

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

WORLDVIEW

\$4.99

Spring 2011

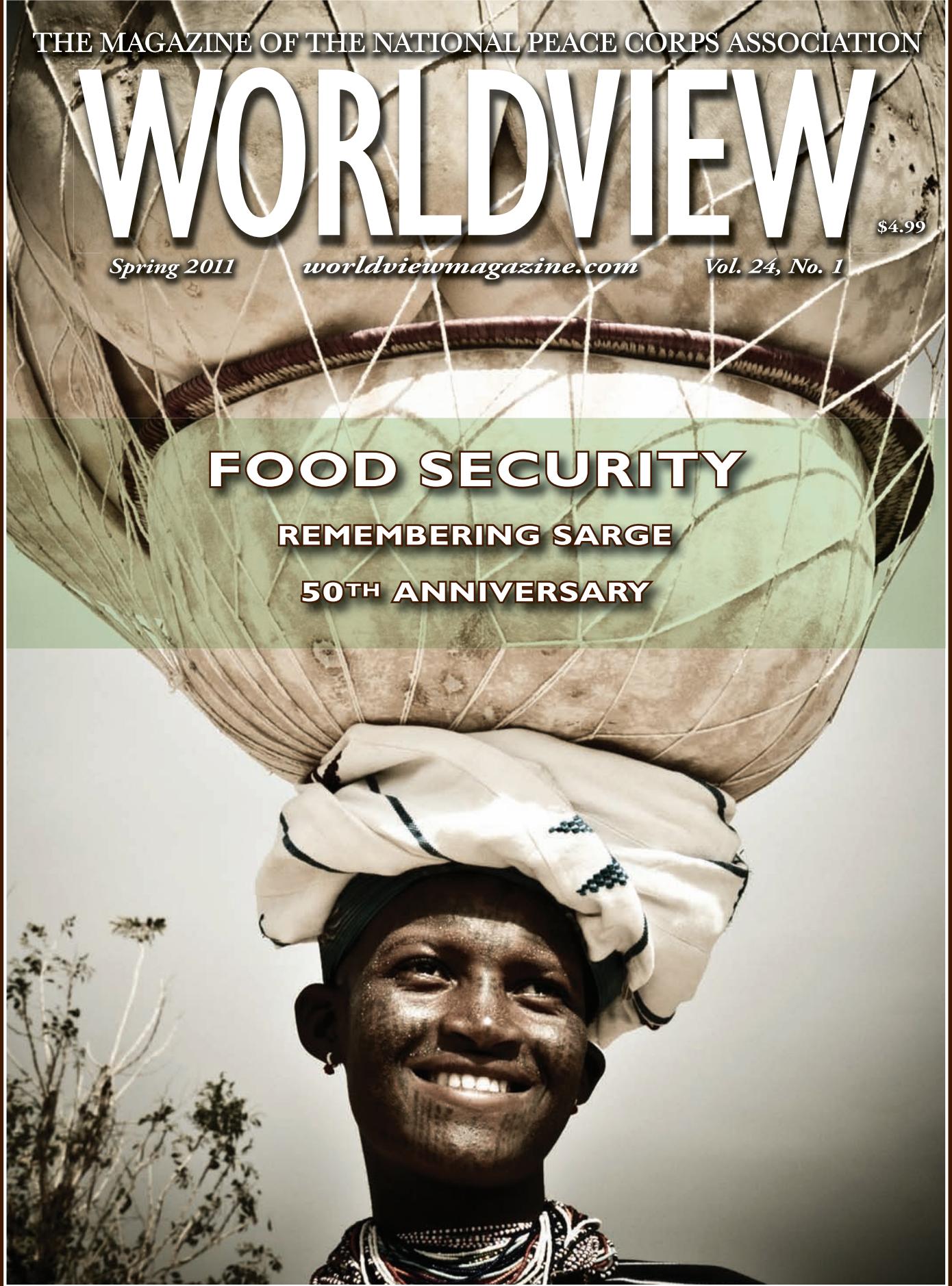
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WorldView (ISSN 1047-5338) is published quarterly by the National Peace Corps Association to provide news and comment about communities and issues of the world of serving and returned Peace Corps volunteers. WorldView © 1978 National Peace Corps Association.

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

POSTMASTER

Please send address changes to
WorldView magazine
National Peace Corps Association
1900 L Street NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036-5002

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

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

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

All inquiries can be addressed to the appropriate person at NPCA by fax at 202 293 7554 or by mail to NPCA, or through the NPCA website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org or www.worldviewmagazine.com

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A Fulani woman carries a calabash kitchen set, the dowry for her sister's wedding in Goumori, Benin. Photo by Christoph Herby (Benin 08-10), a self-taught photographer and documentary storyteller. ©2011 Pulaku Project.

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SARGE, SARGE, SARGE

Let's continue to answer his clarion to serve

by Kevin F. F. Quigley

Standing on the steps of the University of Michigan Student Union at 2 a.m. in the cold and drizzle, 50 years to the moment after presidential candidate John F. Kennedy's impromptu remarks sparked a student response that led to the Peace Corps' establishment, I was thinking about the connections between service and advocacy, advocacy and service.

In the most memorable inaugural address in American history, President John Kennedy called citizens of our country and the world to come together in a common struggle against "tyranny, injustice, poverty and war." Through the lens of time, it has become clearer the Peace Corps is perhaps the truest expression of that common struggle.

The Peace Corps' relentless optimism and distinctive style in embracing working side by side with others to address the issues of peace and inequality are most clearly identified with Sargent Shriver.

In the numerous eulogies written about Sargent Shriver across the country and around the world the common note was Sarge was a passionate advocate for peace and justice. He pushed us to be even better than we thought we could be so that tomorrow would be better than today.

Like many who joined the Peace Corps following the Sarge era (1961-66), I had scant understanding of who he was and what his role with the Peace Corps was other than he was the founding director. I remember him vaguely as our ambassador to France during the Paris-based negotiations to end the Vietnam War and as the number two on the ticket with Senator George McGovern in the 1972 presidential elections. I also knew that he was married to Eunice Kennedy and played a role in the Special Olympics.

Over the past few years working at the National Peace Corps Association, I have learned more about Sarge and now understand that he is one of the most remarkable men of the latter part of the 20th century. He was a social entrepreneur before we had the term, not only establishing the Peace Corps but also the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Poverty Law Center, Head Start, VISTA, Job Corps, Youth Corps, Senior Corps, and Special Olympics. Taken together, these programs have given hope and improved the lives of tens of millions of people at home and abroad.

Establishing one of these organizations would be an impressive accomplishment for many of us. However, what was truly extraordinary about Sarge was his incessant passion to make tomorrow better than today.

Shortly after starting at NPCA, I had the opportunity to visit with Sarge. At the time, he was in his late 80s and already in declining health. He, however, was still regularly at his office, which was a room full of the visual mementos of an extraordinarily rich life, personally, professionally and spiritually.

I naively thought that he was a man who wished to discuss the past. Rather, he wanted to talk about his life-long vision of a world more peaceful and prosperous, where all of God's children would have the opportunity to live lives of purpose with dignity and commitment. Rather than simply talking about it, Sarge in his trademark style challenged me to do all I could to do something about it.

With his relentless eyes on the future and tireless commitment to making the world a better place is how we will remember Sargent Shriver. He is not gone, no, his vision lives on in all who work for peace and justice.

In the past few years, his remarkable children—Bobby, Maria, Tim, Mark and Anthony—have helped produce an inspiring biography written by Scott Stoessel—*SARGE: The Life and Times of Sargent Shriver*, and an inspiring documentary, *American Idealist: The Life of Sargent Shriver*, produced and directed by Bruce Ornstein. I highly recommend that all future Volunteers have a chance to see this documentary and read this book as part of their pre-service training.

Knowing more about the Peace Corps and its history will make them better Volunteers. Recognizing this, Sanna Thomas (Tanzania 1964-66), provided generous support to compile and make accessible to future volunteers some of the "foundational documents and seminal moments" related to Peace Corps' history. Thanks to her generosity, and as part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we have recently built a timeline with this information that is now available on our website at www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org/50. Do take some time to learn or relearn about the Peace Corps' remarkable history and its inspiring founding director.

