


"Good Morn



If you asked 16-year-old Shagdarsuren Noninzul (sh-AHG-dar-sur-en no-nin-ZUL), Zulaa for short, what she does before school, you might be surprised.

Zulaa begins her day at a Mongolian public radio station as a volunteer correspondent.

In this position, she makes a difference in the lives of the children throughout her country.

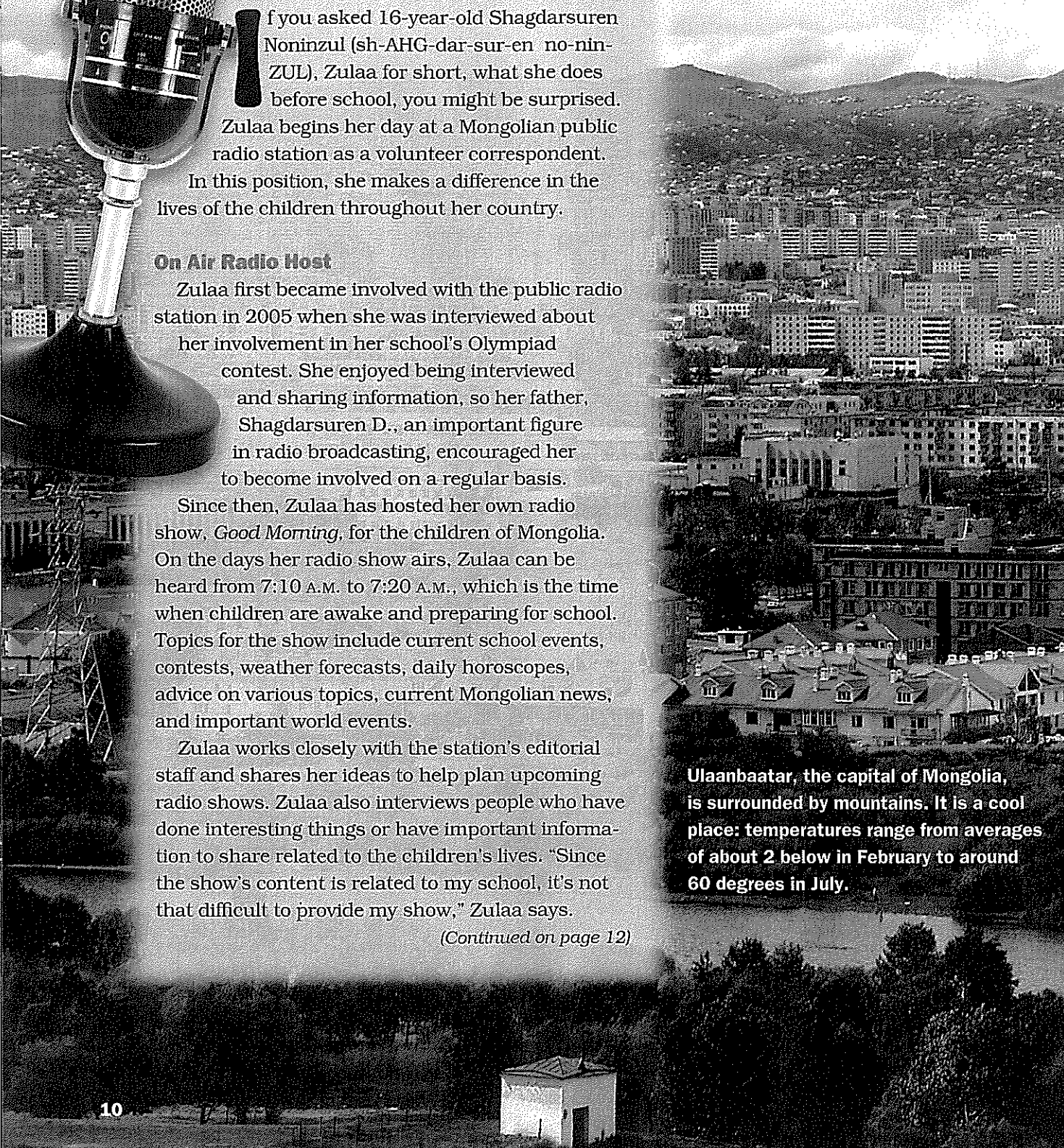
On Air Radio Host

Zulaa first became involved with the public radio station in 2005 when she was interviewed about her involvement in her school's Olympiad contest. She enjoyed being interviewed and sharing information, so her father, Shagdarsuren D., an important figure in radio broadcasting, encouraged her to become involved on a regular basis.

Since then, Zulaa has hosted her own radio show, *Good Morning*, for the children of Mongolia. On the days her radio show airs, Zulaa can be heard from 7:10 A.M. to 7:20 A.M., which is the time when children are awake and preparing for school. Topics for the show include current school events, contests, weather forecasts, daily horoscopes, advice on various topics, current Mongolian news, and important world events.

Zulaa works closely with the station's editorial staff and shares her ideas to help plan upcoming radio shows. Zulaa also interviews people who have done interesting things or have important information to share related to the children's lives. "Since the show's content is related to my school, it's not that difficult to provide my show," Zulaa says.

