through a publicly-accessible website, and he also worked as web production editor for the Central Eurasian Studies Review.

After graduation David began his position at the Center for East Asian Studies. Though the focus of the center has traditionally been on the countries of China-Japan-Korea, David promotes Inner Asia through his courses (Islam in China, Humanities topics: Northwest China, Introduction to East Asian Civilization) and through outreach activities to the general public. David began collaborating with the ACMS when previous ACMS US Director Brian White moved the ACMS US office to the Center for East Asian Studies in 2009. Together they hosted Ambassador Jonathon Addleton at UW-Madison, as well as Brookings Institute’s visiting fellow Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder, and a short lecture series on Muslim Minorities in Inner Asia. Additional programs related to the Silk Road are planned at the UW later this year.

After traveling to Mongolia last summer for the CAORC conference and attending the ACMS annual meeting in Toronto, David very much looks forward to getting to know and working with all ACMS members and member institutions to support their work and collaborations with the ACMS. If you have an idea for a program related or another question, please contact David at: ddettmann@mongoliacenter.org.

Notes from the Executive Director

I just returned from a very successful 10th anniversary ACMS annual meeting in Toronto, which highlighted the ACMS ties in Canada. At the meeting we were able to report another year of growth for the ACMS membership, and some good news for the coming year in terms of funding, with the announced return of the Department of Education Title VI funding for American Overseas Research Centers, the continuation of State Department funding, and over $5,000 in private donations to the ACMS from members this past year. The long term prospect for federal government funding remains uncertain, but things feel more secure at this point for the coming year. I want to personally thank everyone who donated the ACMS, and all the members who joined or renewed their membership over the past year. Your continuing support provides key evidence of the interest in scholarship related to Mongolia, and helps us attract additional grant funding for existing and new programs and services.

This spring marked a transition, as one of the key people in the development of the ACMS over the past six years, Brian White, decided in March to step down from his position as US Director. Brian has been living for the past year in a ger in the Gobi, so he was working at very long distance as US Director. (Note: His life and challenges with power and internet are chronicled on his blog at www.tsagaan.com).

Brian was instrumental in the development of the ACMS, including serving as our second Resident Director in UB, our first US Director, and as the key person planning and providing many of our programs and services. Brian went above and beyond and put in countless hours and great effort on behalf of the ACMS and the scholars we serve. I want to thank Brian for being a great colleague and friend, and know that the many people he supported through his work will join me in wishing him the very best for his new work and adventures.

Contact me at ekrusekopf@mongoliacenter.org.
Well, spring arrived quickly here in Ulaanbaatar. It seems like only yesterday that I started working in the UB office. Although, I have spent a lot of summers in Mongolia, this was my first winter. As such, it seemed like the major question from my American and Mongolian friends alike over the last few months was “How are you standing up to the winter?” It actually wasn’t bad, even if few people believe me when I say that. Granted it was cold, but at least I didn’t have to deal with the insane Nebraska wind this winter. Among my other experiences, this was also my first Tsagaan Sar in Mongolia. All I will say about that is: buuz, buuz, and more buuz. And yes, it has been a learning experience, but I think I have everything figured out. At any rate, at least I now know where the paperclips are stored.

The past few months have been a period of adjustment and change for everyone in the UB office. With last year’s budget cuts, we are still a little understaffed and the UB staff has had to pick up the slack, while at the same time trying to get their new Resident Director up to speed. Amaraa, our Program Assistant for many...

(Continued on page 8)

Digitization Project (Continued from page 1)

incorporated into the Qing Empire well after the Khalkha and Inner Mongolian ulus. Oirats have their own customs, oral tradition, dialects and a writing system (clear script Oirat or todo bichig) that was given to them by Zaya Pandita (1599–1662) who at the same time converted them to Buddhism. From the time Zaya Pandita developed clear script Oirat in 1648 until his death in 1662, he translated approximately 186 Buddhist texts from Tibetan into Oirat and Mongolian. Items in the collection are hand-made copies of originals created prior to the advent of photoduplicating machines. In this ritual, performed up until the Socialist period, there was a great ceremony surrounding the hand-copying of sutras and manuscripts. Both lay people and lamas were involved and the ceremonies prior to the actual handcopying which took several days. These ritual practices were abolished during the Socialist period and subsequent duplicating technology made these rituals for the most part obsolete. However, elements of these rituals remain in the Western provinces of Mongolia. For example, the curator of the collection performed several rituals while removing the texts in the collection from the monastery in order to bring them to Ulaanbaatar for digitization.