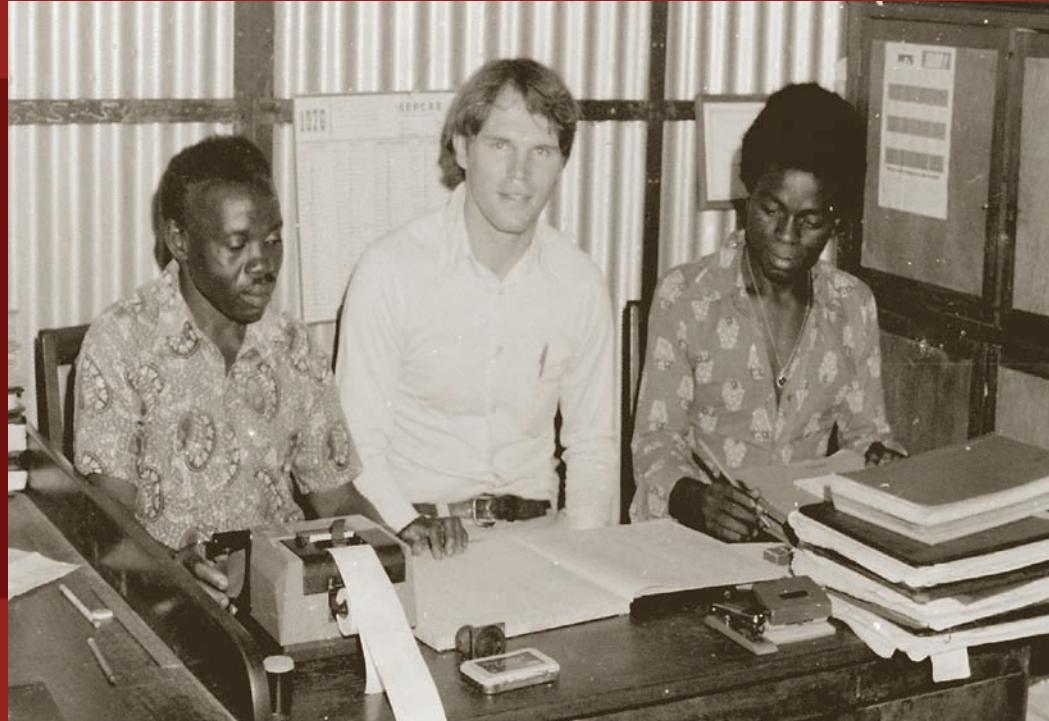
By reviewing this timeline, and seeing this documentary, future generations of Volunteers will hear Sarge's call to service and be inspired. They will feel truly fortunate to be part of Sargent Shriver's legacy in the endless effort to make a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Kevin F. F. Quigley

Kevin F. F. Quigley is President of the National Peace Corps Association. He served in Thailand, 1976 to 1979. Please send your comments to president@peacecorpsconnect.org.

“ Most everything I've learned in life, I learned in the Peace Corps. Above all, I learned a sense of humility about understanding a situation. **”**

—Christopher R. Hill



Ambassador Christopher R. Hill,
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READERS WRITE US

Letters to the Editor



I am all for fitting in with a host culture and being respectful of diet—one of the most cherished cultural windows. If I were in Mongolia as a guest in someone's home I may eat horse as well. However in his article "Horse, Of Course" (2010-2011 Winter issue of *WorldView*), Mr. Meinzen romanticizes the exoticism of horse meat in asking for it when it was not in season and in writing an article about it. I wonder if a similar piece would be published about a volunteer's experience with whale meat in Norway or Japan.

The author also generalizes about Americans that we arbitrarily pet cats and dogs while we eat turkeys, chickens and shrimp. There are vegans and vegetarians in the US that do not make these arbitrary distinctions simply because that is what their

culture taught them. Mr. Meinzen's article reminds me that subgroups within cultures are often disregarded, including Mongolian vegetarians.

It is true that vegetarian eating is not an available option for all people; one might say that it is a luxury in certain locales. Regardless, I would challenge Mr. Meinzen's romantic idea that people and horses in Mongolia "developed a deep mutual respect" in that "horses depend upon their herders for forage." How do Mongolian wild horses survive exactly? Though I also run the risk of putting words in the horse's mouth, I'm sure they would prefer life on the steppes to the dinner plate.

Frank Mataska, RN
Jamaica, 06-08



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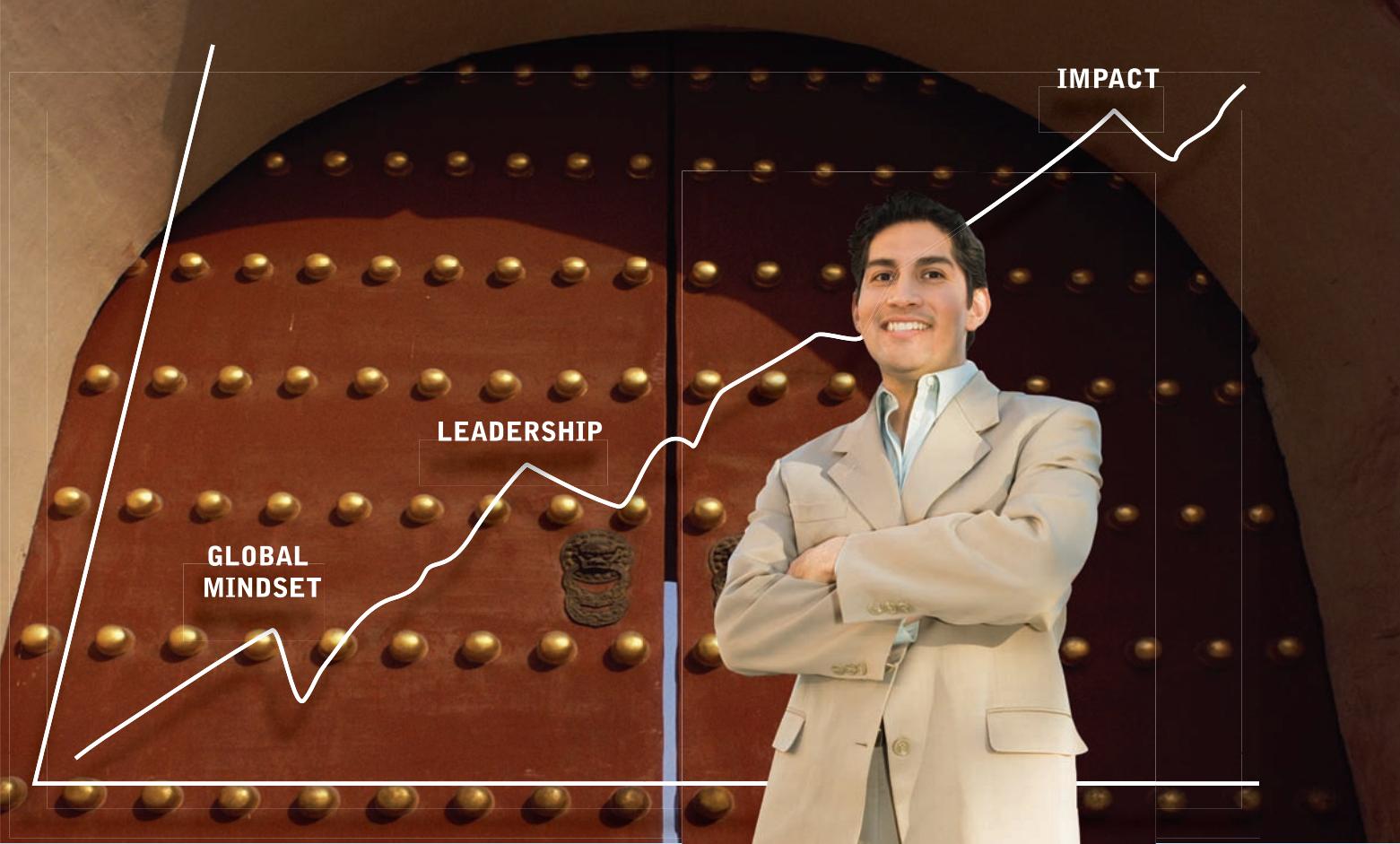
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REMEMBRANCE OF SARGENT SHRIVER

A Twentieth Century Giant

by Joby Taylor, Ph.D.

Peace Corps



The Peace Corps community was deeply saddened at the passing of Robert Sargent "Sarge" Shriver, Jr., beloved founder of the Peace Corps, on January 18, 2011. He was 95 years old. At the wake a few days later, the NPCA staff personally extended our community's collective condolences to the Shriver family. Shriver's death unleashed an outpouring of memories and words of praise for the man Kevin Quigley, President on of the National Peace Corps Association, termed one of the "most inspiring leaders of the twentieth century...[whose] timeless legacy will live on in all those he inspired...." Sarge, as he was so affectionately known, had a special place in the hearts of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. We asked Joby Taylor, who directs the Shriver Peaceworker Fellows Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, to share some thoughts on Sargent Shriver.

Sargent Shriver sits at the tiptop of my list of great leaders who were also great human beings. His resume doesn't include "President" but sometimes, on a down day, just musing on that what-might-have-been scenario brings a smile. He's a true hero.

In a career spanning the second half of the twentieth century, Sargent Shriver created and led an array of programs that met our most challenging issues with courage, compassion, and creativity. The Peace Corps, Legal Services for the Poor, VISTA, Head Start, Job Corps, Upward Bound, Community Action, Special Olympics, and others remain among our nation's most effective programs for engaging citizens, transforming lives, and leading social change. Our own Shriver Center at UMBC has been leading this charge in his home state of Maryland for nearly two decades already. Collectively, these programs and the vision that inspired them have changed our cultural landscape, impacting the very way we think about service and expanding the ways we come together to bridge human differences. Shriver's innovative programs also helped firmly established National Service as a here-to-stay movement, and one

with a rare tradition of bipartisan support. The fact that today virtually anyone, regardless of background, age, or ability, has substantial and structured opportunities to engage in service is, in large part, a direct legacy of Shriver's social inventions. He made it easy for us to get involved and put our best selves forward.

