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A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

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The Bosh Bosh Project founder Charlene Espinoza (left)—profiled in this issue of *WorldView*—joined fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteer entrepreneurs Neal Gottlieb (Three Twins Ice Cream), Lisa Curtis (Kuli Kuli), and Tim McCollum (Madécasse) on the stage at Peace Corps Connect—Berkeley this summer for a session titled “In the Business of Change: RPCV Entrepreneurs.” Neal, Lisa and Tim have all been featured previously in the pages of *WorldView*. Read back issues online at <http://issuu.com/peacecorpsconnect>.

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A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

Fall 2015

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WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

A road trip through America's heartland

By Glenn Blumhorst

Believe in something until you die. I'm not sure whether Sargent Shriver coined these words, or whether he spoke them while paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but recently they have been on my mind. Rather, this *ideal* has been on my mind. *Believe in something until you die.* This ideal was exemplified no more so than by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) I visited with during a recent road trip through the upper Midwest with NPCA Advocacy Fellow J.M. Ascienzo. Through acts of service, personal and professional accomplishments, and advocacy, the Peace Corps community continues to demonstrate great contributions to society and commitment to peace, progress and understanding—*after* service. Call it Third Goal. Call it your calling. Call it what you like. Believe in something until you die.

In Traverse City, Michigan, we had the privilege of attending the 50th reunion for the Ethiopia/Eritrea II (1963-1965) training group. Among them were entrepreneurs, educators and a chief of cardiology. Haskell Sears Ward's 40 years in international and public service was shaped immensely by his Peace Corps experience in Ethiopia. As a business executive, he once negotiated a major fiber-optics system agreement that

brought broadband Internet access to eastern and southern Africa. Haskell is a former official of the Ford Foundation and has served as deputy assistant and secretary of state as well as deputy mayor of New York City. The NPCA is fortunate to have Haskell among our most trusted advisors and generous supporters.

We also met John Stauffer, who taught English and science as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Eritrea from 1966 to 1968. After a long corporate career, John was drawn back to working with Eritreans after the country's repressive measures earned it the epithet as the "North Korea of Africa." John reconnected with one of his former students from his Peace Corps days, an asylee living in the U.S., and together they founded what is now known as the American Team for Displaced Eritreans. As president of the board of directors, John and his team of volunteers and donors assist Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S. and elsewhere "through resettlement services, policy advocacy, and life-saving interventions." It is the only organization in the United States dedicated specifically to that mission.

In South Bend, Indiana, we met with Roger Parent, who served with Thailand I (1962-1964). Following service, Roger went on to be the Peace Corps director in Haiti and Grenada, and eventually the mayor of South Bend from 1980 to 1988. Roger is now president of the board of directors for World Dignity, Inc., a non-profit that focuses on assisting the poor. Through volunteerism and donations, World Dignity has provided resources for, amongst other things, scholarships, school camps, computers, flooding and tsunami relief, and community groups to

Thailand, India, Laos, and Mississippi.

Venezuela RPCV Sara Aeikens (1964-1966) stands out as an accomplished community activist in her Blue Zone city of Albert Lea, Minnesota, where we joined her and Elizabeth Knudsen (Brazil 1964-1966) for a tour of the town. Applying values rooted deeply in family and strengthened in her Peace Corps experience, Sara mobilized community volunteers from her home to help found an organic food cooperative that over 40



NPCA

In Traverse City, Michigan, we had the privilege of attending the 50th reunion for the Ethiopia/Eritrea II (1963-1965) training group.

years has grown to become Wintergreen Natural Foods, a specialty store that serves Albert Lea's 18,000 citizens. Also in Albert Lea, Sara led the battle to preserve a local historical site, and helped start a child care center.

During the trip, we also met folks from the Peace Corps community who have made it their mission to advocate to their members of Congress for more Peace Corps. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, and Minnesota, J.M. and I visited with hundreds of RPCVs who have met with their U.S. representatives and senators and their staffers to speak to the dividends of the Peace Corps experience. These dividends are manifested in the lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals demonstrated by folks like Haskell, John



Sara Aeikens and Elizabeth Knudsen of Alberta Lea gave Glenn and J.M. a tour of the town.

Continued on Page 15

SNAIL RACING

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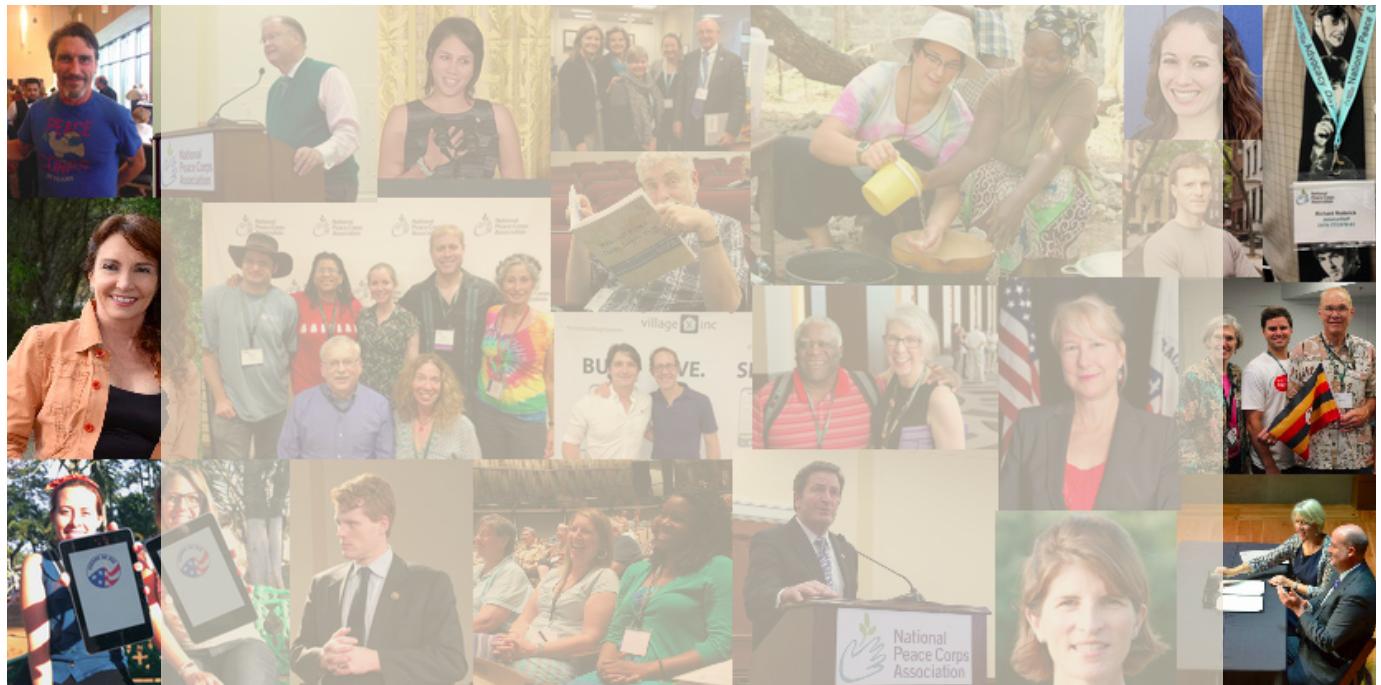
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WELCOME TO THE NEW NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION!



After months of planning, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is taking the boldest and most visionary step in our 36-year history. The new NPCA will be different in two critically important ways.

First, we have pivoted toward a business model as a mission-driven organization open to everyone in our broader Peace Corps community. This means that going forward, membership in the NPCA is complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community—serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as we have accurate service and contact information for you.

If you are a currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer, please be sure to sign up for your complimentary membership at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/

We want to make our community more robust, inclusive, and diverse and this change will allow us to engage with so many more members of our community.

Second, we are launching the Peace Corps Community Fund as the vehicle for a wide range of programs to advance our new mission-driven focus. Simply speaking, the Community Fund will allow us to do more, better.

Increase our impact through the Peace Corps Community Fund

Through the Community Fund, we will supplement the agency's support for Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving overseas, create new opportunities for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) to reengage for shorter periods to undertake special development projects or assist in meeting humanitarian emergencies, lobby for the funding that will increase the number of Volunteers in the field to 10,000 once again and bring our collective expertise to bear on the formulation of U.S. policy toward the countries Peace Corps has served.

The Peace Corps Community Fund underwrites efforts in all three of our fields of activity:

- **Increase the Peace Corps community's global development impact.** Through public-private partnerships, the Community Fund secures resources to support community development projects led by current and returned Volunteers in their host communities. For example, through our partnership with Water Charity, we have helped to build bathrooms in 100 schools, allowing young girls greater access to education. Your contribution to the Peace Corps Community Fund is an investment in projects like these, directly benefiting local communities.
- **Enable returned Peace Corps Volunteers to thrive.** To enable RPCVs to thrive at home, the Peace Corps Community Fund provides transition assistance to those who have served, through mentoring, support in launching social enterprises, and assistance in securing jobs or graduate scholarships. The Community Fund also assists RPCVs in overcoming health issues and connects them to resources to help navigate the road to recovery.
- **Advocate for a Peace Corps that's the best it can be.** The Peace Corps Community Fund secures the necessary funding to support our community's advocates on Capitol Hill and around the country who seek an increase in appropriations for the Peace Corps, with the goal of reaching 10,000 Volunteers in the field for the first time in more than 50 years. We will also continue to strengthen Peace Corps policy, programs, and RPCV entitlements, including Non-Competitive Eligibility for federal government jobs.

Over and above your complimentary membership, when you choose to **support the Peace Corps Community Fund as a Mission Partner** your tax-deductible contributions will go farther than any you may ever have made before. Learn more at

Thank you very much for all you do to make the world a better place!

In service,

Glenn Blumhorst

NPCA President & CEO

RPCV Guatemala, 1988-1991

P.S. If you enlist as a **Mission Partner** with an annual contribution of \$50 or more, you will continue to receive a *WorldView* magazine without additional charge. Otherwise, if you continue as a basic member, you may add a *WorldView* magazine subscription for \$25/year.



NPCA HIGHLIGHTS

Save the date for Peace Corps Connect 2016, trip to Cuba and more

By Erica Burman

SAVE THE DATE: PEACE CORPS CONNECT 2016

Save the date! The National Peace Corps Association's (NPCA) **Peace Corps Connect 2016** will be held in Washington, DC from September 22-25, 2016, in conjunction with the Peace Corps' 55th anniversary. The conference itself will take place on Friday and Saturday (Sept. 23-24) and will be preceded by the National Day of Action on Thursday September 22.

NEXT STEP TRAVEL EXPANDS TO CUBA

This summer saw the unveiling of a new **NPCA Next Step Travel** destination: Cuba! The inaugural trip, October 17-24, 2015, sold out quickly but more trips are planned. Meanwhile, now is a great time to make your end-of-year and 2016 travel plans for our other Next Step trips. Escape to the warm beaches of the Dominican Republic. Learn firsthand about Maya culture. Explore a night market in Thailand. Learn more on our website at travel.peacecorpsconnect.org

2015-2016 NPCA-SIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Every year, the School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute, based in Brattleboro, Vt., recognizes exceptionally accomplished NPCA members with a minimum of one year of intercultural experience to receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

This year's congratulations go to: Stephanie Pena (Zambia), Christelle Domercant (Costa Rica), Chad LaRoche (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Charlotte "Taylor" Westfall (Costa Rica), Jessica Bailey (Madagascar) and Rebecca Beauregard (Ethiopia). Bios of this year's

winners can be found on the NPCA website.

The application deadline for 2016 programs is February 24, 2016. For more information, please visit <http://graduate.sit.edu>. For admissions information, see <http://graduate.sit.edu/sit-graduate-institute/pn/prospective-students/admissions/>.

EMPLOYERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE SEEKS TO SCALE UP

It's been a year since President Obama launched **Employers of National Service** (EONS), an initiative to recognize the valuable skills gained by the 900,000 Americans who have participated in AmeriCorps and the 215,000 who have participated in the Peace Corps.

In the intervening 12 months employers from across the country have joined the initiative, and on Monday, September 14, 2015 EONS partner organizations—Corporation for National and Community Service, Peace Corps, NPCA, AmeriCorpsAlums, and the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project—sat down with key stakeholders (leading employers, national service organizations and workforce experts) to brainstorm and discuss how to take EONS to the next level. A private roundtable was followed by a public panel discussion, both of which generated excellent ideas, often in the form of questions:

- “Can we talk about college, career *and* civic readiness?”
- “How do we provide credentialing to people who complete national volunteer service?”
- “How can we more clearly communicate what national service

volunteers do and the valuable skills that they gain through their service experience?” (Watch the recorded livestream at https://youtu.be/D0NUv_to40Y)

There were pledges to speak individually to cabinet secretaries to ensure that the message about service reached down into federal bureaucracies, and plans to get the word out to human resource managers through relevant professional associations. Oh, and along the way, a lot of really nice things were said about the skills and talents of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers! Were your ears burning?

If you are an RPCV, boost your workplace's success and value by hiring national service alumni. Learn more at <http://nationalservice.gov/employers-member-information>.

NOMINATE A HOST COUNTRY NATIONAL

Each year, the NPCA spotlights inspiring host country nationals who have been impacted by a Peace Corps Volunteer—individuals like Berhane Daba of Ethiopia. As the 2015 recipient of the **Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award**, her inspiring story of advocating for women with disabilities powerfully encapsulates the far-reaching impact of the Peace Corps.

Help us find more Berhanes! The deadline for consideration for the 2016 Wofford award is January 31, 2016. Find more information at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards](http://peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards).

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

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GROUP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

A look at what NPCA affiliate groups are up to

By Jonathan Pearson

COLOMBIA

The **Friends of Colombia** (FOC) were among several groups who came out in force for Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley, NPCA's annual gathering of the Peace Corps community. Approximately 50 RPCVs who served in Colombia were in attendance for the conference and other activities organized by FOC. A Friday afternoon get-together included a presentation by Professor Michael Stanfield of the University of San Francisco, who detailed the culture and politics of beauty pageants in Colombia. A Friday evening group dinner included 15 members of Colombia group VIII who gathered for their first-ever reunion to mark 50 years since they concluded their service. Throughout the weekend, California Congressman Sam Farr (a keynote speaker at the conference) was in attendance, meeting and re-connecting with fellow Colombia RPCVs.

FIJI

Friends of Fiji (FOF) hosted a mid-July Summer *Lovo* for RPCVs, Fijians and friends. The day started early at Potomac Overlook Park in Virginia, where volunteers were busy preparing the fire and food. As guests began to arrive, they heard the familiar sounds of the islands as traditional Fijian songs had started around the kava bowl. The afternoon had all of the familiar elements for the RPCVs, complete with hot temperatures reminiscent of days in Fiji. FOF hosts a *lovo* every other summer as a way to continue the Third Goal of Peace Corps and share this wonderful Fijian tradition with friends back in the U.S. It was a great day for RPCVs and Fijians to come together to share stories and memories from the beautiful island nation.

HAWAII

You might say one of the monthly service projects of the **Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii** (RPCVHI) dates back two million years! It was then that

the massive Ko'olau volcano collapsed upon itself leaving a large bay, eventually forming the 830 acre Kawainui marsh. A designated wildlife sanctuary that is home to some of the world's most endangered waterbirds, the marsh is an International Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance and is

managed by Hawaii's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. In 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers completed construction of the 40 acre Kawainui Restoration Ponds



on the southern edge of the marsh, providing critically needed habitat for the endangered birds. One of the major management priorities at the ponds is to battle the aggressive encroachment of many invasive exotic species (both plants and animals) that have invaded the marsh. And that is where RPCVHI jumped in with their community pride, sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the environment. Each month hardcore members of RPCVHI demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism, ready to brave mosquitoes, murky water, slimy creatures, thick vegetation and the hot sun to do whatever is needed to protect the marsh habitat!

