

# WorldView



## TELLING OUR STORIES

**ALSO:**

SERVING AS THE FIRST SAME SEX COUPLE

COMING HOME, FEELING DIFFERENT

ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY SUMMIT



# YOUR NEW ADVENTURE STARTS AT JOHNS HOPKINS

Discover the people, places, and possibilities of nursing while earning a master's degree in five semesters. Explore the new Master's Entry into Nursing program, specifically designed for non-nursing bachelor's degree graduates and career changers.

Learn more at [nursing.jhu.edu/peace15](http://nursing.jhu.edu/peace15)

For information on all program offerings  
call 410-955-7548.



JOHNS HOPKINS  
SCHOOL *of* NURSING



**Dual Degrees**

MBA/MA in Community Development and Planning

MBA/MS in Environmental Science and Policy

**GSOM Degrees**

MBA

MBA in Social Change

MBA in Sustainability

**IDCE Degrees**

MA in Community Development and Planning

MS in Environmental Science and Policy

MS in Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment

MA in International Development and Social Change

# WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T...

...BUILD MANAGEMENT SKILLS TO  
BECOME A FORCE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

Returned Peace Corps  
Volunteers admitted to  
our graduate programs  
are guaranteed a minimum  
50% tuition remission  
or higher, and at least  
one 100% tuition remission  
fellowship is given each year.

Now is the time for you to **"Challenge Convention. Change Our World."** by creating the master's degree you've always wanted. Clark University's Graduate School of Management and our International Development, Community, and Environment Department work together to give you **the flexibility to pursue your graduate degree in management, social change, the environment — or all of the above.** With dynamic programs, interdisciplinary courses, interaction with local companies and global communities, and two unique dual degree options, you can focus on transforming your career and the world as we know it.



**Contact us today.**

[clarku.edu/Coverdell](http://clarku.edu/Coverdell)

[gradadmissions@clarku.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@clarku.edu)

508-793-7373

1887  
**CLARK**  
UNIVERSITY



CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.

**Publisher:** Glenn Blumhorst  
**Editor:** Erica Burman  
**Contributors:** David Arnold, John Coyne, Alana DeJoseph, Eileen Flanagan, Christopher Miller, Jonathan Pearson, Emily Schaefer, Alan Toth, Jessica "Neo" Walker

#### WorldView Advertising

Scott Oser  
advertising@peacecorpsconnect.org

*WorldView* (ISSN 1047-5338) is published four times per year (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) by the National Peace Corps Association (located at 1900 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036-5002) to provide news and comment about communities and issues of the world of serving and returned Peace Corps Volunteers. *WorldView* © 1978 National Peace Corps Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. & additional mailing offices.

#### POSTMASTER

Please send address changes to  
*WorldView* magazine

National Peace Corps Association  
1900 L Street NW, Suite 610  
Washington, DC 20036-5002

#### ADVERTISING

Questions regarding advertising should be sent to advertising@peacecorpsconnect.org.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Magazine subscriptions may be purchased from the National Peace Corps Association by check or credit card. Prices for individuals are \$25 and institutions \$35 (add \$10 for overseas delivery). Order forms are also available on the NPCA website at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org) or [www.worldviewmagazine.com](http://www.worldviewmagazine.com).

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles published in the magazine are not intended to reflect the views of the Peace Corps, or those of the National Peace Corps Association, a nonprofit educational membership organization for those whose lives are influenced by Peace Corps. The NPCA is independent of the federal agency, the Peace Corps. Further details at <http://www.worldviewmagazine.com>

#### EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, or other illustrations will be considered. The editors prefer written proposals before receiving original material. Send queries or manuscripts to the editor at [news@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:news@peacecorpsconnect.org) or by mail to the NPCA address.

All inquiries can be addressed to the appropriate person at NPCA by fax at 202/293-7554 or by mail to NPCA, or through the NPCA website at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org) or [www.worldviewmagazine.com](http://www.worldviewmagazine.com).

# WorldView

A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

The Independent Non-Profit Peace Corps Alumni Network



CHRISTOPHER MILLER/MASHABLE

A local man assesses the damage to an apartment block in Sloviansk, Donetsk region after it was struck by a shell in June 2014.

## FEATURES: Telling Our Stories

### 16 | The War Came To Me

How I went from Peace Corps Volunteer to reporting on Ukraine's front lines

*By Christopher Miller*

### 19 | A Towering Task

Telling the Peace Corps story

*By Alana DeJoseph*

### 21 | A Lens On Legacy

Capturing the modern Peace Corps experience

*By Alan Toth*

**ON THE COVER** Khayla and Jessica shared their story of serving as a same-sex couple in Ecuador, first with Peace Corps staff, and now with the broader Peace Corps community.

CREDIT: ERIC AIKEN

# WorldView

A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

## DEPARTMENTS



23



26



32

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**6** Peace Corps Pride  
*By Glenn Blumhorst*

### AROUND THE NPCA

**8** Group News Highlights  
A look at what NPCA member groups are up to  
*By Jonathan Pearson*

**10** Advocacy Update  
RPCVs around the country participate in district office advocacy initiative  
*By Jonathan Pearson*

**23** Serving as the First  
A Same-Sex Couple Perspective  
*By Jessica and Khayla\**

**26** Kurandza Means Love  
Returned Volunteer starts social enterprise to help women in Mozambique  
*By Emily Schaefer*

### BUZZ FROM THE FIELD

**28** Action For Gender Equality Summit  
Preparing students to make a difference  
*By Samantha Rhodes*

### LETTERS FROM ...

**30** Letter From: Botswana  
Picture Me  
*By Jessica "Neo" Walker*

### BOOK LOCKER

**32** Coming Home, Feeling Different  
An excerpt from Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope  
*By Eileen Flanagan*

**34** In Their Own Words  
Peace Corps Memoirs  
*By John Coyne*

### PROFILES IN SERVICE

**38** From Orphan To Advocate  
Berhane Daba steps forward on behalf of disabled women  
*By David Arnold*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**40** Recent Achievements of Our Community  
*Edited by Jonathan Pearson*

**41** Where In The World Is WorldView?  
Send us a photo!

### 45 In Memoriam

### ADVERTISER INDEX

44

Summer 2015

Volume 28, Number 2

## THE PUBLISHER

The publisher of *WorldView* magazine is the National Peace Corps Association, a national network of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, former staff and friends. The NPCA is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) educational and service organization which is independent of the federal agency, the Peace Corps.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Carol Bellamy**, Chair, Education for All - Fast Track Initiative  
**Ron Boring**, Former Vice President, Vodafone Japan

**Nicholas Craw**, President, Automobile Competition Committee for the U.S.

**Sam Farr**, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, California

**John Garamendi**, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, California

**Mark Gearan**, President, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

**Tony Hall**, Former Member of U.S. House of Representatives, Ohio, Former U.S. Ambassador to Food and Agriculture Organization

**Sandra Jaffee**, Former Executive Vice President, Citigroup

**William E. "Wilber" James**, Managing General Partner, RockPort Capital Partners

**Roland Johnson**, Former Executive Director, The Grundy Foundation

**John Y. Keffer**, Chairman, Atlantic Fund Administration

**Virginia Kirkwood**, Owner/Director, Shawnee Holdings, Inc.

**Richard M. Krieg**, President and CEO, The Horizon Foundation

**Kenneth Lehman**, Chairman Emeritus, Winning Workplaces

**C. Payne Lucas**, Senior Advisor, AllAfrica Foundation

**Dennis Lucey**, Vice President, TKC Global

**Gordon Radley**, Former President, Lucasfilms

**John E. Riggan**, Chairman Emeritus, TCC Group

**Mark Schneider**, Senior Vice President, Special Adviser on Latin America International Crisis Group

**Donna Shalala**, President, University of Miami

**Paul Slawson**, Former CEO, InterPacific Co.

**F. Chapman Taylor**, Senior Vice President and Research, Director Capital International Research Inc.

**Joan Timoney**, Director for Advocacy and External Relations, Women's Refugee Commission

**Harris Wofford**, Former U.S. Senator, Pennsylvania

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Joby Taylor</b> , Chair	<b>Jayne Booker</b>
----------------------------	---------------------

<b>Charles (Chuck) McConnell</b> , Vice Chair	<b>Sandra Bunch</b>
---	---------------------

<b>Jane Bardon</b> , Secretary	<b>Brian Forde</b>
--------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Dennis Grubb</b> , Treasurer	<b>Janet Greig</b>
---------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Glenn Blumhorst</b> , ex officio	<b>Corey Arnez Griffin</b>
-------------------------------------	----------------------------

<b>Maricarmen Smith-Martinez</b> , Affiliate Group Network Coordinator	<b>Angela Harris</b>
--	----------------------

<b>Randolph (Randy) Adams</b>	<b>Marjorie Harrison</b>
-------------------------------	--------------------------

<b>J. Henry (Hank) Ambrose</b>	<b>Gary Schulze</b>
--------------------------------	---------------------

<b>Tony Barclay</b>	<b>Ruth Senchyna</b>
---------------------	----------------------

	<b>Linda Stingl</b>
--	---------------------

	<b>Mal Warwick</b>
--	--------------------

## STAFF

**Glenn Blumhorst**, President

**Anne Baker**, Vice President

**Erica Burman**, Communications Director

**Jonathan Pearson**, Advocacy Director

**Kate Schwanhauser**, Membership & Development Assistant

## CONSULTANTS

**Lollie Commodore**, Finance

**Lauren Ersner**, Database

**David Fields**, Community Organizer

## INTERNS

**Cameron Pulley, Emily Schaefer, Anisha Suri**

## VOLUNTEERS

**Natalie Hall, Harriet Lipowitz, Susan Neyer, Pat Wand, Angene Wilson**

# **Advancing social justice around the world ... one degree at a time.**



Students who come to the Heller School learn to combine their idealism with in-depth knowledge and rigorous analysis in order to develop practical solutions to the world's most pressing social problems. Heller alumni are advancing social justice at U.N. agencies, bilateral and multilateral aid organizations, U.S. government agencies, community and healthcare organizations, and NGOs throughout the world.



**MA in Sustainable International Development**  
**MA in Coexistence and Conflict**  
**MS in International Health Policy & Management**  
**Master of Public Policy**  
**MBA in Nonprofit Management**  
**PhD in Social Policy**

Paul D. Coverdell Fellows  
Program Partner School

Visit [heller.brandeis.edu](http://heller.brandeis.edu) or contact us at  
[helleradmissions@brandeis.edu](mailto:helleradmissions@brandeis.edu) or 781.736.3820  
Knowledge Advancing Social Justice



# PEACE CORPS PRIDE

By Glenn Blumhorst

"Now, it is my honor to introduce the President and the First Lady of the United States." With those words returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Charlene Espinoza gracefully and humbly presented our White House hosts at the March 3 launch of the Let Girls Learn Initiative.

In thanking Charlene (Liberia 2011-2014), President Obama proclaimed "we couldn't be prouder." Indeed, it was a very proud moment for the Peace Corps community. To listen to President Obama recognize and encourage the work of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) around the world gives us a tremendous sense of pride and inspiration.

First Lady Michelle Obama took the podium and further acclaimed the value of Peace Corps Volunteers as she laid out her vision for the Let Girls Learn initiative. In raising the challenge to the Peace Corps community, she stated "the National Peace Corps Association and so many others have stepped up and told me that...these are community challenges that call for community solutions."

I know that the Peace Corps community is well prepared to respond to this opportunity to support the Let Girls Learn initiative—and many others. As the principal partner to the Peace Corps agency, the NPCA is uniquely positioned at the center of a vibrant community of over 215,000 RPCVs who have demonstrated that our local efforts yield global impact.

We don't have to look far to find many examples of the impact of RPCVs in addressing community challenges. As founder and director of the Bosh Bosh Project in Liberia—a recent recipient of funding from the NPCA's Ebola Relief Fund—Charlene and her cohorts have

formed a Girls Club where female students, teachers and community members learn vital life skills.

Water Charity, in collaboration with the NPCA and the Peace Corps Partnership Program, recently completed the very first Let Girls Learn project, to provide hygienic latrines at a high school in Svay Leu, Cambodia. Student Friendly Schools program in Albania to repair bathrooms in 100 schools, directly impacting the ability of girls to stay in school.

For years, Friends of Afghanistan has worked to better their host nation and increase development opportunities for Afghan women and children. Winner of the NPCA's 2015 Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service, Friends of Afghanistan has supported "bricks and mortar" gender equity schools, where tens of thousands of Afghan girls gain an education they might not otherwise have received.

Around the world, PCVs and RPCVs are making a difference; and the NPCA is right there, championing our collective cause by connecting, engaging, and informing us as we work together. Read all about it in your *WorldView* magazine. Experience it at our next annual gathering, Peace Corps Connect, where RPCVs take the stage to motivate and inspire us with the great things we are collectively accomplishing.

In acknowledging the role of the Peace Corps community in the global arena, First Lady Michelle Obama ended her remarks at the White House that day by saying "I'm so proud to join this movement. I'm honored to learn more from all of you. I'm inspired by you."

I'm proud to be an RPCV and am



WHITE HOUSE



Top: Charlene Espinoza introduces the President and First Lady.

Bottom: Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst and at the White House for the announcement.

inspired by all of you, PCVs and RPCVs alike. I was honored to have represented our Peace Corps community at this special event. The Peace Corps flag was—at least figuratively—raised high over the White House that day.

In continued service,

**Glenn Blumhorst**

President, National Peace Corps Association  
RPCV Guatemala, 1988-1991

You can reach Glenn at [president@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:president@peacecorpsconnect.org).

Interested in supporting the work of the NPCA? Visit [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/contact-us/contributing/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/contact-us/contributing/). If you have never been a member of the NPCA, it's free! Sign up at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/newrpcv](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/newrpcv) and continue to receive *WorldView* magazine.

# CONTINUE *to* CHANGE LIVES

## with a graduate degree from Antioch University

“ The mission of the Peace Corps and Antioch University really align. I'd encourage RPCVs to consider an advanced degree at Antioch University. Through their experiential education and commitment to service, Antioch's graduates have a track record of advancing social, economic, and environmental justice. I have seen it first hand both as one of the first Peace Corps volunteers and then as Antioch University's President/Chancellor and now as a faculty member. ”

**Alan E. Guskin**, Distinguished University Professor, PhD Program in Leadership and Change, Antioch University President Emeritus

“ My Peace Corps experience in Sierra Leone provided a valuable foundation for my career. Join fellow RPCV students, faculty and staff to translate your service experience into a degree that will advance yours.

**Mark Hower, PhD**



“ The Peace Corps exposed me to innovation from other cultures. AUNE allows me to integrate these ideas into my degree, creating a fulfilling graduate school experience.”

**Isis Lawson**  
**Environmental Studies,**  
**MS Candidate**

You've changed the world, and the world has changed you. Now what? We have developed a program that recognizes and builds upon your service experience. We provide you with the knowledge, skills, and training to advance your career.

- Master of Science in Management and Leadership
- Cohort based. 18 months to complete. Low-residency
- Service scholarships and financial aid available
- To learn more, go to: [antiochseattle/MSML](http://antiochseattle/MSML)

RPCVs come to AUNE to gain knowledge, practical experience and skills to create lasting change. Benefits for RPCVs include:

- 25% reduced tuition through the Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
- Graduate programs in environmental studies, education, psychology, and management
- Accredited counseling/therapy degrees (APA, CACREP, COAMFTE)



**ANTIOCH  
UNIVERSITY**  
SEATTLE

Seattle, WA ■ 888.268.4477  
[admissions.aus@antioch.edu](mailto:admissions.aus@antioch.edu)  
[antiochseattle/MSML](http://antiochseattle/MSML)

**ANTIOCH  
UNIVERSITY**  
NEW ENGLAND

Keene, NH ■ 800.552.8380  
[admissions.ane@antioch.edu](mailto:admissions.ane@antioch.edu)  
[antiochne.edu](http://antiochne.edu)

# GROUP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## A look at what NPCA affiliate groups are up to

By Jonathan Pearson

### NEPAL

The devastating news of death and destruction in Nepal following a late-April 7.9 magnitude earthquake brought a rapid and robust response from the **Friends of Nepal** (FON). Through their connections, the FON Board of Directors identified two hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley providing round-the-clock medical care to hundreds of earthquake victims. Because they are not set up to accept small, foreign contributions, FON mobilized for a five-day donation blitz in order to bundle the contributions for the hospitals. In that brief period, \$50,000 was raised and the first donations were on the way a short time later. FON has noted that along with the short-term surge of support, the group will be part of Nepal's long-term recovery. By mid-May, donations to the group approached \$80,000.