Shriver's energy and action sprang from his social and moral vision. He imbued programs with the overarching idea that because service highlights our common humanity even as it solved real and pressing problems, it was a primary pathway to peace. Far from the common negative view of peace as the absence of conflict, Shriver exemplified a richly positive vision of peace whose key qualities included happiness, joy, and love. His natural skill as a social entrepreneur was to scale up these

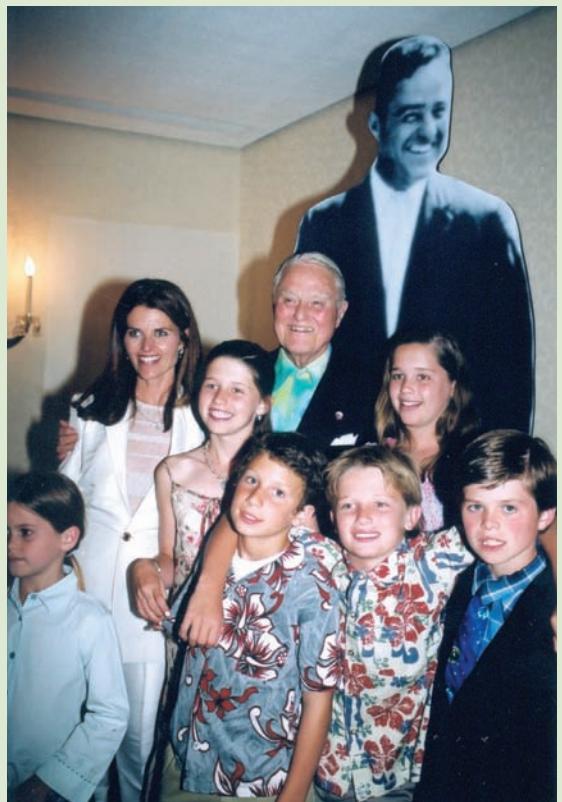
peacebuilding opportunities—to create service settings that called others to get engaged and realize this truth for themselves. "Serve, Serve, Serve" and "Shatter your mirrors!" he charged; and, in response to the question of how we should begin, he said, "In a phrase, the cure is care. Caring for others is the practice of peace!" In 50 years of the Peace Corps alone, 200,000 of us have the opportunity to learn these life lessons in 140 countries around the world. My years in Gabon continue to influence and guide me 20 years later. Thank you Sarge!

Shriver's intuition that "peace follows service", was his great leap of faith; an all-chips-on-the-table idea that he unflinchingly and infectiously insisted could change the world. Like Dr. King and other great servant leaders in our history, Shriver inspired us to

believe that everyone can play a part in building a better world, because everyone can serve. The experience of working alongside others and solving problems, small or large, social or material, at home or abroad, instills in us a sense of the usefulness of our idealism. Shriver championed the term "practical idealism"—not pie-in-the-sky optimism, but a dogged commitment to social hope that is rooted in the skills and savvy to



Shriver meets with student nurses in Konya, Turkey.



get good things done. Developing this formula for practical idealism became Shriver's ongoing experiment as he designed and launched program after program. Serving in the Peace Corps or VISTA, volunteering for Special Olympics, or providing Legal Services for the Poor, in addition to meeting real human needs, also offers us a chance to expand our moral imagination. At its best, our participation in these efforts provokes reflection on the life we want to live, it gives us new insight into the lives of others, and it redoubles our commitment. This is the spiraling

Clockwise from top left:

President John F. Kennedy hands Sargent Shriver the pen used to sign legislation creating the Peace Corps. Sen. Hubert Humphrey is to the left of the president. March 1961.

Sargent Shriver with his daughter Maria Shriver and grandchildren at the 41st anniversary celebration.

Sargent Shriver addresses Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at the 25th anniversary of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., 1986.

Sargent Shriver addressing "Sarge's kids" at the 41st anniversary of the Peace Corps, 2002.

elegance of Shriver's big idea, that the life of service is its own antidote to despair and cynicism. And his own life example was an untiring witness that this is both the most effective and the happiest way to be in the world.

Shriver's faith in this path and its outcome—his unwavering and enthusiastic belief that we can build peace through service—is a great gift to the world. His legacy, like his life, is turned toward the future; it will grow as each new generation catches the fire of his world-changing idea by answering the call to serve.

Sarge, you will be sorely missed, dearly remembered, and always beloved. I pledge my own best effort to keep your faith, and, here at the Shriver Center, we'll keep working toward that formula for practical idealism. "Well done good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Joby Taylor Ph.D. (Gabon 91-93, Peace Corps Fellows/USA 99-01) is Director of the Shriver Peaceworker Fellows Program and Affiliate Faculty; Language, Literacy & Culture; at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



ON THE HILL: 2011 DAY OF ACTION FOR PEACE CORPS

by Jonathan Pearson

Fifty NPCA citizen advocates. One hundred and five congressional meetings. Information distribution to more than 530 congressional offices. More than 500 volunteer hours devoted to bringing the world back home.

In this case, the world was brought to Capitol Hill during NPCA's seventh annual National Day of Action in Support of the Peace Corps. Korea RPCV Richard MacIntyre,

meeting with his Congressman Michael Michaud (D-ME), was part of the Hill contingent that covered all eras of Peace Corps service. Advocates made the case for continued strong support for Peace Corps funding.

Visit the advocacy section of the NPCA website, www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org/advocacy, to find resources and information that can help you advocate for a strong and independent Peace Corps.

HOUSE RPCVS INTRODUCE COMMEMORATIVE LEGISLATION

Legislation to authorize the creation of a commemorative work in the nation's capital to mark the historic and enduring significance of the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, and the ideals on which it was founded has been re-introduced in the House of Representatives. Authored by RPCV Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) and



Above: NPCA Intern Liana Bennett and Sean McLernon (Niger 09-11) helped stuff packets in the days leading up to the Day of Action.

Center top: Advocates teamed up and distributed materials to every congressional office.

Right top: Richard MacIntyre (Korea 67-69) met Congressman Michael Michaud (D-ME) to discuss the importance of Peace Corps.

Right lower: It wasn't just meetings. Advocates wrote thank you notes and filled out meeting report forms throughout the day.

Center lower: As Massachusetts citizens made phone calls and sent emails, the Capitol Hill team of Judith Whitney Terry (Honduras 67-68), Bob Terry (Bangladesh 61-63; India 66) and Scott Sharland (St. Vincents and Grenadines 08-10) met with Massachusetts congressional offices.



supported by fellow RPCVs Tom Petri (R-WI), Mike Honda (D-CA) and John Garamendi (D-CA), the bill—H.R. 854—was introduced on March 1st, the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's executive order which established the Peace Corps. In just two weeks, the legislation garnered nearly 90 co-sponsors. Visit our website to learn more about the Peace Corps Commemorative.



Interns Liana Bennett and Jocelyn Fong (pictured) and Brooke Byington were invaluable in helping us prepare for the Day of Action.

Around the NPCA

NPCA LAUNCHES NEW, IMPROVED ONLINE STORE

For a number of years NPCA sold logo t-shirts from a closet in our office—not ideal. In 2006 we migrated our merchandise sales online to CafePress. However a number of you had questions about CafePress' sourcing of materials and labor practices. Additionally, the community asked for items like Peace Corps patches, which they did not carry.

NPCA listened. And we're proud to announce the new and improved NPCA online store. The new store



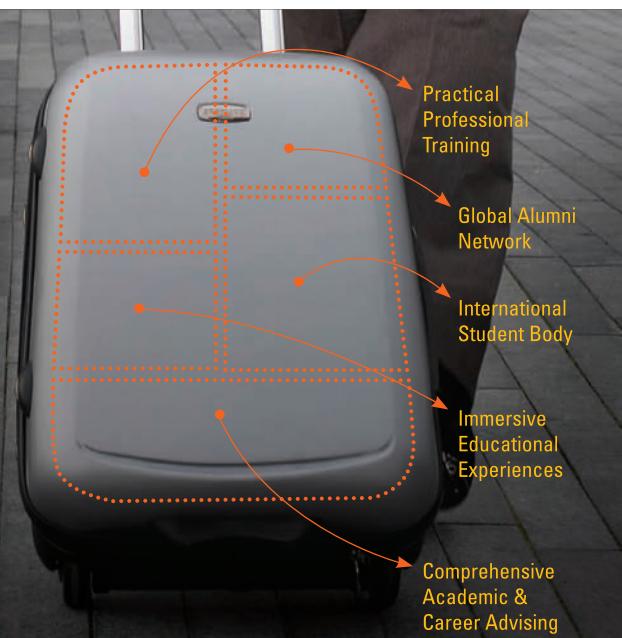
is managed by MusicToday which also hosts stores for organizations such as Sesame Street and the ONE Campaign. The members of these organizations have similar

global concerns as the Peace Corps community. We hope you'll find new and exciting items here to show your Peace Corps spirit during the 50th Anniversary. Visit the merchandise section of our website to learn more: www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org/resources/merchandise/

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SHORT-TERM, ON DEMAND CAPACITY BUILDING

Encore Makes Its Mark

by Christopher Klose

"The Peace Corps Volunteer comes to you as one to treat and be treated equally, to give and to receive, in the effort to reach the aspirations of all..."