MINNESOTA

There's been a strong volunteer and community building relationship over the years between Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Habitat for Humanity. The most recent activity occurred in Hugo, Minn., about 30 miles northeast of



the Twin Cities. A hearty contingent from the **Minnesota RPCVs** took part over several days in August, rolling up their sleeves for a Habitat

build that included sheetrocking, putting up plywood and installing insulation.

MISSOURI

Twelve members of the leadership boards of the **Kansas City Area Peace Corps Association**, the **Central Missouri RPCVs** and the **St. Louis Peace Corps Association** came together in Columbia, Missouri in July for the first-ever Missouri Leadership Summit. NPCA President (and Missouri native) Glenn Blumhorst provided an overview of the NPCA's new initiatives, strategies and emphasis on strengthening affiliate groups and



was on hand to answer questions and provide guidance during the free-flowing discussion that ensued from the day's agenda. Participants discussed each group's main activities, leadership structures, challenges and opportunities for greater connection. One of the big ideas was consideration of a new state-wide Missouri group under a common nonprofit 501 c 3 status. The group chose to table that idea for the time being, and work together on common activities in the meantime. One common activity discussed was advocacy. Work on this front is already underway with advocacy coordinators in St. Louis and Kansas City successfully pursuing district office meetings with members of Congress. Other topics included Third Goal activities, improved ways to fundraise, bringing GATHR international films to each metro area and joint social activities. The groups ended the day with a dinner and a

plan to continue to stay in touch and work towards greater partnership and coordination.

SIERRA LEONE

The St. Joseph's Secondary School Alumni Association (SJSSAA) presented a "Service with distinction Award" award to the **Friends of Sierra Leone** (FoSL) for their service and commitment to the country. St. Joseph's is an all girls' school located in Freetown, Sierra Leone that provides a quality education and leadership training to those who attend. FoSL was presented the award at SJSSAA's Annual Fundraising Dinner & Dance on July 31st. The event's proceeds benefit a St. Joseph's scholarship fund and the SJSSAA's "Let's Go Solar" project, which is an effort to reduce the effect of power outages in the school.

TENNESSEE

The **Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers** (TNRPCV) hosts a service activity in the Nashville community every month, in keeping with its mission "to unite and empower the Tennessee Peace Corps community through service and support." Back in May, several TNRPCV members joined a group of about 50 people who came together to mulch a highly used stretch of trail at Radnor Lake State Park, a 1,300 acre community

resource that is designated as a Class II Natural Area. As the group notes, "We are proud of this protected area right here in Nashville and had a great time loading, pushing and dumping many wheel barrows full of mulch and gravel!"

TOGO

In April, Pathways Togo board member and Togo RPCV Stephanie Palmer (2001-2004) sent out a matching challenge to **Friends of Togo**, as well as to personal friends and colleagues, to raise funds for scholarships and other educational support for girls and women attending secondary school and university in Togo. Ms. Palmer pledged to match every donation dollar for dollar up to \$500. In total, the challenge has raised just over \$2,050, more than doubling the original goal of \$1,000! Pathways Togo is a non-profit organization started in 2010 by three RPCVs from Togo: Kyra Turner Zogbekor (2001-2003), Laurie Segel-Moss (2001-2003), and Julia McNally (2008-10). Pathways Togo still maintains a strong relationship with Peace Corps-Togo and has several PCVs assisting with grant-writing, social media, and programming. For those who missed the matching challenge but would still like to support Pathways Togo with a tax-deductible donation, please visit pathwaystogo.org.



#FUNDPEACECORPS

Fresh perspectives count

By J.M. Ascienzo

Ever wonder why there aren't more Peace Corps Volunteers? During service I often did. The question was often raised in conversation with other Volunteers, host-country nationals, and the greater Peace Corps community in general. If the overall impact of Peace Corps is good, then why isn't there more of it?

It turns out the answer is rather simple: there's no funding.

No funding to meet increased demands in applications, no funding to meet increased demands from past, current and potential host countries, and no funding to safely and effectively implement Peace Corps programming.

So how can we increase funding? That's also a simple answer: lobby Congress.

In coordination with Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) groups around the country and the Peace Corps community throughout the world, lobbying Congress for increased Peace Corps funding and support of other Peace Corps community issues is a large part of what the National Peace Corps Association's advocacy team does. We've been successful in the past, and we'll be successful in the future, but only with your help, and only if that help comes now.

For me, lobbying Congress for increased Peace Corps funding is the manifestation of the Third Goal. I believe the Peace Corps is America's best foreign engagement, and now more than ever America and the world needs more of it. Before I benefitted from my Peace Corps service, someone else lobbied Congress for funding that guaranteed my site—my opportunity—existed. Without those efforts, the benefits of Peace Corps would not have been available to me, the cohort I served with, and the communities we served. Someone fought for us—to make

"If every returning Volunteer took the time to share their stories with their members, we'd have a lot more representatives making Peace Corps funding a priority."

Peace Corps better, stronger and more efficient—and now we need to fight for future Volunteers and their communities to have the same opportunities.

As an advocacy fellow at the NPCA, I have the opportunity to lobby Congress on a daily basis. I can tell you from meeting with members and staffers that fresh perspectives count. If increased funding will help implement current projects, Congress wants to hear from Volunteers: current or recently returned from service. As a legislative assistant recently told us, "If every returning Volunteer took the time to share their stories with their members, we'd have a lot more representatives making Peace Corps funding a priority."

Here are some things you can do to help:

Educate your members of Congress.

During my time as an advocacy fellow, one of the most reassuring things I've heard from members and their staff is that members respond with action to their constituents' demands. If members don't hear from their constituents on issues, then they won't make it a priority. Write your members letters about your Peace Corps experience and enlist your community members to do the same. Or organize a meeting with your members or their staff in Washington, D.C., or in your state. Send pictures. Tweet. Call. Anything. Be thankful, informative and positive, and we're more likely to successfully enlist their help.

Enlist others. Members love to hear from serving and returned Volunteers, but it's also helpful for them to hear from others who have benefited from your service. The skills acquired during service last a lifetime.

It's likely that they've positively affected your work, studies and community. Enlist your boss, professor, or mayor or parent to lobby on your behalf. Or enlist members of your host country community. It's likely that your host country's leaders in government, business, health and elsewhere have benefited from the Peace Corps. Seek them out and ask for their help in lobbying your members. You'll be surprised how eager they are for the opportunity to help.

Contact the NPCA. We're here to help you. If you want assistance with how you can lobby your members, please reach out to us.

Support the NPCA. The NPCA is the advocacy body for Peace Corps-related issues. Whether it's funding, post-service healthcare challenges, or supporting serving and returned Volunteer projects, the NPCA has got you covered. We can't do this without your support. Become a member for free before your service is up, and tell others to do the same. And if you can, make a donation. Every penny counts!

J.M. Ascienzo (Thailand 2012-2015) is the first NPCA Fellow. As a recently-returned Peace Corps Volunteer in his post-service transition phase, he is putting his energy and passion to work for the Peace Corps community here at the NPCA. J.M. served for three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher-trainer in northern and southern Thailand. Previously he had also taught in Vietnam, South Korea and Washington, D.C., and served as an AmeriCorps Vista Service Learning Coordinator in Seattle. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Auburn University.

Continued from Page 6

and Sara. These RPCVs, the first generation to answer Kennedy's call to serve America and the world, have set the bar for our own legacies. These legacies need to be known.

In the coming weeks and months the NPCA will be focused on an aggressive campaign to secure from Congress President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016 Peace Corps budget request of \$410 million. But we cannot do it without your help. It will take all of us from the greater Peace Corps community to convince our members of Congress that this budget is imperative to respond to record-high numbers of Peace Corps Volunteer applicants and sustained requests from Peace Corps host countries, as well as to continue implementing girls and women empowerment and education programs. *We need you to contact your members of Congress. We need your letters, your phone calls, your pictures from service, your stories, and your determination. We need you to ask yourselves some basic questions:*

Do your members of Congress know that John Stauffer saves Eritrean refugees or that Haskell Ward helped transform communications technologies in Africa? Do your members of Congress know that Roger Parent provides computers to Thai schoolchildren? Do your members of Congress know that Sara Aeikens helps make her community a better place to live? Do your members of Congress know what you believe in?

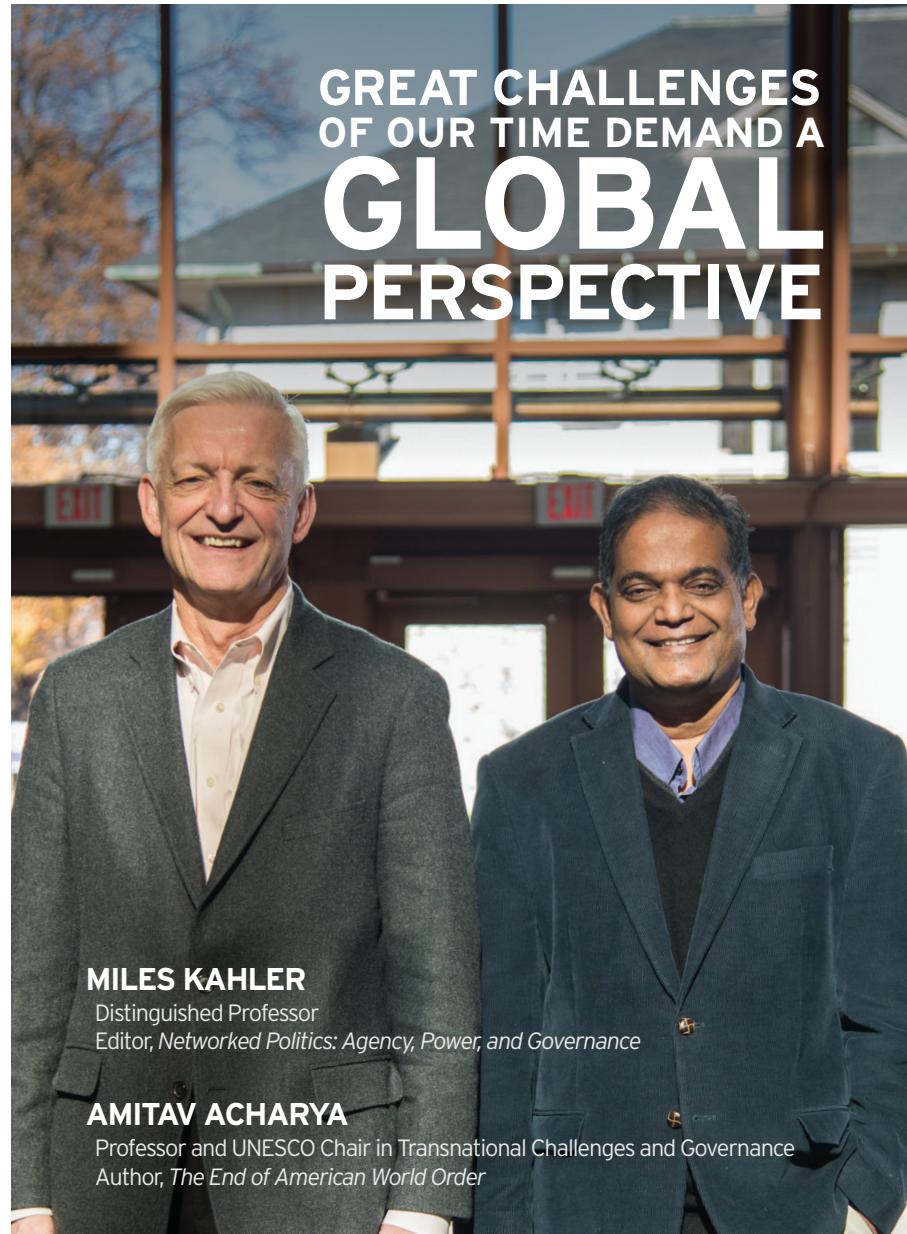
In continued service,

Glenn Blumhorst

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

You can reach Glenn at president@peacecorpsconnect.org.

Interested in supporting the work of the NPCA? Visit 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 and continue to receive WorldView magazine.



GREAT CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME DEMAND A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

MILES KAHLER

Distinguished Professor
Editor, *Networked Politics: Agency, Power, and Governance*

AMITAV ACHARYA

Professor and UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance
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OH THE STORIES THEY TOLD

Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley spotlighted innovation and heart

By Erica Burman

There is nothing quite like a large gathering of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). There's a special spirit ... an energy. The National Peace Corps Association's (NPCA) fourth annual conference, Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley 2015 was no exception.

On June 5-6, 2015, some 500 RPCVs came together alongside members of Congress, entrepreneurs, Peace Corps and NPCA staff members, and a number of groups and organizations to share stories and create connections. In the sessions and panels, topics ranged from corporate leadership to social entrepreneurship, from writing a memoir to climate change, and more. At the NPCA annual general meeting, NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst spoke about the exciting developments at NPCA. Later Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet updated the community on the state of the Peace Corps. In a Peace Corps Connect first, we convened a panel dedicated to issues surrounding post-service health and how we can better support members of our community.

Over two days—three for those who arrived early for the Peace Corps career fair—we celebrated the achievements of our community and honored those who are paying the Peace Corps legacy forward. The conference demonstrated that across decades and spanning the globe, the Peace Corps spirit is strong.

Visit <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/> for links to the Facebook album, Storify, and blog posts about the conference.

Erica Burman (*The Gambia 1987-1989*) is the director of communications for the National Peace Corps Association. You can reach her at news@peacecorpsconnect.org.





A bronze statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding a set of scales, stands against a clear blue sky. Overlaid on the bottom right is a large orange rectangular box containing the text:

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DARE TO INNOVATE: WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

By Emma Schaberg O'Brien

What does it take to launch a business? How about a business in a not-yet-emerging economy? What about a business that supports youth to build businesses in these not-yet-emerging economies? And what if you demand not only that they have a financial and a social impact, but that you yourself must experiment with new models of development and strive to one day wean yourself off grant money and fuel your growth with profits and private sector investment? Let me tell you, it takes a lot. This is not a journey that the Dare to Innovate team really expected to embark upon, but through it, they have found a vocation and just may be creating a hybrid model of development that is empowering and effective.

In the spring of 2012, seven Peace Corps volunteers came together in the city of Labé in Guinea, West Africa to plan a social entrepreneurship conference and competition. Unbeknownst to them at the time, they ended up laying the foundations for a movement that would change the course of their service, the lives of a group of young Guineans, and launch a movement that would shape the lives of many more. This was the beginning of Dare to Innovate (DTI), which at the time didn't even have a name, but has now become a social enterprise that challenges youth across West Africa to design and jump-start their own social enterprises, transforming social issues into revenue-generating solutions.

After the first conference, Worldview featured a story on Dare to Innovate in the Winter 2013 edition. It highlighted the launch of the first Dare to Innovate Conference for Social Entrepreneurship, during which some of the most dynamic youth of Guinea joined forces with design-thinkers and successful business mentors—it was the *big bang* that formed the movement. The conference culminated in a business plan pitch competition, which funded seven Dare to Innovate Fellows, each of whom received seed financing and support to incubate and grow their social ventures. In the time that has lapsed since then, a lot has changed for our entrepreneurs and for the organization.