### PACIFIC ISLANDS

The first half of 2015 was also a period of disaster response for many Pacific Island Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). Following a tragic megacyclone that struck Vanuatu, Mariko Schmitz (Vanuatu RPCV and President of the **RPCVs of Washington DC**) reached out to the Peace Corps Office of Innovation, resulting in a "Mappy Hour" through which 20 participants at Peace Corps Headquarters and 22 Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees in Vanuatu reviewed digital maps of Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati, providing nearly 11,000 map edits on inhabited islands to be used for disaster relief and rescue efforts. Vanuatu RPCVs also mobilized for a Kava Night Fundraiser, collecting nearly \$2,900 to support UNICEF efforts in response to the cyclone. The kava was served (in solidarity) by the **Friends of Fiji**, whose members also turned out to support another fundraiser, organized by the **Friends of Micronesia**, in response to a separate super-typhoon that struck that island nation several weeks later. The \$500 raised was donated to the Micronesia Red Cross.

### NORTH CAROLINA

Annual events and activities are the heartbeat of many NPCA affiliate groups. As far back as 1996, the **North Carolina Peace Corps Association** has recognized a non-profit organization in the Tarheel state which promotes peace and cross-cultural

understanding. The 2015 Peace Prize was awarded to Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County. The \$1,000 prize will help Hispanic Liaison with its mission to "foster cultural understanding and build relationships between Hispanics and other residents of Chatham County (west of Raleigh) and to empower the Hispanic community to overcome the challenges they face by increasing resources, seeking opportunities



and finding their voice in their community." The keynote speaker at this year's Peace Prize event was Barry Saunders, columnist for the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

### CALIFORNIA

As noted on the website of the **Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association**, "this is one of our most popular annual events, and this year didn't disappoint." The group held its annual RPCV Panel and Dinner in mid-April. Recently returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Nicaragua, South Africa, Moldova and Guinea shared their experiences with an audience that included Peace Corps invitees and applicants. Key members of Peace Corps staff were also in attendance, including Peace Corps Associate Director Helen Lowman and several regional office staff.

### TANZANIA

On April 11th, **Friends of Tanzania** hosted their annual educational event at Howard University. This year's event was a panel discussion on health care in Tanzania, to initiate a discussion on recent developments in this important sector and to discuss the latest trends. Panelists were Dr. Edmund Rutta, a Tanzanian doctor with over 15 years of experience in implementation and design of health programs in Tanzania and other developing countries, and Jennifer Macias,



Senior Regional Director of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Although Tanzania has doubled, and in some cases even tripled, the recruitment of healthcare workers over the last 10 years, there are still

massive shortages and retention remains a big problem; this is especially true in rural areas. Dr. Rutta also shared that the Tanzanian government spends a lot of money on sending its citizens for treatment in India, South Africa and other foreign countries, but the efficiency of doing this and whether the money could more beneficially be spent on developing local facilities hasn't been adequately addressed.

## ARIZONA

The **RPCVs of Southern Arizona** continue to generously contribute to the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP). As of March 2015, the group contributed \$3,500 in equal \$875 donations to four PCPP projects: A latrine building and sanitation education project in Burkina Faso; a community garden and water project for a remote farming village in Cameroon; a school garden and accessible water project for an expanding rural village in southern Senegal; and support for a maternity ward and improved water access for a rural health center in Zambia. The group's first quarter PCPP contributions are slightly above the amount donated during the same period in 2014, and 75% above their first quarter PCPP donations in 2013.

## MICHIGAN

Since the fall of 2012, The **Southeast Michigan RPCVs** (SEMI RPCV) has supported Artisanat des Femmes de Khenifra, a women artisans co-op in Khenifra, Morocco, by importing their traditional handmade button jewelry. SEMI RPCV orders earrings, necklaces, and bracelets in various styles and color combinations. Each item has a tag with the name of the artisan so that all proceeds can go directly to her. The group sells the jewelry through holiday shops, at international events, and at SEMI RPCV meetings, and it is exploring other area markets, including a museum, a Fair Trade store, and a North African restaurant.

## NIGERIA

When it comes to activities that are representative of the Obama administration's Let Girls Learn initiative, one great global example centers on the efforts of RPCVs who served in Nigeria. Through a collaboration of the **Friends of Nigeria** (FON) and the Peace Corps Nigeria Alumni Foundation (PCNAF), the groups awarded two \$1,000 Nigerian Female Leaders Scholarship Awards to young women attending the American University of Nigeria (AUN). The scholarships were renamed last year to honor the late Dr. Robert Pastor, an iconic RPCV and vice president for international affairs at the American University in Washington, who worked with Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar to found AUN in 2005. Meanwhile, a surge of donations to PCNAF following the Boko Haram kidnappings has presented new opportunities, including a new three-year initiative in northern Nigeria geared towards mobilizing communities in support of girls' education and increased secondary school completion.

## NEW AFFILIATE GROUPS!

The first months of each year is when the National Peace Corps Association asks all of its affiliate groups to re-register in order to ensure that when we invite new members of our community to get connected, we have confidence that they are being put in touch with active and vibrant affiliates. And, while we often recognize and appreciate the tremendous contributions of many well-established, mature groups across the nation, we are especially excited to recognize affiliate groups who are re-forming or coming together for the first time. Congratulations to our newest affiliate groups, the **Friends of Jamaica Peace Corps Association**, the **Tampa Bay RPCVs** and the **RPCVs of Northern Michigan**.

# Now Peace-ing Together the Planet!

Learn how we are engaging today's world across religious differences.

Our new **Master of Arts in Global Interreligious Leadership** is an up-to-the-moment response to the needs of the world. You will soon be leading religiously complex communities—for the sake of a more peaceful planet.

**Find out more!**  
[ants.edu/MAGIL](http://ants.edu/MAGIL)  
800.964.ANTS

Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Fellowships available for RPCVs.



**Andover Newton**  
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

# NPCA ADVOCACY UPDATE

Get connected, get involved

By Jonathan Pearson



## Snow Problem for NPCA Hill Advocates

It's been an annual event for eleven years—with a growing Capitol Hill component since 2008.

Despite its precarious early March timing to coincide with Peace Corps Week, the National Peace Corps Association's (NPCA) National Day of Action has never confronted a difficult weather challenge.

Until this year.

We weren't sure what to expect as the March 5th predictions of up to 9 inches of

snow—a big deal in our nation's capital—grew more certain with each hour. But then the office of Peace Corps champion Rep. Sam Farr (Colombia 1964-1966) contacted us to say they would be open for business and the Congressman would welcome fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) in the morning.

There was no turning back.

So we sent out a message. The Capitol Hill portion of our annual Day of Action is ON! As a number of advocates from around the country tried to attend but

# GLOBAL CITIZEN



## **TO UNDERSTAND GLOBAL ISSUES, YOU MUST BECOME PART OF THEM.**

The growing influences of new world powers, emerging states and non-state actors, socioeconomic transformation, and cross-border crises have reshaped the field of global affairs. Those pursuing careers in this area must not only study the issues, they must be deeply involved in them. The M.S. in Global Affairs, offered by the NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs, positions you in the heart of the international community of NYC, providing you with the contextual perspectives you need to become an effective problem solver and innovator. Global field intensives, exposure to renowned expert practitioners, and challenging projects form the basis of an education that allows you to live what you learn—anticipating the next global challenge.

### **M.S. in Global Affairs**

#### **CONCENTRATIONS:**

Environment/Energy Policy  
Human Rights and International Law  
International Development and  
Humanitarian Assistance  
International Relations  
Peacebuilding  
Private Sector  
Transnational Security

#### **Graduate Certificates in:**

Global Energy  
Peacebuilding  
Transnational Security

**VISIT:** [sps.nyu.edu/cga/programs1h](http://sps.nyu.edu/cga/programs1h)   **CALL:** 212-998-7100  
**REQUEST INFO./APPLY TODAY:** [sps.nyu.edu/gradinfo12h](http://sps.nyu.edu/gradinfo12h)



**NYU**

SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

FIND YOUR  
FUTURE SELF

couldn't get to Washington, D.C., we reminded other registrants: "Do what is best for you ... Join us if you can, but don't worry if you cannot be here."

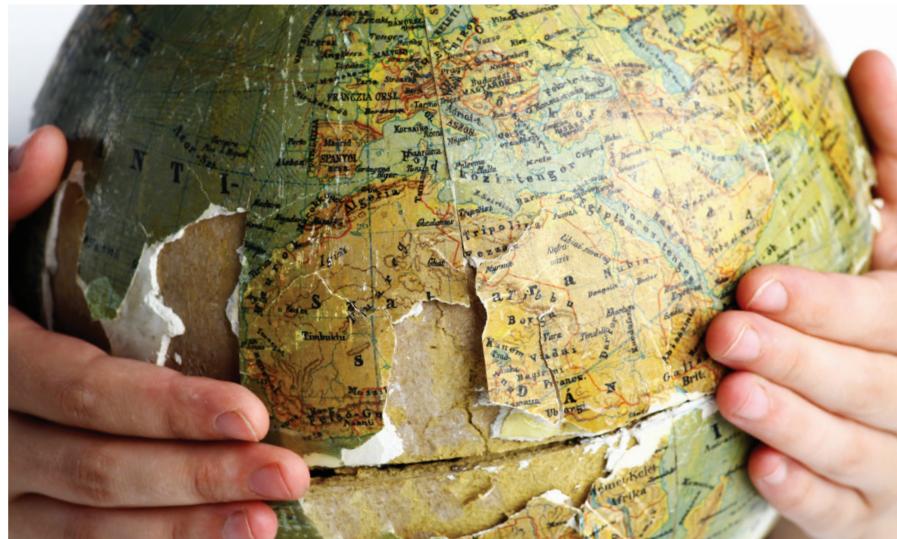
On the morning of March 5th, with the federal government closed for the day, Congressman Farr and fellow RPCV

and Massachusetts Congressman Joe Kennedy III (Dominican Republic 2004-2006) entered Room 2237 of the Rayburn House Office Building. When they arrived, nearly 80 hearty, enthusiastic, and energized citizen advocates for the Peace Corps welcomed them. Volunteers from

1961 were joined by several RPCVs who had returned from service months, or—in one case—days earlier.

Advocates from 22 states and the District of Columbia were represented. NPCA advocates were one of only two groups that carried on with their Capitol Hill plans. And, as one former RPCV who worked on Capitol Hill observed, the fact that so many advocates came out despite the snow, would not go unnoticed by lawmakers and their staffs, demonstrating the dedication and passion of the Peace Corps community! **WV**

*Get Connected. Get Involved. Contact [advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org).*



## PREPARE TO BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE

Start with a graduate certificate in  
**Post-Conflict  
State Reconstruction  
or  
United Nations Studies**



SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Join us for a webinar and learn more.

[www.shu.edu/diplomacyPC](http://www.shu.edu/diplomacyPC)

Back in his home state of Ohio for less than a month, **Gilbert Bonsu** (South Africa 2013-2015), knew first hand just how crucial it is for Peace Corps Volunteers to get the resources necessary to be effective in the field.

So when he heard about the opportunity to spend a day lobbying for the Peace Corps on Capitol Hill, he was in. The day not only gave him the opportunity to learn about advocating for the Peace Corps on Capitol Hill, but it also was his first exposure to the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer community.

He immediately felt at home "The dedication, friendliness and support from other RPCVs who were there was crucial for first-timers like me."

Fresh-from-the field voices like Gilbert's are invaluable. Together with stories from other RPCVs from the 1960s to 2000s, they showed a full spectrum of the work that the Peace Corps has done and continues to do.

If you missed out on the Day of Action, it's never too late to get involved. Visit [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org) to learn how.



# FROM NEW PERSPECTIVES COMES A NEW MASTER'S IN **SOCIAL IMPACT**

Imagine a new kind of university that teaches collaboration and harmony in the world, that educates experienced professionals to reach across borders of all kinds—international, cultural, socio-economic, religious and political—for the common good. At Claremont Lincoln, our purpose is to put wisdom to work in the world. Discover how you can do the same.

[M.A. in Social Impact Degree Program Summary](#)

10-Week Terms • 15 Months to Completion • 30 Units • \$15,000 Tuition

CLAREMONT  
LINCOLN  
UNIVERSITY

*Putting Wisdom to Work.<sup>™</sup>*

[www.ClaremontLincoln.org](http://www.ClaremontLincoln.org)

## Combine your **master's degree** and **Peace Corps service**

### Opportunities for RPCVs and incoming volunteers

- Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
- Master's International Program
- RPCV Scholarships

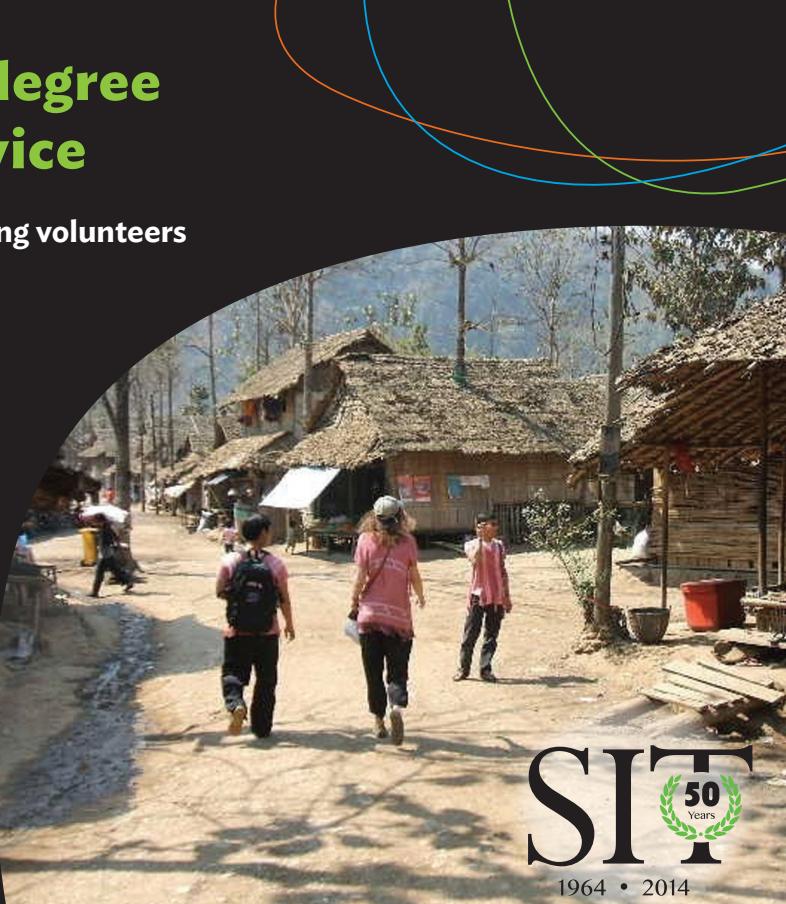
**Learn more at**  
[www.sit.edu/graduate](http://www.sit.edu/graduate)

**SIT Graduate Institute**

a program of World Learning



**SIT and the Peace Corps**  
... partners since 1964



**SIT**  
50  
Years  
1964 • 2014

# NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURAL AGILITY, CLEAN WATER, GIRLS EDUCATION

By Erica Burman

## A CALL to Action

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) recently joined with Northeastern University's D'Amore-McKim School of Business to establish the Cultural Agility Leadership Lab (CALL). Founded and directed by Dr. Paula M. Caligiuri, an author and a Distinguished Professor in International Business and Strategy at Northeastern, CALL will send allow private sector employers to send employees abroad for up to a month to provide technical expertise to grassroots NGOs—and in the process help the employees better understand different cultures, languages, and environments.

Partnering with the NPCA gives CALL access to the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community, a group of people with proven "cultural agility." RPCVs will join the employees on site as "cultural coaches," lending their knowledge and experiences to the private sector volunteers while also extending their own service and their commitment to Peace Corps ideals.

CALL's first trip took employees from Cigna, an information technology organization, to work with two local nonprofits in Bali, Indonesia in April 2015. The volunteers returned from the weeklong trip on May 1st. Stay tuned for more about CALL's programs and learn more about the collaboration at <http://www.callvolunteers.com/>.