— Anonymous PC India staff, circa 1968

The experience here has been fantastic. I've learned so much about Africa and its people. I hope I've given as much as I have received." So blogged Larry Badger (Azerbaijan 05-07) at the end of his recent three-month service as an Encore Volunteer working with the International Fertilizer Development Center's (IFDC) East and Southern Africa Division (ESA) based in Nairobi, Kenya.

A writer and videographer, Badger was producing three new training videos featuring local farmers and focused on IFDC's core mission of increasing agricultural productivity and food security. IFDC is a public international organization with projects in more than 100 countries.

Working with both public and private partner organizations, Encore volunteers like Badger have provided more than 12,500 hours of technical expertise to 22 capacity building projects in the developing world over the last four years. They have completed challenging assignments in Peru, Armenia, India, Indonesia, Zambia, Cameroon, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Kenya.

"The Encore/NPCA approach is unique," says NPCA President Kevin Quigley. "Unlike similar programs promoting RPCV involvement, it is demand-driven. Job assignments are designed by the host institution, like IFCA, for example. Encore Volunteers are chosen to fit a very specific, demanding bill."

Last November, in honor of the 50th

anniversary of Peace Corps and to expand the number, range and impact of targeted projects, Encore became a Joint Project of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and Encore Service Corps International (Encore).

"The advantages were obvious," recalls Encore chairperson Russell E. Morgan (Kenya 66-69).

"Our success in developing effective working relationships with partners such as the UPS Foundation, United Way International, The Abbott Fund, and Johnson & Johnson, who co-fund our projects, combined with NPCA's membership of experienced RPCVs with their passionate commitment to continued service."

Perhaps no one personifies the Encore opportunity better than Linda Layfield (RPCV Haiti 81-88; Staff Uzbekistan, Madagascar, The Baltics, Lesotho 00-07), who just finished serving in New Delhi, India with Operation ASHA (OpASHA). She says, "It has been an incredible volunteer experience. Operation ASHA is growing rapidly. They really work with the poorest of the poor. It is poised to expand all over the country and they have just opened programs in Cambodia and Morocco."

Matched with specific assignments, as Layfield was, Encore volunteers serve

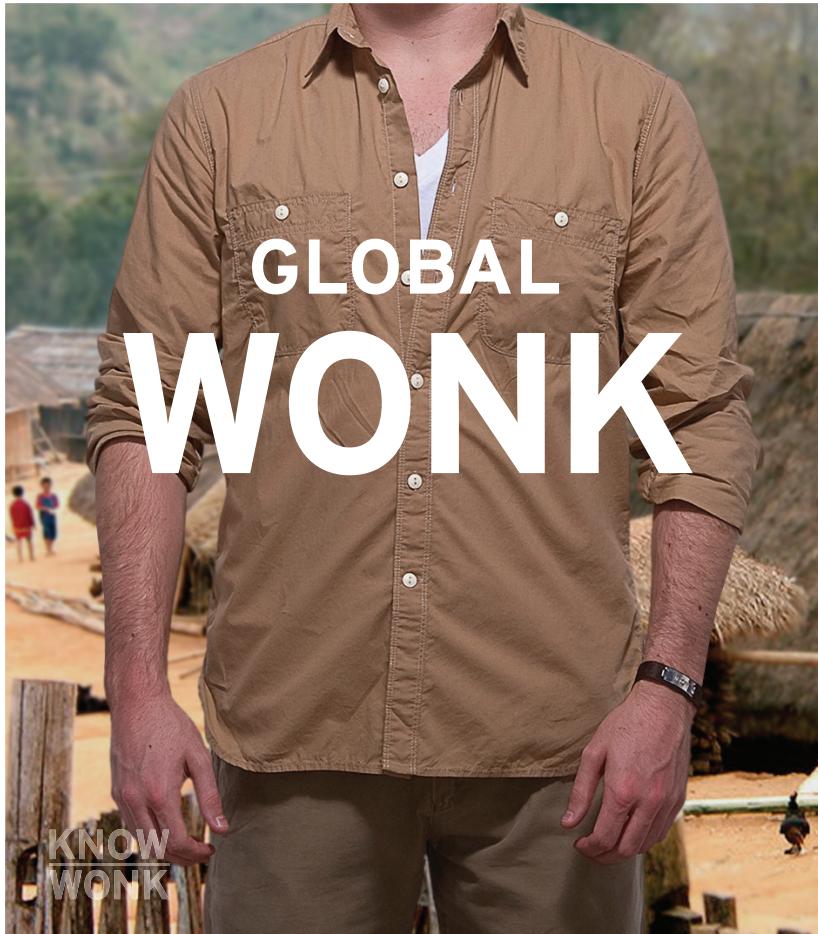


Linda Layfield (Haiti 81-88) teaching proposal writing to OpASHA staff.

from as little as six weeks to nine months or longer. Expenses are covered either by a mix of local and international funding or through partial support by the volunteer her/himself. The local institution usually provides food and lodging. Specific impact evaluations are developed in advance and the results are jointly reviewed by the host institution and Encore/NPCA in preparation for follow up assignments. The experience learned from each service assignment is then integrated back into Encore's orientation procedures.

NPCA handles Encore operations, including the recruitment and placement of volunteers, project development and outreach. Governance is provided by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives of both organizations. NPCA Vice President Anne Baker and Program Assistant Erin Madsen staff Encore.

Christopher Klose (India 68-70) is the co-founder of Encore Service Corps.



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LARGEST GATHERING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN 50 YEARS

House Parties around the globe celebrate the 50th Anniversary

by Molly Mattessich

Nearly 20,000 current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers in 76 countries, along with their families and friends, attended Global House Parties on March 1 this year. The National Peace Corps Association led the organization of the parties so that everyone could have a chance to attend an event during this special Peace Corps year. Although each party was as diverse as Volunteers are—the Peace Corps Community joined in solidarity for this one day to reflect on the experiences of the past and discover how they can still shape the future. For total coverage, visit <http://bit.ly/GlobalHouseParties>.

“**W**e had Peace Corps volunteers representing Nepal, Ecuador, the Caribbean, Togo, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Paraguay, and Ghana. We brought food from our Peace Corps countries, enjoyed good Sonoma Valley wines, and told wonderful stories. We each shared how we felt called to the Peace Corps. The common experience for all of us was that we loved and appreciated our experience. It was a wonderful celebration of the 50th, and we came away deciding to meet quarterly and to march in Sonoma’s 4th of July parade as a group of RPCV’s.”

— **Cathy Coleman**, (Ecuador 79-81), Sonoma, Calif.

“**O**ne guest said later that she and her husband usually hesitate to speak of Peace Corps because they don’t think most people are very interested. She said it was very nice to be in a group where we all wanted to discuss Peace Corps. We all agreed. I had two books: *Sarge and Come As You Are* out, along with a Peace Corps cap and a world map. The food included my Armenian dolma, Nepali-Indian “stew” with



Alison Williams (Mali '97-99) from Marblehead, Mass. hosted a group of 9 volunteers whose service spanned every decade from the 1960's to the 2010's.



A beautiful cake at the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Buffalo, N.Y. party.

rice, fried plantain, sweet potato fries, tropical fruit, coffee, chocolate, and Armenian brandy which we used to toast the Peace Corps. Oh, and nan, the Indian bread. I gave each guest a box of SerendipiTea. They were pleased.”

— **Constance Speake** (Armenia 09-11), Chicago, Ill.

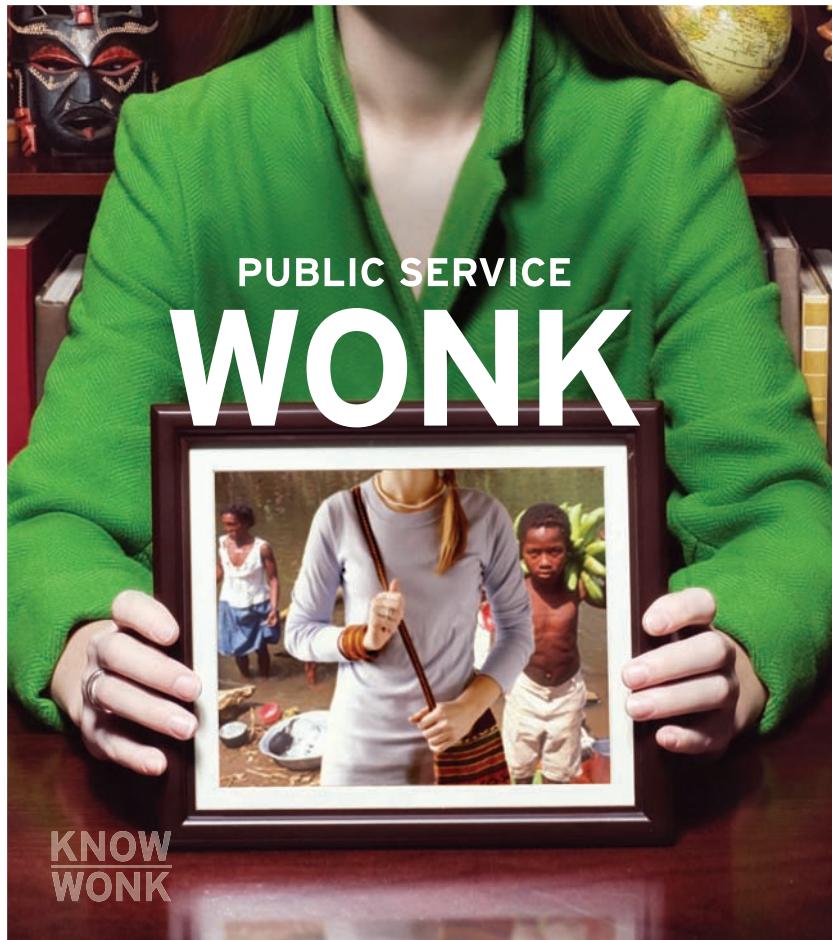
“**O**ur house party, attended by five of us from the Toronto area, was a great success. Countries represented were India, Malaysia (Sarawak), Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. Each brought a dish representing the country where they served. The food and fellowship were terrific.”