A good example is Mamadou Aliou Bah. Graduating with

a degree in veterinary medicine in 2012, Aliou was lucky to have worked a couple internships, but none led to full-time employment. He entered the conference as one of many unemployed Guinean youth. He identified a growing demand for quality veterinary care in the surrounding villages and created Pita's first mobile veterinary clinic, which supplies cost-effective treatment to rural posts and provides on-site consultations to herders. Aliou has a passion for veterinary medicine. He also is driven to improve the socio-economic condition of his hometown and to help other young people find meaningful employment. As he explained during the ideation process, "What frustrates me the most is the lack of protein in meals despite the efforts of farmers and students who have mastered their subject and their work [but have not been employed to use it]. This is what my mobile veterinary clinic will address." Aliou has evolved not only into a responsible and successful social entrepreneur, but a beacon of change within his community. He received additional funding to expand his business to also include a chicken farm.

He is not alone in using Dare to Innovate as a launching pad to a successful career as an entrepreneur. Youssouf Barry, a DTI fellow who runs an organic banana plantation, won the *Startup Guinée* competition. This was a pure business plan competition, without a caveat that ideas must also be social. His rural social enterprise beat out competitors from across the country enabling him to expand into the transformation of bananas into a nutrient-rich snack for kids.

Dare to Innovate has changed too. For one, we have proven to ourselves and to others that the private sector has the power



Fatoumata Diallo, a funded DTI fellow who runs an early childhood education center.

DARE TO INNOVATE



Participants at the first DTI Conference for Social Entrepreneurship in Benin.

and responsibility to create a better world where opportunity is not a privilege, but a right. At the core of our work is the promotion of Social Entrepreneurship and we define it in a specific way. It is more than just social innovation. A social enterprise is one that measures profits in two ways, the financial gain to the shareholders and the social profit for the stakeholders – using profit as a tool for lasting social change. For Dare to Innovate, Social Entrepreneurship is a virtuous cycle that connects social impact directly to financial gain. We believe that the more a social enterprise gains in profit, the more lives it changes and community problems it solves. As we have seen from the initiatives of our Dare to Innovate Fellows, organizations that link social impact to profit foster the motivation to do good while empowering entrepreneurs to provide for their families and create employment.

We challenge the status quo of economic development and aid. We believe in the power of youth to propel positive

social change, challenging youth to turn social issues into revenue-generating solutions and providing the tools to do so via a cutting-edge, human-centered, design-thinking curriculum and access to thought-leaders and financing. Even for youth who are not funded, the exposure to DTI encourages innovation no matter where life takes them, providing a new lens to see potential, rather than problems, opportunity instead of obstacles.

This operating model has resonated in the market. For one, we have been able to expand our work to Benin, launching our first class of fellows this summer through partnerships with Peace Corps Benin and the Young Beninese Leadership Association. Our Guinea program, through the support of the Rio Tinto Foundation, has continued to run despite Ebola and expanded into agropreneurship (agriculture + entrepreneurship) with specific programming and seed capital to support food security businesses. From a DTI global standpoint, we have partnered with PayPal to build out

the next-generation monitoring, measurement, and support tool that will help our entrepreneurs link spending and earnings to key social impact indicators and, hopefully, support DTI as a revenue generating product. We also sold our first contract for for-profit work, advising two young entrepreneurs on how to grow their businesses. This

money will be reinvested in our fellowship program in Guinea.

We cannot yet answer all those questions that we posed at the beginning of this article. We depend heavily on grant money to survive and not all of our entrepreneurs have succeeded. We face the same challenges that all startups face, but many more unique to our specific geographic context and mission. As we said, this is challenging work, but the impact is great.

Fatoumata Diallo, a funded DTI fellow who runs an early childhood education center told us, “As a female social entrepreneur, I strive to be modern, to be creative, to teach entrepreneurship to others in my community, to be seen in my country and in the world as such, to be a role model and example.” These are the types of private sector business leaders the world needs and this is why we are tirelessly adapting our model to find ways to sustainably empower them.

To follow our development and learn how you can become involved with the Dare to Innovate movement, visit DaretoInnovate.com.

MAMADOU ALIOU 2 BAH
MOBIE VETERINARY CLINIC



Aliou has evolved not only into a responsible social entrepreneur, but a beacon of change within his community.

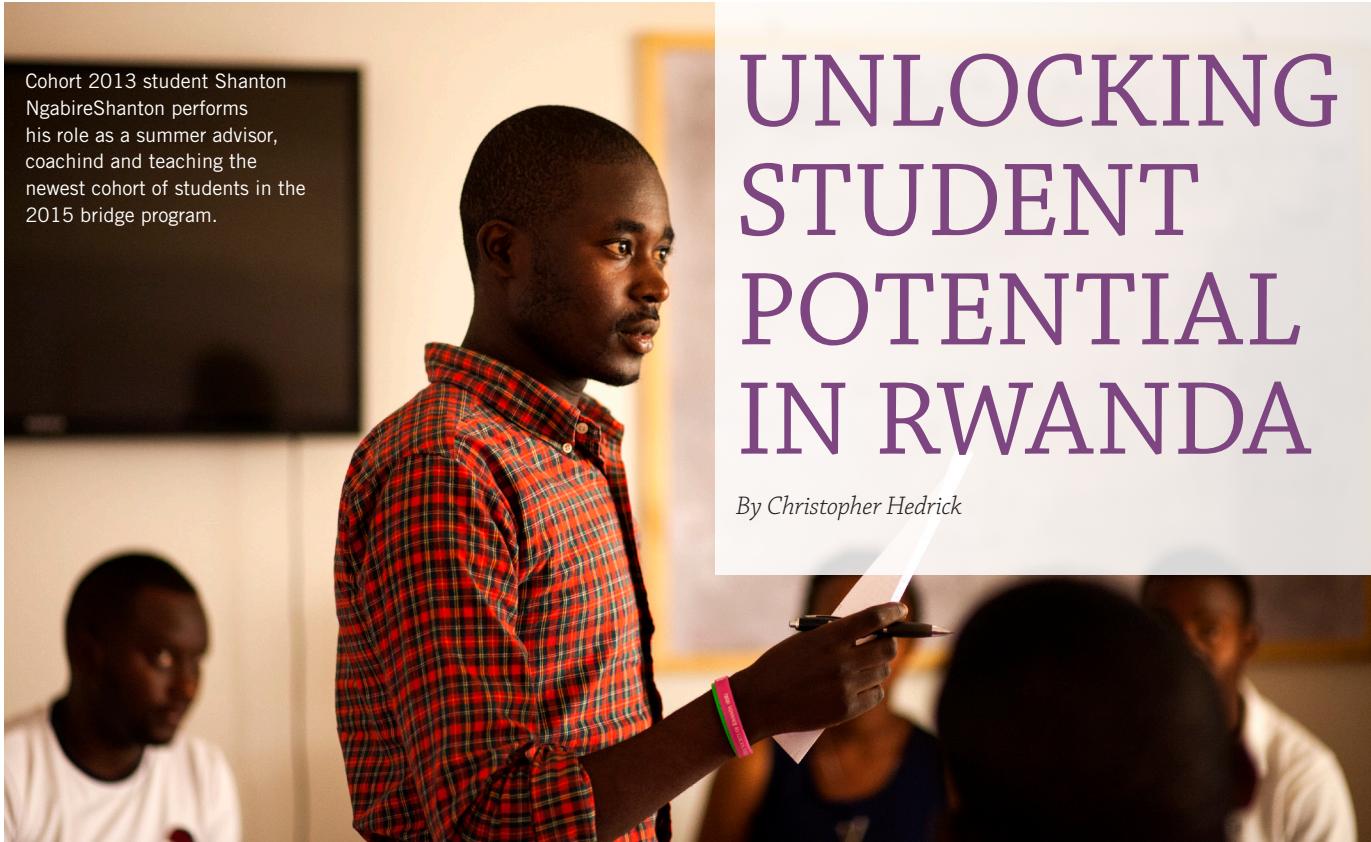
Emma Schaberg O'Brien (Guinea 2011-2013) is founder and director of communications for the Dare to Innovate board of directors, and served as a Community Economic Development Volunteer. She believes that through technological and systematic advancements we have the ability to build a brighter future for all—and, that this future will be driven by young changemakers. (@DaretoInnovate, @Emmasobrien)

Cohort 2013 student Shanton NgabireShanton performs his role as a summer advisor, coachind and teaching the newest cohort of students in the 2015 bridge program.

UNLOCKING STUDENT POTENTIAL IN RWANDA

By Christopher Hedrick

@GENERATIONRWANDA



A quarter century ago, when I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a village called Dinefelo, in a remote corner of southeastern Senegal, students could only advance to 5th grade before they had to go to the nearest city to continue their education. Middle school was in Kedougou, 35 kilometers distant over a rutted dirt road. High school was even more remote. Kids from Dinefelo who wanted the chance to continue their education had to venture to Tambacounda, about 250 km away over a laterite road through the Niokolo Koba National Park. If you passed the rigorous tests to gain admission to high school, you would then have to figure out where to live, whether with your cousins, or with your family's friends. Not surprisingly, very few students, perhaps 5 percent, from Dinefelo back then made

it through high school, and fewer still continued on to university.

Those that were able to continue on in their studies have become leaders in business, with nonprofits, in public



service and teaching. My own son from Dinefelo, Hassana Hedrick Diallo, adopted in 1990, was able to come to America and graduate from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. He has since returned to Senegal, grown his family, started several businesses and been hired by an international NGO called Global Citizen Year, which brings American students in their gap year between high school and college to live in communities in Senegal and other developing countries in sort of a junior Peace Corps experience.

Those children from the village that had just as much potential, but weren't as fortunate as Hassana and his friends who were able to advance their education, have had starkly different lives over the past 25 years. Some have stayed in the village farming, a tough existence in an era of unpredictable climate. Others have gone off to seek their fortune in artisanal gold mining, which is fraught with danger

from the mercury they use to concentrate the gold specks, to the social hazards of the sex trade and crime. Many have tried to make it in the big city of Dakar, where unemployment among the undereducated is over 50 percent, or make the harrowing trek of undocumented migrants to Europe.

In some ways, the educational situation for kids from Dinefelo and the rest of Senegal has changed dramatically since I lived in the village. Now, the government has opened up a high school in the village and most kids attend. No longer do children have to voyage hundreds of kilometers through the bush to continue their studies. Nationally, primary school enrollment in Senegal has reached 84% and is continuing toward universal access. Close to half of Senegalese children now attend secondary school, compared to 15 percent when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer. Similar trends are true across the continent.

But, what then? In Senegal, and across Africa, most good jobs go to those who are fortunate enough to have attended university. But only about one in twelve young Africans has the chance to go to college. At the same time, many businesses that drive African economic progress are crying out for more skilled workers. Many of those young Africans who do get the chance to continue their education graduate from university without the skills needed to succeed in the modern economy. While there are many exceptions, universities across the continent often fail to prepare their students for career success. The sort of rote learning and lecture-based instruction that prevails in the early grades continues into university education.

The challenge and opportunity for higher education in Africa will grow dramatically more acute over the next generation. According to a new IMF study, the number of job seekers from Africa will exceed that from the whole rest of the world combined by 2035. In that statistic, are millions of lives, millions of Hassanas

and Mariamas, who will either have the opportunity to succeed or not largely depending upon their access to useful and affordable education.

It was the opportunity to be part of helping to figure out how to unlock a generation of talent and potential that drew me to a new learning initiative in Rwanda.

Last year, as I was serving in my seventh and final year as the Peace Corps Senegal country director, I heard about an innovative experiment in higher education called Kepler. The founders of a small scholarship program helping

the Kepler team, we've worked to figure out how best to support some of the brightest students in Rwanda to get a life-changing educational experience. We've grown a partnership with Southern New Hampshire University's College for America, a trail-blazing competency-based degree program, accredited in the U.S. but now available to our students in Rwanda. Our staff, which is about 90 percent Rwandan, has built and is delivering a curriculum that is engaging and participatory, rather than lecture based. We've started to build relations with local employers, listening to their needs, and



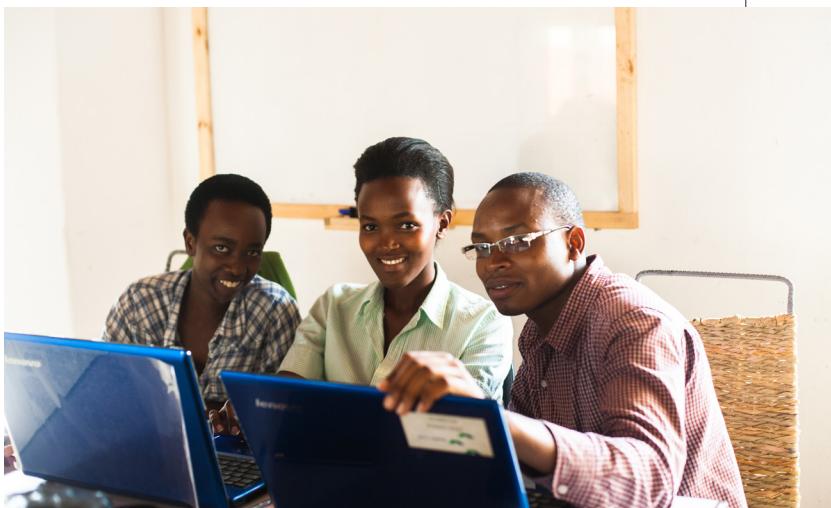
Course facilitator Nkudabagenzi teaching an accounting seminar to cohort 2013 students.

orphans and other vulnerable children pay for and succeed in college in Rwanda had the notion to try to offer an alternative to the traditional pedagogy of the existing universities. They thought that a blended combination of local teachers facilitating seminars and world-class digital learning content and courses, along with a strong focus on the education-to-employment transition, could be both affordable and high quality. And, if done and documented well, it might make a model that could help expand higher education access and unlock human potential across the continent. I decided I wanted to be part of that initiative.

Over the past year or so since I joined

shaping our teaching focus so that our students will stand out and immediately add value as interns and employees.

Kepler has grown from a pilot group of 50 students in 2013 to 300 today, 275 at our main campus in the Rwandan capital of Kigali and 25 at a branch at the Kiziba refugee camp. The refugee camp initiative, which came at the invitation of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees and with the support of the IKEA Foundation, is a new and unique effort to bring higher education access to a population that has had essentially none for the 20 years that the camp has been housing displaced families from the eastern region of the Democratic Republic



L-R, Students Jeanne Uwimana, Erina Kabatesi, and Sereverien Ngarukiye working collaboratively on a College for America project.



Kepler students in class.



Students Olivier Ishimwe, Narcisse Izabayo and Agnes Musanabera.

of Congo.

We gauge our educational success at Kepler by answering three key questions: Are the students progressing rapidly toward their degrees? Are they learning more than at the traditional universities? Is what they are learning preparing them for productive careers and lives full of opportunity?

On all three counts, Kepler is off to a quick start. Forty-nine out of 50 students in the first class have completed their Associate of Arts degrees, the American two-year degree, in less than two years and they are well on their way to their Bachelor's degrees. In the U.S. that figure at most community colleges is less than 10 percent. Outside research has shown that on all measures Kepler students are learning at a significantly superior pace compared to a matched set of students from similar academic and socio-economic backgrounds attending traditional universities in Rwanda. Finally, employers recognize the difference and are recruiting our students even before they graduate. One solar energy firm starting up operations in Rwanda has already given job offers to 17 Kepler students, hoping that they will give them the right team to win in a new market.