## Partnering With Water Charity

The National Peace Corps Association and the nonprofit organization Water Charity ([www.watercharity.com](http://www.watercharity.com)) have announced

that they are partnering to make clean drinking water and improved sanitation for all a global reality. An agreement was signed in early April.

"The Peace Corps community recognizes that we make the greatest impact in our world by working together," says Glenn Blumhorst, NPCA President and CEO. "Toward that end, the NPCA is pleased to launch our partnership with Water Charity, which will enable serving and returned Peace Corps Volunteers to leverage resources on behalf of their global communities, while opening the door to continued service opportunities."

Water Charity quickly and sustainably implements water, sanitation, and public health projects around the world. If the project is approved, funding is guaranteed. Projects go from idea through groundbreaking in a matter of weeks, and to completion in a few months. Because Water Charity offers complete transparency, donors can see precisely what their money is accomplishing and the impact it is having on the lives of people in need.

Since 2008, Water Charity has provided technical and financial assistance to over 1,600 PCVs and RPCVs in 64 countries.

"This partnership will vastly increase the scope, size, and number of projects undertaken," says Water Charity's Chief



The Cigna team actively worked to learn the local customs.

Operating Officer Averill Strasser (Bolivia 1966-1968). "It will also improve quality, impact, and cost-effectiveness through greater support and the use of appropriate technology."

Look for more about NPCA and Water Charity projects in future issues of *WorldView*. In the meantime, learn more about completed and in-progress projects at <http://watercharity.com/partner/national-peace-corps-association>.

## Let Girls Learn

It's not every day that the National Peace Corps Association gets a shout out from the First Lady, but on March 3, 2015 the Peace Corps community was the center of White House attention for the launch of Let Girls Learn, a powerful new collaboration to expand access to education for girls around the world.

Charlene Espinoza (Liberia 2011-2014)—founder of The Bosh Bosh Project, a Liberian NGO that empowers women and girls through vocational

training, business management, and extracurricular educational opportunities—had the honor of introducing President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst were in attendance as well.

RPCVs know firsthand how educating a girl can trigger a positive ripple effect that lasts a lifetime—and how lack of educational opportunity cripples communities. “Girls education” isn’t an abstract concept; we can put names on faces, point to places on a map. For this reason, NPCA is proud to be a partner in the Peace Corps’ Let Girls Learn Program for Girls’ Education. Learn more at <https://letgirlslearn.peacecorps.gov> and



Averill Strasser and Glenn Blumhorst sign the NPCA-Water Charity memorandum of understanding.

consider a tax-deductible contribution to help volunteers improve education quality and access.

*“...in recent years, I’ve worked with my staff and we’ve consulted with so many*

*of you to ask how I can be most helpful—and folks from CARE and Brookings, the Global Partnership for Education, the National Peace Corps Association, and so many others—you guys have stepped up. And time and again, you have told me that whatever these obstacles these girls face—whether it’s school fees, or violence, or cultural beliefs that girls simply aren’t worthy of an education—you’ve said that these problems will not be fixed from on high, that these are community challenges that call for community solutions.” — First Lady Michelle Obama*

**Erica Burman** (*The Gambia 1987-1989*) is the director of communications for the National Peace Corps Association.



## “Take advantage of the real world experiences that Fletcher has to offer and your international career path will expand tenfold.”

—Joshua Haynes

Senior Development Technologist + Media Adviser at USAID  
Master of International Business, The Fletcher School '10  
RPCV Morocco '03-'05

**THE FLETCHER SCHOOL**  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD)  
Master of International Business (MIB)  
Global Master of Arts Program (GMAP)  
Master of Laws in International Law (LLM)  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
Master of Arts (MA)  
Executive Education

Visit [fletcher.tufts.edu](http://fletcher.tufts.edu) or  
email [fletcheradmissions@tufts.edu](mailto:fletcheradmissions@tufts.edu)

At USAID’s Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, Joshua Haynes applies the multidisciplinary training in technology, business, law, politics and human rights he received at The Fletcher School — along with his experiences in the field at Fletcher, in the Peace Corps and in the private sector — toward eradicating poverty and supporting resilient democratic societies through digital tools.

Immerse yourself in The Fletcher School.  
Immerse yourself in the world.



Read Joshua's story

# THE WAR CAME TO ME

How I went from Peace Corps Volunteer to reporting on Ukraine's front lines

By Christopher Miller

**Mashable**



Ukrainian government soldiers sit on an armored vehicle as they take up a position in a sunflower field south of Donetsk on July 10, 2014.

*Note: This article was originally published on Mashable.com on Jan. 6, 2015*

I'm trying to remember the time before the war. In the days before gunmen and roadblocks, I rode a bicycle down these streets. But the fires and the soldiers I see now get in the way of my memories and make it impossible to see this place as it once appeared.

In this gritty mining town, I practiced Russian and made many lasting friendships. Now I can only think of it as the place where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot out of the sky, killing all 298 passengers on board.

Four years ago, I hiked over this rolling steppe with a group of friends, setting up a picnic atop the bluff overlooking the city. Now the grass is stained with blood, littered with shell casings and marked by rocket craters.

The school down the road — where

I taught American history and students in school uniforms greeted me in unison every morning, calling out, "glad to see you!" — had its roof blown off during a shelling. I pray none of my former students were inside when it happened.

When I first arrived four years ago, much of the world had never heard of this place — or really of any city in eastern Ukraine.

Fast forward to the present moment and the names of these cities, towns and tiny villages have become well-known datelines — the front lines of a conflict that has killed more than 4,300 people. More than a million others have fled or been displaced.

Though I knew returning might be dangerous, I wanted to document what was happening in this part of the world in an attempt to understand how the war had changed the lives of those I once broke bread with.

But I had no idea what I was in for. Now, months later, I know what

war looks like. I have huddled with frightened civilians as they cowered under a hail of missiles. I know the stench of decomposing bodies; the stomach-churning sight of a roadblock manned by trigger-happy drunken militias, and the sound of artillery fire — 'the Donbass symphony,' as a friend of mine calls it.

I arrived in Artemivsk in the summer of 2010 as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

What struck me most when I arrived was the beauty of the landscape. This was a place where sunflower fields transformed the rolling steppes into a colorful tapestry of bright yellows and greens.

Like in much of the rest of Donbass, people were poor but content. The average wage was \$200 a month, just enough to keep a roof over your head and purchase food to feed your family. People saved so they could splurge on birthdays, New Year and Orthodox Easter, but there was little left over for any extravagances.

Before the war, people in the Donbass

lived in a vacuum. Television offered news from Kiev and Moscow, but those places felt like a world away. When I first arrived there was just one café that had an Internet connection. Not even the city library had access to the web.

Before being caught up in the proxy war between Moscow and Kiev, Artemivsk was renowned for its salt mines and sparkling wine.

A charming, archetypically Soviet-style bedroom community where towering monuments to Lenin were still visible, it was home to some 70,000 people — many of them miners and factory workers.

I met people who had never traveled outside eastern Ukraine. Most people I knew hadn't even visited the capital Kiev — and they had little interest.

It turned out, Kiev had just as little interest in them.

On Nov. 21, 2013, a few hundred activists gathered in Independence Square — more commonly known as Maidan — to protest the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych's decision to spurn a deal with the European Union and instead turn toward Moscow.

The hundreds swelled into a revolution counting hundreds of thousands, demanding democratic reform and the resignation of the government.

After Yanukovych was ousted the following February, the new government failed to reach out to eastern Ukraine. People there had felt detached before; now they felt ignored, even slighted, and that helped spark the uprising.

As the conflict intensified, and the provincial capital of Donetsk became a stronghold of pro-Russian separatists, Artemivsk changed.

When I returned in May, it felt like a different country. Blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag had been replaced with black, blue and red of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" and the area suddenly seemed like a more violent, merciless version of itself.

The fledgling quasi-state was shot through with a sense of fear and

## 'People who had once warmly welcomed me into their homes now shut the door in my face.'

uncertainty, and the new political situation tore apart families and spoiled friendships, including some of mine.

People who had once warmly welcomed me into their homes now shut the door in my face. "Americans support the neo-Nazis in Kiev!" one former acquaintance shouted at me before spitting at my feet.

A rebel who knew me from Artemivsk — his younger sister had been my student — told me it was fine for me to return. "But," he said, his finger resting on a Kalashnikov trigger, "if I suspect you're working as a spy, I'll shoot and kill you myself."

Some people simply seemed to change personality as if shedding old skin.

A local teacher who used to tutor me in Russian and excitedly ask about life in the U.S. had become a vocal separatist. She proselytized the separatists' cause in her classes, one student told me over coffee recently.

"To her, everyone in Kiev was a Nazi," the student said. She also hung a rebel flag in her classroom and proudly boasted of the violent exploits of her son — a local rebel commander — until he was gunned down along with two other men in his car this summer.

But there were also

less hostile encounters. The father of one of my former students invited me for coffee and sandwiches at a block post he manned with other local men. "If any American will understand us, you will, Christopher," he told me, his 60-year-old hunting rifle slung over his shoulder and a patch of the rebel militia stitched onto his oversized camouflaged uniform.

Slava, a native of Artemivsk who fled to Kiev in June to escape the rebels' rule,



CHRISTOPHER MILLER/MASHABLE

Shoes and pools of blood mark the spot where a woman was killed when a rocket from a multiple-launch missile system exploded in this Donetsk courtyard at the height of hostilities in summer 2014.



A local man assesses the damage to an apartment block in Sloviansk, Donetsk region after it was struck by a shell in June 2014.

recently told me that when the tanks rolled in, it felt a betrayal by a relative. "Russia was like our brother," Slava said.

Today, after months under separatist rule, Artemivsk is once more controlled by the government forces of Ukraine. The tricolor flags of the Donetsk People's Republic have been ripped down and burned.

But rebels still live among those loyal to Kiev — and whispers of separatism linger.

Other cities in eastern Ukraine including Sloviansk and Horlivka, where I also occasionally taught English, have also been transformed by war. Rocket fire has razed entire city blocks to the ground.

To say it looks post-apocalyptic is not a stretch. Farmland has been scarred with rocket craters and land mines, and cut through by snaking trenches. The scorched carcasses of tanks destroyed by rocket-propelled grenades lie belly-up on the roadsides.

In Donetsk, the capital of the rebels' fledgling quasi-statelet where I once volunteered at the press club and which had a pre-war population of about one million people, has become a virtual ghost town where a rebel warlord governs at gunpoint.

The City of a Million Roses, as it was once known, has been transformed into a city of a thousand armored vehicles. There are no traffic jams. Instead, streets are dominated by convoys of tanks and



The Krasne village school outside Artemivsk where I taught English and an array of other topics from September 2010 to May 2012.

#### Russian aid trucks.

College dorms and high-rise hotels have become flophouses for separatist fighters. What once was a popular art gallery is now a prison for dissenters. And so-called "people's courts" seal the fate of alleged criminals by a show of hands.

The international airport, which had just opened when I lived in Donetsk in the spring of 2012, has meanwhile become a graveyard for hundreds of soldiers.

And it is hard to forget the dead.

I can still see the corpses of grandmothers and grandfathers, parents and children, lying bloody and lifeless amid bombed-out apartments and schools throughout the region.

These were the students who came to my classes; the shopkeepers who sold me eggs and milk; the farmers who invited me into their homes and got me drunk on moonshine.

Because Artemivsk isn't under rebel control it stands a chance of surviving this conflict, which is not something I can say with confidence about the cities and towns still held by the separatists.

Kiev has cut off the rebel-controlled area as if it was a gangrene limb. They have cut off state services and threatened to cut off power. Already cash machines have stopped working and

businesses no longer accept credit cards.

Meanwhile, Moscow has made no moves to fully annex Donbass; instead officials appear to want to maintain a frozen conflict for geopolitical play.

For the people in and around Donetsk, the future is hard and uncertain. There is a long and brutal winter ahead, fraught with food and fuel shortages.

Despite these hardships, my friend Oleg, a taxi driver-turned-rebel, believes the "Donetsk People's Republic" will flourish into a rich, free and independent new state.

"We'll be fascist-free," he told me recently, echoing the rhetoric out of Moscow.

And Oleg has big ambitions: he wants Sloviansk to become part of this new state - and the seaside city of Mariupol, too.

"We'll fucking fight the Ukrainians back to Kiev," he exclaimed while loading his AK-47.

As the magazine clicked into place, I momentarily recalled eastern Ukraine as it once was.

It's a place I know is gone forever.



Horses drink from the Sever-Donets River in Sviatohirsk, a resort town with a hillside monastery in northern Donetsk region in summer 2011. Three years later, the monastery and town would become home to more than 20,000 internally displaced persons fleeing from the conflict-torn towns of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

**Christopher Miller** (*Ukraine 2010-2012*) is an editor at the *Kyiv Post*, the leading English-language weekly in Kyiv, Ukraine, where he writes about business, culture, media, politics, social issues, technology and travel, and extensively covered the EuroMaidan protests in Ukraine. He is also a contributing reporter for the *Global Post* and *Mashable*, and has published with *The Telegraph* and *The Times of London*, among other media.

# A TOWERING TASK

## Telling the Peace Corps story

By Alana DeJoseph

**I**f it bleeds it leads, the old adage goes. “The day we’re on the front page of all the newspapers and in every television station is probably not going to be a good day for the Peace Corps,” says Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) and public relations specialist Matt Losak in an interview for the upcoming documentary “A Towering Task”. “The Peace Corps story is a public interest story. It’s a good story. And therefore it’s not going to be seen usually in the headlines in the press.”

Unless, of course, it does bleed. And so in recent years the Peace Corps has appeared in the newspapers and on television with the stories of Volunteers murdered and Volunteers who have died. And no matter how “sexy” the new recruiting techniques may be, that subject will never register at the same level.

The Peace Corps’ relationship with the media over the decades has been complex. The agency has been portrayed in many formats: public service announcements,



Hollywood movies, articles about Volunteers. Many of us remember the AdCouncil’s “The Toughest Job You’ll Ever Love” campaign.

It was a 30-year initiative funded by an initial Peace Corps budget that had the foresight to dedicate a substantial share to advertising. However, as the media landscape has changed over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to get

the word out about an organization that, for the most part, falls into the public interest category.

The Peace Corps story is about the long game. While stories of war are often quickly (and many times inaccurately)

Aside from the fact that all Americans pay for this agency with their tax dollars, it is also one of the few tools in our “peace chest.” Even while the world is often at times suspicious of our country’s motives, the Peace Corps represents values that are



Interviewing Anita Siegel (Honduras 1974-1976), retired Public Health Director, Alameda County, Colo. She talked about being a bicultural Volunteer.

distilled to the good guys and the bad guys, the complexities of peace are difficult to capture in a soundbite. It is a time where the widest possible reach often means the shortest possible snippet of information, and the word “war” is used at the drop of a dime: “War on” this and “War on” that. But when it comes to talking about peace, people’s minds drift to visions of doves, vapid beauty pageant responses, and hopeless idealists.

So how and where do we talk about the Peace Corps outside of the Peace Corps community? More importantly, why should we?

dear to us: altruism, generosity, caring for the community.

“The Peace Corps has a job to do each year in demonstrating its value to American interests,” says Losak. “It’s not just a foreign policy value, because we are not formal foreign policy, but as President Kennedy said, we must demonstrate that we have an interest in living with other countries, that our interests go beyond economic interests, that our interests are also in being good neighbors. We have to show that side of our country.”

And yet, the Peace Corps seems to have drifted out of the consciousness

ALANA DEJOSEPH



The author as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali.

of the American public. The name rings a bell for many, but often only with a vague reference to John F. Kennedy, maybe a mention of Sargent Shriver. Understanding of it is limited. For some closer to the agency, there is a sense that the Peace Corps has been languishing: working disproportionately hard for minor budget increases, getting tangled up in Washington, D.C. politicking, and finding itself in a silo mentality within individual offices, as well as between the Washington office, the country offices, the Volunteers, and the returned Volunteer community.

What is the forum for that nuanced discussion about the future of an organization that has never reached its potential, and yet has achieved so much more than can ever be measured? The Peace Corps' trajectory has not been what its founders had in mind. And we need to act fast, before we have lost all

the early voices, before the agency—wrapped in the mythology of the Camelot era—completely disappears from the American people's hearts and minds.