— **Cathy** (Peru 65-67) & **Jack Swenson** (Colombia 65-67), Toronto, ON, Canada

“**D**espite the difference in years between active and older volunteers, this gap quickly disappeared as we donned our house party T-Shirts designed and contributed by Bart. Obviously, the ‘old guard’ had a few tales to tell—but the active volunteers were not intimidated as they reported on their backgrounds and interesting current work in the country. Somehow we PCVs are a sister/brotherhood!”

— **BartDuff** (West Pakistan 62-64), **Susan Potter Evangelista** (Philippines 63-65), and **Jack Finlay** (Nigeria 61-63), Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines

Continued on page 18



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A collage of images and text. On the left is the circular seal of the University of California, San Diego, featuring a building, a star, and the text "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO". In the center is a photograph of a woman in a red sari smiling at the camera, surrounded by several young children. To the right of the photo is text about studying international affairs at the University of California, San Diego. At the bottom right is a quote from Raka Banerjee about her internship and employer.

Continued from page 16

“We had about 50 Returned Volunteers from the early sixties to late 2010. Many new faces came to the party from all over our region representing service in about 30 countries. It was a potluck so we shared palm butter, ground nut stew, abaloo polo, Peruvian empanadas and plantain, guava jelly and lots more. We ate, we networked, we shared memories, we talked of the past and the future and celebrated the importance of the Peace Corps to our lives.”

— **Jeanette & Steve Gottlieb** (Iran 65-67), Albany, N.Y.

A 10-year-old neighbor came in with his father to listen and learn (wide-eyed and -eared) about our experiences. I showed the first three My Piece of the Peace Corps YouTube video clips to the group. He seemed inspired. It made me remember that it was most likely the Peace Corps advertising campaigns of the mid-'70's that first planted the desire in me to join.”

— **Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman**, (Kenya 85-87), Middletown Springs, Vt.

The 50th anniversary of the PC was the inspiration to seek out RPCVs who live in the northwest region of New Jersey to get together. It started with an event reminiscent of challenges faced while serving in the Peace Corps. A block away from the restaurant was a tractor trailer that the driver had tried to get under a railroad bridge that morning but got stuck, blocking everyone's direct to the restaurant. It did not get cleared until early afternoon but in typical Peace Corps fashion, all RPCVs found their way to the restaurant, one way or the other (alternate back alley routes or parked & walked). We did not, however, roll up our sleeves and help get the truck unstuck as we would have done overseas!”

— **Christine Musa** (Sierra Leone 83-85) High Bridge, N.J.

The two current PCVs were joined by eight VSOs with whom we work. We had a birthday cake, sang, laughed and celebrated till 11 PM (on a school night)!”

— **Ron Brouillette** (Seychelles 76-78), Stone Town, Zanzibar



Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on the island of Palawan, Philippines.



Christine Musa

Christine Musa hosted the group from New Jersey. All smiles once they made it to the restaurant.

We had a great time at our local celebration of the 50th anniversary. Eight of the known 12 RPCVs who live in Calloway County, Ky. showed up at the Big Apple Café. It was a lively bunch, as might be expected. Some knew each other, others met for the first time. We have promised ourselves to get together more often—we will not wait another 50 years!”

— **Martin Tracy** (Turkey '67), Murray, Ky.

We ate typical Ecuadorian food that I prepared and then had American birthday cake, ice cream and fruit salad. We drank canelazos, a hot drink made with cinnamon, lime juice and aguardiente—yummy. A good time was had by all and we agreed that we would do it again before Peace Corps turns 75! Thank you to NPCA for giving us a reason to get together and celebrate the best idea ever to come our way.”

— **Elizabeth “Betsy” Davis** (Ecuador 72-74, RPCV Brazil 68-71, PC Staff 86-90, 93-98), Bethesda, Md.



Matthew Allen

Matthew Allen (Thailand 01-03) hosted 20 RPCVs plus one current Volunteer serving in Cameroon at his and his wife's home in London, England.

AROUND THE WORLD EXPOS

The National Peace Corps Association, in conjunction with the Peace Corps Regional Recruitment Offices and select Member Groups, is coordinating a series of *50th Anniversary Around the World Expos* nationwide in 2011. Each regional Expo will highlight the work of the Peace Corps over the past 50 years, while seeking to engage RPCVs and inspire the next generation of volunteers.

Each Expo will feature exhibits from RPCVs showcasing their work around the world, remarks from both Peace Corps and NPCA, and discussion

sessions for interested applicants and RPCVs. Expos are free and open to the public. Click on a city to find out

specific details about that Expo and to register – hope to see you there! Learn more at <http://bit.ly/50thExpos>.



Roger Soles

RPCVs gather at a Global House Party hosted by Roger Soles (Colombia 65-67) and others at the Arlington Unitarian Church in Arlington, Va.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This September, Washington, D.C. will be the place to be. Don't miss out on the landmark events celebrating 50 years of Peace Corps. Visit our website at www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org for complete details and to register for events visit <http://bit.ly/NPCASeptemberEvents>.

GROUP ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2011

Member group events (receptions, lunches, dinners, and get togethers) are ongoing throughout the entire weekend. Visit the 50th anniversary master event calendar to see all events and to post your own. Still planning your events in DC for September 2011? NPCA's events are designed for flexible attendance, so that you can host member specific activities throughout the weekend.

NPCA ADVOCACY DAY ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

6:00 – 8:00 PM

NPCA ADVOCACY DAY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Advocacy Day: 50 years to the day of Congressional passage of the Peace Corps Act, join NPCA advocates for a full day of congressional meetings, a rally on the grounds of the Capitol featuring notable political figures, an end-of-day event and more! Registration is required for this event

NPCA SERVICE DAY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Join NPCA in a day of service. This day will begin with an opening ceremony at one of the site locations in Washington, DC. The final list of service locations will be provided the week before the event.

CONVERSATIONS: THE FUTURE OF PEACE CORPS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

How will the Peace Corps community continue to grow and strive for a world of peace and prosperity for the next 50 years? A panel of thought leaders and global figures will discuss their experience with the Peace Corps and discuss pressing topics with the community. The second session will feature competitive proposals for a global community

project. A select group of pre-screened projects will be presented to the audience for review and questions. The audience will vote for the most deserving project and that project will be awarded with a grant that day.

PROMISE OF THE PEACE CORPS GALA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Saturday will culminate with a formal Gala to celebrate the past 50 years of the Peace Corps and energize the community for the next 50 years. NPCA is honored to have Chris Matthews, Host of Hardball and RPCV Swaziland as the event Emcee. Event location: The Ronald Reagan International Conference Center, Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale May 2011 – \$250 per person for NPCA members/\$300 per person for non-NPCA members. Register here to get added to the invitation list. To receive program ad and sponsorship information please contact Khalisa Jacobs at khalisa@peacecorpsconnect.org.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY PRESENTATION, WREATH LAYING & PARADE OF FLAGS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Sunday's activities will begin with a sequence of events sponsored by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington DC. The program will include a parade of flags, a wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of JFK, a program at the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater honoring Peace Corps' accomplishments and the, fallen Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Keynote speakers representing the full spectrum of the Peace Corps experience will share reflections on the future of the community. The wreath-laying ceremony will be followed by a processional past JFK's gravesite and a march with Country of Service flags across the Memorial Bridge to the National Mall.

NPCA CLOSING CEREMONY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

NPCA will end the weekend's activities with a festive get together highlighting the community through mini demonstrations, booths and entertainment. NPCA will announce details regarding the closing ceremony including the location at a later date.



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Join us on the National Mall and other events in 2011.

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This free event is open to the public. Check out details on our website and find other events occurring across the nation throughout the year.



Peace Corps 50th Anniversary
1961-2011

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 2011

Dear Peace Corps Community,

Throughout 2011, the Peace Corps is commemorating 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world—a legacy of service rooted in the vision of President Kennedy. Our 50th anniversary is an opportunity to honor our past and advance our mission of world peace and friendship through education and engagement. As legendary founding Director Sargent Shriver said, “(The Peace Corps) personifies our best qualities and deploys to the world the vision of what the United States stands for.”

Together, we have established an honored tradition of public service and community development in 139 countries around the world. As we commemorate our 50 years of service, we also look to the future of Peace Corps.

I am proud that more Americans (8,600) are serving with the Peace Corps today than at any time in the last 40 years. I have met hundreds of Volunteers serving in our 77 host countries around the world and am inspired by their optimism, commitment, and energy. I am also struck by how similar their experiences are to those I had as a Volunteer in the Dominican Republic.