Most important, our students are seeing their potential unlocked. Pascaline, a third year student, told me, "Before I arrived at Kepler, I never felt confident enough to speak in class. Now I know that my voice will be heard." And Ange, from the same class, said, "Every student in the world should have the same opportunity to learn as we do here in Rwanda. I cannot wait until Kepler is everywhere in Africa."

Whether the change comes from Kepler growing into new countries or other institutions using new models to offer high quality university education at a low cost, the change must come. The future of an entire generation of Africa's potential leaders depends upon it.

Christopher Hedrick (Senegal 1988-1990) was Peace Corps Country Director in Senegal from 2007 to 2014 and was also the Coordinator of the Peace Corps Stomping Out Malaria in Africa Initiative. He is now CEO of Kepler, based in Kigali, Rwanda. Learn more about Kepler at www.kepler.org and contact Chris at chris@kepler.org.

SEWING DREAMS TOGETHER

The Bosh Bosh Project is Letting Girls Learn

By Michael Brian Hamby with Charlene Espinoza



Charlene Espinoza thought she was dreaming. She was at the White House about to introduce President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to a waiting crowd. Before taking the stage, she paused at a window to look out at the capitol city and the snow that had fallen that day. In the distance she could see The Washington Monument. The scene, and her place within it, gave an impression of the surreal.

But, of course, Espinoza wasn't dreaming. She was at the White House for good reason. She belonged in the VIP ranks around her—not only as a human being, but as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and an advocate for change, working to better the lives of women and



girls in western Africa.

Espinoza is the founder and CEO of Bosh Bosh, a Liberia-based NGO that uses fashion and design to provide vocational training and educational scholarships for rural women and girls. Espinoza first established the project as an after-school sewing club while serving in the same country. She was at The White House to help launch Let Girls Learn, a global initiative that plans to further the work of Peace Corps and USAID to ensure that girls around the world have access to an education and are supported to stay in school—a mission Espinoza and The Bosh Bosh Project share.

Let Girls Learn has found a champion in the Obamas, with the First Lady lending her voice to the cause. In her remarks, Mrs. Obama pointed to Peace Corps Volunteers like Espinoza already hard at work creating opportunities “to give girls world-wide the education they deserve.”

Espinoza's road to the White House began in Salala, Liberia, roughly 60 miles from the capital in Monrovia. During her first days of service, Espinoza recognized the need for a community-based project that focused on gender equality and female empowerment. And she wasn't alone.

Sis Yamah, a third-grade teacher at the school, was never shy while expressing her opinions on the Liberian educational system and need for reform that would see girls succeed in the same right as their male classmates. Sis Yamah had a plan to make good on her challenge and had a partner in Espinoza.

“I want to get girls together,” Espinoza recalls from an early conversation with Sis Yamah, “and empower them to become someone in the future. I want to start a girls club!”

DURING a trip to Sierra Leone, Espinoza walked through a market in the port city of Freetown. She eventually found herself talking with a woman selling handmade, brightly-colored clothes and bags. She was drawn to the rich textiles on display.

Before her service, Espinoza earned a degree at The Design Institute of San Diego and went on to work for a commercial architectural design company. “The design world is very glamorous,” she says, “but I always tried to keep it real and kept myself busy during my spare time with volunteer work.” That work took her to Mexico where Espinoza grew up as a child and often returned to organize food drives with local NGOs.

"I knew that if we made a cool product with purpose then there would be a demand for it."

As Espinoza continued through the market in Freetown, she traced the intricate pattern and weave of the bag now draped over her shoulder. She was thinking about Salala and her girls. A design of its own was taking shape—Espinoza's passion for design and volunteer work converged. If she could help the women and girls in her community make bags like this one, she thought, they could eventually sell them in Monrovia. More importantly, her girls could use the earnings to further their education.

"There were two needs that I wanted to address," Espinoza says. "First, a market need within the capital where there was a huge lack of Liberian-made items and souvenirs. And second, the issue of adolescent girls not having the financial resources to go to school."

TRADITIONALLY, tailoring is a male profession in Liberia, where boys start learning the trade at an early age. But Espinoza and Sis Yamah knew their girls would like the idea of learning a skill typically reserved for the opposite gender. And they weren't wrong. Forty girls eagerly lined up to join the club at its first meeting.

With the help of a local tailor who donated clothing scraps to the club, Espinoza and Sis Yamah began teaching their girls—many of whom had never before handled scissors—how to thread needles, measure with tape and cut fabric. But the girls weren't only learning how to sew. As Espinoza says, they were learning "to pay attention to detail, to visualize, be creative and think outside the box."

Espinoza and her girls, or scholars as they were proudly known in the club, found early success in making Kindle cases, a big hit within the community of Peace Corps living throughout Liberia. The profits went directly back to the Scholars, creating a revenue stream which provided scholarships to alleviate the cost of tuition, uniforms and school supplies.

It didn't take long for word to spread about the sewing club. The U.S. Embassy sponsored Espinoza and her scholars at arts and crafts fairs in Monrovia where the Project continued to find success in the expatriate and NGO market. But

Espinoza's work was only just beginning. She extended her Peace Corps service for a third year and registered Bosh Bosh as an official NGO in Liberia. With a more secure and structured foundation in place, the Project was able to offer an educational component, providing access to tutoring and counseling services, computer literacy classes, as well as workshops focused on health, family planning, HIV/AIDS awareness, life skills and female rights.

The Project even formed its own social enterprise called the Star Program, in which scholars make and sell decorative star figurines out of recycled materials. Espinoza called the program unique for its service-minded approach to business. A full 60% of each sale goes into a community-service fund which scholars manage themselves and use to support various projects that identify and meet a need within the community. Last year, for instance, the scholars decided their school needed a paint job. The Star Program covered the costs.

WHEN the Project was merely an idea in a Freetown market, Espinoza had more than a bag. She had a business model built upon simple supply and demand. And demand has grown. To meet it, women in Salala were hired to form a production team, responsible for all Bosh Bosh products. Using locally-sourced materials such as natural dyes extracted from tree bark and crushed glass repurposed into beads, the women make a variety of bags, headbands, aprons and e-reader cases. As part of the Bosh Bosh team, the women receive monthly salaries, health benefits and scholarships for their children to attend and stay-in school. They're also able to continue their own education and have access to monthly workshops focused on business development and financial-literacy.

WORKING at the intersection of entrepreneurship and social enterprise, Espinoza and her business partners have created vehicle for change, which in its own



**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A
SUPERHERO TO CHANGE
THE WORLD.**

modest way, is helping to rebuild a country torn apart by decades of civil war. The weight of that work isn't lost on Espinoza, and she remains committed to expanding the efforts of the Project not only within Liberia, but internationally. "I believe in what we do," she says, "and I know for a fact that Bosh Bosh changes lives and offers an opportunity for a better life."

The Project will soon open its own store in Monrovia and Espinoza and her partners are actively working on plans to bring the project to schools around Liberia with the hope of establishing a national vocational-training program. Those plans also involve a company headquarters with a community library, production space and classrooms for various educational courses and skills-based training.

Espinoza admits to operating on a learning curve while turning a secondary Peace Corps project into a business and NGO, and she's relied on advice from other social entrepreneurs while working to keep the organization sustainable, as well as planning ahead for international expansion in other developing countries. While she works longer hours than she did at her old design firm, she's happy to do it. "When you are truly passionate about your work," she says, "and put your heart and soul into, things fall into place. Ever since we started Bosh Bosh, things have evolved organically."

Espinoza never thought she would be at the White House introducing The President and First Lady. She was nervous, to say the least. But as she prepared to take the stage that day last spring, a colleague reminded her that she was there for good reason. Espinoza was there, the calming voice told her, "to give those girls back in Liberia a voice and a chance to an education, that's your goal, that's your mission. So just embrace it all. This is a part of the journey and it's only the beginning."

Michael Hamby (Thailand 2012-2014) is a contributing writer for WorldView. He is a graduate of Marlboro College and resides in Richmond, Virginia.



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BRIDGING THE INCOME GENERATION GAP

Offering a way to stay

By Evan Delahanty

Teaching English and computer literacy can make for a great project, but what do these skills really mean to an endangered culture in the middle of the Amazon rainforest?

I asked myself that question many times during my 27-month stint in Suriname as a Community Economic Development Volunteer. Now, as a “social good” entrepreneur, I think about it more broadly. My startup, Peaceful Fruits, makes fruit snacks out of wild açai harvested by indigenous communities in the Amazon rainforest, thus creating a market that supports eco-friendly, local income generation. And I try to think more carefully than ever about what benefits different development activities offer to local communities.

For the language and computer projects that I observed in Suriname, I think they offer a way out.

Many people have wanted to get out of Suriname over the years; my site was a village descended from slaves who escaped deep into the rainforest. Today, many of the most educated and ambitious Surinamese are leaving the rainforest and other underdeveloped areas of the country for Paramaribo (the capitol—and only—city) or the Netherlands, Suriname’s former colonial overlord. This is brain drain of epic proportions, and I should know—I’m from Cleveland.

For these people trying to escape the subsistence cycle, modern skills like English and computer literacy are invaluable. But what about the rest?

I’m talking about the people who choose to stay and farm their family’s land—to wear a *kosu* (wrap skirt) or a *camisa* (loin



Evan, Suriname PCV 2011-2013 working on teaching English as a side project.

cloth), though they may have a cell phone tucked in somewhere. Certainly speaking some English and knowing the basics of modern technology is absolutely useful. These people love their way of life; they don’t hate the modern world.

But projects empowering these people—the ones who want to preserve their traditions by living them—seem few and far between, at least they were in Suriname. Hustling in a grant for an arts & crafts women’s group or to set up an eco-lodge does not protect all that much, at least not in a region that sees only a trickle of tourists each month.

This was the gap that Peace Corps Suriname stepped in to fill, serving as a bridge, in many cases, between communities and private industry. Unsurprisingly, it’s also the gap I try to fill with Peaceful Fruits. (Figuratively only—I don’t recommend using fruit snacks to plug holes.)

JONATHAN LUPISAN



Evan, founder of Peaceful Fruits LLC holding one of his products made from wild açaí.

Any NGO could drop in sewing machines, but Peace Corps Volunteers—with local contacts and local context—were able to connect the sewing group with the biggest tourist market in the country. And figure out how to actually get the goods to the shelf.

Lots of organizations were doing solar energy projects, but it was Peace Corps Volunteers who helped connected the crowd of small, local solar entrepreneurs with a regional, Inter-American Development Bank-funded solar wholesaler. With both sides making money it wasn't a project—it was a green snowball that, despite being on the equator, just kept growing.

As Peace Corps Volunteer and development workers, it's easy to become jaded about both capitalism and aid. But there is a fuzzy place in the middle that can do a lot of good—and Peace Corps Volunteers know how to find it.

That's why there are more and more awesome post-Peace Corps startups—and why I set out to build one.

Peaceful Fruits uses wild açaí sourced in partnership with local communities to make organic, delicious fruit snacks that people can "enjoy with peace of mind." Our objective is to transplant the wild fruit industry that currently is thriving in Brazil over the border into Suriname.

Our goal is to help local communities harness a renewable resource that commands a premium because it can only exist in the untamed rainforest. That gives people a way to generate income, but also an incentive to preserve local lands and control.

There are so many projects offering people a way out. Our mission is to offer people a way to stay. We want to be part of sustainable economic opportunity that is respectful of traditional ways of life and uses of the land. Development that does not require disruption.

As always, there are complexities,



Evan with a group of solar entrepreneurs.

EVAN DELAHANTY



Evan with his counterpart, Edje Doekeoe.

opportunities for abuse, and nothing is perfect. But when local people are making tough decisions about how to chart their future, I think there should be more options that allow them to maintain their traditional connection to the rainforest and still be part of the modern economy.

As Peace Corps Volunteers, and also Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, we have a unique ability to spot opportunities at the intersection of respecting local community priorities and supporting progress.

Because we are neighbors, not just development workers, we have a chance to help create—for those who want to—ways to stay.

Evan Delahanty (Suriname 2011-2013) is the founder of Peaceful Fruits LLC, a one-year-old social good snack startup that makes organic fruit snacks out of wild açaí, harvested in partnership with local communities in the Amazon rainforest. He's currently making even less money than he did as a Volunteer, but loving every minute of it and hoping that will change soon. His mailbox is always open and he responds to postcards with samples whenever possible: 4210 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula OH 44264 USA.

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF OBAMA

By Anna Goldman

Two nights ago I watched Air Force One land in Addis Ababa. Something it has not done in the history of the American Presidency. I watched the plane land with a hundred Ethiopians, in a roof top restaurant hoping to get a glance of something—everyone in the room knew we wouldn't see an actual President or even a visible outline of a President, but it was more than that. We were watching possibility land in Ethiopia. And it was great.

In the U.S., I worked three blocks away from the White House but in coming to Ethiopia, thousands of miles away, I have felt closer to this man, this presidency, this great human purpose he challenges us to work for—humanity towards all people—than ever before.

I feel close to him because in Ethiopia, my very identity is somehow wrapped up in his and in turn, his identity is wrapped up in mine. Kids on the street scream

buy onions, and taxi drivers initiate conversations on how Obama's politics effect the entire world. Here, my American-ness is something tangible, something that somehow screams out of me without even opening my mouth. Even though I have lived my entire life in the United States, I have never felt more American than I have felt since coming to Ethiopia.

During his stay in Addis, the President made an historic speech at the African Union. He was speaking to a room of African leaders, men and women who have done extraordinary things but also made great mistakes. He talked about the responsibility they all have to work together to make their continent, and in turn the world, better. I am not an African leader, not even close, but his speech, and many other messages that Obama has delivered over the years, got me thinking.

There is so much hatred in the world and so much misunderstanding of other people. As an American population, right now, we are faced with the contradictory states of being both at our most advanced selves and also our most hateful. We are working to end wars, improve security for struggling nations, and raise the level of health care for all Americans, yet we are killing people because of the color of their skin and hating people because of who they choose to love. How can we be a global leader while having so many faults of our own? What responsibilities do I have to make America a better place for everyone?

How can I have a hand, however small, in achieving greater global humanity?

Despite living here for two years, I



PCVs wait on Bole road to watch President Obama's passing motorcade.

remain a foreigner, an American living in Ethiopia for a limited amount of time. I often think about the responsibility I have to represent the people and places of America because of how much my identity here has to do with where I am from. But what does that mean?

As I watched President Obama speak to that room, and in turn, the continent of Africa, I came to the same conclusion I have come to every time I think about these questions. If nothing else I feel lucky, privileged more than 90% of the rest of the world, to be able to ask tough questions. The freedom to be able to ask questions, dispute the accepted, or even challenge those in power, is a freedom that so many of us take for granted because it has become something we are used to in our lives. But it is that freedom, on top of everything else, that makes me proud, so very proud, to be an American.



Air Force One Lands in Addis Ababa.



PCVs gather to watch Air Force One Land. "Obama!" at me as I pass, a *suk* owner proudly shows me the Obama t-shirt he is selling even though I am there to

Anna Goldman is currently the Peace Corps Volunteer Leader for Training and Support for Peace Corps Ethiopia. She entered the country in the summer of 2013, serving as an Education Volunteer in the Oromia Region and splitting time between the capital of Addis Ababa and the training sites of Butajira and Holeta. She will complete her service in Fall 2015.