I would argue that it is time to double-down on this “bold experiment;” not just increase the size and budget of the organization, but bring the Peace Corps back into the public discourse to reclaim and redefine a Peace Corps for the 21st century.

For me, doubling down has taken the form of producing “*A Towering Task*”—a landmark documentary about the Peace Corps past, present, and future.

The film is named after the memo by the same name crafted by Warren Wiggins and Bill Josephson that became the blue print for the agency. And the

Peace Corps’ mission continues to be a towering task; one that is important, complex, frequently misunderstood, and fraught with challenges, but worthy beyond the clichés so often bantered about.

And boy, do we have a story to tell!

The Peace Corps started like a Hollywood movie: middle of the night speeches, student campaigns, and heroic battles to create an agency for peace out of vague notions and strong convictions. It was called into being in the dramatic, idealistic, messy, Cold War era 1960s. But it doesn’t end with Shriver and Wofford at the Mayflower Hotel. It doesn’t even end with the first Volunteers in Ghana and Colombia. We can tell of heroics and intrigue, of insider and international politics, the ripple effects of almost 220,000 returned Volunteers. We can tell of an agency wrestling for its independence, grappling

to define its purpose, and relinquishing its institutional memory to RPCVs and host country nationals. The story of the Peace Corps acts as a prism to some of today’s toughest questions about service, community, international relations, social justice, and climate change.

Therefore it is not only urgent, it is imperative that this story be told—not only among us, but also to the general public. The discourse should be raised from nostalgic notions to a vital discussion about the U.S. role in the world, not as a military force, but as a “wager of peace.”

Historians, journalists, host country nationals, RPCVs/PCVs and Peace Corps staff can consider the implications of political pressures, international influences, and lessons learned. From the basis of this history we ask: What is the relevance of the Peace Corps going forward?

And so, when it bleeds—and deaths and murder in the Peace Corps do happen—then there will be context. With this story told, there will be more than isolated tales of systemic or human failure (and those happen as well). There will be a basis of understanding of the complex, challenging, frustrating, and inspiring tapestry that is the Peace Corps.

---

**Alana DeJoseph** (Mali 1992-1994) has worked in video and film production for over 20 years. She was associate producer of the PBS documentaries “*The Greatest Good*” (about the history of the US Forest Service) and *Green Fire* (about conservationist Aldo Leopold).

For more information on “*A Towering Task*”, please, visit [www.peacecorpsdocumentary.com](http://peacecorpsdocumentary.com). The program is currently in the beginning stages of production and is intended to air on PBS in 2017. To support the production of this documentary, please make your donations to the National Peace Corps Association, indicating that the donation is for the Peace Corps Documentary (*A Towering Task*).

# A LENS ON LEGACY

## Capturing the modern Peace Corps experience

By Alan Toth

**T**he sign read Weenen. It's a small town in KwaZulu Natal. Above the name was a street sign, indicating that the crossroad was Retief Street, though it was difficult to read, as the area surrounding the word Retief was pockmarked with bullet holes.

I was in South Africa, shooting "Posh Corps", a documentary about modern Peace Corps Volunteers. I set up the tripod and camera next to the road specifically to capture the sign. The almost illegible name of Retief Street was a very telling reminder of the turbulent history of South Africa. In order to capture Peace Corps Volunteers as characters, I knew that I would not be able to delve into these historic details in the documentary. It was a shame, because like everything else in South Africa, the historical details are epic. But I shot anyway.

Weenen is in the Battlefields region of the Drakensberg Mountains, so named for the deadly tribal conflicts that repeatedly engulfed the region in the early 1800s. Shaka the Great had unified the disparate Ngundi tribes in the region, giving birth to the Zulu nation. Shortly thereafter, the Voortrekkers, a tribe of Afrikaners, arrived.

Piet Retief, the Afrikaner leader who inspired the name of the street in Weenen, led his people away from the shores of South Africa into the interior. Their lands had been annexed by the British Empire, and the Afrikaners, descended from earlier Dutch settlers, were seeking freedom from British dominion. They trekked across the vast deserts, mountains, and plains of South Africa, eventually arriving in what is now KwaZulu Natal.

Their negotiations with the Zulus to purchase lands in the Zulu Nation soured. Approximately 200 Afrikaners, including Piet Retief, were killed by the Zulus. The surviving Voortrekkers managed to escape and establish a new settlement called Weenen, an Afrikaans word which means "to weep". The name was fitting, as Weenen was right at the center of the wars that followed between English, Afrikaners, and Zulus. Eventually, the English relinquished their claim in South Africa, and Weenen became the place in which the methods and philosophies of Apartheid were first conceived.

Ryan, the Peace Corps Volunteer who I had come to interview, lived in Ezitendeni, which stood as a virtual tribute to this legacy. Ezitendeni is a township outside of Weenen—in Zulu it means "under a tent". The white inhabitants of Weenen repossessed the Zulu lands in the area and redistributed the land to Afrikaner owners. The Zulus were moved to a temporary tent camp until they could be permanently relocated. This permanent relocation never happened. Ezitendeni became a blacks-only zone under the Apartheid regime. It evolved from a tent camp to a full township.

Though South Africa is now a democratic nation, the scars of Apartheid still linger. The epic history still looms over everything that happens in the country. Every Peace Corps Volunteer must learn to cope with constant reminders of



Scenes from the town of Weenen.

exploitation. At first glance, the relatively modern infrastructure may seem like it would make service easier, but even newer infrastructure within South Africa is built on foundations first imposed by the Apartheid regime.

Ryan's site is a perfect example. Ezitendeni has a few paved roads, plumbing, storm sewers, and street lights. It is extremely modern by African standards. But the Zulu residents, descended from farmers and herders who were forced to give up their livelihoods and move to a camp, were provided with only the most basic education under Apartheid.

How comforting is this infrastructure to a Volunteer when it serves as a reminder of the socio-economic trap from which the population cannot escape? Ezitendeni perfectly demonstrates one of the hidden truths about volunteering in South Africa: Peace Corps Volunteers in South Africa must be mentally tough, almost callous, if they are to make it through their service. It was a question I wanted to explore.

Ryan was certainly tough. She had been described to me anecdotally as, "a bulldozer." Nothing was going to get in the way of her goals. She had extended her service for a third year in order to create a youth development organization in Ezitendeni, the Simunye Youth Development Project. Ryan dragged her organization into legitimacy through sheer stubbornness. It seemed to me that her methods were often a bit inflexible, but the results were hard to ignore. Ryan's organization had undoubtedly made a real difference in many people's lives.

In Ryan's view, a Peace Corps Volunteer should be totally selfless. The Peace Corps Volunteer should drop into a community, integrate deeply, take no credit, and then disappear only when the objective of sustainability has been achieved. This was a problem for me. My documentary was focused on the Peace Corps Volunteer lifestyle. Ryan would have to be a real character, and she preferred to think of her organization as



On the outskirts of Weenen

the star of the show.

Whenever I asked her questions about her Peace Corps experience, she diverted to talking points about Simunye. After two days of shooting, we were both frustrated. I was frustrated that I couldn't seem to reach the real person behind the Peace Corps Volunteer. Ryan was frustrated that I was more interested in her than in the organization. We actually got into an argument about the issue after a day of shooting in the rural areas. I seriously considered giving up on Ryan's story. I started thinking that it might be smarter to pack up the car, drive away, and find another Volunteer.

I was convinced to stay by my associate producer. We worked out a plan that we thought might help us reach Ryan on a personal level. Rather than doing a 90-minute interview every day, as I had done at other Volunteer sites, I scheduled a single four-hour interview for my final day at Ryan's site. Hopefully, she would be too tired by the end to stick to the talking points. We started in the morning. I asked Ryan all about her organization, about the struggles of development, about the nitty-gritty details. After several hours, I broached the subject of her personal struggles. It worked. She dropped the talking points and started talking about her own feelings.

As Peace Corps South Africa Volunteers, Ryan and I had both, through tenacity and stubbornness, endured the mental endurance test that accompanies

life there. Thanks to these attributes, Ryan managed to create Simunye, which has truly transformed the lives of youths in Ezithendeni and has now been absorbed into a larger South African NGO that operates on a national scale.

I managed to finish the first documentary to capture the lives of Peace Corps volunteers during their service. Two years later, "Posh Corps" is more than just a documentary about the Volunteer experience in a rapidly modernizing country—it is now a media platform featuring full-length Peace Corps-focused documentaries, short films, podcasts, and Volunteer blogs. I'm thrilled to announce that I've recently partnered with Allen Mondell (Sierra Leone 1963-1965), whose own feature film, *Waging Peace*, covers the Peace Corps story from a broader socio-political perspective, and will soon be available on the Posh Corps platform.

---

**Alan Toth** (South Africa 2010-2012) is a filmmaker and video producer educated in multimedia production and fine art who has worked for many years in television and publishing. His feature documentary about the modern Volunteer experience, "Posh Corps", is the first film produced by a former Peace Corps Volunteer to be screened at Peace Corps headquarters, and the US Agency for International Development. He is currently working on a short film about creative and unorthodox recycling practices in Jamaica.

# SERVING AS THE FIRST

## A Same-Sex Couple Perspective

By Jessica and Khayla\*

*In May 2013, the Peace Corps announced that it would begin accepting same-sex couples for Peace Corps Volunteer service. The following article was originally written as a letter to be shared by the Peace Corps Peru country director with his staff, in hopes of easing their nerves about opening service to same-sex couples. It was subsequently published in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Returned Peace Association newsletter, and is reprinted here with permission.*

My partner and I knew that we always wanted to join the Peace Corps. Like all those who have come before us, it was a dream. We didn't want to become people in their aging years proclaiming "I should have... I would have.... I could have..." So we did. Knowing we couldn't serve together, we tried in our interviews to at least get placed on the same continent. As we received our invitations our hearts broke. Africa and South America. It doesn't get much farther. With one of our staging dates coming six months before the other, we were going to be apart for 32 months. Thirty-two. Even now the number is hard to grasp. But this was our dream, how could we not take the leap?

So I went off to staging first, and that was the first time I truly felt my heart break. It wasn't for another 16 months that my heart would be whole, when thanks to the wonderful staff of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Ecuador that I was able to put my pieces back together.

I am incredibly grateful and proud to be a part of one of the last couples that will ever have to feel the pain of being separated. The pain that comes only because I fell in love with someone who checks the same box as me on forms. Female. It's a huge and scary leap that the Peace Corps has taken into a new age, but if you spend 10 minutes with my partner

and I, and see our relentless love and gratitude to be serving together, you'll know it's the right choice.

First, let's touch on the challenges that come as a same-sex couple serving abroad. With regards to being out at site, my partner and I have made the decision to not tell any host country nationals about our relationship. The decision was a personal one, and ultimately was made to maintain our safety in country. I work with three wonderful women, whom I've witnessed talking positively about homosexuals in Ecuador, but I still have reservations about telling them because of the gossipy nature here. I don't think my coworkers would ever maliciously tell anyone about our relationship, but everyone I've met separately in Loja seems to know each other in one way or another. So, one small piece of gossip could become a universal truth in less than a week. We each go to the other person's organization/school to help when we have the day off from our respective jobs in the Health and Teaching English as a Second Language programs, and each of our colleagues loves the other. Any time either has an after-hours event or social gathering, they make sure we are bringing our lovely roommate and friend. Keeping this secret is absolutely a challenge; finding new reasons for why I don't want an Ecuadorean boyfriend, dodging blinddates from host family members, and above all having to watch as men make passes in cafes or bars at my partner and not being able to tell them that not only is she taken—but that she's with me!—can be trying.

Another challenge is not being treated the same as married couples by staff and other Ecuadoreans. When my partner and I are booked for a hostel room in the capital city for medical purposes, the hostel staff is just doing their job when assigning another female Volunteer to our room or requesting that we move into a room with another female Volunteer, because that is their standard procedure. But if we were a heterosexual couple, no one would ever be added to the room. We wouldn't have to worry about acting "normal" in front of strangers or explaining when we slip up and call the other one "honey." This can be helped by the Peace Corps staff keeping the couple in mind and making sure the hostel puts them in a double room. It's an extra step, but being treated as a normal married



In front of a municipal government building where Jessica and Khayla often had meetings with local officials. "The picture is only a fraction of the mural that extends to the left and eventually includes stained glass. It's quite beautiful."

couple will gain the unyielding respect of your future same-sex couples. When we encountered this situation for ourselves, Peace Corps Ecuador handled it quickly and professionally, something we appreciated. It created a feeling of support that we will never forget. Additionally, if a same-sex couple puts in a reimbursement for the cheapest double room they could find on their way to mid-service—when they could have spent less if they had stayed in a dorm room with strangers—be kind and accept the receipt.

Again, it's the little things that will make your couple feel safe and welcomed.

Although we have to watch what we say and how we act around our landlord, one of the advantages of living in Ecuador as a same-sex female couple is that everyone who knows we live together is overwhelmingly supportive and genuinely relieved that we have each other for company. This is definitely a cultural advantage for us. However, that's not to say that male couples would not be subject to suspicion. Because we are foreigners in a new country and culture, we would recommend more than anything that a same sex-couple be aware of their site's views on homosexuality when making decisions about how to act and what information is shared with host country nationals.

Finally, and somewhat surprisingly, other challenges that we've faced have originated with other Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs). Again, nothing that has happened was done maliciously, but rather because they aren't constantly thinking about their sexuality or trying to keep their relationship private. For example, sometimes we will invite another Volunteer over for dinner and they show up at our door with an Ecuadorean we've never met. At this point we have to run and shut two doors (one to our actual bedroom, and one to the room we tell others is my room, which sorry to digress, but same-sex couples will most likely need to rent two-bedroom homes if they want to invite host country nationals over and maintain their relationship privacy), and hide anything around the apartment that may hint that



Jessica and Khayla

PEACE CORPS

## BACKGROUND

### Same-sex couples in the Peace Corps

In 2013, the Peace Corps announced it would start accepting applications from same-sex couples.

Same-sex couples can be placed in any of the Peace Corps host countries where homosexuality is not outlawed, about half of Peace Corps posts.

To prepare for the change, the agency appointed a same-sex couple training specialist to implement the initiative, which had been years in the making.

The in-country trainings, ranging from three to five days, prepare staff to support same-sex couples, including developing an implementation action plan and cohesive message; preparing for safety and security, political, and/or cultural challenges; connecting posts to host country LGBT advocacy networks; and connecting staff to current LGBT and ally Volunteers.

Sessions during the training cover foundational intercultural, diversity, and inclusion concepts; introduction of LGBT terminology and concepts; a panel of LGBT Peace Corps Volunteers; a panel of host country LGBT nongovernmental organization leaders and activists; an analysis of LGBT support strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; Volunteer and staff support role-plays and scenarios; and action planning for staff.

To date, the training has taken place in Albania, Cambodia, El Salvador, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, and Thailand. The agency plans to conduct eight trainings per year. Future trainings will be prioritized based on pre-training readiness assessments, same-sex couple applicant trends, and post's willingness and interest.

*For more information, visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/howvol/couplesquestions/>.*

we are a couple, like an anniversary banner I once had hung up in the kitchen. PCVs don't immediately see why it would be important to mention they are bringing someone over whom we don't know, because it's not something they've ever had to think about.

They also may forget themselves and make passing comments about our relationship around others, creating a stressful moment as we wait to see if the other guest didn't hear, or if we need to explain ourselves/think of a quick lie. In another situation my partner was outed to one of her colleagues by another Volunteer. This placed her in a difficult situation, not knowing what her counterpart would think, say or do with this newfound information. Thankfully everything turned out okay; my partner's program manager was incredibly supportive, met with her and her counterpart (who ended up being both understanding of the delicacy of the situation and accepting of our relationship) and to this day we haven't had any problems. That being said, most Peace Corps posts have begun preparing LGBTQ couple-specific training for the office staff, but it's important to remember sensitivity, respect and outing training for Volunteers as well. Despite having listed the above challenges, we want to mention that more than anything they're just things to think about. Things to be aware of to help anticipate and prevent any potential bumps in the road.

