

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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Program: Ancient Traces, Changing Spaces, Modern Faces,

Fall Break 2017

Majors: Social Work and Pre-Psychology



Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



While in Ulaanbaatar, I was able to interact with many different socio-economic populations. My group and I spent one day working with members of the social work program at the Law Enforcement Academy. There, we discussed the differences between our judicial systems. In the United States, social workers are different than the officers, but in Mongolia, social workers are also officers. There is not a lot of therapeutic opportunities that are offered in Mongolia. They believe that what happens in the family, stays in the family. That way of thinking is starting to change now.

The next day we went to a GOP homeless and orphanage shelter. This shelter is strictly self sufficient. They earn money by making furniture and everyone helps out. There were twelve children that were orphaned, but they were treated just like any other member of the family. There was a real love there. Love for the people, love for the GOP, and love for each other.

The final place was two days in the countryside with a nomadic shaman family. They lived off their land and their herds. Everything they have is because they work together to make sure they have it. The family doesn't need a lot of money, because to them, family is the most important thing.



Transferable Skills:



The skills that I learned while being in Mongolia is helping each other and caring. Really caring about one another, it doesn't matter if you are related or not, help where you can. Do not judge someone by how they look. They may have something that means so much more to them than money. Working together and trusting each other are skills that we have all been taught, but sometime a lot of us forget to use

these skills. Going to Mongolia was a good reminder of those skills.

“A Mongolia SW student stated that they do not feel ready for when they graduate. They only get two weeks a year of practicum practice. This made me realize how much support we have with our department, professors, faculty, and peers.”