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DROP BY DROP

Revitalizing the rural water supply network in The Gambia, one hand pump at a time with Water Charity

By Jeremy Mak

The two-year-old's body seemed limp, almost lifeless. Ablie had dysentery, a potentially fatal diarrheal disease common in The Gambia. Jaye—his father and my local counterpart—had to repeatedly beg a community nurse for antibiotics, which were unceremoniously dispensed into an old, dirty canister. Although I made rehydration mixtures for the boy, I wished I could do more. But all I could do was hope for the best while Ablie listlessly convulsed, trying to expel his demons.

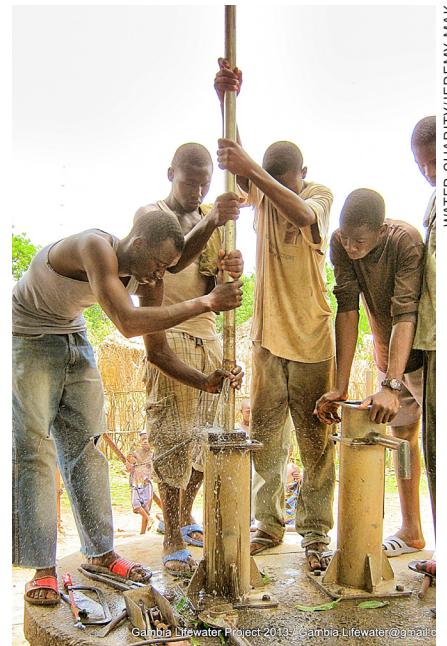
It was 2011, and the Peace Corps had just sent me to rural Gambia, West Africa, to help villagers plant trees. But I soon found that clean water was a more immediate need: The region where I was stationed was littered with broken hand pumps and open wells. Lack of access to adequate amounts of clean water, coupled with poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, were an accepted part of life. And so were acute waterborne diseases like diarrhea and dysentery.

How did this come to be? In the 1990s, NGOs installed hand pumps and dug protected, lined wells, so that locals no longer had to draw their water from open wells and scoop holes, which are sources of serious waterborne illnesses. These pumps have helped hundreds of villages access clean water. But due to poor maintenance and repair strategies, lack of spare parts, and high repair costs, they are breaking, and up to 70% are not working today. Locals don't know where to buy replacement parts, and often times there is no one around who is qualified to maintain or fix defunct pumps.

When they break, pumps are abandoned. Unfortunately, Gambia's Department of Water Resources has funds to only install new boreholes and hand pumps, not maintain old ones or provide spare parts to communities. This means that when pumps fall into

disrepair, women and girls—those traditionally responsible for collecting water—have to walk farther to find other water sources, leaving less time for school, gardening, child-care, recreation, or other productive activities. Desperate locals often pull out broken pumps, revert back to drawing water with buckets and rope, and return to drinking dirty water.

From fellow Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), I heard about an NGO called Water Charity, which funds PCV and RPCV-led water, sanitation, and hygiene projects. I applied for a micro-grant and teamed up with a local mechanic to fix three hand pumps in two villages. After my service ended, I decided to continue working to rehabilitate the dilapidated rural water supply network in that part of the country. With the help of Jaye and Demba—a government-certified pump mechanic—I've been able to spend part of every year in Gambia, conducting village surveys, identifying hand pumps in need



Gambia Lifewater Project's lead Mark II technician, Demba Jaow, on left, fixing the second of two Mark II hand pumps in Kerr Lein Village, August 8, 2013.



Before receiving filters from Water Charity on April 10, 2015, the 46 residents of Borehole Village had to drink directly from an open, unlined well. The water in the cooler is unfiltered. The water in the green cup is filtered. The difference in quality is very apparent. Picture taken April 22, 2015.

WATER CHARITY/JEREMY MAK

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While earning her Fletcher degree, Amanda Judge (MALD '09) conceived and launched Faire Collection, a New York-based fair trade jewelry company that provides pathways out of poverty for rural artisans in Ecuador and Vietnam. Judge is the winner of the 2015 Fletcher Women's Leadership Award. Read her story at Fletcher.Tufts.edu/FWLA2015.

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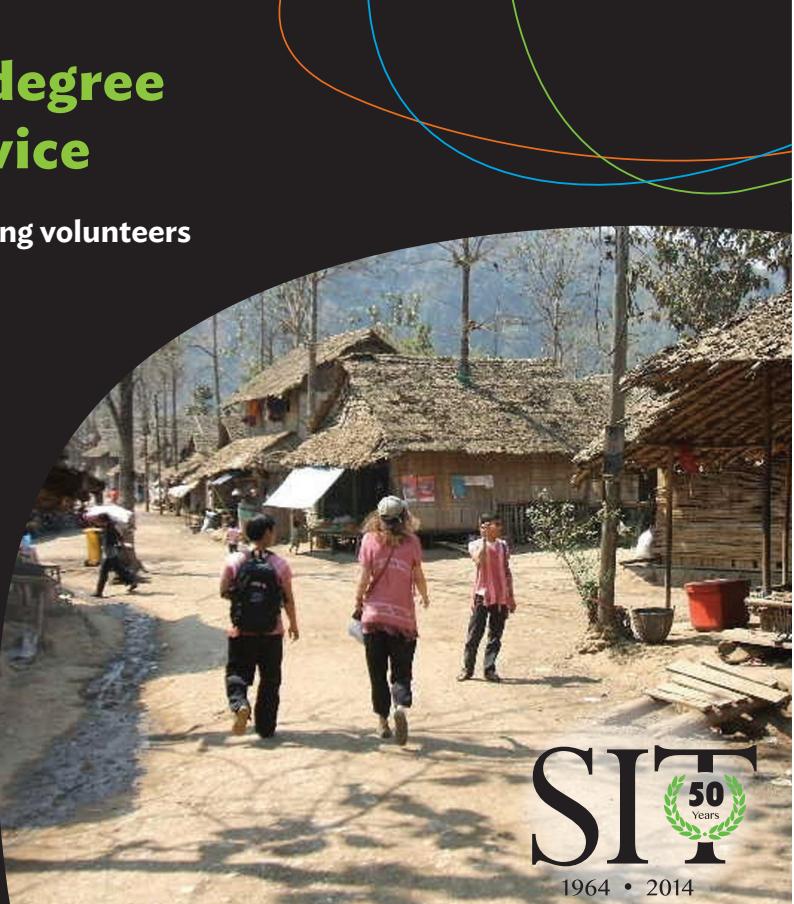
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Hawa, a mother from Borehole Village, happy that her newborn will now grow up healthy in a community that has clean water. Borehole Picture taken April 22, 2015.

of maintenance/repair, and performing pump repairs and installations.

It's incredibly tiring and labor-intensive work. Sometimes, my local team and I

would travel out four or five hours by donkey cart to inspect a non-functioning hand pump, only to discover that the well had dried up; or after disassembling and pulling out all the pump components—the pump head, the pipes, rods, and cylinder—that we were missing a crucial replacement part. This would mean a long trip to the capitol, Banjul, to buy the new part(s) from the equipment distributor, only to lug it back upcountry and have to repeat the whole journey.

But the smiles are worth it: Once villagers see clean water coming out of their pumps again, sometimes for the first time in years, they are overjoyed. This means no more walking long distances to collect water. It also means lower incidences of waterborne diseases and improved health outcomes.

In the last four years, with Water Charity support, my team, the Gambia

Lifewater Project, has repaired 43 hand pumps in 25 villages at no cost to locals. This work has benefited more than 14,500 women, children, and men with improved clean water access. Our strategy focuses on rehabilitating hand pumps in "hubs" like schools and community health centers, as well as those located in "spokes"—smaller, remote underserved villages. In 2012, working with the Fairwater Foundation and Swe-Gam, a local Gambian waterworks company, we started replacing worn out, ageing pumps with Bluepumps—more robust hand pump technology that requires much less maintenance, produces more water, and is longer-lasting and durable. They are expected to each serve 20-plus years.

We also restore clean water points. Due to their pumps breaking, the residents of Kalikajara had opened their well five years ago and returned to

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Ambition Welcome



The first Bluepump Water Charity installed in Gambia (May 25, 2012), completely restoring a previously abandoned water point in Madina Wallom Village. Picture taken May 28, 2012.

drawing water by buckets and rope. This past April, we removed debris that had fallen into the well, chlorinated the water, reset the concrete slab to seal the well, and installed two new Bluepumps. Now Mariama Bah and other mothers in the community have clean water to give to their children for the first time in years.

We are also developing a circuit-rider program—building local capacity by training mechanics to regularly inspect Bluepumps so we can ensure that they are functioning properly and to detect any potential problems early on. Looking into the future, we are also phasing in subsidized financial and in-kind contribution models tailored for each village to encourage local buy-in and support.

This year we started distributing long-lasting, high-output household water filters in an additional five villages that previously relied exclusively on open wells for drinking water. In many cases, these filters brought clean drinking water to communities for the first time ever. We taught villagers how to assemble, use, clean, and care for them. With proper maintenance, each filter can serve for decades, filtering more than 792,500 gallons each.

We continue to research creative solutions to rural water and sanitation needs and such as manual borehole augering, ecological-sanitation, micro-irrigation, and water catchment methods. But we don't stop there, as

these villages have many other pressing needs. Outside of hand pumps and filters, we also distribute medicines, soap, and mosquito nets; build hygienic bathing and toilet systems; sponsor primary school students; plant trees; and pilot appropriate technologies like rocket stoves and briquette making from agricultural waste, focusing on transferring knowledge and skills wherever possible.

We are always looking for support to expand and scale up our activities. With the exception of modest per diems for two local staff for working days, we are all volunteers covering our own costs.

The National Peace Corps Association and its NGO partner, Water Charity are providing support for Water and Sanitation for Health projects like Jeremy's through the

Peace Corps Community Fund. Become an NPCA Mission Partner. Your tax deductible gift will enable the Peace Corps Community Fund to support many more PCV and RPCV projects, as well as support RPCVs who participate in meeting humanitarian emergencies as they arise. Donate at bit.ly/CommunityFund-donate.

Jeremy Mak (Gambia 2011) works for the United Nations World Food Programme in Uganda on an initiative helping farmers to increase household food security and income by reducing post-harvest food losses. He is currently planning his next return trip to The Gambia.

Summaries of his work with Water Charity can be found at <http://watercharity.com/Jeremy-Mak>.

Learn how to impact DECISION MAKING AROUND THE GLOBE

 A large promotional graphic for a master's program. It features a blue-toned background with architectural images of the U.S. Capitol and the Hagia Sophia. The text "Learn how to impact DECISION MAKING AROUND THE GLOBE" is prominently displayed. Below this, a yellow box contains the text "Pursue a master's in ADVOCACY IN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT". Another yellow box below it says "CLASSES IN WASHINGTON, DC OR ONLINE". To the right, a section titled "WE PROVIDE A HANDS-ON EDUCATION, NOT A THEORETICAL EXPLORATION—ALL FROM EXPERTS IN THE GLOBAL ADVOCACY FIELD." includes a photo of a group of people in front of the Hagia Sophia and another photo of three people speaking at a podium. A dark blue box at the bottom right contains the text "Our innovative, experiential curriculum is designed for professionals seeking to advance causes or commerce with NGOs, corporations, public affairs/relations firms, and international organizations." and "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."

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VOLUNTEERS PUTTING CAMEROON ON THE MAP

A fundraiser calendar, Instagram account, and music tell Cameroon's stories

By Anna Nathanson

t happens to every Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in Cameroon: that inevitable moment when you realize your best friend thought you were serving in Cambodia.

Cameroon, nestled in a forgotten corner of the world, is called "Africa in miniature" for its diversity in climate, landscape, and culture. It's home to more than 250 languages and 10 extraordinarily different regions. And yet it barely registers on the world radar—or, worse still, it is only recognized for its proximity to Boko Haram and the 2014 Ebola outbreak, rather than celebrated for its cultural vibrancy and incredible natural wonders.

Inspired by the Third Peace Corps Goal—to help promote a better understanding of other peoples by American—three Cameroon PCVs set out to tell the story of Cameroon, each in their own way.

Calendars in Schools

RPCV Josh Shelton started the Peace Corps Cameroon Calendar in 2012 with the dual purposes of raising money for PCV projects and showcasing Cameroon in American homes.

Proceeds from calendar sales go to PCV projects within the country through

a partnership with Friends of Cameroon. For example, Community Economic Development Volunteer Erica Johnson used calendar grant money to expand a project that teaches widows the business skills needed to raise pigs.

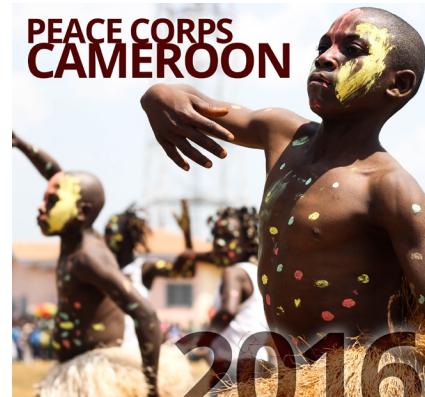
When he ended up with a surplus of calendars in 2014, Josh, who had served as an Agribusiness Volunteer in Cameroon's West region, decided to redouble his Goal Three efforts. He distributed nearly 400 free calendars to RPCVs and Friends of Cameroon, who would use them for educational purposes in classrooms from Florida to Oregon. One school that received calendars already had ties to Cameroon; students had Cameroonian pen pals and had raised over \$500 for school supplies with "Crepes for Cameroon" fundraisers.

For more information, visit the Peace Corps Cameroon Calendar Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pccamcalendar> or place an order at <http://www.yearbox.com/calendarsforgood/peace-corps-cameroon-2016-calendar/> (website will be available in September).

Photos Showcase a Nation's Beauty

When Kevin Tang was first accepted into Peace Corps Cameroon, he was

excited to check out the program's Instagram account—his go-to first stop when looking to learn more about an organization. But when he noticed that his Internet searches yielded barely any photographs of the beautiful country he would soon call home, Kevin, an accomplished photographer and social media whiz, decided to start his own official Peace Corps Cameroon Instagram account. Don't be fooled—this isn't your college roommate's



Youth Day march in Atok, Cameroon. This will be cover of the 2016 calendar.

Instagram. Kevin, a Health PCV who lives in Cameroon's East region and describes himself as detailed-oriented and aesthetics-obsessed, drafts a posting plan each month that includes thoughtful contributions, both written and visual, from across the country. One month focused on Cameroon's remarkable diversity, with photos from each of the 10 regions and a paragraph or two outlining interesting facts. Another campaign featured languages—I knew it would be good when I got an email from Kevin that read, "I was wondering if you could find the cutest kid in your village and have them hold a sign saying hello in Pidgin English (morning-oh?)." The results? Well, let's just say that a picture is worth a thousand words.

KEVIN TANG



Part of an upcoming Peace Corps Cameroon Instagram post featuring children holding a sign that says hello in their local language; (L) this one is French; (R) this one is Maka.

In conjunction with his efforts to increase Cameroon's Internet presence, Kevin has been incorporating his passion for photography and filmmaking into his work by using film to deliver health education. He is working with a small group of students to produce short films, all of which revolve around public health issues; their first film focused on the importance of nutrition and a balanced diet. To visit the Peace Corps Cameroon Instagram account, go to www.instagram.com/PeaceCorpsCameroon.