The good! Let's talk about the good! My partner and I are ecstatic to be serving together, and all of the Volunteers close to us are happy to have us here as well. About twice a month we host small dinners at our apartment for the local PCVs, taking a poll and cooking whatever people are craving. I love to cook and my partner loves to bake. I wouldn't say we are the best chefs in the world, but you certainly won't hear any complaints from the Loja area volunteers! We also adopted a kitten a few months ago named Milo (pronounced "Meelow", the Spanish way!) He's adorable and always the hit of the

party when we host group dinners.

Additionally, my partner and I have taken on a secondary project teaching two classes a week at the Universidad Nacional de Loja. Each class is three hours long, and we are teaching students who are studying to become Ecuador's future English teachers. They are so driven and dedicated; it's an honor to be a part of their education.

All in all, my partner and I couldn't be happier. We are living a dream we never imagined could or would ever become a reality. The opportunity to live and serve together as Peace Corps Volunteers is absolutely incredible! We feel complete and happy and beyond appreciative. But at the end of the day, we're still Volunteers, the same as any other couple serving in any country; we just have to put a little more thought into our actions

when we are out in public. The majority of our interactions with Peace Corps staff are the same as with any other Volunteer: Volunteer Report Forms, questions for program managers, calling medical when ill, etc. We go to work, interact with our communities, plan projects, engage in mutual cultural exchanges, and truly love being a part of Peace Corps.

We recognize that introducing same-sex couples to Peace Corps is scary. But it's also unbelievably exciting.

*\*Jessica and Khayla served as Peace Corps Volunteers in Ecuador. They are now readjusting to life back in the United States and "recall [their] time in Peace Corps frequently and fondly." Their last names have been withheld to respect their privacy.*



## Nonviolence Studies UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Understand the strategies, tactics and tools to help prevent and resolve problems without violence.

- Change the conditions that foster violence.
- Find better ways of resolving conflict.
- Explore theories on human rights, human wrongs and social justice.
- Change your environment, your relationships and yourself for the better.

**Apply today!**

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Global Campus

VISIT [global.k-state.edu/artsci/nonviolence](http://global.k-state.edu/artsci/nonviolence)

# KURANDZA MEANS LOVE

## Returned Volunteer starts social enterprise to help women in Mozambique

By Emily Schaefer

**W**hen Elisabetta Colabianchi signed up for the Peace Corps, she didn't know where she would be placed or exactly what she would be doing, but she knew that she wanted to change the world. She was assigned to go to Mozambique, anticipating from there that she would be changing lives. Little did she know that Mozambique would change her life too, in a major way.

In her Community Health Volunteer assignment at a health center in a small village, Colabianchi mainly counseled HIV-positive patients on treatment adherence, prevention of vertical transmission to their children, and how to lead a "positive" healthy lifestyle. She felt like this work was really making an impact—through counseling pregnant mothers on how to prevent transmission to their babies, they would be born HIV-free. In meeting patients, Colabianchi began to understand the challenges they

faced regarding HIV treatment. Many patients lived in rural villages several miles away from the district hospital. This meant they would inconsistently come to get their medication because they could not pay for transportation to the hospital every month.

Colabianchi wanted to help solve this problem. Working with her good friend and community counterpart Percina Miocha, she created an income generation activity for patients in one of the rural villages. The two women wrote a grant to start a sewing cooperative, procured the necessary equipment, built a small workshop out of mud, and began teaching a group of women how to sew. In addition, they taught health, entrepreneurship, and financial management.

By working with the women, Colabianchi built, in her words, a new extended family. She also saw how the project helped the women adhere to their medication schedule and stay healthy. After returning to the United States, Colabianchi found a way to continue giving back to her extended family of women and their community. She created a social enterprise, Kurandza, to connect these women with the international market and share their stories and beautiful handmade pieces with the world.

Named after the word for "to love" in Changana, the native language of the village where Colabianchi volunteered, Kurandza sells fair trade jewelry

and products made from *capulana*, a traditional wax print cotton cloth found in Mozambique and many other African countries. Sales from the pieces go back to the women and their community through scholarships, trainings, and development and social programs. The women and community members have more easily been able to afford and receive medication, send their children to school, buy food, improve their homes, and more. They have also been able to start saving for development projects in the community and potentially run their own businesses in the future. The group has expanded since its creation and accepts new members regardless of HIV status.

For Colabianchi, running a company is a challenge, albeit an extremely fulfilling one. As a biology and foreign languages double major during her undergraduate career, Colabianchi did not study business in school. This means every day brings new things to learn, like ways to improve the company and make more of an impact.

"Every day I know that I am helping change lives, even if it is just for nine women and their extended families, neighbors, and friends," says Colabianchi. "It has been difficult to run the company from the United States with all the women in Mozambique, but luckily there are plenty of ways to communicate, like the Internet and telephone calls. The most fun part of starting a business is seeing its impact, both for our customers here in the States—being able to be fashionable while making a difference—as well as for our women in Mozambique. The fact that this company is providing jobs for nine women is a huge responsibility, but it motivates me to do my best to make it a success!"

Colabianchi appreciates the chances



In her community in Mozambique, Elisabetta is participating in a "naming" party to officialize her namesake, Lindsey Brianna da Elisabetta. Elisabetta and the women in her group are all matching, wearing dresses and skirts made from the same *capulana* fabric.



Bolts of capulana fabric.

she has been given to create success for a number of people. From the small idea of teaching women how to sew, she created a way for a whole community to benefit and improve. She hopes to continue to assist and provide education for the community in the future. She credits her experience with the Peace Corps for giving her a new mission, saying, "Volunteering with the Peace Corps has taught me to cherish the small successes. It taught me to be open and flexible to whatever comes my way, to be patient, and above all, to be grateful for everything we have, including the opportunity to reach our dreams."

*For more information about Kurandza, its mission, and its products, visit the home website at [www.kurandza.com](http://www.kurandza.com). To see photographs of pieces, follow Kurandza on Instagram by searching "lovekurandza," by visiting [www.instagram.com/lovekurandza/](https://www.instagram.com/lovekurandza/), or [www.kurandza.com](http://www.kurandza.com).*

**Emily Schaefer** is a summer communications intern with the National Peace Corps Association. She attends the University of Maryland.



Elisabetta with two women from her "Mother to Mother" support group at the local hospital where she worked.

ELISABETTA COLABIANCHI



## It's not too late to become a doctor

### The Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program at Bryn Mawr College

*Realize your dream to become a physician at one of the nation's oldest, strongest, and most respected postbaccalaureate premedical programs.*

- For women and men changing career direction
- Intensive, full-time preparation for medical school in one year
- Highly respected by medical schools—many look for Bryn Mawr postbacs
- Over 98 percent acceptance rate into medical school
- Early acceptance programs at selected medical schools—more than any other postbac program
- Supportive, individual academic and premedical advising
- Ideal size—small enough for personal attention, yet large enough for diverse perspectives
- Wide range of medically related volunteer and job opportunities and programs

**BRYN MAWR COLLEGE**

POSTBACCALAUREATE PREMEDICAL PROGRAM  
Canwyl House | Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
610-526-7350 | [postbac@brynmawr.edu](mailto:postbac@brynmawr.edu)  
[www.brynmawr.edu/postbac/](http://www.brynmawr.edu/postbac/)



FORREST COPELAND

Far Left: What do we want? Gender equality! When do we want it? Now! AGE Summit participants doing a call and response during the Women First 5K in Addis.  
Left: PCVs Merre Bacot and Katie Michalovic show off their medals alongside a few of the girls from the AGE Summit who finished the Women First 5K.

## ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY SUMMIT

Preparing students to make a difference

By Samantha Rhodes

"You are strong!" "You are brave!" they yelled in English and Amharic, one of Ethiopia's national languages. A group of five male Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) stood with eight Ethiopian high school boys along the streets of Addis Ababa, the nation's capital, which served as a racecourse for Great Ethiopian Run's Women First 5K. The only way they could participate was by chanting, cheering,

men can do," shared Tsega Dessie, a tenth grade student from Woliso, Oromia who participated in the Action for Gender Equality (AGE) Summit.

Race officials estimated that over 7,000 girls and women competed in the 12th annual Women First 5K. It is meant to be a stepping-stone for female Ethiopian runners and a celebration of women's development in the East African country.

31 other Ethiopian high school girls and 22 female Peace Corps Volunteers. In total, 40 high school students and 27 PCVs either ran or cheered as part of Peace Corps Ethiopia's AGE Summit. Peace Corps Ethiopia's Gender and Development (GAD) Committee held the three-day training for select Ethiopian youth and their PCV counterparts from March 13 -15, 2015.



The girls laugh as they show how to safely wrap a "baby" during "Walk a Kilometer in Her Shoes."; Two male participants peel vegetables during "Walk a Kilometer in Her Shoes" as the girls look on.; "Gender Fishbowl" allows girls and guys to share their experiences related to gender issues and develop a better understanding of the opposite sex's perspective.

and clapping because this annual race, centered around International Women's Day on March 8, is open only to females.

"The race was very, very interesting. I like it and I hope the females would like it more than me because it was very important time for them to show the world that they can do anything that

Nur Mulugeta, a ninth grader from Debre Tabor, Amhara talks about the confidence she gained from competing in the race: "I will not do it. It is so dangerous. It is difficult for me. I can't do it. But after I start doing it, it makes me more happy and proud of myself."

Nur participated in the race alongside

PCVs around the country competed for spots to the Summit by completing gender-based projects at their sites. GAD gave Volunteers a list of gender-related activities that they could complete for points. The PCVs with the most points at the end of the three-month long contest won tickets to the Summit. Each PCV



All of the AGE Summit participants pose with Ms. Hayat Ahmed after the closing ceremony.

then chose two students with leadership potential that they had been working with to accompany them to the Summit.

"We want to make sure that PCVs are doing sustainable gender and development work at site. We asked them to work with the same 15-25 students for a minimum of 10 hours because that's what produces real behavioral change,"

Ambassador Patricia Haslach spoke at the opening ceremony and Ms. Hayet Ahmed—a United Nations HIV/ AIDS Ambassador and the first woman to represent Ethiopia at the Miss World Competition—was the keynote speaker for the closing ceremony.

One of the most popular activities during the Summit was "Walk a Kilometer

in Her Shoes." It is an obstacle course of every day activities—fetching water, chopping vegetables, and washing clothes—but, the catch is, only the boys compete. The girls stand along the obstacle course judging the completion of each task. Once the girls have given a boy the green light, he can run over to the next obstacle. It's better to walk, though, as one

participant found out, because the boys are carrying soccer balls on their backs to symbolize small children.

Ethiopian girls and women are still expected to do most, if not all, of the housework. Eighth grader Eden Tesfaye, from Agena in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, shared what she learned from the activity: "Boys

can help girls by working . . . If she wash the clothes, he must do wat." Eden is referring to cooking wat—a traditional Ethiopian dish similar to stew.

The AGE Summit was created to train students who showed leadership potential during Camp GLOWs (Girls Leading Our World)—a Peace Corps worldwide initiative started by Peace Corps Romania to address the specific issues that local girls face in host countries—and in PCVs' clubs at their local schools. It covers a range of gender-related, health, and life skills topics. The students receive a copy of the GAD manual and spend a session planning which lessons they want to lead back in their local schools. The AGE Summit equips and trains Ethiopian students so that they can go on to be junior counselors at Camp GLOWs, Gender Club leaders, and full-time ambassadors for gender equality in Ethiopia.



Helen Baye of Debre Tabor, Amhara shares her thoughts on gender roles during a group discussion.

said GAD National Coordinator Jayniece Del Rosario.

For the AGE Summit, GAD created a program of gender-related activities, which included a career panel of accomplished Ethiopian guests, like Bruktawit Tigabu, the founder of Whiz Kids Ethiopia, and Yetneberish Nigussie, a blind disability rights attorney, U.S.

**Samantha Rhodes** is a current Education Volunteer serving in Ethiopia. Peace Corps Ethiopia just revived its direct teaching program, and Samantha is happily teaching ninth graders in Bale Goba as part of its first cohort. Samantha is also Peace Corps Ethiopia's Gender and Development Communications Officer. She is from Brown County, Ohio and attended the University of Cincinnati.

# PICTURE ME

## How does one convey the immensity?

By Jessica "Neo" Walker

**"H**ey, *lekgoal!* Take my photo!" Hey, English person. White person.

These people. They shout at me as I walk down the sunbaked roads. "Do you remember me?" he asks.

"Of course I remember you. I took your photo."

"Yes, so you can remember me when you go back to Alaska. I will come check you there."

"I promise I will not forget you." *Please go away.* I remember this guy. I remember taking his photo because he asked. I didn't give him my phone number when he asked. He knows where I live. They all know where I live.

Every day when I step outside of my compound, the kids run up to me for high fives and greetings in English. The walk to school is accompanied with dirt and snot covered hands, old men tipping their hats and women staring at me curiously. They know I am not one of them. My skin is the same color as theirs, but when I say hello, they know. They know I have a camera.

They know I have a camera and sometimes they shout at me across the road, "*O a legkoal!* Take my photo!" You are a white person! Take my photo!

This is a regular occurrence in my village. I try to remember my family and friends want to see what my life is like, and I try keeping my blog updated with new and exciting stories, but mostly my days are not exciting. They're just normal. I wake up. I leave the house. Any number of children adorably accosts me. I go to school. The kids follow me home from school. And sometimes, I take their pictures.

Sometimes the photos are serious

portraits, faces hardened against the glare of the sun. Other times, they're candid shots, taken sneakily while no one is looking, but everything is happening. Occasionally a bird will sit patiently while I line up my shot on my 1.3mp camera on

means grass. '*Wa*' means of. River of Grass. It's beautiful, really." I insist.

I want to keep talking about the pictures though. The toddlers who rush up to greet me every day as I walk by, or the cows that meander down the



Students crowd around as tightly as possible, trying to be photographed by Jessica Walker

my phone.

When I show these pictures to my family and friends back home, I am always surprised by their first question. "What is your village called again?"

If I've said it once, I've said it a million times. "*Molapowabojang*."

"*Mopolo*-what what?"

A grin spreads across my face as I rattle it off again. "*Molapowabojang*, duh."

They ask me to slow it down, and I do. "*Molapo*' means stream or river. '*Bojang*'

road. The river for which my beautiful village was named. The old men who have beautiful gap-toothed smiles until I hold my camera up, and then their features are consumed by severity. The women who bow away from the lens, certain they are too shy for photos. And of course, my favorite subject, the children who charge at each other, faces upturned like sunflowers following my every move, desperate to have a moment of their existence immortalized on my

JESSICA "NEO" WALKER

hard drive.

*These people*, though. "I am never going to remember the name of your village. It's a mouthful."

I nod at my computer screen. "This is true. But did you see these kids? This is why I'm here."

I feel the polite smile returned through the computer screen. "How come you're not in any of them?"

"It's kind of hard to take a selfie with a DSLR," I reply with a bemused shrug.

"So, I had left over pizza for lunch today..."

There is a pang of disappointment, followed swiftly by the deep bellyache of jealousy (man, what I wouldn't do for some left over pizza...) but it's a familiar feeling. How does one convey the immensity of pride, honor, and love that is captured in a single moment, in a handful of photos? I mean, this is my life. These people, these cows, these trees, they are the setting for my life. How does someone who will never see it, understand? I know it's different. It's unimaginable, even when you're staring at it with unabashed interest.

*Ah, yes. You have trees? I have trees as well. Why, I have even seen a goat before!*

Perhaps when I am officially a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, my friends and family will sit down with me and allow me to talk in detail about my favorite students, the GLOW Camps, and things that were the same but not, like the Milky Way sky at night. Perhaps I will talk about the nuances of a Botswana summer with little rain, and the desert winter chill and they will understand. If not, well, at least I have my photographs to share.

---

**Jessica Walker** (Botswana 2013-2015) is from Anchorage, Alaska. She attended University of Alaska Anchorage. In addition, she has spent over five years working with at risk youth building employment skills and helping to further their education. Jessica currently serves as a Life Skills Volunteer.



The crowd waits, spilling out of the crowded garage in Molapoabojang, to celebrate the recent university graduates.

# Learn how to impact

# DECISION MAKING

# AROUND THE GLOBE



PRESS CLUB BRUSSELS Europe





Pursue a master's in

## ADVOCACY IN

## THE GLOBAL

## ENVIRONMENT

WE PROVIDE A HANDS-ON EDUCATION, NOT A THEORETICAL EXPLORATION—ALL FROM EXPERTS IN THE GLOBAL ADVOCACY FIELD.