Over the past year we have accomplished many things. We completed a comprehensive agencywide assessment and have started to implement six dynamic strategies to strengthen our global operations. Volunteers have returned to three historic Peace Corps countries: Indonesia, Colombia, and Sierra Leone. Our Peace Corps Response program has more than doubled in size, offering more Americans the opportunity to serve again. We have created new partnerships with leading international development organizations, universities, colleges, and other U.S. government agencies to strengthen existing service and educational opportunities.

We are committed to strengthening all facets of our program and it is our goal to further enhance the quality of the Peace Corps. All Volunteers, past, present, and future have a voice as we work to improve our operations. We take to heart the messages and communications that you regularly share with us.

The safety and health of our Volunteers remains the top priority for the agency and we continue to do everything in our power to minimize the risks associated with service overseas and offer compassionate support and guidance during difficult periods, both to our Volunteers and to our wider community. We strive to be supportive of our Volunteers and transparent about the realities of service.

The Peace Corps has always been an extended family. Together we will continue to build an even better Peace Corps for the Volunteers of today and tomorrow. Our Volunteers strive to make a difference and have improved the lives of millions of people—not just in communities around the world, but also in local communities here at home. That is our legacy.

Thank you for your service.



Aaron S. Williams
(RPCV/Dominican Republic)



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CDs are the senior Peace Corps representative in a country and are responsible for the leadership and direction of all aspects of the Peace Corps program: administration, Volunteer support, representation, programming and training, and safety and security.

Candidates should have experience managing a program or business of comparable size to a Peace Corps country program (15 to 50 staff, 50 to 250 Volunteers, and an operating budget of \$900,000 to \$4 million), as well as experience managing/supporting staff and/or volunteers.

The salary range for these positions is \$96,064 to \$150,913.

Director of Programming & Training*

The Peace Corps is looking for senior-level managers with exceptional skills to supervise staff and design and manage international development programs in a variety of fields such as health, education, small business development, and agriculture/environment. International cross-cultural and supervisory experience are required (including 1 year working overseas).

DPTs manage, advise, and develop professional program and training staff to support Peace Corps Volunteers. DPTs oversee the planning, analysis, implementation, and monitoring of programs and training activities, as well as support staff and Volunteers to meet the expectations of project partners.

Candidates should have work experience managing an international development program or business and managing/supporting staff, including one year of performing supervisory functions.

The salary range for these positions is \$61,759 to \$138,137.

Administrative Officer*

The Peace Corps is looking for mid to senior-level managers with extensive administrative and financial experience, international and cross-cultural experience, and exceptional management and leadership skills to serve overseas as Administrative Officers. International cross-cultural and supervisory experience are required (including 1 year working overseas).

AOs ensure the effective management of country operations in support of 15 to 50 staff and 50 to 250 Volunteers. Critical services which the AO provides include direction of the administrative unit, as well as financial analysis and policy implementation.

Candidates should have work experience managing a program or business and managing/supporting staff, including one year of performing supervisory functions.

The salary range for these positions is \$61,759 to \$138,137.

* All CDs, DPTs and AOs must be U.S. citizens and must not have been associated with intelligence activities. Peace Corps seeks candidates that are reflective of the diversity of Peace Corps and its Volunteers. Employees are appointed for a 30-month tour and may be granted a second tour for a maximum of five years (60 months) with the agency. Peace Corps accepts applications for these positions throughout the year. You may apply on-line through the website, <http://pcoverseasjobs.avuedigital.us/>. You must complete the on-line application in order to be considered for a position; resumes are supplemental. If you have any questions, please e-mail AOandPTOjobs@peacecorps.gov for AO and DPT positions and CDselection@peacecorps.gov for CD positions.

IT'S THE INEQUALITY, STUPID

Dealing with food prices and instability

by Shannon Scribner

As violence and unrest unfolds across North Africa and the Middle East, we are reminded of how tenuous the grip on global stability can be. In recent months, riots, protests and conflict has rippled from Algeria to Yemen leading to the ouster of the Tunisian President and instilling fear in the hearts of unelected leaders across the region. These reform movements, though only loosely connected, reportedly found common cause in deeply held feelings of economic dissatisfaction, oppression and anger at government corruption. But they also shared a collective spark, a catalyst that inspired protesters across borders: high food prices.

In February, 2011 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that the FAO Food Price Index had for two consecutive months, surpassed its all-time peak reached at the height of the 2008 food price crisis. Driving the index's rise was a dramatic spike in prices for sugar and wheat as well as edible oils and fats.

High food prices were just one contributing factor to the ferment that unleashed demonstrations throughout the region. But the important role the price spike played in cracking the door open to violence and instability makes addressing the underlying causes of price volatility and global hunger a pressing challenge for US and international policymakers. Because

while we empathize with those who take to the streets to protest for a better existence, long-term instability is in nobody's best interest. And failure to make serious progress on food security and price volatility could mean further instability.

The cause of the current spike is complex and there is considerable debate about the relative importance of different factors. Many analysts point to triggers on the supply side

including reduced production due to extreme weather, high oil prices and increased biofuels production. Other factors implicated include ill-advised export restrictions, panic buying or hoarding of food, the depreciation of the dollar or speculation in the commodities market.

Whatever mix of short and medium term factors triggered this particular spike, these incidents are fueled by long-term trends that strike at the

Karen Robinson/Oxfam

very heart of future food security. The growth in demand for food due to increasing population, strong economic growth, and rising per capita meat consumption, especially in emerging economies, has come face to face with stagnant agricultural productivity in developing countries due to lack of investment in infrastructure, extension services, Research and Development and marketing systems, as well as to land degradation, natural resources depletion and climate change.

Food price spikes are the rare occasion when the issue of food security makes its way into the national dialogue. As these spikes contribute to violence and political tumult, stories of riots and bloodshed make a much more compelling headline than those of chronic hunger and poverty. Often left out of this discussion are stories from the hundreds of



Woman carrying maize stalks in Egypt.

millions of hungry people who suffer mostly in silence. It is these people who are impacted the greatest by food price volatility. Yet the stories of their everyday struggle to access enough food to eat rarely receive international coverage.

Conventional wisdom is that hunger results from too many people and too little food. But this is not the case. Right now we produce enough food to feed everyone, yet nearly a billion people go to bed hungry every night. There are neither too many people, nor too little food.

In fact, most of the world's hunger is not an issue of availability—but rather an issue of access. There is food in markets, but people are too poor to buy it. Solving this problem now or in the future, must therefore start with addressing severe inequality. Getting the production part right is essential, but it won't end hunger.

Many of the proposed solutions to food insecurity are self-serving, designed either to blame the victims of injustice or to defend the status quo and those that profit from it. Convenient myths and misdiagnoses range from crude Malthusian arguments about the need for population control, to the "all you need is more gadgets" hype of technoptimists. As the population increases and more people are lifted out of poverty, we'll need to tap into a diverse set of solutions. But we're not blessed with an endless supply of resources at our disposal. Therefore, we need to target our efforts towards solutions that can have an immediate impact.

So what are we to do? Even though most of the world's people live in cities, three quarters of its hungry inhabitants live in rural areas, where most of them work in small-scale agricultural production as farmers, herders, fishers or laborers. Around 60% of people facing hunger right now eke out their livelihoods in food production. They are surrounded by the means to produce food, and yet they go hungry. In many countries, women are the primary food producers, yet cultural traditions, government repression and unjust

social structures doesn't allow them to access markets, which means they often face poverty and hunger more so than men. Reinvigorating investments and support for agriculture is a clear priority. Global development assistance directed at supporting food security fell from around \$20 billion in the mid 1980s to just \$4 billion two decades later. The food price crisis of 2007/08 and some of the riots that followed was a wake-up call that spurred donors to increase their commitments to food security to \$20 billion over three years. For its part, the US has promised \$3.5 billion, and has packaged these promised investments in a new initiative, Feed the Future. Based on principles of country ownership and participation, Feed the Future promises to put countries in the driver's seat of their own agriculture growth.

Unfortunately, the economic climate in Washington, DC threatens to derail these commitments if the US Congress does not fund the initiative.

In the face of rising and volatile prices, governments should act to calm markets, working together globally through the Committee on Food Security, a global forum for dialogue and action to improve food security, to help people living in poverty to cope with the immediate effects of high prices, including through strong safety nets. Over the long term new investments in agriculture are needed to address stagnating production, improve nutrition, strengthen markets and to help farmers adapt to and mitigate climate change. We've seen from examples like Brazil, Thailand and Malawi that these kinds of solutions can show real results with buy-in from communities and commitment from all levels of government and the private sector. The task is by no means small, but as recent events should show world leaders, failure to face these challenges head on is in nobody's best interest.

Shannon Scribner is the Humanitarian Policy Manager for Oxfam America. She served as a Health Volunteer in the Republic of Zambia in the United States Peace Corps from 1997-1999.