The Beat of Cameroon

South West Health Volunteer Ludi Nsimba, lover of all things African—music, movies, literature, history, and sports—has always been fascinated with the connection between the African continent and the international diaspora. Her parents hail from Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and she remained connected to those roots at the Lyceum Kennedy French school in New York, where many of her classmates were also of African descent. In Cameroon, she continues writing for the music publication she contributed to in the US, Afromuzik (www.afromuzik.com). She has sent Afromuzik the latest hits she hears on Trace Africa, an addictive African music video channel beloved by Cameroon PCVs. When NGO Malaria No More put together a collaboration of Africa's biggest stars—including X Maleya, Duc Z, and Lynda—in a track encouraging people to take measures to prevent malaria, Ludi traveled to Yaounde to interview the Cameroonian singer Siné for Afromuzik (<http://www.afromuzik.com/site/ko-palu-tous-unis-contre-le-paludisme/>).

Ludi also draws a bridge between Africa and the US through social media. She tweeted live updates (check out Ludi's Twitter @maisonludi: <https://twitter.com/maisonludi>) during the African Cup of Nations and World Cup, and she regularly updates her Facebook. Recently, she read *Stringer* by Anjun Sundaram, a book about a journalist's time in the

DRC, which she was excited to recommend to others on social media.

Looking forward, Ludi wants to continue to co-mingle her identities—and her interests—by pursuing a Masters degree in Media Communications and Development.

Ludi's seen the evolution of technology in the developing world—secondhand Verizon phones shipped to Africa years ago, and now the advent of a Facebook version for which you won't need Internet connection. She saw how music brought global attention to South Africa during apartheid and how Nigerian pop has broken down "stereotypes of the beating of the drums and half-naked pygmies," she comments with a laugh. "It's all up and coming on the African continent," she



Ludi Nsimba (third from right) with her women's group (photo submitted by Ludi Nsimba)

says, "and developing nations shouldn't be left behind as technology advances."

Anna Nathanson, an Agribusiness Volunteer in Cameroon's South West region, was a 2014 Blog It Home winner (check out her blog at www.annadoespangea.blogspot.com) and is the current editor-in-chief of the Peace Corps Cameroon Calendar.

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APPLES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

By Molly Rivkin

One of my students came by my house at 8:30 Tuesday morning; she waited outside my door and called my name a few times. I let her in. She was carrying a bucket and wearing a matching gold sweat suit. She is in the 9th form, has long blond hair, is extremely studious, and from what I can tell is a bit of a perfectionist. When I try to chat with her in Ukrainian she corrects almost every word I say, and I can see her cringe when I mispronounce

chill which cannot be shaken off even on sunny days. This was an unusual school day because we were taking a field trip to an orchard on the other side of the village to gather apples. As usual, no one explained the situation to me, and with almost no information, I agreed to go.

We walked a mile and a half on dirt roads, dodging cow patties and the deepest ruts. Other students joined us, saying hello to me in English, and then chatting at each other in a mix of quick

him. I had been taught not to climb fruit trees, always use a ladder. Remembering I had no idea how things work in Ukraine, I bit my tongue. A sweet, round faced girl, took my hand and guided me away from the base of the tree. At his teacher's command, the boy started jumping up and down wildly on a sturdy branch, and apples rained down around us with soft thuds. Surprise must have shown on my face because the group of girls encircling me giggled and pointed at other trees. Throughout the orchard boys were jumping and dancing in trees, shaking the apples to the ground. After the tree had dropped its burden, the girls swooped in. We quickly moved around the base of the tree picking up the apples and putting them into our buckets.

By and by, one of the boys would come around picking up the full buckets and taking them to a large truck and trailer nearby. A few minutes later they would return from the truck with empty buckets in hand. We went on like this from tree to tree. Eventually, the boys stopped coming around to pick up the buckets, instead sitting in the shade of a tree, so we carried our own buckets. Every now and then we would rest, sitting on our buckets, eating apples, and chatting. We threw apples back and forth, and even tried to play baseball. You'll know if you've ever tried to hit an apple with a stick, apples explode.

I tried to gather more information about what we were doing. The apples were rather small in size, and quite bruised from falling to the ground. The English teacher explained in a mix of Ukrainian and English that the apples would go to a juice factory. We were working in the orchard for a fundraiser, and to celebrate some sort of harvest holiday.

As the day went on I noticed not a single girl climbed into trees to shake

KATYA PAVLUK (FIRST PRINTED BY NEWBF.COM ON JANUARY 28, 2013)



The author (second from the right) with students after apple picking.

a word. She hates, really hates, hearing her language butchered so badly. It was especially hard when I first met her, but now she's relaxing a little more. Perhaps I'm the first foreigner she's heard trying to learn Ukrainian.

It was a blue-bird day, sun brightening every shade of green, but deceptively so, because September has brought a

Ukrainian and Russian. When we reached the orchard most of the school was assembled there, teachers and all. I tagged along with the 10th form class curious how we would go about apple picking.

A skinny brown haired fifteen-year-old boy, with whom I had spent the summer playing soccer, started to shimmy up one of the apple trees. I almost scolded

the apples down, and few boys were bent over buckets collecting apples. I also noticed were boys dumping the buckets into the trucks. Not liking how gendered the roles were, I cautiously pulled myself into a nearby tree. I spent a large portion of my childhood shimmying up trees, and wanted to put my expertise to use. I found a branch loaded with apples and started to jump around. Apples rained down. The boy who had been in the tree earlier excitedly yelled at his classmates, "LOOK! Molly is in the tree!" and as fast as lightning he was on a nearby branch also jumping.

With a sense of defiance warm in my chest, I marched over to the trucks and climbed up into the back. I stood next to a large 11th form boy with big ears and reached my hand out to grab the buckets being handed up. I dumped bucket after bucket into an already half full truck bed. The roundness of the apples made unsteady footing, so I wiggled myself down until I felt secure. I stayed there for some time, starting an apple fight, and repeatedly being asked by female teachers if lifting the buckets was too hard for me.

I think Ukrainian women were fooled: Dumping apples in to the truck was the easiest job I had all day. One boy quietly climbed into the truck and laid down in the apples, hidden from view. A teacher came by looking for him, and with big round eyes, he silently told me not to tell. I didn't know the situation or care, so I just kept on dumping bucket after bucket of apples on top of him until he was mostly covered. By and by he fell asleep.

Eventually, I resigned myself to my appointed gender role and went back to collecting apples from the ground. In the afternoon we were all dismissed to go home for the day. The next morning was school as usual, which, for me, is not the slightest bit usual yet.

Molly Rivkin (Ukraine 2012-2014) served as a youth development volunteer. She wrote and implemented a grant through the Elton John Aids Foundation for youth

HIV education, planned and implemented a dental hygiene seminar, and taught sports and healthy lifestyle classes. Molly has recently completed a Master's course in creative writing at the London Metropolitan University. She has contributed to the

anthology, *Roll: A Collection of Personal Narratives* (Telling Our Stories Press 2012), to the online newspaper, *News Bonners Ferry* (Winter 2013), the *Sandpoint Magazine* (Summer 2014), and to *Just Met: An Anthology of Stories and Poetry*.



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MANNA FROM HEAVEN

An excerpt from King of the Gypsies: Stories

By Lenore Myka

Lately, she's been afraid to get out of bed in the morning. It's not just the cockroaches, the way she senses them fleeing to the darkest corners of the apartment when her feet meet floor. It's also this nagging sense of failure, an unsettling fog in the brain she cannot rid herself of. Not just for her job at the orphanage (Her only prior work experience had been at a summer camp and in women's clothing retail. What did she know of caring for orphans? Why in God's name would they hire her for such a responsibility?), but for everything here. She is certain she is failing at everything.

A week before, Magda had asked her: What would make you feel better?

What would she do without Magda?

Breakfast cereal, she answered.

Breakfast cereal would make me feel better.

Magda smiled. Such patience. She gazed at Stella's kitchen table, saw the pile of unanswered letters there (How could she write home, admit her mistake in thinking that she was strong enough to manage this job, this place?), her mother's chicken noodle soup recipe on the top. The drawing of a smiley face. *I love you my beautiful girl!* Just like the notes she used to slip into Stella's lunchbox when she was a child. It humiliated her, knowing that Magda saw it. But she didn't stop her friend from picking it up, reading it over.

Won't this make you feel better? asked

Magda, waving the recipe. Why don't we make this?

But now Stella suspects it's a test. Magda has assigned her to pick up the chicken. Only the chicken.

Saturday morning, the telephone forces her from bed.

Don't wimp out on me, says Magda.

Stella smiles into the receiver. I won't. Some days Magda is the only reason she can think of to stay in Romania. She does not deserve such a friend.

Cheek-en. Magda persists. A. Big. Fat. Live. *Cheek-en.*

Okay.

You remembered the sack I gave to you?

Of course, says Stella and picks up the phone, stretching the cord as far as it will go into the kitchen, swiping the burlap sack off the table. She gazes out the window. Across the courtyard and over the brick wall a handful of women loiter in front of the maternity hospital. They are round and wobbling and appear vaguely bewildered, whether by the snow that's

begun to fall in heavy flakes or their circumstances, it remains unclear. They all wear nothing more than ratty bathrobes, white ankle socks and hospital appointed slippers fitted with cardboard soles. They stand separate in their bodily discomfort, like people waiting for a bus. One of them—the most rotund of all—smokes a cigarette.

You put the chicken in the sack, Magda is saying. Stella. *Draga.* Are you listening to me?

Yes.

You tie the sack tight but not too tight—the bird should stay alive. You leave it outside your door.

Then you call me. I'll send Tudor over.

Got it.

Magda makes lip-smacking sounds into the phone. Kisses-kisses, she says, and hangs up.

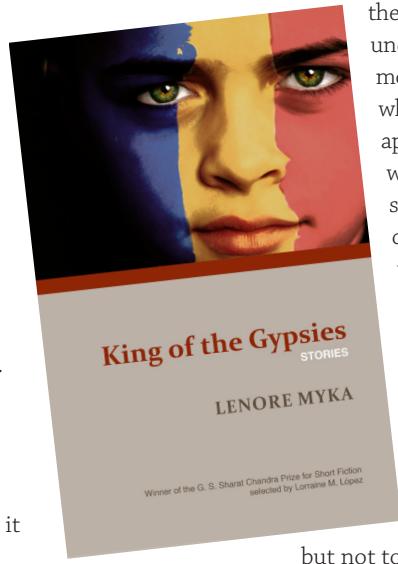
It's also a consolation prize, this chicken noodle soup cooking. An apology for her behavior at the pre-holiday pig slaughter.

Magda had invited her. A family tradition, she'd said. There would be first, second, even third cousins at her uncle's farm north of the city. A real Romanian family tradition.

Stella didn't want to appear the delicate American; she didn't want to pass up on an important cultural experience. She didn't know what she was getting herself into.

It had all started off well enough. Warm early December sunshine cleaning up the dirtied winter skies; a jaunty ride to the country in the springy backseat of Magda's Dacia, flanked on either side by her two children Flavia and Tudor. There was hot-spiced wine and bread with homemade apricot jam; the smell of crumbling leaves, burning wood; cold air watering, soothing Stella's tired eyes. There was cherry brandy and throat-burning *polinka* and lots of dirty joke telling, most of which she'd missed but laughed along with anyway. She was having such a good time that when they paraded the pig out of the barn she felt only delight at the sight of it. It looked so eager, so happy, the way its ears were pricked forward, the surprisingly dainty steps it took as it trotted, its eyes squinting, snout wriggling, snorting a little pig-song.

A crowd formed. A large knife with a blackened blade was drawn. This was what fooled her—the blackened blade. Somehow she didn't believe it could have been sharp enough to slice quickly through tough, pulsing animal hide; she thought it was for show, part of tradition. Family tradition. It happened so quickly,



the prancing sow, the raised, deceptive knife. The blood. People clapped. Were they clapping for the blood? She knew she should have closed her eyes but again: her pride. It was not so much the blood that moved her, but the way it spilled over the butcher's hands, as fast as water from a faucet. These two things, she thought, were incongruent—human hands, tumbling blood. She felt it rising inside her; there was no stopping it. She turned and ran behind the tractor shed.

Magda's anger surprised her. Her friend had been so patient with Stella over the course of the year, patient when she yelled at the superintendent for not renewing her visa, patient when she complained of the long lines at the station and the inefficiency of the trains, patient when she criticized the bureaucracy of the orphanage, the incompetence of the director, the resignation and passivity of her colleagues, all that *ce să faci?*—what can you do? All that shoulder shrugging, the defeatist attitude; a self-fulfilling prophecy. Patient when she called Romania sexist and racist; as if Stella's own country were excluded from such labels.

But even Magda, patient Magda, had limits. Where do you think your precious bacon comes from, *draga*? she said as she slapped Stella's hunched back and shoved a tin can filled with water under her nose. It's a fact of life. This is how they get meat in America too, you know. In fact, it's probably less humane there than here. At least that pig back there had a good life before it went.

Sipping from the can, Stella inhaled the scent of iron. She retched some more. Magda rolled her eyes and leaned against the shed, turned to her children who'd been watching wide-eyed, and told them to go find their father; they would need to head back home early.

If she could have talked, Stella would have apologized to her friend. She hadn't meant to seem superior. It was just that she preferred her meat in abstractions—drained of its blood, de-boned, de-hoofed, chopped and quartered, frozen, preferably ground—before she came in contact with it. She understood this: she had lived a

sheltered life, something her friend would never understand since no one here had ever lived that way.

Lenore Myka (Romania 1994-1996) is the author of *King of the Gypsies: Stories*, winner of the 2014 G.S. Sharat Chandra Prize for Short Fiction. Her fiction

has been selected as distinguished by *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best American Non-Required Reading* series. Her award-winning work has appeared in *New England Review*, *Iowa Review*, and *Alaska Quarterly Review*, among others. She received her MFA in Fiction from Warren Wilson College. Learn more about Lenore at www.lenoremyka.com.