Our innovative, experiential curriculum is designed for professionals seeking to advance causes or commerce with NGOs, corporations, public affairs/relations firms, and international organizations.

Through our Global Perspective Residencies students learn about issues facing companies and organizations directly from top political, governmental, media, non-profit, and business leaders in Beijing, Brussels, Hong Kong, Istanbul, London, São Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo, and Washington, DC.

CLASSES IN

WASHINGTON, DC

OR ONLINE

Learn more at [www.gspm.gwu.edu](http://www.gspm.gwu.edu)

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions programs against any person based on that person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The Graduate School  
of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Learn more at [www.gspm.gwu.edu](http://www.gspm.gwu.edu)

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions programs against any person based on that person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

ADM-1415\_20

# COMING HOME, FEELING DIFFERENT

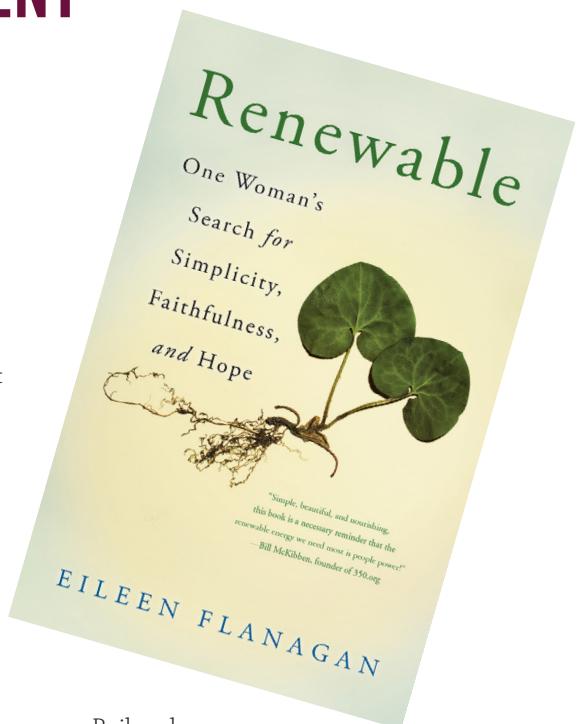
An excerpt from *Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope*

By Eileen Flanagan

I joined the Peace Corps in 1984—the year Apple introduced the Macintosh personal computer. For two and a half years, I taught junior secondary school in Bobonong, a village poised on the eastern tip of Botswana between South Africa and Zimbabwe. When I came home in early 1987, Oprah Winfrey's show had recently become nationally syndicated, "Walk Like an Egyptian" was top of the pop charts, and Apple was about to release the first

Macintosh to display color. Since I'd been gone, ATMs had replaced lines at the bank, as well as some of the bank tellers. A computer was replacing the card catalog at our local library. I felt as out of date as my college typewriter, which now sat in the hall closet of my parents' apartment, just outside of Philadelphia.

I'd grown up on the Main Line, the wealthy string of suburbs named after the Pennsylvania



Railroad line that used to run from Philadelphia west toward Lancaster and on to Chicago. To pass the months before I began a master's in African studies at Yale, I worked for caterers on the Main Line, where a wedding reception easily ran \$30,000, well over the U.S. national average annual income. Whether in an elegant private home or a chandelier-lit rented hall, there was a table during the appetizer hour stacked with bread, fruit, and cheese—a cornucopia arranged into a work of art but barely touched as we passed trays of fried wontons and chicken satay before the real meal even began. For a buffet, we cooked massive amounts of each dish, just in case everyone picked salmon one night instead of beef. Afterwards we packed a sample of leftovers for the hosts and dumped the rest into construction-strength trash bags.

A few years earlier, when I was an



With Mmadithapel Ditirwa circa 1986, just outside Bobonong.



Eileen in August 2012 visiting Bobonong Secondary School, where she taught in the 1980s, with the former Headmaster Sam Rahube.

undergraduate at Duke, I might have wondered if I would have such an elegant wedding myself someday. Now, as I dumped aluminum trays full of prime filet and grilled chicken that had never been touched, I couldn't help but remember how my neighbor in Bobonong had taught me not to waste even the chicken's feet or head. Other former volunteers were the only people who understood how alienated I felt. One told me about walking into an American supermarket when he got back. After years of craving chocolate chip cookies, he'd stood under bright lights in the cookie aisle overwhelmed by the number of choices and finally left without buying anything.

Although the shop nearest my hut in

Bobonong didn't have as much variety as one aisle of a U.S. supermarket, I'd had something even better there—a relationship with the owner. Once he discovered that I loved Cadbury bars, he'd kept me supplied with a daily dose of milk chocolate, which I washed down with a pint of fresh milk, a thin lip of cream on top. Granted, upon our reunion my mother had asked if I was pregnant, but there was something satisfyingly simple about knowing what my snack would be each afternoon on my way home from school and having the people who sold it to me greet me by name.

I had never paid much attention to my appearance—even less in Bobonong since there were no mirrors. Suddenly

I was back in a culture where mirrors were everywhere and “fat” was not a compliment. I joined the YMCA—an Olympic-length pool being a luxury unavailable in Bobonong—and swam off the fifteen pounds of Peace Corps weight gain. When I visited my best friend from college, she gently mentioned that people in the United States still wore deodorant, a habit I had given up, along with shaving and wearing makeup. I bought some deodorant, chagrined, but kept my hairy legs in defiance.

Feeling different from people I loved was the most painful part of coming home. When my father was in the hospital with a chronic mix of heart and lung problems, I visited him each day but didn't know what to talk about. I chatted more easily with another college friend, until she left the kitchen faucet running and felt criticized when I walked over and turned it off. I wanted to explain how hauling buckets on my head had taught me not to waste water, how little was actually needed to bathe when you used a shallow basin. I wanted to tell her about a woman I knew in Bobonong who wouldn't pour out the remnants of a cup of tea without walking it over to the nearest tree, but I struggled to figure out how to tell these stories without sounding like the kind of preachy zealot I had recoiled from in college.

I remembered one night five years earlier when I was a student at Duke. I was standing in the checkout line of the student snack bar, buying Mint Milano cookies for a friend, and feeling pretty good about myself when I ran into a classmate who seemed to be majoring in student activism. She spotted the cookies and said, “Don’t you care about tomato pickers?” Apparently Campbell’s wasn’t treating its farm workers right, and Campbell’s owned Pepperidge Farm, which made the Mint Milanos.

“There is a boycott,” she told me acidly,

**Continued on Page 37**

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## Peace Corps memoirs

By John Coyne

**F**or six decades now Peace Corps writers have been going back, at least on paper, to their host countries. In novels, short stories, poetry and essays, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) are writing about their time as Volunteers. Their Peace Corps tours have been a source of material, a creative impulse. For many of these writers it has become their literary territory.

Unlike writers who choose the expatriate life, Volunteers don't go to the ends of the earth to escape American civilization or, for that matter, to make money from the labor of others. They go to jobs that take them away from embassies, first-class hotels, and the privilege of being rich foreigners in poor countries. They unpack their belongings, they settle down, they set about to do a job while they begin learning about their new home—its language, geography and culture. And they write.

They begin by writing letters home, as Paul Theroux (Malawi 1963-1965) did from Malawi where he taught secondary school. "My schoolroom is on the Great Rift, and in this schoolroom there is a line of children, heads shaved like prisoners, muscles showing through their rags. These children appear in the morning out of the slowly drifting hoops of fog-wisp. It is chilly, almost cold. There is no visibility at six in the morning; only a fierce white-

out where earth is the patch of dirt under their bare feet, a platform, and the sky is everything else."

Those 'letters home' quickly became memoirs of their Peace Corps experience.

### Peace Corps Memoirs

The first two Peace Corps Volunteer memoirs appeared in 1965 with Arnold Zeitlin's (Ghana 1961-1963) *To The Peace Corps, with Love and Rhoda & Earle Brooks'* (Ecuador 1962-1964) *The Barrios of Manta: A Personal Account of the Peace Corps in Ecuador*. These were followed in 1967 by two books out of Africa, Leonard Levitt's (Tanzania 1963-1965) *An African Season, and Where To, Black Man?* by African-American Ed Smith (Ghana 1962-1964). It wasn't until the final year of the decade that the finest memoir of the Peace Corps' first decade, *Living Poor: A Peace Corps Chronicle*, by Moritz Thomsen (Ecuador 1965-1967), was published.

The first year of the 1970s saw the publication of Paul Cowan's (Ecuador 1966-1967) *The Making of An Un-American: A Dialogue with Experience*, and then in 1977, Lillian Carter's (India 1967-1969) *Away From Home: Letters To My Family*. These 'letters' were written by the mother of our future president Jimmy Carter. In 2002, her grandson, Jason Carter (South Africa 1998-2000), published his own memoir, *Power Lines*.

In those early years of the Peace Corps, the New York publishing

world was flooded with manuscripts by RPCVs. It seemed *every* former Volunteer had a memoir tucked under his or her arm and was seeking a publisher.

In 1972, I went to see an editor in New York about a non-Peace Corps book I was writing with another RPCV, Tom Hebert (Nigeria 1962-64), and after my meeting was over I asked this charming and attractive editor if she would like to go out for dinner.

She paused a moment, contemplating the invitation, and then replied, "Okay, I'll have dinner with you, John, but I won't read your Peace Corps manuscript."

We have been married now for thirty plus years and she has *yet* to read my (unpublished) Peace Corps novel!

However, in the 1980s the publishing gates swung wide open for Peace Corps writers and today, thanks mostly to self-publishing and e-books, there is a long list of memoirs by RPCVs. I won't try and list them all (they are available to order via: [www.peacecorpsworldwide.org](http://www.peacecorpsworldwide.org)), but here is a short list by titles and names of a few of the many fine RPCV memoirs.

### Afghanistan

John Sumser (Afghanistan 1977-1978)  
*A Land Without Time: A Peace Corps Volunteer in Afghanistan*

**Belize**

Katy Perry (Belize 1985–1987) *Drinking from a Tin Cup*

**Benin**

Monique Maria Schmidt (Benin 1998–2000) *Last Moon Dancing: A Memoir of Love and Real Life in Africa*

**Cameroon**

Susana Herrera (Cameroon 1992–1994) *Mango Elephants in the Sun: How Life in an African Village Let Me Be in My Skin*

**Cape Verde**

Eleanor Stanford (Cape Verde 1998–2000) *História, História: Two Years in the Cape Verde Islands*

**Chile**

Thomas J. Scanlon (Chile 1961–1963) *Waiting for the Snow: The Peace Corps Papers of a Charter Volunteer*

**China**

Peter Hessler (China 1996–1998) *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*

**Colombia**

Chris Honoré (Colombia 1967–1969) *Out in the All of It*

**Cote D'Ivorie**

Sarah Erdman (Cote D'Ivorie 1998–2000) *Nine Hills to Nambonkaha.*

**Gabon**

Bonnie Lee Black (Gabon 1996–1998) *How to Cook a Crocodile: A Memoir with Recipes*

**Guatemala**

Ellen Urbani Hiltebrand (Guatemala 1991–1993) *When I Was Elena*

**Honduras**

Larry Lihosit (Honduras 1975–1977) *South of the Frontera*

**Mali**

Kris Holloway (Mali 1989–1991) *Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali*

**Micronesia**

P.F. Kluge (Micronesia 1967–1969) *The Edge of Paradise: America in Micronesia*

**Mongolia**

Matthew B. Davis (Mongolia 2000–2002) *When Things Get Dark: A Mongolian Winter's Tale*

**Nepal**

Laurence Leamer (Nepal 1964–1966) *Ascent: The Spiritual and Physical Quest of Willi Unsoeld*

**Nigeria**

Julian Weldon Martin (Nigeria 1961–1963) *Imagonna: Peace Corps Memories*

**Panama**

Meredith W. Cornett (Panama 1991–1993) *Heart of Palms: My Peace Corps Years in Tranquilla*

**Paraguay**

Eloise Hanner (Afghanistan 1971–73, Paraguay 1999–2000) *Posted in Paraguay*

**Peru**

Patricia Taylor Edmisten (Peru 1962–1964) *The Mourning of Angels*

**Philippines**

Frances Stone (Philippines 1971–1973) *Through the Eyes of My Children: The Adventures of a Peace Corps Volunteer Family*

**Senegal**

Susan Lowerre (Senegal 1985–1987) *Under the Neem Tree*

**Sierra Leone**

Sue Sadow (Sierra Leone 1961–1963) *Into Africa With The Peace Corps*



**Peace Corps  
Fellows Program  
in Community  
Development**

Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

**FULL TUITION WAIVER & PAID INTERNSHIP**



Kyle Turk



Jessica Wade



Daniel Socha



Rachel Bechtold

*"To sit in a classroom with RPCV's from other countries is such an amazing experience. I finished the program with strong academic qualifications, unique skills and experiences, and solid job prospects in the development field."*

*-Michael Toso RPCV Niger, Senegal*

Now accepting applications  
[www.wiu.edu/pcf](http://www.wiu.edu/pcf)




WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

**Sri Lanka**

Jim Toner (Sri Lanka 1989–1991)  
*Serendib*

**Swaziland**

Joseph Green III (Swaziland 1987–1989) *You Are Invited To Serve: A Black*

*American Peace Corps Volunteer Serves in Swaziland*

**Somalia**

Jeanne Martha D'Haem (Somalia 1968–1970) *The Last Camel: True Stories about Somalia*

**Thailand**

Blaine L. Comeaux (Thailand 1997–1999) *Two Years in the Kingdom: The Adventures of an American Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand*

**Togo**

George Packer (Togo 1982–1983) *The Village of Waiting*

**Ukraine**

John P. Deever (Ukraine 1993–1995) *Singing on the Heavy Side of the World: A Peace Corps Ukraine Story*

**Zaire**

Mike Tidwell (Zaire 1985–1987) *The Ponds of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn*

When one looks at the books written by returned Volunteers, it is striking how many of them are winning major book awards and claiming space on library bookshelves. Volunteers have come of age as literary persons. They are telling the stories of the Peace Corps, and more importantly, they are telling the stories of life in the developing world. A world that Americans know so little about, or care to consider.

Perhaps this is a small claim in the world of literature, but it is theirs alone to make. It is these writings by RPCVs that will create a place for the experience in the minds of Americans. These memoirs will also make it possible for future generations to understand and appreciate why Peace Corps Volunteers asked not what the country could do for them, but what they could do for their country.

“PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE THEIR LIVES IN HEALTH SECTORS OR EDUCATION SECTORS OR INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS ARRANGED IN TIDY COMPARTMENTS. PEOPLE LIVE IN FAMILIES, VILLAGES, COMMUNITIES, COUNTRIES, WHERE ALL THE ISSUES OF EVERYDAY LIFE MERGE. WE NEED TO CONNECT THE DOTS.”

— Robert B. Zoellick, former World Bank President

The Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP) trains current and aspiring practitioners to understand and manage approaches to sustainable development challenges.

The core curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in principles and methods of development, food systems, public health, economics, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.

APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2016 ARE DUE FEB. 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
EARLY ACTION NOV. 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2015

Novelist **John Coyne** is the editor of five collections of Peace Corps writings, and is the co-founder (with Marian Haley Beil (Ethiopia 1962–1964) of Peace Corps Writers. He was also an APCD in Ethiopia and Manager of the New York Peace Corps Office. His website is [www.johncoynebooks.com](http://www.johncoynebooks.com).

**Continued from Page 33**

as if I should have known.

