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Graduate wins Fulbright to study glaciation in Kyrgyzstan

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 10, 2009

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GRADUATE WINS FULBRIGHT TO STUDY GLACIATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

MISSOULA –

A recent University of Montana alumna is studying glaciers and blogging about her adventures in the remote, high-mountain peaks of Kyrgyzstan.

Ann Piersall was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to travel to the Central Asian country, where she has been since mid-November. She will remain in Kyrgyzstan for 10 to 12 months.

Piersall is a 2005 graduate of Flathead High School in **Kalispell** and a 2008 graduate of UM, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis on ecology and a minor in geography. She also is an avid backcountry skier and mountaineer with wilderness EMT certification.

She is studying in the At-Bashy Range of the Tien Shan mountains near Kyrgyzstan's border with China. Her work includes organizing a geographical inventory and recording local knowledge and perceptions of glaciation.

Piersall is sharing her observations and photographs online at <http://tienshanglaciers.blogspot.com>.

She is one of more than 1,500 U.S. citizens who are traveling aboard during the 2009-10 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Piersall also received an American Alpine Research Grant and the Nikwax Alpine Bellwether Grant for her research in Kyrgyzstan.

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Local, hometown

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