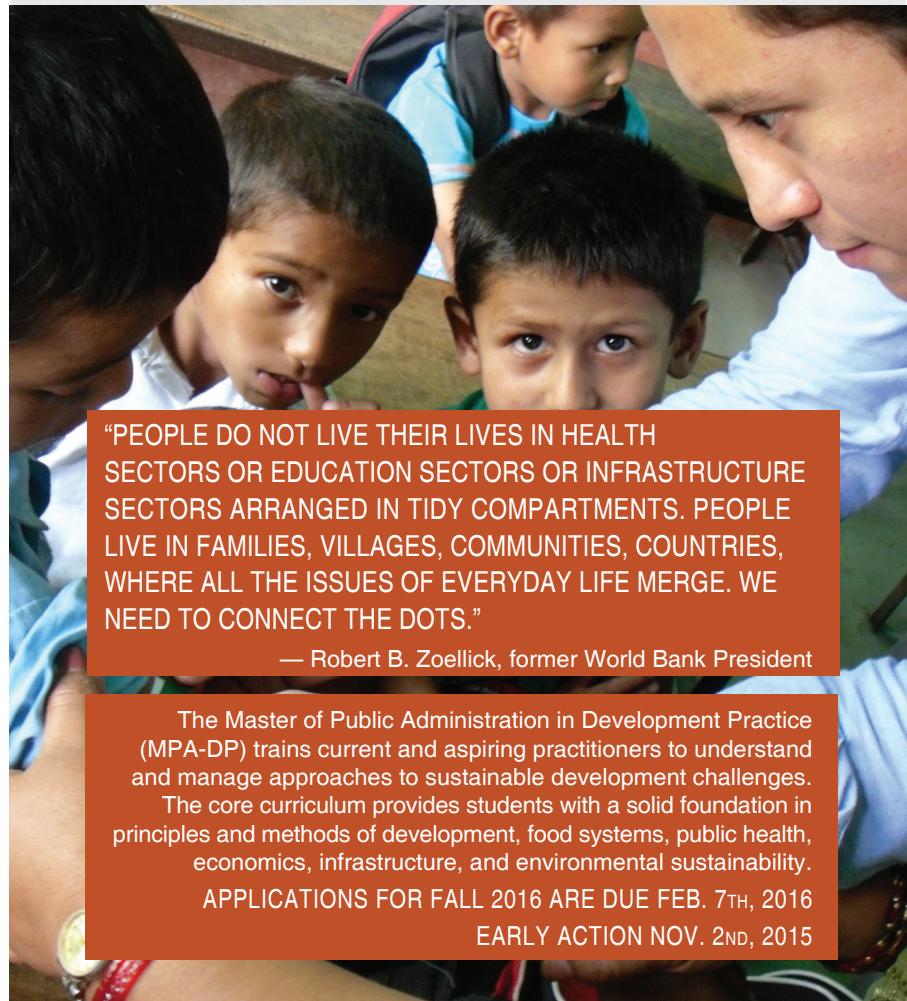


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DO NOT FORGET US

Why Ralph Bolton's Foundation is Changing Peru's Altiplano

By David Arnold

At the tail end of his acceptance speech, a much-honored anthropologist urged about 500 other Americans—many who had also begun their working careers in the world's remote places in the previous century—to do it again, or at least remember the experience.

Ralph Bolton invoked a phrase that was a common refrain as someone departed the unforgiving but beloved altiplano of southern Peru.

"Do not forget us," they said to the young Peace Corps Volunteer.

"This is probably true elsewhere, as well," Bolton told his University of California at Berkeley audience. "How can we forget? I urge you not to forget."

Bolton was accepting the National Peace Corps Association's Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service at the association's annual Peace Corps Connect conference. In his enthusiasm, Bolton has become one more disciple of the commandment of the first director of the Peace Corps whose name is on Bolton's award. Sarge Shriver's mantra was "Serve, serve, serve."

That's what Bolton did a decade ago when he went back to communities where he worked 40 years ago on that cold high desert that surrounds the shores of Lake Titicaca. He returned to create The Chijnaya Foundation.

"Our Peace Corps years were among the best and most significant years of our life," Bolton said. "To have or to re-establish a connection to those years and those people is incomparably rewarding."

The polish of Bolton's acceptance speech comes with practice for a medical anthropologist and academic who has received considerable professional recognition. Foundations such as

Wenner-Gren and the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science Research Council and several Fulbright grants have funded his research work. The best-known of his honors is the Franz Boas Award for Distinguished Service to Anthropology which he accepted a few years ago from his professional association. Earlier recipients include Margaret Mead and Claude Levi-Strauss.

Back to the Future

Dressed in suit and tie, he sat in an empty campus classroom an hour before he gave the Berkeley speech, revising text and remembering three brutal days in 1961 that it took the fresh international relations graduate from Pomona College graduate to fall in love with the people of Peru's altiplano.

"They flew us from Lima to the town of Juliaca at 13,000 feet in an unpressurized DC-3 in which one sucked on oxygen from a tube as we flew up," he said. "When I got there, I spent three days in bed with a terrible case of *soroche*—which is altitude sickness which means throbbing headache, nausea, stomach ache, vomiting, muscle ache—and then its freezing at the same time and they put us up in a cheap hotel. I literally wanted to die."

"I suffered it. That's why I love it, I suspect. I came to love the place ..." Bolton's assignment organizing consumer co-ops abruptly ended when the world's highest navigable lake flooded and destroyed all of the homes, fields and herds of livestock in its path, ending a way of life on the altiplano. Bolton spent three years working with the flood victims who decided to turn their 17 communities into sustainable agricultural communities before

international developers even knew the meaning of the word. The formidable task was to re-locate flood victims from traditional lands to brand new communities on land far from the lake.

Within 15 months, the new Chijnaya community had 60 houses, a school, a village plaza, a co-op store and a social center at the hub of what became an agrarian cooperative.

Peace Corps staff soon recognized Bolton's work. Upon return to the States, he became a trainer of a group heading to Peru. Rolly Thompson remembers hearing about this "super volunteer" on the altiplano when she arrived. Some like John Rouse so admired his Quechua cultural skills—Bolton was seen as the model rural Peru Volunteer—that they tried to emulate him. Rouse requested a transfer from his urban community development assignment to move to the Colca Valley near Bolton's site. When he returned home after three years, Bolton became an anthropologist and a professor of anthropology at Pomona College. He built a body of research on the wider Quechua-speaking universe. But when the Maoist forces of the Shining Path plundered the Peruvian countryside and slaughtered thousands of people, Bolton was cut off from his Quechua research career. So he spent another 20 years—much of it in Norway and Belgium—publishing research on the sexual practices of the gay community as the AIDS epidemic swept through Africa, the United States and Europe.

Then, one day in 2004, "...to my surprise, I received an out-of-the-blue email from someone whose email address included the name Chijnaya." The writer—Ciriaco Quispe—was a university administrator whose parents had told him

stories about their Peace Corps Volunteer from long ago. Ciriaco invited Bolton to return to Chijnaya for a visit.

Bolton took with him his youngest son, Eugene, and his long-time partner, Robert Frost, and returned to the altiplano, believing he would see some old friends and return to his home in California to do nothing more than send some computers back to Chijnaya.

Think local, act local

Chijnaya was ready for Bolton and presented him with a long list of things that they wanted to accomplish. After 10 years, much of it is now being done by Bolton's foundation.

The Chijnaya Foundation has pursued three goals: better health, better schooling, and investment in family-based farming to increase income for some of Peru's poorest communities.

"These things have to work together," Bolton argues. "You have to work with all of the pieces at the same time." And he smiles to add, "Some people say we have too many moving parts."

If a family borrows money to build a shed to protect livestock from the harsh climate to double production and boost profits, they have to avoid getting sick and defaulting on the loan. Health, therefore, matters. If the foundation awards a son or daughter a scholarship to a local university, the parents must have enough of their own savings to chip in.

Everything depends on investment in agriculture. "What is really critical is increasing family income, so people can make their own decisions about how to live their lives," he says. "So they have to have money to pay for whatever services they want, like education."

On the altiplano, Bolton has seen many "white elephants," well-intended ideas designed by others who bring their best intentions but often don't stay long enough to see and correct their failures.

Make sure it works

Chijnaya sticks around to see if a project works, and sometimes it doesn't.

"We built hundreds of smoke-free cook stoves to improve health and get people out of those smoky kitchens," Bolton said, "But after a few years, the existing heavy-gauge metal chimneys corroded and collapsed." They looked for alternatives and replaced them with cement tubes that should last longer.

"We're pretty good at it because we know the local culture and we know what can be done and what can't be done."

The communities decide what they want and the foundation decides what they can do to facilitate projects. For example: animal shelters for cattle, feeding troughs, and milking stations for milk cows. As a result, milk and cheese production have doubled.

The people in each community decide upon a project and then draw upon a community rotating fund established by

the foundation. Rotating funds totaling about \$149,000 have been created in 15 communities to date. Bolton and board members raised these funds, with donations coming from the board members themselves and from a lengthy e-mail list of friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

The loans are small and interest rates are 2 to 3 percent. The rate of repayment of the loans would make the Grameen Foundation blush: it's above the 99-percent mark these days, allowing other communities to borrow the same money to build more animal shelters, feeding troughs and milking stations. More than 1,100 agricultural and artisan projects have been funded in 15 communities with loans ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 each.

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Chijnaya were an early and successful source of income with an international market: over the years, their art has been sold at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market and exhibited at the museum of the University of Richmond, Virginia, the Smithsonian Institution, the Brooklyn Museum, and others.

'He gets good people'

The foundation has many moving parts, and many people. Local direction comes from Peruvian board members and a young Peruvian anthropologist, Jhuver Aguirre. He maintains a small office in the town of Pucara and drives his motorcycle each day to check on the communities. The foundation's face in Peru is a non-government organization called the Asociacion Pro-DIA.

Bolton is the full-time unsalaried president who juggles the projects but now spends most of his time looking for donations from everyone he meets.

Board members in the United States work within their professional scope to design and monitor projects for the altiplano. They are volunteers, many of whom fly to Peru annually to examine progress. Many are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Peru.

John Rouse, for example, who now lives in Rome and is retired from a career with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, reconnected with Peru—and with Bolton—later in life. He asked the foundation to help him with a community library project in nearby Callalli. "Ralph is a tough but thoughtful leader," Rouse says. "... and one with a big heart." Rouse became a member of

the foundation's board four years ago.

A political scientist, Dr. Heather Williams, oversees water-related projects with help from Utah State University's chapter of Engineers Without Borders. A medical sociologist, Dr. Ann Stromberg, manages the work of Dr. Maria del Carmen Aragon, a dentist who provides dental care for more than 900 patients from the communities in the Pro-DIA network. Dr. Aragon also sails aboard a Peruvian naval ship to care for residents of isolated villages along remote banks of Lake Titicaca.

The foundation just hired a recent graduate of the National University of the Altiplano to promote womens' savings groups in each community. And another Peru volunteer from Peace Corps' early days reconnected with Bolton a few years ago. Rolly Thompson, who with her husband runs an Oregon ranch with a few alpacas, has begun a foundation project with spinners on the altiplano.

She recalls hearing about Bolton's early work in moving an entire traditional community to an unproductive hacienda. "That was pretty amazing," she remembers. Now she sees the organization he has created in Peru in 10 years. "They are really good people. That's what Ralph is good at. Getting good people."

View the full list of past Shriver Award winners at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards/the-sargent-shriver-award/>. To indicate that you would like to make a nomination, please contact vp@peacecorpsconnect.org to receive the updated nomination materials. The deadline for consideration for the 2016 award is March 31, 2016.

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*.



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RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

By Jonathan Pearson

CAMEROON

The Lassen National Forest has welcomed a new public affairs officer, **Joyce El Kouarti**. El Kouarti brings with her more than 15 years of public affairs and communications experience. After earning a B.A. in English from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, El Kouarti accepted a job at Boston University's Office of Public Relations. She later worked as the



communications director for the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce in New Hampshire while simultaneously serving in a volunteer capacity on Dover's Conservation Commission and Open Lands Committee. El Kouarti left the Chamber to accept a position as the executive director of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, a nonprofit land conservation organization. Eight years later she was recruited by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the oldest and largest nonprofit land conservation organization in the state, to be its communications director. Most recently El Kouarti served as a community economic development Volunteer in the Peace Corps in Cameroon.

CHILE

A finalist in the fiction category for the International Latino Book Awards, **David Edmonds** (1963-1965) received honorable mention for his novel, *Lily of Peru*. Edmonds' debut novel was released by Peace Corps Writers in January. A

former professor at the University of South Florida, Edmonds says the first pages of his novel were written during his Peace Corps service. The book is partially based on his own experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer during the 1960s, a USF professor and a federal government employee.

COSTA RICA

Kerry O'Brien (1970-1972) was selected as one of a number of educators to judge the 2014-2015 Daily Herald Academic Team, sponsored by the Daily Herald, a suburban Chicago newspaper. O'Brien was the head of counseling services at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin, Illinois for 12 years and came out of retirement this spring. He completed his undergraduate work at Fordham University in New York City and has a master's in the Art of Teaching from National-Louis University in Wheaton, Ill.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The international development organization Water for People named **Eleanor Allen** (1994-1996) as its new chief executive officer. Allen's career began as a water and sanitation volunteer with the Peace Corps. Over the past twenty years, she worked across the globe on water infrastructure programs and projects, and managing regional and global water businesses. Prior to her new appointment, Allen was the global water director for ARCADIS, an international global design engineering and consultancy firm.

GABON/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Dr. Robert Johansson (1990-1995) is the new Chief Economist for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak made the announcement in mid-July. A USDA employee since 2001, Dr. Johansson was named Deputy Chief Economist in 2012, and has served as acting chief economist since January, 2014. As Chief Economist, Dr. Johansson is responsible for USDA's agricultural forecasts and projections and advising the Secretary of Agriculture on economic implications of programs, regulations, and legislative proposals. His responsibilities include the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit analysis, the Global Change Program Office, and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. He also serves as Chairman of the Federal Crop Insurance Board of Directors. Dr. Johansson's federal career also included work with the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

THE GAMBIA

In Hamilton New York, the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Community Development (PCD) has chosen **Jennifer Marotto Lutter** to become the organization's new executive director. Marotto Lutter joins PCD from Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, where she was project director for a national Sustainable Homeownership

Project. Among her achievements at INHS, she wrote a \$680,000 NYS Homes and Community Renewal Grant that is providing affordable housing in Tompkins County. Marotto Lutter is a graduate of The Ohio State University (College of Human Ecology and Cornell University (Master of Regional Planning). During a two-year tour with the Peace Corps in The Gambia, West Africa, she managed a 15-member team that conducted grant-supported economic and community development projects.

GHANA

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation recently announced that **Nicole Morison** is among the newest class of fifty Indiana Teaching Fellows. The program recruits—who were introduced at a ceremony featuring



Governor Mike Pence—consist of both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math—the STEM fields—and preparing them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools. Morison is a research scientist studying genetics. Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows teach in 40 of the 92 counties in Indiana, and in districts including Indianapolis Public Schools, Fort Wayne Schools, Gary Community schools and in Indianapolis charter schools.

GUATEMALA

2015 marks the third time that honored aviator **Ceci Stratford** (1966-1969) will provide Flight Training Scholarships, assisting three individuals with support as they begin their path to becoming pilots.



In an August interview with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Stratford said “Each new pilot ensures that general aviation will continue to serve our communities and pave the way to careers that many

pilots aspire to.” Stratford, who earned her private pilot’s license in 1976, was named “Woman Pilot of the Year” in 2006 by the legendary women’s aviation group, the Ninety-Nines.

Andres Cruz is the new chairman of the board of directors of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA (GHRC). GHRC is a non-profit, grassroots, solidarity organization dedicated to promoting human rights in Guatemala and supporting communities

and activists who face threats and violence. Cruz is attending law school at The Catholic University of America. He



previously worked as a program specialist with the Community Action Partnership’s National Training Center where he produced training and technical assistance materials for Community Service Block Grant funded social-service agencies. In Peace Corps he worked to strengthen

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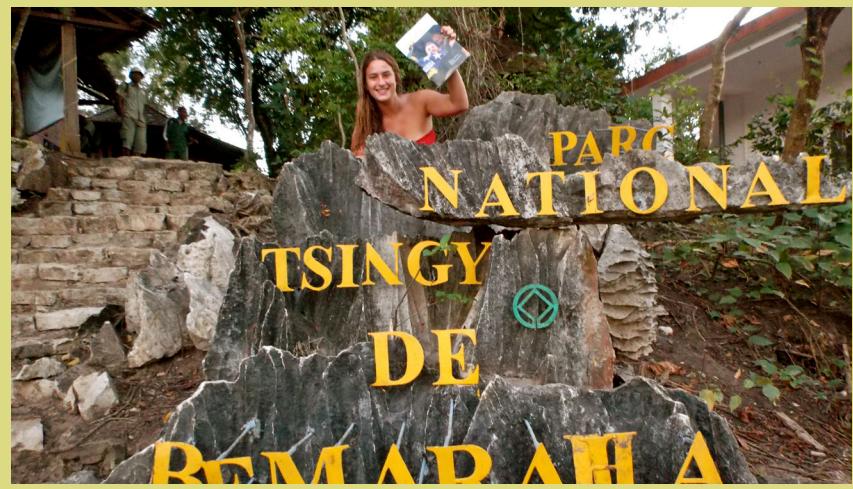
Peace Corps Volunteers like to travel off the beaten path, and often can that can mean lots of down time along the way. When you’re far from an Internet connection, WorldView connects you to the Peace Corps family.