I left the encounter feeling defensive, muttering to myself that the woman would have been more effective if she hadn't tried to guilt trip me. By the time I got home from the Peace Corps five years later, I felt like that anti-cookie woman—self-righteous and a bit insufferable. I went to a Bob Dylan/Grateful Dead concert and bought bumper stickers that said, "Stop Apartheid/Boycott Shell" and "Live Simply So Others May Simply Live." Unfortunately I was finding it difficult to live simply myself in the United States. While I could walk to work or the store in Bobonong, on the Main Line distances

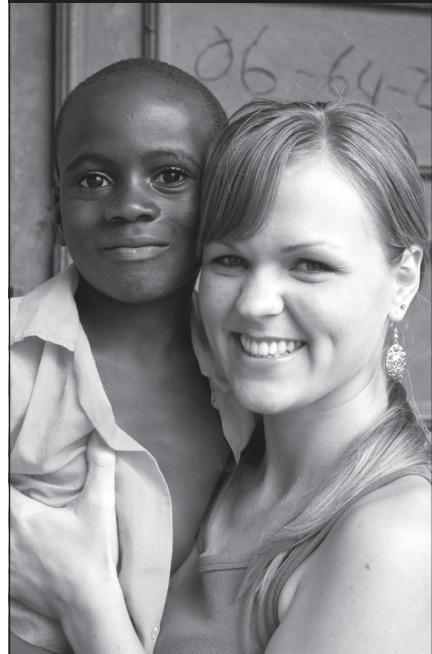
were farther, public transportation limited, and hitchhiking eccentric at best, so I used part of my Peace Corps readjustment allowance to buy a used Honda Civic to go with my "Live Simply" bumper sticker.

---

**Eileen Flanagan** (Botswana 1984-1987) is a Quaker writer, speaker, and activist. Her new book, *Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope*, tells the story of her midlife realization that she was not living up to her potential or her youthful ideals—a journey that led to her return to Botswana 25 years after her Peace Corps service, and handcuffing herself to the White House fence on behalf of climate change.

**YOU'VE  
SERVED THE  
WORLD...**

**NOW LET US  
HELP YOU.**



## State of What's Next

Fargreen discovers a way to turn rice straw waste into gourmet mushrooms and livelihoods for Vietnamese farmers. A small idea grows into a global venture that lessens pollution and makes people healthier and happier. Business is ready for what's next. So are you. There's more good to do.



[thegoodmba.com/pcv](http://thegoodmba.com/pcv)

**Colorado State**  
University  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Scholarships available for  
Peace Corps alumni.

**Apply now for  
Fall 2015**

[willamette.edu/mba](http://willamette.edu/mba)

 WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY | MBA

# FROM ORPHAN TO ADVOCATE

Berhane Daba steps forward on behalf of disabled women

By David Arnold

As the large dark Mercedes of his Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I headed west from Ethiopia's highland capital city on a periodic visit to a nearby military academy, the limousine stopped where a child lay on the roadside, leaning uncomfortably on two wooden blocks. The emperor, a small man who customarily wears khaki military attire, got out of his car and took the child to Addis.

There are few details of the narrative. It sounds like a fable so common to this country, but it serves to explain how Berhane Daba—a poor farmer's daughter with legs paralyzed by polio and a spine curved by dragging herself around her native Holeta on those two wooden blocks—ended up in the orphanage of St. Paul's Hospital in Addis.

The rest of the story is more easily confirmed.

Berhane was about four years old when Mary Bruckenstei, a nurse at Princess Tsehai Hospital, met her at the orphanage. Another Peace Corps Volunteer wanted Mary to see the

orphans, most of them disabled.

"Berhane was curled up in a fetal position," Mary wrote 47 years later when Berhane was nominated for the 2015 National Peace Corps Association's (NPCA) Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. Berhane's physical transformation is remarkable enough, but what she achieved as a cause-driven adult is award-winning.

Berhane is receiving the Wofford honor at the NPCA's Peace Corps Connect conference in Berkeley, California on June 6 as a founder and the executive director of the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities Organization.

Her organization serves thousands in Addis, Dire Dawa and several Ethiopian provinces. More than 1,200 members have received job training and placement in health care careers and other fields. Her goal is to offer disabled women an alternative to begging on the streets of Ethiopia. One of their projects trains and hires some of them to run neighborhood bakeries.

When a good friend and co-founder died of tuberculosis three years ago, Berhane left a successful government career to take over fulltime management of the association. Since then Berhane has presented papers and attended seminars to argue for the causes of women and of the disabled in more than a dozen countries.

Berhane is becoming acquainted with the size of the world's disabled population. Based on world population estimates, the World Health Organization calculates that more than 15 percent of the globe's 7 billion adults and children live with disabilities.

Mary recalls their first meeting in Addis in 1968. She was sitting in brilliant sunlight bathing the 10 disabled orphans in a yellow plastic basin and assessing their disabilities. Though Berhane was more profoundly disabled than the rest, she was smiling, open to a stranger moving her limbs and testing her limited range of motion. "She was not fearful," Mary says.

MARY BRUCKENSTEIN



Berhane shares a relaxing moment with her Peace Corps "mom," Mary Bruckenstei.; Increasingly, Berhane is being asked to attend international disability rights fora.



LIZ FANNING.



Mary arranged for a Czech doctor to perform surgery on Berhane's tendons and ligaments to straighten her legs and to correct the shape of her spine. She carried Berhane home in a body cast and taught her how to use crutches and leg braces.

Berhane says, "She was taking care of me like a dear mother."

Mary gave Berhane a home in Addis until Mary returned to the States in 1970 to continue her nursing career. Through letters, phone calls, email and then Skype, Mary followed and sometimes financed Berhane's growth through college and more than 20 years working for the National Library of Ethiopia. She began there as a typist, studied information technology and built a career in the agency as a senior data analyst.

Thirteen years ago she and some disabled friends created the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities Association she now leads.

She has overcome the challenges of international travel on crutches and in full leg braces to fly to Canada, Denmark, Dubai, Finland, Kenya, Korea, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Uganda, and an International Labor Organization training in Turin, Italy.

Usually she travels with another disabled colleague, but it's never easy. On the flight to Ottawa, Berhane and a disabled traveling companion were placed in a Heathrow holding room to wait for their connecting flight; the British attendants forgot them and they missed the flight. Their Canadian welcoming committee raised the alarm when they didn't arrive. Hours later, Heathrow put them in first-class seats on the next available flight.

This June, for the first time in her life, Berhane has decided to fly alone to the United States to attend the conference.

"That's why I am a wreck right now," Mary said.

After the Berkeley award, Berhane flies to Washington to lobby for women and

the disabled on Capital Hill, and to meet with other NGOs in the nation's capital.

Berhane says, "my future plan is to continue struggling for the disability movement and support the forgotten disabled people and if God helps me I will do something for my birthplace and also

visit Mary which is my dearest mother."

**David Arnold** (*Ethiopia 1964–1966*) is an editor for *Voice of America's English to Africa* radio broadcast and web service. He previously was editor of *WorldView*.



## Cultivating leaders. Catalyzing change.

Goucher's **cultural sustainability** master's degree program empowers today's activists with real-world tactics for preserving and enriching the identity and environments of communities at risk.

And Goucher's unique format allows you to study right where you are—so you don't have to turn your life upside-down while you're out saving the world.

For more information, visit  
[www.goucher.edu/culture](http://www.goucher.edu/culture).

Preferred admission deadline for Spring 2015 is **October 18, 2014**.  
Preferred admission deadline for Fall 2015 is **April 18, 2015**.

Master of Arts in Cultural Sustainability

GOUCHER | college

# RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

By Jonathan Pearson

## BULGARIA

Many kids like to wear nail polish. For those concerned about the harmful chemicals associated by the product, how about the world's first edible, organic nail polish? Inspired by their children, Bulgaria RPCVs and husband and wife team **Audrey Amara and Josh Kroot** (2004-2006) have created Kid Licks, nail polish that is derived from a recipe made from organic fruits, vegetables and plants. Currently, the nail polish is being sold in small quantities in the Los Angeles area, but the response is leading to plans for expansion. Audrey says the couple wants to use their product to promote healthier beauty practices and give kids a way to use nail polish without adult supervision. More can be found at <http://kidlicks.com>

## BURKINA FASO/HONDURAS

**Heather Joy Thompson** (1999-2001) was recently featured on the TV segment, "Oprah: Where Are They Now?" Eight years prior Thompson had been a guest on the show when Sean "P. Diddy" Combs chose her to be his personal assistant after a nationwide competition on YouTube for the position. At the time of the show Thompson cited her experience in the Peace Corps as one of the reasons she was uniquely qualified for the job. After working for Diddy for a year Thompson received a call from the State Department, inviting her to become a U.S. diplomat. She has since served in South Africa and is currently preparing for a post at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. Quoted in an article on the *Huffington Post*, Winfrey said, "In the brief history of 'Where Are They Now?' Heather Joy Thompson's update is one of the most impressive we've seen."

## COLOMBIA

A practicing lawyer since 1987, **Janet B. Beck** (1968-1971) has spent the entirety of her professional career fighting for oppressed groups in society, including women, LGBT and transgender clients and victims of human trafficking. She is being recognized for her fight against injustice and has been named the winner of the 2015 WGRC Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award by the Women's Gender and Resource Center in the clinical faculty category. Since 2009 Beck has worked as a professor at the University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic. At the Immigration Clinic, Beck, along with her colleagues and students, represent poverty-stricken clients that would otherwise not have legal representation.

## COTE D'IVOIRE

**Dr. Judi Aubel** (1971-1973), Executive Director of the Grandmother Project (GMP) – Change through Culture, has been named as an Ashoka Fellow for 2015. Created in 2005, GMP works to improve the health and well-being of women and children in developing countries by building the capacity of other development organizations to implement and evaluate grandmother-inclusive and intergenerational community programs. Dr. Aubel founded GMP after 15 years of collaboration with other non-profit organizations and working with communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. GMP was also recently named one of SAFE Magazine's 50 Global Heroes in preventing sexual violence against girls.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Glen Burnie (MD) High School English as a Second Language teacher **Tema Encarnación** (2000-2001) was named a 2015 Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow. She is one of only 35 teachers in the United States and Canada selected for the award, and will participate in a two-week geographic learning expedition aboard the National Geographic Explorer to Iceland and Greenland. Encarnación grew up in Annapolis, and graduated from Annapolis High School in 1996. She received her bachelor's degree from George Washington University, and her master's from Notre Dame of Maryland.



Twelve residents of Racine, Wisconsin were honored for their volunteer work at a ceremony in April. Among them was **Laurence Gregg** (1963-65), who received the Senior Award for extensive volunteer work throughout his life and especially after retirement. He retired from a 35-year teaching career in 1999. Since then Gregg has spent lots of time volunteering, including working with the Racine Theatre Guild, Our Savior's Lutheran Church food pantry, and the Choral Arts Society.

## EL SALVADOR

University of Arizona graduate student **Robert Alvarez** is among two dozen American and European students to be named a 2015 Humanity in Action Diplomacy and Diversity Fellow. Recruited from a pool of 421 applicants representing more than 180 universities around the world, Alvarez will participate in a program that helps

cultivate leadership skills and knowledge for individuals pursuing professional careers in foreign policy. According



to their website, Humanity in Action is "an international non-profit that aims to instill the values of human dignity and moral responsibility for the protection of the rights of minorities in a new generation of social, cultural and political leaders." Alvarez participated in a four-week program in May that took award recipients to Washington, Paris, and Berlin.

## REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

"Who is **Thomas Phillips**?" would be the correct answer for the Jeopardy category, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who recently won on an episode of Jeopardy! Phillips ended up in the lead, beating the defending champion and winning \$25,601. Being a Peace Corps Volunteer allowed him to have an edge for one question that referenced Lillian Carter, the mother of former President Jimmy Carter who previously served in the Peace Corps. Phillips, who has been working toward his PhD in Hispanic literature at

UNC-Chapel Hill for six years, told the Durham *Herald Sun* newspaper he had been preparing for an opportunity like this, "my whole life. I'm a giant nerd. I love trivia; I love learning."

## GUATEMALA

For her extensive world-wide work in missions, clinics and education, **Shirley Goering** (1963-1965) was recently recognized as the 2015 "Outstanding Branch Member" by the Newton (Kansas) area branch of the American Association of University Women. Goering has always had a passion for teaching English abroad. This passion was first fostered in her time in the Peace Corps in Guatemala with her husband. Following that experience she went on to volunteer her time teaching English and HIV prevention in Malaysia, Uganda, Chile, and China. Goering has made approximately two dozen trips back to China to teach English.

## GUINEA

The All-Washington Academic Team invited **Stephen DeVoe** to join them for 2015. DeVoe was born in Seattle and grew up in Woodinville. He completed degrees at Whatcom Community College and Western Washington University before

joining the Peace Corps. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in mental health counseling from the University of Vermont. On March 26th he was recognized at a ceremony at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. The annual ceremony recognizes top scholars from community and technical colleges across the state.

## KOREA

After 35 years of leading Community Youth Services (CYS) in Olympia Washington, Executive Director **Charles Shelan** (1972-1974) announced his plans to retire. Founded in 1970, CYS empowers youth at-risk and their families to meet their goals for safety, stability, belonging and success by providing a continuum of individualized services and advocacy. Today, CYS has become the largest child welfare agency serving southwest Washington. With a staff of seventy-five and 120 volunteers, CYS manages seventeen interrelated programs serving more than 3,000 children, youth, and families in a four county region. Charles and his wife Norma worked as VISTA Volunteers in Salem before accepting two year Peace Corps teaching assignments in South Korea.

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS WORLDVIEW?

Send us a photo, become Peace Corps famous!

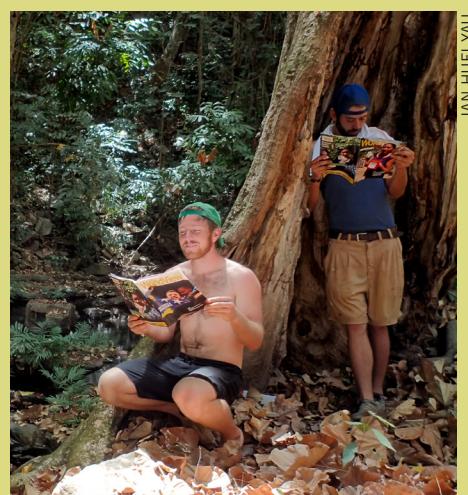
**P**ace Corps Volunteers are more connected than ever these days. But there's still something about having a print publication in your hand. When you're off the beaten track, when you're far from an Internet connection, *WorldView* connects you to the Peace Corps family.

Senegal Volunteer Chrissie Faupel recently sent on these photos of fellow Volunteers Jason Andrews and Tyler Young taken in Segou, Senegal by Ian-Huei-Yau.

*Have an idea for a great photo of yourself with WorldView magazine? Take one and become Peace Corps famous! Send your submission to [news@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:news@peacecorpsconnect.org).*

*Interested in writing for WorldView? Check out our submissions page at [www.worldviewmagazine.com](http://worldviewmagazine.com).*

*Did you know that a lesson plan accompanies each issue WorldView? Visit <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcn/news/worldview-magazine/lesson-plans/>.*



PCVs Senegal 2013-5 Jason Andrews and Tyler Young

**LIBERIA/FIJI/SIERRA LEONE**

**Angene Wilson** (1962-1972) was honored with the Distinguished Global Scholar Award from the International Assembly of the National Council of the



Social Studies (NCSS). As part of the award presentation during the NCSS national conference in Boston in November 2014, she delivered remarks built

around several African proverbs that highlighted the importance of personal connections, cultural understanding and gathering information from a variety of sources. She closed her remarks with an appeal that her audience donate to the NPCA's Ebola Relief Fund. Among her many past and ongoing roles within the Peace Corps community, Angene prepares a quarterly lesson plan to accompany an article in each edition of *WorldView* magazine. Angene's remarks can be found online in the spring 2015 edition of NPCA's education newsletter ([peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/newsletter/](http://peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/newsletter/)).

**MALAWI**

Mometrix Test Preparation named **Nancy Fahrenwald** among the top thirty most influential deans of nursing in the United States. Fahrenwald has been dean of the College of Nursing at South Dakota State University (SDSU) since 2013. Fahrenwald came to SDSU in 1995, after



Peace Corps service as an AIDS coordinator in Malawi's Zomba district and a nurse educator at the Lilongwe School for Health Sciences.

The deans were judged on a points system based on National Council Licensure, and Mometrix ranked Fahrenwald 13th among influential deans. Her ranking was aided by her recent induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Fahrenwald has also been the recipient of numerous school, state, regional and national awards and

honors, and has contributed to more than 10 publications in the last two years.

Leaders in the fields of business, sustainability and media studies received Knox College Alumni Achievement Awards at the College's 2015 Founders Day Convocation. Among the three recipients was **Bryan Quinn**, who serves as founder and principal owner of the landscape design firm One Nature. Quinn graduated from Knox College in 2000 as a philosophy major. During his two years of Peace Corps service in Malawi he served in an agrarian community on the edge of a disappearing forest. This experience inspired him to found One Nature in 2005, which provides internationally recognized design, planning, and scientific consulting services for architecture while remaining committed to environmental ethics.