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH HOLISTIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

by Catherine L. Alston

During my Peace Corps service in Burkina Faso, I quickly discovered that one can make a greater impact by taking a holistic approach to development work. As Girls Education and Empowerment (GEE) volunteers, we were charged with the rather auspicious task of improving gender equality and encouraging opportunities for girls to go to school in our communities. My fellow GEE volunteers and I found that the best way to tackle such a broad development goal was to approach the problem from multiple angles. Many of us worked with young girls to form theater groups and encourage the participants to educate their community about issues they face; we established Girls Camps and brought in facilitators and women role models who discussed reasons why these young women should stay in school; and we worked at the local clinics to educate women and girls on mother/infant nutrition and wellness. As in all Peace Corps sectors, in order to ensure we were building sustainable solutions to the community's concerns, we engaged local stakeholders in the various projects using a participatory model to identify potential solutions to problems.

It was difficult to leave my community and the local leaders that helped me facilitate the different projects. They taught me many valuable lessons about life and how to improve a community's well-being. Fortunately, I was offered a position with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and given the opportunity to apply the lessons I learned in Burkina Faso. WCF is an international membership foundation that promotes a sustainable cocoa economy by

providing cocoa farmers with the tools they need to grow more and better cocoa, market it successfully, and make greater profits. WCF implements, manages, and participates in programs at the grassroots level to help independent family farmers in 15 cocoa-producing nations around the world.

The World Cocoa Foundation strives to maximize farmer success through a pragmatic philosophy that recognizes the health and success of cocoa farmers, families and communities are essential to the success of the worldwide cocoa and chocolate industry. That is why WCF manages and supports programs focused on three principles:

PEOPLE – ENHANCE THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

One example of a WCF program promoting healthy and thriving cocoa-farming households is the WCF Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions (ECHOES) Alliance. The WCF ECHOES Alliance is strengthening cocoa-growing communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana by expanding opportunities for youth and young adults through relevant education. Ultimately, the program seeks to serve as a scalable model for education in rural West Africa and provides vocational agriculture training for young adults, family support scholarships, teacher training, adult literacy and the development of community resource centers. To date, WCF ECHOES has directly impacted over 17,000 youth and adults and enhanced the lives of more than 280,000 people in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

PLANET - PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES THAT ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The World Cocoa Foundation also implements Challenge Grants which are open to research institutes, universities, farmer groups and NGOs from cocoa-producing countries. The objectives of the Challenge Grants Program is to 1) improve the quality of life for cocoa-farming families and the quality of their cocoa, 2) foster linkages between universities, research institutes, and NGOs in cocoa-producing countries to further collaboration with cocoa farmers and 3) introduce innovations that will make a long-term difference for cocoa-farming families and communities. Nong Lam University in Vietnam, for example, was awarded a Challenge Grant to develop an affordable drip-irrigation system that would be an effective and efficient way of delivering water to cocoa and other crops during the dry season. The final product was not only less expensive than an imported system but also increased cocoa pod production by almost 80% from the conventional irrigation method.

PROFIT – HELP INDEPENDENT FARMING FAMILIES REACH THEIR FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

WCF supports training programs that provide an interactive and hands-on learning experience to educate cocoa farmers on good farming techniques. Through enhanced production and harvesting techniques, farmers can significantly improve the quality and yield of their cocoa by adopting small changes such



The author with cocoa farmers in the San Pedro department in Côte d'Ivoire.

as maintaining their trees through pruning or ensuring the beans have had adequate time to ferment after the harvest. By applying the lessons learned through farmer field school training, cocoa-farming households can increase their net profit. Omar, a cocoa farmer in Colombia, participated in a farmer field school and by implementing the practices he learned, Omar has significantly improved his yields and income. Over two seasons he increased his yields by over 1,000 kilograms per hectare, a net profit increase of approximately 600%.

These are just a few examples of the many WCF programs that aim to improve the lives and livelihoods of cocoa-growing communities by encouraging sustainable, responsible cocoa farming. In all of its projects, WCF engages local partners and representatives to maximize impact. By building the capacity of these local organizations and agencies, WCF is ensuring the support for cocoa-farming communities remains beyond the life of any specific program. This is why we are pleased to have formalized a partnership with the Peace Corps to collaborate on joint activities in countries where both organizations currently serve.

Catherine L. Alston (Burkina Faso 06-08) is the former Program Coordinator for WCF's Cocoa Livelihoods Program.

For more information on the World Cocoa Foundation and its programs visit www.worldcocoafoundation.org.



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SIX FOOD SECURITY RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

Here are some places to start

compiled by Erica Burman

AFRICA RURAL CONNECT

Africa Rural Connect is a program of the National Peace Corps Association where current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers can share their ideas to develop creative business plans to improve agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. On the online platform, which now focuses on reducing post-harvest losses, developing better communications tools for small holder farmers, improving water resources, and supporting small agribusinesses, people can post an idea or remix

another idea to improve it and make it their own.

ARC won an Outstanding Achievement Award in the agriculture category of the InterActive Media Awards in 2010, and has been mentioned on Voice of America, the Washington Post, the Seattle Times, and America.gov, among others. Africa Rural Connect is an ideal space to post ideas, videos, comments, documents or other materials to connect with people interested in improving food security.

www.AfricaRuralConnect.org

Today, the Sisters on the Planet are raising awareness about hunger, climate change, and other crises facing women in poor countries and calling for a worldwide investment in women farmers, so they can fight hunger now and for generations to come.

www.oxfamamerica.org/whoweare/sisters-on-the-planet

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE

Nourishing the Planet (www.NourishingthePlanet.org), a project of the WorldWatch Institute, assesses the state of agricultural innovations—from cropping methods to irrigation technology to agricultural policy—with an emphasis on sustainability, diversity, and ecosystem health, as well as productivity. The project aims to both inform global efforts to eradicate hunger and raise the profile of these efforts. The project also considers the institutional infrastructure needed by each of the approaches analyzed, suggesting what sort of companion investments are likely to determine success—from local seed banks to processing facilities, from pro-poor value chains to marketing bureaus.

The 2011 edition of the World Watch Institute's flagship report is a compelling look at the global food crisis, with particular emphasis on global innovations that can help solve a worldwide problem. State of the World 2011 not only introduces us to the latest agro-ecological innovations and their global applicability but also gives broader insights into issues including poverty, international politics, and even gender equity.

www.worldwatch.org



Christoph Herby

SISTERS ON THE PLANET

Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam America helps women and girls overcome gender discrimination, realize their potential, and become decision makers and leaders. Oxfam is also harnessing the power of women to create political and social change through its Sisters on the Planet initiative.

Inspired by women here and abroad who are battling climate change in their communities, a diverse group of American women have joined Oxfam America as Sisters on the Planet. Since 2008, hundreds of influential Sisters have worked to raise awareness about women and climate change and to help vulnerable communities here and abroad adapt to changes in the climate.

WORLD FOOD PRIZE

The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing—without regard to race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs—the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.

The Prize recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply—food and agriculture science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, poverty alleviation, political leadership and the social sciences—and emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. By honoring those who have worked successfully toward this goal, The Prize calls attention to what has been done to improve global food security and to what can be accomplished in the future.

www.worldfoodprize.org

TED.COM

A cornucopia of great TEDTalks about food: growing it, cooking it, consuming it—and making sure there's enough for all. From Dan Barber's poignant tale of fois gras ... to Jamie Oliver's fighting words about kids' lunches ... to Louise Fresco's economic unpacking of a simple loaf of bread ... these talks examine big ideas through the food we eat.

www.ted.com/themes/food_matters.html

ALLIANCE TO END HUNGER

The Alliance to End Hunger develops innovative partnerships among its more than 75 members, which include corporations, non-profit groups, universities, individuals, and Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious bodies. The Alliance also elevates hunger on the national agenda by studying how voters think about hunger, sharing the findings with political leaders, and encouraging champions for hungry people among elected officials.

www.alliancetoendhunger.org

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A CALL TO ACTION WHEN THERE ARE NO WORDS

Volunteers in Mongolia tackle the tough scourge of alcoholism

by Sarah H. Haught

I stood with my hands dug deep into my pockets. It was unusually warm for a Mongolian October, but I wasn't sure what else to do with them. I looked around. Our giant "Alcohol Awareness Week" banner hung from the balcony of the government building. Government workers and someone from the children's center were adjusting the microphone set-up nearby, a doctor from the health department was greeting some police officers, my fellow Peace Corps Volunteers were chatting quietly. I looked out over the large concrete square that marks the center of our town, a provincial capital in the near-western part of the country with a population of about 18,000. With the exception of a few soldiers and curious onlookers and about a dozen folks waiting for the bank to open, it was empty.

I checked the time. A quarter past ten. My heart sank. After weeks of



Men drinking vodka early in the morning in a public park.

meetings that were in turns hopeful and frustrating, after countless hours of running around between printers and copiers, of posting fliers and handing out brochures, of troubleshooting technical difficulties in schools as doctors rattled off statistics about drinking to students, after scrabbling for funds from different organizations around town, after daring to believe



A small sign advertising Alcohol Awareness Week hangs on a local business.

that we were doing something that might actually be the start of something important, after all that, the square was empty. We had failed.