This is one of several projects being carried out by member centers of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. These digitization projects were funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program and administered by the Digital Library for International Research. The Tod Nomin Gerel collection can be seen at: http://www.dlir.org/tngc-about.
In the spring grant cycle, the ACMS awarded 14 fellowships for field research and study in Mongolia and the US. The awardees and their proposed projects are listed by fellowship program.

**US–Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program 2012**
The US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowships permit US citizens to spend 1-3 months conducting field research projects in Mongolia. Funding for this activity provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State through a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

**Trevor Krabbenhoft, University of New Mexico.** Adaptation to Climate Change? Variation in a Key Circadian Rhythm Gene, Clock, in Threatened Mongolian Fishes.

**Norman Mercado-Silva, University of Arizona.** Development of Standardized Freshwater Fish Sampling Methodologies in Northern Mongolia.

**Kevin Lowry, University of Chicago.** The Northern Bayan-Khongor Project: Tracing Sociopolitical Development from the Bronze to Iron Ages.

**Richard Kortum, East Tennessee State University.** Documentation of Newly Discovered Rock Art Complexes in Southern Bayan Olgii.

**Brandon Miliate, University of British Columbia.** Foreign Policy and Elections: How do foreign policy agendas influence Mongolian elections and Party campaigns?

**Niah Venable, Colorado State University.** Characterizing Two Semi-Arid River Basins Near the Khangai Mountains Mongolia Through Streamflow Sampling.

**Ariel Ahern, University of Oxford.** The Changing Meaning of Work, Herding, and Social Relations.

**Rebecca Kurnick, Montana State University-Bozeman.** Documenting How Mongolians in the Darhad Valley Characterize the Value of the Grasslands they Use in Common on a Traditional, Ecological, and Economic Basis.

**Mongolian Visiting Scholar Program 2012**
The Mongolian Visiting Scholar Program permits Mongolian researchers to spend 1-3 months conducting research and outreach projects in the US. Funding for this activity provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State through a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

**Purevjav Lham, Mongolian Academy of Sciences.** An International Collaboration on Mongolian Buddhist History and Culture.

**Myagmar Erdene, National University of Mongolia.** Understanding Mongolian History through Collaborative Research and Public Discussion.

**ACMS Library Fellowship 2012**
The ACMS Library Fellowship supports US librarians conducting resource development and training projects in Ulaanbaatar. Funding for this activity provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State through a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

**Bill Matarich, New York University.** Optimizing Electronic Resource Access and Awareness.

**Emilia Askari, University of Michigan.** Preserving Mongolia's Digital and Broadcast News.
Dorjgotov Chimidtseren (Chimedee) began working as a volunteer for the ACMS in 2007 while she was a student at the School of Foreign Service at the National University of Mongolia. She continued working with us until her graduation in 2010; even returning to help out after then for special events such as the CAORC conference in 2011. The ACMS is thrilled that Chimedee has been able to take her hard work and experience with us, along with her own dedication and talent, and use it give back to her community.

Chimedee has returned home to Ovorkhangai Aimag, where she has opened an educational resource center in Arvaikheer Soum for the students in the region. The Development Center for Youth is the first organization in the Aimag to offer development courses and educational programs to the more than 20,000 young people in the area. The center will offer personal development courses, vocational training, mentoring, and information on educational opportunities.

One of the center’s main objectives is the empowerment of young women from the area. Chimedee’s goals in this regard are to increase their opportunities for higher education and create opportunities for them to participate in research, particularly with international scholars.

The ACMS is supporting the development of the Center through the donation of equipment and materials. Anyone interested in helping through volunteer work or donations can contact Resident Director Dave Tinnin at dtinnin@mongoliacenter.org.
According to research conducted by ACMS Fellow Anarmaa Sharkhuu, things appear to be heating up around the Mongolian-Siberian border. In 2011, the World Meteorological Organization indicated that the worst warming events occurred in the northern areas, especially Russia and Northern Mongolia. The area around Lake Hövsgöl serves as a prime example of where change is taking place as it is located in a transition zone from boreal forest to steppe at the southern fringe of Siberian continuous permafrost zone where significant carbon stores exist in permafrost soil and peatlands. As warming continues, this stored carbon can become available to microbes and decompose as permafrost thaws over time, which releases methane and CO₂ into the atmosphere. The loss of stored carbon can be accelerated through increased rates of soil respiration and decomposition in response to rising air temperatures associated with climate change.

