

# Neighbors

ONONDAGA COUNTY EAST

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THE POST-STANDARD / NEIGHBORS EAST

Thursday, June 18, 2009 **PAGE 3**

## TOWNS AND VILLAGES

### LaFayette teacher on trip to Mongolia

Nancy Hummel is off collecting another exotic stamp on her passport. She's in Mongolia, and not even in a Mongolian city. Hummel is one of 20 U.S. educators who are "exploring the great steppe," working with researchers studying the conservation of two local species. They are the Pallas's cat and Przewalski's horse.

Hummel teaches Regents Biology at LaFayette Junior-Senior High School. She's also working on a global master's degree in education at Miami University that has its students do international field work in a program called Project Dragonfly. She's studied with experts in Kenya, Namibia and Argentina. This year, it's Mongolia. This is her fourth study trip since 2006.

She says she gets the opportunity to work with the top researchers in the world in their subject areas.

"You get to meet terrific people both in the group and where you stay," Hummel said.

She'll be in Hustai National Park, roughing it. She wishes she could blog about it to her students while she's out in the field, but there's no Internet

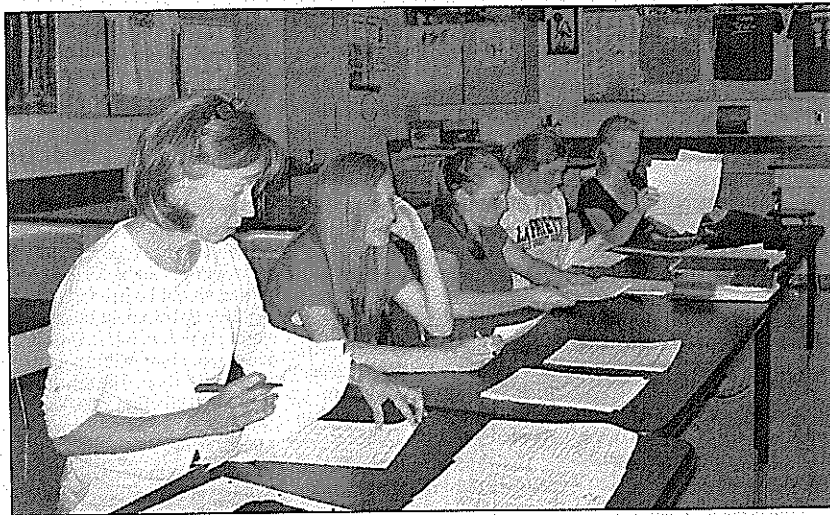


Photo courtesy of Nancy Hummel

**LAFAYETTE BIOLOGY TEACHER** Nancy Hummel (*far left*) and students (*from left*) Jessica Wilson, Kelsey Nash, Nadine D'Agostino and Ashley Travis watch a student presentation as part of the class's review for the Regents biology exam.



From video by Maureen Nolan

#### SEE THE VIDEO

Nancy Hummel talks about her trips to Kenya, Namibia and Argentina. See the video online at [syracuse.com/east](http://syracuse.com/east)

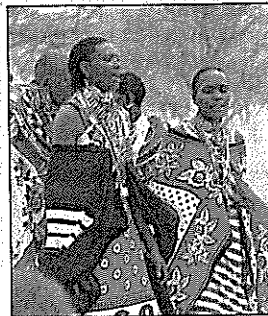


Photo courtesy of Nancy Hummel

lopedia Britannica, Pallas's cats are small, about the size of a house cat, long-haired predators native to deserts and rocky, mountainous regions from Tibet to Siberia.

tamed for riding and is extinct in the wild. They are being re-introduced in Mongolia and China. Project Dragonfly says it is considered to be the only true wild horse left in the

**MASAI WOMEN** sing at a community gathering in the southern Rift Valley, Kenya. Taken by Nancy Hummel, biology teacher at LaFayette Junior-Senior High School.