(Continued on page 12)



Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, is surrounded by mountains. It is a cool place: temperatures range from averages of about 2 below in February to around 60 degrees in July.

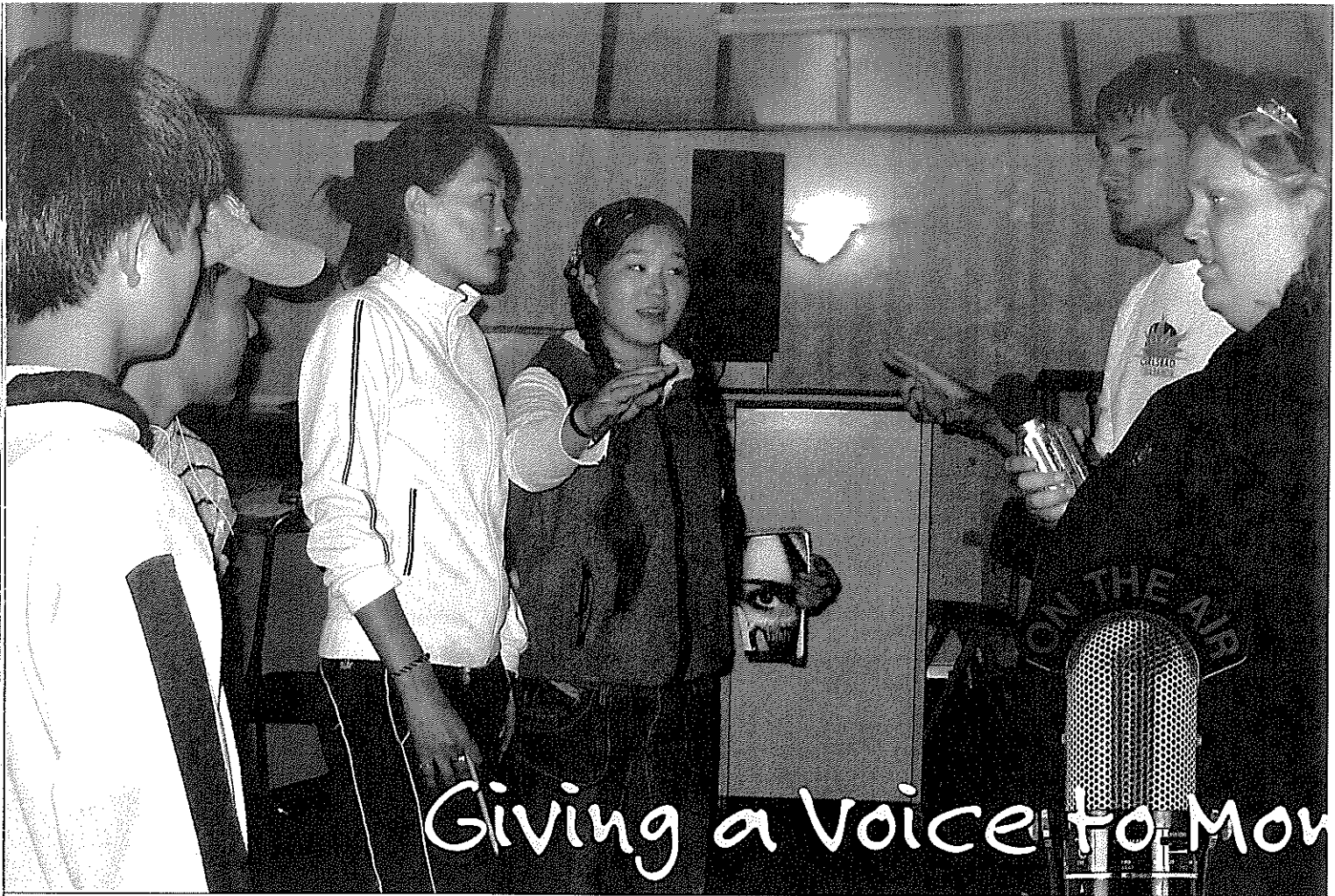
ing," Mongolia!

by Andrea Hetzke

*My dream is to be a good journalist, just like my dad,
and I believe that my dream will come true.*

— Zulaa

Zulaa says providing information
to kids is her way of making
a difference — and it's fun, too!



Giving a Voice to Mongolia

Heard Around the Country

Both her home and the radio station are located in Ulaanbaatar (ooh-LAHN-baa-tar), the capital of Mongolia. Because many people, for example nomadic herders, don't have access to television or daily newspapers, public radio is the easiest way for Mongolians to connect to the world.

Zulaa's radio show is heard by kids throughout her country, including many who live in the countryside. She knows this because she receives a steady stream of poems, songs, and opinions on past shows from children throughout Mongolia.