Rachel Melissa Gillett is a Community Health Volunteer serving in Ampasina Maningory, Madagascar. She writes, “I recently took my lovely *WorldView* on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the western coast of Madagascar where I climbed the Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park and strolled the ‘Avenue of the Baobabs.’ We had a blast!”

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RANDY SCOTT GILLETT

government at the local and municipal level. He continued his service as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Gulf Port, MS in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Cruz is a Shriver Fellow, and has his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

HONDURAS

In Massachusetts, **Jennifer Stokes**, interim principal at Morningside Community School since March, has lost the "interim" part of her title. Stokes, a former dean of students at Pittsfield High School, was formally named Wednesday to replace former Morningside Principal Joseph Curtis. Stokes was dean of students at the high school for about four years and also has worked in the district as a school adjustment counselor. Previously, she was a Massachusetts Juvenile Court investigator for five years, and executive director of Berkshire County Kids Place. Stokes also has worked as a clinical social worker in Northampton and served as a community health specialist in Honduras while in the Peace Corps.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Avonworth (PA) school district has appointed **Kenneth Lockette** (1993-1995) to be its new assistant superintendent. Principal of Avonworth High School since 2006, Lockette assumed his new position in July. He began his career teaching English and drama on the middle and high school levels after earning his Bachelor of Arts in theater from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. In 1993, he began two years of service with the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan, where he taught English as a foreign language to university students and worked with teachers on EFL pedagogy. He returned to the U.S. to direct a theater program at a magnet middle school for the arts in Baltimore County, Maryland, before going back to Kazakhstan to continue teaching English and leading the high school faculty at the Almaty International School.

LIBYA/COTE D'IVOIRE/HAITI

Marty Mueller was elected president of the board of directors of the Miami Beach Garden Conservancy in June. The Conservancy is the nonprofit organization that manages the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. A five year member of the National Peace Corps Association board of directors, Mueller was a Peace Corps country director in Cote D'Ivoire (2000-2002) and Haiti (2003-2005). He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Libya from 1968-1969. Mueller is co-owner of Art Deco Walks, an architectural walking tour company in Miami Beach's historic district. He volunteers as a docent for History Miami, the Miami Design Preservation League and the New World Symphony.

KENYA

The Lemelson Foundation, the world's leading funder of invention in service of social and economic change, announced it has hired **Graham Pugh** (1986-1988) to the newly formed position of deputy director. In this position, Pugh will work to advance initiatives in support of the Foundation, and lead efforts that span across the programmatic portfolios of inspiring and educating inventors and incubating invention-based businesses. Prior to joining the Foundation, Pugh was director of Climate Change Policy and Technology at the U.S. Department of Energy. Previously, he served at the White House as deputy associate director for Technology and International Affairs on the Council of Environmental Quality.

MADAGASCAR

Ashley Tsongas (1999-2001), daughter of Representative Niki Tsongas and late Senator (and Ethiopia RPCV) Paul Tsongas, was featured in an article by E&E Publishing highlighting her family. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, Ashley is now a deputy to the vice president of programs at the anti-poverty group Oxfam America. As deputy to the vice president of programs, Ashley leads strategic initiatives and senior

team development, and contributes to the Oxfam 2020 vision project. She joined Oxfam in 2005 as media and advocacy officer in Ethiopia. After Hurricane Katrina, she helped social justice advocates in Mississippi and Louisiana ensure a fair share of recovery resources for their communities. Since then, Ashley has become a senior strategic change manager, focusing on organizational development and strategy. She holds a BA from Yale University and a Masters from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, specializing in development economics and comparative political analysis. She recently taught human rights-based approaches to program development at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

MALI

Kuli Kuli, founded by **Lisa Curtis** (2010-2011), recently announced a partnership with the Clinton Foundation and the Haitian nonprofit, the Smallholder Farmers Alliance, to develop a new moringa supply chain in Haiti. Chelsea Clinton was on hand to launch the partnership. A key goal in the partnership is to introduce Haitian moringa to the North American market. The foundation of Kuli Kuli began during Curtis' Peace Corps service. Kuli Kuli's mission is to provide everyone who wants to access the nutritional power of moringa with the knowledge and resources to do so.

MOROCCO

Peter Laugharn (1982-1984) is the new president and CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which awards grants to improve the lives of disadvantaged



people. Peter served as the Firelight Foundation's executive director since July 2008. For the six years before that, he was Executive Director of the Netherlands-based Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), a private foundation that works to improve opportunities for

children up to age 8 who are growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. Laugharn worked for more than 11 years in a variety of roles for Save the Children USA, and was based for eight of those years in Bamako, Mali. As Save the Children's Deputy Director in Mali, Laugharn helped develop the "Village Schools" model, which promoted access to basic education, girls' schooling, and community participation. He was later Save the Children's Mali Field Office Director, West Africa Area Director and then Education Advisor for Africa, providing technical assistance for programs in ten countries.

NIGER

The Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island (NE) this summer brought aboard new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer

Steve Anderson, who will serve as a development coordinator through June 2016. Anderson will evaluate, enhance and expand the Multicultural Coalition's programs. The Multicultural Coalition is part of a grant that was also awarded to the Heartland United Way and Heartland CASA to have an AmeriCorps VISTA member serve at the site. Anderson was born in Sweden and raised in California. Following law school, he volunteered with the Peace Corps for four years in Niger. He studied and assisted a wide range of populations, including agricultural communities on the Komadougou River, nomadic herding groups on the arid steppes of the Saharan littoral and mobile fishing camps on the islands of Lake Chad. Anderson returned to the United States in 2013 and worked in Washington, D.C., contributing to the Joint Sahel Conferences at the National Defense University and consulting for the World Bank and U.S. AID development programs.

SOUTH KOREA

Kathleen Stephens (1975-1977), the former U.S. ambassador to Seoul, will start a new career in September as a professor at Hankuk University of

Foreign Studies. Stephens will lecture on diplomacy and trade, with a focus on the Korean Peninsula and international order. Stephens is a career Foreign Service officer with the rank of Minister Counselor. She was Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council, from 1994-1995. Stephens has had two diplomatic postings in Korea, as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Pusan, Korea (1987-1989), and as internal political unit chief at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, Korea (1984-1987). She holds a B.A. from Prescott College and a Master's degree from Harvard University. Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1978, Ms. Stephens was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea and an exchange student and Outward Bound instructor in Hong Kong.

THAILAND

Susanne Aspley (1989-1991) has been awarded the national 2015 McKnight Artist Fellowship for Writers in Creative Prose for her debut novel, *Ladyboy and the Volunteer*, a book about a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand and her best friend, a transgender Thai prostitute.



The \$25,000 fellowship, administered by The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis MN, is for outstanding literary merit. Aspley is also author of *I Know How to Hola and I Know How to Ni Hao*, bilingual books for children in language immersion. Aspley holds a MA from the University of Minnesota and is an advanced graduate from the U. S. Defense Information School, Ft. Meade, MD. Along with her Peace Corps service, she also served 20 years in the Army Reserve as a photojournalist in Bosnia, Cuba, Kuwait and Panama, and is a retired veteran.

UGANDA

Francine Madden, an internationally known wildlife conflict specialist, has been hired by the state of Washington to help defuse tensions over the state's expanding wolf population. Madden

is the co-founder and executive director of Human Wildlife Conflict Collaboration (HWCC)—a global nonprofit organization integrating best practice standards in analyzing and transforming deep-rooted social conflict in the conservation field. Recognizing the "missing link" in conservation



practice, Madden pioneered efforts to bring expertise and lessons learned from the conflict transformation field (a niche within the peacebuilding field) into the field of wildlife conservation through HWCC. Madden leads HWCC's Conservation Conflict Transformation (CCT) capacity building and conflict intervention work. She will work with the 18-member citizen Wolf Advisory Group, which provides input to the state



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Fish and Wildlife Commission on wolf management, and other stakeholder groups to help them find common ground.

UNITED STATES

Foodshare, a nonprofit foodbank based in Bloomfield Connecticut, has named **James Arena-DeRosa** as the new president and CEO. Arena-DeRosa was previously employed by the Peace Corps as New England regional director. He also worked as Northeast regional administrator of the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition service. Arena-DeRosa is credited with conceptualizing and leading the public advocacy program for Boston-based Oxfam America. Other work in the nonprofit sector includes positions with End Hunger Connecticut!, the Hispanic Health Council and Wholesome Wave. Foodshare provides food to 300 food pantries, community kitchens and homeless shelters in two Connecticut counties, serving 12 million meals last year.

VANUATU

Josh Fuder is Cherokee County, Georgia's new county extension agent available to answer lawn and gardening



questions. Fuder is a public service faculty member employed by the University of Georgia in Athens. As a student at Oklahoma State University, Fuder learned he preferred plants and the outdoors to the graphs and theories he was learning in his agriculture economic classes. Before joining the University of Georgia as a

county agent, he most recently worked for the Southeastern Horticultural Society as environmental program manager of two projects located at the Good Samaritan Urban Farm and Farm Chastain. Fuder helps coordinate more than 80 master gardeners in the county who put on seminars, plant sales, and help out students in the county schools. He also plans to begin offering continuing education unit classes for local businesses, including those needed for arborists and for pesticide application licenses.

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

Rhett Power (pictured, Uzbekistan 2000-2002) was one of three RPCVs who shared stories of their paths to entrepreneurship with President Obama at the sixth annual Global Enterprises Summit (GES), held in July in Nairobi, Kenya. Power is co-founder of Wild Creations, an award-winning toy company

he helped start in 2007. Also recognized was **Mike Ducker** (Kenya 2001-2003), whose creative advances on several fronts include his founding of Ecosystem Forum, a platform to share effective practices



for building ecosystems in emerging markets. The third featured RPCV entrepreneur was **Sam Goldman** (Benin 2001-2005), founder of d.light design, a 2007 startup to provide safer, brighter and more affordable lighting for communities around the world. Goldman has won a number of awards, including NPCA's Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service in 2011.

For more Community News go to www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news/

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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.

STAFF	COLOMBIA	GUATEMALA	MALAYSIA	SENEGAL	TOGO
Morris Harvey Bratton, 6/24/15	Elias Alonzo, 6/28/15	Robert "Bob" Alexander, posted 5/12/15	Dr. Doris Elaine Sipe, 5/29/15	Edmund Sullivan, 7/5/15	David Dussel, 5/11/15
Walter "Merle" Johnson, 6/27/15	Leonard Davis III, 4/28/15	Bette Louise Hughes, 8/6/15	Richard "Dick" Brisch, 6/4/15	Penny Lowry, 6/24/15	TURKEY
William M. Ouweeneel, posted 6/21/15	Thomas Geiger, 6/9/15	Cynthia Maria Morrison-Morales, 6/5/15			Linda Latt Broselow, 7/5/15
Faith Roberta Stoughton, 6/9/15	Barbara Jean Gremour, 7/6/15				TUNISIA
Metha Liane Tanner, 6/17/15	Ilma Rosskopf, posted 3/22/15	Christy Bailey, 6/12/15	Gaylord Wayne Barr, 5/30/15	Frank William Gomes Jr., 6/20/15	Rodney Branson, 7/19/15
MULTIPLE COUNTRIES OF SERVICE	Charles Wilson, 7/5/15	Gerald Noland, 7/20/15	Shepard "Shep" Harder, 6/10/15	William "Bill" Davis, 5/3/15	Christine M. Shea, 3/25/15
Joe Glasheen, Swaziland, Togo; 4/22/15	Winona Yother, 3/17/15	Arnoldo Horacio Resendez, 7/30/15		Jane Crichton Leiper, 5/11/15	UGANDA
Kenneth Gibbs, Jamaica, Liberia; 7/11/15	COSTA RICA	INDIA	Joan Marie Barker, 5/24/15	Karen Beatrice (Keeton) Sinsheimer, 7/28/15	Thomas Eugene Hutchinson Jr., 6/12/15
AFGHANISTAN	Matias Benedicto, 7/29/15	Mary Patricia Krackenberger, 8/1/15	Elizabeth Gillis, 5/23/15	COUNTRY OF SERVICE NOT SPECIFIED	H. David Grunwald, 5/27/15
John "Jack" O'Connell, 7/11/15	Michele Winifred Farmer, 5/25/15	Donald G. McClelland, 6/14/15	William Donahue, 5/29/15	Matthew Heddin, 5/26/15	
Rosemary Henny Zakowski, 7/6/15	Kevin Gerard O'Connor, 8/10/15	Paul McNealy, 7/18/15		Patrick L. Kingston, 7/8/15	
ANTIGUA	DOMINICA	Barbara Soper Smith, 6/6/15		Sharon A. (Falgiano-Ruhland) Kohler, 5/12/15	Louise M. Rodriguez, 7/23/15
Josephine M. Gray, 5/15/15	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	IRAN	Frederick Milton Freymiller, 5/22/15	David Parsons, 4/28/15	Gilbert M. "Gil" Sena, 6/8/15
BOLIVIA	Thomas Smikoski, 7/18/15	Douglas Davies, 6/4/15	Robert Covell, 7/25/15		Thomas Wolfe, 6/18/15
Patricia Lux, posted 8/12/15	ECUADOR	JAMAICA	Elaine Hansen, 8/12/15		
John Ybarra, 5/29/15	Marjorie Catherine DePriest, 7/18/15	Pepper Herman Aronoff, posted 8/4/15	Jeanne Margot McIntyre, 6/23/15		
BRAZIL	Barry S. Hirsch, posted 6/16/15	Barbara Harmack Taggart, posted 7/10/15	Shalin Shah, 5/16/15		
David Jones, posted 7/1/15	Evie McPherson, 4/24/15	KOREA	PHILIPPINES		
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	ETHIOPIA	Richard Robert "Rick" Bean, 5/30/15	Bobette Fossum, 6/26/15		
Emily Jean Sorensen-Belter, 5/14/15	Herbert Barrett, 5/19/15	KYRGYZSTAN	Alice Jean "Cleo" Heller, 6/11/15		
CHAD	Richard Wilson, 6/18/15	Roger K. Staffin, 4/15	Jana McFarland Hofer, 7/13/15		
Brigit Cutler Connerton, 5/15/15	FIJI	Reuben James Summerlin, 7/6/15	Stephen E. Hoffmann, 8/1/15		
James Duffy, 7/18/15	Shirley T. (Mooney) Dunn, 5/13/15	LIBERIA	James D. McMullen, 5/29/15		
CHILE	Dennis J. Slattery, 6/19/15	Judy Nance, posted 5/29/15	Philip Ulanowicz, 7/24/15		
Mary Ellen Craig, 6/12/15	GAMBIA	Harold Jacobson, 6/3/15	REPUBLIC OF PALAU		
Thomas Brock Killeen, 6/11/15	Carolyn Marie Lewis, 7/18/15	Evelyn Hallonquist Brown Tumlin, 6/22/15	Robert "Bob" Beardsley, posted 5/27/15		



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