Mongolian graduate student Anarmaa Sharhuu was awarded an ACMS Enkhaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship in 2011 to work with Dr. Alain Plante, and Dr. David Vann, from the University of Pennsylvania, conducting research on soil ecosystem responses to experimental warming in Mongolia’s Northern Hövsgöl region. Anarmaa’s research contribution in Hövsgöl-Dalbay valley, located on the southern edge of continuous permafrost, served as a key research site for global permafrost flux research. This collaborative effort between Mongolian and American scholars sought to enhance our understanding how complex northern systems respond to the climate change through manipulation of soil temperatures but also carries with it implications for how climate-soil dynamics may affect livelihoods of herders in the region.

This project was a continuation of a research on warming effect on ecosystems that began in June 2009 as a sub-project within the framework of the Partnership for International Research and Education – Mongolia (PIRE-Mongolia) (More information at: http://mongolia.bio.upenn.edu/). Objectives of the 2011 season were to continue environmental response monitoring to experimental warming in steppe, riparian and forest ecosystems, measure soil CO₂ efflux and decomposition rates to investigate how temperature increases could affect abiotic variables and determine what impact environmental variables may have on CO₂ release to atmosphere. Preliminary results suggest that invasion of woody vegetation may result in more carbon gain in drier sites and that soil moisture might be the primary driver in soil respiration and decomposition in these ecosystems, although carbon content data requires further analysis.

Anarmaa’s opportunity to work alongside the University of Pennsylvania researchers, as well as Bazartseren Boldgiv, from the National University of Mongolia, greatly strengthened analytical skills as a scientist. Her relationship with local herders made her aware of the importance of scientific communications to both academic and non academic audiences. This research experience would not have been possible without financial and logistical support provided by the ACMS, guidance from Anarmaa’s mentors and the assistance of Mongolian and American undergraduates, Kirstin Washington and Enkh-Mandal Orosoo. Engaging with such a diverse and knowable research team proved tremendously helpful in acquiring expertise in conducting field research and will serve her well in future scholarly efforts.

Anarmaa’s experience in Hövsgöl this past summer as an ACMS fellow provided her the opportunity to fill knowledge gaps and shape her future as a Mongolian scholar. The Enkhaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship program is designed to support Mongolian students like Anarmaa through collaborative work with North American scholars on academic research projects. The goal of this fellowship is to promote opportunities for a new generation of Mongolian scholars to build research skills and become adept in modern research methods and technologies through intensive field studies. The program is supported by donations from ACMS members and friends. Please consider making a donation and supporting a new generation of Mongolian scholars!
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.

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

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.

Give Today! And, Thank you for your continuing support!

Make checks payable to American Center for Mongolian Studies and send to:

c/o Center for East Asian Studies
1155 Observatory Dr., Rm 333
Madison, WI 53706

Or donate online by visiting:

www.mongoliacenter.org/donate
years, started maternity leave on April 1st. It is not only her first child, but the first for the UB office. This meant a new set of regulations and procedures to figure out. So, we have a new Program Assistant, Amgalaan, who will be filling in for the next year.

Some of the highlights for the spring include the completion of the Tod Nomin Gerel Digitization Project. Over 3400 pages of sutras are now available online for researchers worldwide. You can read more about the project on the front page. I performed a poetry reading for the Institute of Poetry and Culture. This was part of the celebration for the release of the 2nd volume in a series of American poetry translated into Mongolian, co-sponsored by the US Embassy. I conducted an interview for Voice of Mongolia’s English radio broadcast, and made arrangements for them to interview our Speaker Series lecturers and other visiting researchers. We’ve also spent a great deal of time over the last few months trying to streamline our efforts and increase efficiency in order to maintain service to our members and the community. Along these lines we switched to an online format for the fellowship applications this year and have been working on a new library development and purchasing plan. We are currently working on conducting a series of workshops for the Mongolian Customs Agency on endangered species laws and curbing illegal animal trafficking; an exhibition of 80 years of American Press photos of Mongolia; our annual ACMS Research Conference; and a conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of US/Mongolian relations. So, the next few months should be very exciting.

You can contact Dave directly by email at: dtinnin@mongoliacenter.org