**MALI**

Making the move from Western Illinois University to eastern Pennsylvania, **Kenneth S. Hawkinson** (1986-1988) has been named the next president of Kutztown University. Hawkinson

has been provost at Western Illinois since January 2012. He rose through the ranks at the university, where he was first hired in 1988 as an assistant professor in the Department of Communications. Along with his Peace Corps service, Hawkinson was awarded a Fulbright scholarship at the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where he taught American studies and conducted research in African folklore and oral tradition.

**MOROCCO**

President Obama nominated **Peter F. Mulrean** to be the next Ambassador to Haiti. A career member of the Foreign Service, Mulrean is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland,

a position he held since 2012. Previously, he served as Director of Interagency Provincial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012, Counselor for Refugee and Migration Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 2008 to 2011, and Regional Director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia from 2004 to 2008. He also served in the Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy at the Department of State, at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium and at the European Commission in Brussels.

**NEPAL**

The leader of an Athens, Georgia group dedicated to protecting waterways, **Bruno Giri** (1993-1995) is one of two winners of this year's Alec Little Awards. The award was established in 1991 as the first major prize that recognizes individuals and organizations for environmental responsibility in the Athens area. Giri is a chemist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service and serves as the volunteer president of the Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN). Recently UOWN held its 17th River Rendezvous, where more than 150 volunteers gathered at Sandy Creek Park before scattering out to measure turbidity, acidity, fecal coliform counts and other measures of stream health.

**NICARAGUA**

Former White House senior advisor for mobile and data innovation, **Brian Forde** (2003-2005) joined the MIT Media Lab as director of digital currency. Forde will work with researchers across the Institute and leading experts at other universities around the world in a new initiative to address some of the most critical challenges to creating a safe, stable, and secure digital currency.



While with the Obama administration, Forde helped determine how to leverage open data and emerging technologies to address the president's national priorities. A member of the NPCA Board of Directors, Forde brought advances in technology to Nicaragua, first as a Peace Corps volunteer and then as the co-founder and CEO of Llamadas, S.A., one of the largest Internet phone service providers in that country.

#### PANAMA

**Florence Reed** (1991-93) of Maine is one of three individuals who were honored as leaders in social justice, community advocacy and cultural preservation at the 29th annual Maryann Hartman Awards at the University of Maine. Reed worked in environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama, and launched Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) in 1997 in the basement of her parents' home. Today, the successful nonprofit dedicated to environmental conservation and alleviating poverty is found in four Central American countries. Reed is a past recipient of NPCA's Shriver Award for Humanitarian Service.

#### PARAGUAY

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, the largest funder of nonprofit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, has appointed **Bruce McNamer** (1990-1992) as the Foundation's new President and CEO.



Most recently, McNamer was CEO of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. Prior to that, he served for nine years as President/CEO of TechnoServe, a nonprofit organization that works with people in the developing world to build competitive farms, businesses, and industries. In a press release, the Chair of the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees, Martin Weinstein said, "Bruce is a dynamic leader who is deeply committed to strengthening our region through innovative, impactful and effective philanthropy."



President Jimmy Carter, Jack Campbell, and Peace Corps Chief of Staff Laura Chambers at the Lillian Carter Awards in Atlanta.

PEACE CORPS

## JOHN F. "JACK" CAMPBELL RECEIVES 2015 LILLIAN CARTER AWARD

By Peace Corps Press Office

*On a biennial basis, the Peace Corps recognizes an outstanding Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served as a senior (age 50 and older) and who demonstrates a commitment to the Peace Corps' third goal. This prestigious award is in memory of Lillian Carter—mother of former President Jimmy Carter—who served in the Peace Corps as a senior in the 1960s.*

On May 13, 2015, former President Jimmy Carter and Peace Corps Chief of Staff Laura Chambers presented the 2015 Lillian Carter Award to returned Volunteer John F. "Jack" Campbell, of Columbus, Ohio. Campbell, 84, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji from 1989-1991 at age 58 and completed a second assignment in Botswana from 1992-1994.

"I have received more from Peace Corps than I have given," said Campbell, who helped local Fijians start small businesses and raised funds to build a school community in Botswana. "My time in foreign countries broadened my horizons and made me more understanding and accepting of other cultures and beliefs. I think it made me a better person."

Since 2009, Campbell has served as the Peace Corps' campus recruiter at The Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus, guiding students and members of the surrounding community through the application process and inspiring them to serve overseas as Peace Corps volunteers. During his tenure, OSU rose to fourth on the Peace Corps' ranking of top volunteer-producing universities. Campbell also helped create a Peace Corps Club at OSU, giving students the opportunity to gain volunteer experience, make a difference on their own campus, and become competitive applicants. He remains an active member of the Central Ohio Returned Volunteer Association, integrating other Returned Volunteers into Peace Corps' recruitment efforts while helping to raise awareness of the Peace Corps and its mission.

**PHILIPPINES**

**James E. Harvey** (1967-1969) received the Outstanding Advocate Award from the National Association of School Psychologists at its 2015 convention in Orlando, Florida. The award is given to school psychologists who support political action and advocacy on behalf of children in order to improve education and mental health services for children and their families. Harvey has a long history of being a strong advocate for various different mental health causes. A nationally certified school psychologist, Harvey retired from the Cleveland (OH) Metropolitan School District in 1999 after serving as manager of Psychological Services.

**SAMOA**

The United States Air Force Academy hired **Chris Gobrecht** to coach the women's basketball team for the 2015-2016 basketball season. Gobrecht joined the Academy after serving as head coach at Yale University since 2005. Gobrecht has 35 years of head coaching experience, all at the Division I level, and has a career record of 542-473. In the late 1970's, Gobrecht served in the Peace Corps, working for one year as an English teacher at St. Mary's College in Apia, Western Samoa.

**SIERRA LEONE**

**Marina Goldman** (1982-1984) organized an April benefit concert to raise funds for the Katanya Women's Development Association, which has played a critical role in providing basic support to communities in Sierra Leone suffering from the Ebola outbreak. The concert featured Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars with Kabisko Kaba and the Wofa Drum and Dance Company.



Follow us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/peacecorpsconnect](http://facebook.com/peacecorpsconnect).



Join the PeaceCorps Network  
on LinkedIn!

**SURINAME**

Associate professor of political science at Loyola University Maryland, **Carsten Vala Ph.D.**, was awarded a grant through the Core U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program to study the politics of China's growing investment in Latin America, with an emphasis on Chile's copper industry. The Core Program provides approximately 800 grants in more than 125 countries to support teaching and research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. While conducting his research, Vala will also teach two classes at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago. After his research is completed, Vala plans to write a book on China's globalization in South America.

**ZAIRE**

For his work in art education, Youngstown State University professor **Dr. Philip Brady** (1980-1982) received the 2015 Governor's Award for the Arts in Ohio. Along with teaching, Brady has also published three books of poems, two critical books and a memoir. In 2001, Brady founded Etruscan Press, a nonprofit literary publishing house that has been named this year by the Associated Writers Program as one of the five top presses in the country. The author helps distribute books for teenagers

in Youngstown inner-city schools and volunteered resources and time to inmates at the local prison. Brady's most recent project is an 18-chapter verse book, to be published this year, which discusses the roots of writing and authorship.

**STAFF**

Former chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, **Jay Rockefeller**, joined the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) early in 2015 as a distinguished fellow. While Rockefeller was in the Peace Corps he spearheaded its initial program in the Philippines. His research at CFR will cover Japan, East Asia, cybersecurity issues, and other topics.



Public service has always been the key factor in Rockefeller's career. After his service with the Peace Corps, he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1966. Since then he served as West Virginia Secretary of State, president of West Virginia Wesleyan College, and governor of West Virginia. In 1984 he was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served for thirty years.

For more Community News go to [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news/)

**ADVERTISER INDEX**

- Andover Theological Seminary **9**
- Antioch University **7**
- Brandeis University Heller School **5**
- Bryn Mawr University Pre-med Post-bac **27**
- Clairemont Lincoln University **13**
- Clark University **2**
- Colorado State University Business School **37**
- Columbia University SIPA **37**
- Goucher College **39**
- George Washington University **31**

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing **Cover 2, 1**

Kansas State University **25**

New York University **11**

Next Step Travel **Cover 4**

Seton Hall University **12**

SIT Graduate Institute **13**

Tufts University Fletcher School **15**

Western Illinois University Fellows **35**

Willamette **37**

# IN MEMORIAM

We remember those within the Peace Corps community who passed away in the last several months, and thank them for their service to our nation. For a more extensive list of those lost in recent years, visit <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/rememberingthoselost/>.

We welcome you to send information on additional members of the Peace Corps community by sending a message to [obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org).

AFGHANISTAN	HONDURAS	MALAYSIA	PHILIPPINES	TUNISIA	COUNTRY OF SERVICE NOT SPECIFIED
Robert Sichon, 2/21/15	Sarah Esther Hopkins, 4/30/15	Emily I. Foster, 4/19/15	Barbara (De La Mare) Huffer, 4/2/15	Nancy Farley, 4/5/15	George A. Courie, 4/4/15
<b>ANTIGUA</b>	Louise M. (Fernandez, Kowell) Saylor, 3/29/15	Nikki L. Rosenthal, 3/12/15	Lucille Muldoon, 4/20/15	Carol M. Occhino, 3/26/15	Louis DeCaro, 4/19/15
William R. Young, 5/1/15	Shelly Kay Tabar, 2/22/15	<b>MALI</b> Celeste Howell, 3/7/15	Jane Muller, 4/22/15	Francis Gregory Lastowka, 4/27/15	David Grubman, 3/23/15
<b>BELIZE</b>	<b>INDIA</b> Rolle Eastman, 2/4/15	<b>MOROCCO</b> Lynn Marie Martin, 2/23/15	Frederick Thielen II, 2/22/15	<b>VENEZUELA</b> Robert Anderson, 4/26/15	James Dalton Martindale, 3/3/15
Barbara Ann Medders, 4/10/15	Arie Robert van Ravensway, 3/10/15	<b>NEPAL</b> Fredric Allen Hilberg, 2/18/15	Dolores Rohaley Williams, 4/2/15	Paul Nixon, 4/1/15	Stephen Tabor, 3/27/15
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	<b>IRAN</b> Inka (Aronson) Benton, 2/22/15	<b>NICARAGUA</b> Nordahl Field Arvidson, 2/18/15	<b>ROMANIA</b> Roy Jarecky, 3/31/15	<b>ROMANIA</b> Roy Jarecky, 3/31/15	Charles Robert Wilson, 3/14/15
Robert Patrick "Pat" Kelly, 3/20/15	Gretchen Miller Kafoury, 3/13/15	<b>NEPAL</b> Daniel O'Toole, 4/6/15	<b>RWANDA</b> David Ripley, 4/2/15	<b>RWANDA</b> David Ripley, 4/2/15	<b>STAFF</b>
<b>CAMEROON</b>	Thomas Taaffe, 3/9/15	<b>NICARAGUA</b> Nordahl Field Arvidson, 2/18/15	<b>SAMOA</b> Jane Amend, 2/20/15	<b>SAMOA</b> Jane Amend, 2/20/15	Donald Batchelder, 4/27/15
William George "Willy" Drelles Jr., 2/14/15	<b>IRAN</b> Inka (Aronson) Benton, 2/22/15	<b>NEPAL</b> Fredric Allen Hilberg, 2/18/15	<b>SENEGAL</b> Elizabeth Haskell Park, 1/18/15	<b>SENEGAL</b> Elizabeth Haskell Park, 1/18/15	Edmund DeJarnette, 4/6/15
Barbara A. Czechanski St. Phard, 3/18/15	Gretchen Miller Kafoury, 3/13/15	<b>NICARAGUA</b> Nordahl Field Arvidson, 2/18/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Alice Ford, 3/31/15
<b>CHILE</b>	Daniel O'Toole, 4/6/15	<b>NEPAL</b> Daniel O'Toole, 4/6/15	<b>SAMOA</b> Jane Amend, 2/20/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	John Roos Kates, 4/25/15
William M. Egan, 4/13/15	Thomas Taaffe, 3/9/15	<b>NIGER</b> Luigi Velo, 3/6/15	<b>SENEGAL</b> Deacon John Theodore Cretaro, Congo, Zaire; 3/18/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Brownie Lee, 4/27/15
<b>CHINA</b>	<b>IVORY COAST</b> Sid Kamerman, posted 4/5/15	<b>NIGERIA</b> "OB" Owen Douglas Blair, 2/24/15	<b>SENEGAL</b> Elizabeth Haskell Park, 1/18/15	<b>SENEGAL</b> Elizabeth Haskell Park, 1/18/15	Joe Z. Lovingood, 3/20/15
Delora Mae Donovan, 3/24/15	<b>IVORY COAST</b> Sid Kamerman, posted 4/5/15	<b>NICARAGUA</b> Aubrey Brown, 2/14/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Walter Manley Jr., 3/11/15
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	<b>JAMAICA</b> Ronald Babcock, 4/12/15	<b>NICARAGUA</b> Aubrey Brown, 2/14/15	<b>SAMOA</b> David Shugarts, 3/6/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Nan Tucker McEvoy, 3/26/15
Joan Givens, 3/31/15	<b>JORDAN</b> Daryl Carr, 2/21/15	<b>NIGERIA</b> Kenneth August Dueppen, 4/12/15	<b>SOMALIA</b> Philip J. Michael, 3/11/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Nancy Gay Wilsford Percy, 3/3/15
<b>ECUADOR</b>	<b>KENYA</b> James L. Merryman, 4/14/15	<b>NIGERIA</b> Isabella K. Sharpe, 2/28/15	<b>SWAZILAND</b> Phyllis (Wright) Loomis Dickenson, 3/21/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Earl Phillips, 3/11/15
Evie McPherson, 4/24/15	<b>KENYA</b> Melinda Van Roey, 2/1/15	<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b> Grant Oliver Parker, 11/11/14	<b>THAILAND</b> Kaaren Kolodziej Burke, 2/2/15	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> John D. Arras, 3/9/15	Collin Reynolds, posted 4/19/15
John Wood, 3/30/15	<b>KOREA</b> Charles David Martin Jr., 2/28/15	<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b> Richard Ginsburg, 3/1/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Larry E. Smith, 12/13/14	<b>THAILAND</b> Kaaren Kolodziej Burke, 2/2/15	David Ripley, 4/2/15
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>LESOTHO</b> Henry "Hank" Stelzer, 2/27/15	<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b> Walter Ralph Crane Jr., 3/3/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Larry E. Smith, 12/13/14	Ruth M. Saxe, 3/15/15
Marguerite Benn, 3/9/15	<b>LESOTHO</b> Charles David Martin Jr., 2/28/15	<b>PERU</b> David A. Harcharik, 12/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	Miriam Seidman, 2/16/15
Charles A. Bosworth, posted 4/8/15	<b>LIBYA</b> Dennis Lynn Carlson, 4/10/15	<b>PERU</b> Walter Ralph Crane Jr., 3/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	William Weinstein, posted 4/23/15
Mary "Bibi" Holden, 2/16/15		<b>PERU</b> David A. Harcharik, 12/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	Dolores Rohaley Williams, 4/2/15
Paul Reagan, 3/5/15		<b>PERU</b> Walter Ralph Crane Jr., 3/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	
<b>Fiji</b>		<b>PERU</b> David A. Harcharik, 12/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	
Thomas V. Allensworth, 4/4/15		<b>PERU</b> Walter Ralph Crane Jr., 3/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	
Elizabeth K. Asbury, 4/5/15		<b>PERU</b> David A. Harcharik, 12/3/15	<b>TOGO</b> Gary Leschner, 4/4/15	<b>THAILAND</b> Leslie Ann Bingham Williams, 3/27/15	



# All-Inclusive Volunteer Vacations



Travel and build life-long friendships with RPCVs and like-minded travelers

Volunteer side-by-side and create meaningful connections with local people

Explore historic and archaeological sites

Immerse yourself in a new culture

Hosted by RPCV experts

Request your free catalog today

visit [travel.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://travel.peacecorpsconnect.org) or call +1 619 202 4114



National  
Peace Corps  
Association