Teaching Others

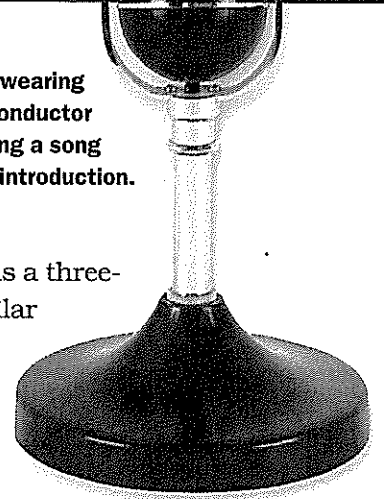
For the past two summers, Zulaa has co-hosted a one-day radio workshop along with educators from Earth Expeditions. The goal of the workshop is to teach a small local group of specially selected high school students how to become radio correspondents. By the end of the workshop,

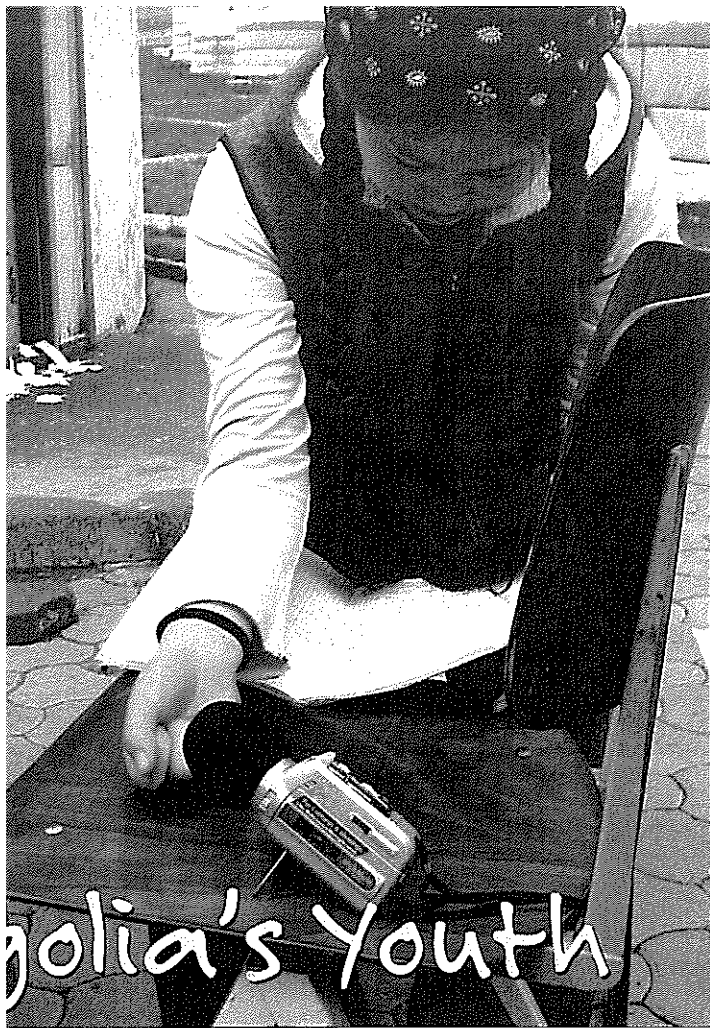
All together now!

Making a radio show means wearing many hats. Zulaa is choral conductor as she and other students sing a song to be used in a radio show's introduction.

each small group records a three-minute radio show, similar to a podcast, focused on the environment.

Students who complete the workshop gain the knowledge and experience necessary to create radio shows based on their own environmental interests. They are also given materials, including a hand-held recording device, to help them get started. All workshop participants are encouraged to create and record radio shows about interesting topics and submit them to the radio station throughout the year.





Simple sound effects!

Rapping her knuckles on the wooden chair makes just the right sound for a radio show that Zulaa's recording.

won a gold medal, and received an invitation to study at the University of Ulaanbaatar. In response to her awards, Zulaa stated, "Of course I'm really happy! My near future goal is to become the top student of my school and my country."

What Does the Future Hold?

Zulaa has many other things going on in her life, but radio volunteering has definitely given her a strong foundation for her future. Now in her last year of high school, she has less time to volunteer, but she will continue to work behind the scenes at the radio show whenever her schedule allows.

Zulaa is thinking of studying Chinese at the university, with the hope of becoming a Chinese-Mongolian translator and researcher. "My dream is to be a good journalist, just like my dad, and I believe that my dream will come true."

Hard Work Pays Off

Because of her radio correspondence position, Zulaa received "The Wisdom" gold medal from the Mongolian Children's Palace, and on International Children's Broadcasting Day, December 9, 2007, Zulaa hosted an on-air show with the President of Mongolia, Nambaryn Enkhbayar, (Nam-bar-EEN en-kah-bye-YAHR). Award aside, Zulaa says, "Thanks to the show, I get to meet with many people and exchange ideas and opinions, which really helps me to broaden up my horizon and world view. I learn a lot from the radio show."

In October 2008, Zulaa participated in the Mongolian Classic Script Contest in Ulaanbaatar,

Yes! A job well-done.

The recording workshop is over and gives Zulaa that good feeling of accomplishment.

Andrea Hetzke is a school librarian in Chicago public schools. She traveled with Earth Expeditions to Mongolia where she participated in Zulaa's radio workshop.