Alcohol abuse is a big problem in Mongolia. According to a study by the Mongolian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, 22% of Mongolian adults (39% of men) drink at a hazardous level. 22% of the country's males are alcohol dependent, and 20% of people spend money on alcohol that themselves and their families need for food and other necessities. Also, 32%

of the population is under the age of 25, meaning that if something is not done to address drinking behaviors here, those numbers could double in the next 10 years. But statistics are just numbers, and it isn't numbers that led a group of Peace Corps Volunteers to start an Alcohol Task Force in Mongolia. It wasn't numbers that got me involved.



The author, PCV Kara Estep, and members of the AAW planning committee in front of the big sign in the town square.

It was not being allowed to walk home alone after dark because of drunk men (and it gets dark early in a Mongolian winter). It was watching a teacher at my school drunkenly knock over a table and spill wine on my friends' formalwear, most of which had cost over a months' salary, and then watching as they were all forced to smile and dance with him. It was knowing that a site mate's counterpart was sleeping in her office because she was afraid that her husband would find her at home, and that my best friend's ex-husband destroyed all of their furniture in a drunken rage before disappearing. It was seeing young students constantly showing up at school with black eyes. It was getting driven into a lake in the middle of a below-freezing night after our drunk driver played a game of chicken with another vehicle, and having everyone else in the car just laugh, finding nothing unusual about it. It was seeing my neighbor's husband drunker than I've ever seen anyone, screaming and swinging his arms while she cowered in the corner, crying. Never have I felt so helpless. Never have I seen alcohol have such devastating effects. And I was a bartender in Manhattan for years.

My experiences are not unique. There is not a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia that doesn't have stories similar to these. And there is not a Mongolian I have met here who does not think that alcohol is a huge issue. The problem is, after stating that, people usually just shrug. "It is our culture," they say.

You see, since the time of Chinggis Khan and possibly before, alcohol has played an important role in major Mongolian events. Airag (fermented mare's milk) is served in large bowls alongside traditional Mongolian vodka (which is made out of yak's milk where I live, but it varies) at important social occasions, and has been for centuries. Most Mongolians say that you must drink three bowls of each at any given celebration. But when Mongolia became a Soviet satellite in the 1920s, modern Russian style grain-based vodka worked its way into these events as well. Suddenly, a drink with a 40% alcohol content was being consumed in a manner that beverages with a less



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The Vice Governor of Arkhangai speaks to gathered students.

than 20% alcohol content had been. Ninety years later, alcohol is a factor in many of the major issues impeding Mongolia's development, including unemployment, domestic violence, and non-communicable disease.

But Mongolia is not alone. Western-style and industrially-produced alcoholic beverages are accompanying or replacing cottage-produced indigenous beverages in countries all over the developing world. According to the WHO's "Alcohol in Developing Societies," overall alcohol consumption in the developed world has been steadily decreasing since 1980, while consumption in the post-Soviet and developing world has been increasing. "Amidst rapid globalization and societal change, drinking patterns and attendant problems are worsening, often in settings

with the fewest resources to combat them," the report says.

Unlike in America and other Western countries where rehab is a gossip column buzzword and twelve-step programs are abundant, the options for a Mongolian who needs help with problem drinking are virtually non-existent. The only rehabilitation facilities are under-equipped to deal with the extent of the problem and are in the capital, a sixty-plus hour bus ride for many in the country. And while AA does have a presence here, the organizer in one province said his group only met once last year. In America, we grow up surrounded by requests to drink responsibly and warnings that "we card hard." In Mongolia, alcohol laws are not enforced and we had trouble translating the phrase "Alcohol Awareness Week." The language to combat this problem

here literally doesn't exist yet. The lack of physical resources and infrastructure coupled with an absence of societal dialogue about alcohol and alcoholism serve to make this a very difficult issue, and this combination of hazardous circumstances is repeated across the developing world, from Africa to Asia and South America. The WHO states that "Global leadership is needed for a global problem." So where is it?

This got me thinking: why can't Peace Corps do something? Using the Peace Corps model of cultural understanding and community integration, it would seem that Peace Corps Volunteers across the world are uniquely qualified to understand the obstacles their communities and countries face in dealing with alcohol issues and would therefore be most able to work sensitively and effectively with counterparts

Parading students.



to combat them. True, most Volunteers are not psychotherapists or doctors, but we are very capable of community mobilization efforts and work with local governments and other organizations. When we decided to have an Alcohol Awareness Week here, I had never encountered such enthusiasm on any project I've been a part of as a Volunteer. I honestly thought one of the police officers was going to kiss me, she was so excited. She had wanted to work on this issue for so long, she just had no idea where to begin.

The idea at the core of Peace Corps community development work is that Volunteers go to their individual communities in their specific countries, integrate into them, do a needs assessment, and then work towards improving life at their site. Therefore, any Volunteer who encounters alcohol-related issues might work to address them. Peace Corps has global initiatives that it encourages Volunteers to work within and supports—but alcohol is not one of them, although alcohol plays a role in almost all of them. Alcohol has been proven to contribute to the spread of HIV and other STIs, it increases the prevalence of domestic abuse, in some countries industrialized alcohol production has significantly effected women's economic



A flag made by a student. The word on the flag means "future".

independence, and it can contribute to the destitution or desperation that leads women into the sex trade or to be victims of human trafficking (all of which falls under the WID/GAD initiative). And while a country like Mongolia has a relatively low number of HIV/AIDS cases and a country in Africa might have a low instance of human trafficking, alcohol's affects are everywhere.

I heard a low rumble. I looked up in the direction it was coming from and saw nothing for a moment, then all of the sudden a massive wave of teenagers rounded the corner of the government building. They were chanting loudly and carrying carefully crafted posters with crossed out pictures of vodka labels, images of gers destroyed by a family member's alcoholism, 3D paper cut-

outs of futures destroyed by vodka. Suddenly more students descended from the hill behind us and the square was alive with voices. We hadn't failed after all.

Over five hundred students marched through Arkhangai province that morning, and they were not alone. Across Mongolia Peace Corps Volunteers joined with Children's Centers, secondary schools, universities, social workers, police officers, health departments, governors, mayors, government workers, lawyers, NGOs, television stations, local businesses, and more to raise awareness and begin a national discussion about alcohol related issues in Mongolia. Though the problem of alcohol here often feels impossibly large and complicated, for one week in October at least, it felt like we all took a small step in the right direction. Volunteers in Mongolia will continue to work with their communities to be a part of the local solution to the "global problem" of alcohol abuse. Hopefully, with the support of Peace Corps, volunteers worldwide will do the same.

Sarah H. Haught is an education Volunteer currently serving in Arkhangai, Mongolia. She is a leading member of the Peace Corps Mongolia Alcohol Task Force.



All Photos: Sarah Haught



Above: A student poster.

Left: The rally in the square.

SKATEBOARDING IN THE KALAHARI?

An unlikely project springs up in South Africa

by Anthony Parise

When I joined the Peace Corps I agreed to part with my biggest hobby, skateboarding. I assumed we were going to a place filled with dirt, sand, and a few tin roof huts. My assignment in the school and community resources program was to teach maths, with technology education as a secondary project. That all changed after I discovered a rural housing development project underway in our village. About 100 homes were already built, but there were around 50 brand new and completely empty concrete slabs still waiting for completion. I was just so amazed that all this concrete existed right here in my own village. I immediately had my skateboard shipped to me from back home.

The very first time I went out to skate I was quickly bombarded with questions by almost everyone in the



All Photos Tony Parise

My host brother is on the left- Tsaone Maselo, and on the right is his friend Letlhogonolo (Lucky) Sebati.

local vicinity. They had seen me doing some tricks and within ten minutes my solo relaxation session turned into a full-blown skateboard demo lasting thirty minutes. After that first day it was a miracle if I could sneak out to the slabs unnoticed and get a few short minutes

to myself before a million kids descended with their long list of trick demands. So I started to teach some of them to ride and within a short time even had a few picking up simple maneuvers.

I quickly realized that if I could somehow get some more boards together I might be able to set up a real skateboard program. The number of people interested just kept on growing and I could clearly see dedication in many of the kids' eyes. I started using all my free time to connect with skateboard companies in South Africa, hoping to get support and possibly some free product. My wife Kimberly helped me write a proposal, and it wasn't long before I teamed up with one of the largest companies based in Johannesburg. I was able to get ten skateboards and many pairs of skate shoes sent to my village within the first few weeks of the partnership. It was all coming together nicely.



I am showing the kids how to do a Board slide.



Thabang (Grade 8) is practicing the newly learned Board Slide. I was blown away that they could already land it.



A Saturday sessions where all the kids wanted to be in the photo.

After some intense planning and coordination with my school principal we had our first formal skateboard session. Without the help of a single advertisement, flyer, or public announcement, 40 people gathered at the school to learn to skateboard. After a few sessions I started to teach them about the rich and recent history of skateboarding. We watched videos, read magazines, and even used computers to analyze tricks and discuss the math and physics behind them. I focused on skateboarding as an independent sport that can create a very positive outlook on life. Unlike team sports, one gets an immediate sense of accomplishment when finally learning a new trick. It teaches the kids to have patience, self-reliance, commitment, and so many other great qualities.

Currently the program is getting a lot of national attention in the skateboarding community and it won't be long before the American magazines get wind of the project too. There are plans already in place to build an actual concrete skate park in the village which will give the kids a place to skate safely in a dedicated and adequate space. Not only will it be a place to gather after school and play, but it will give kids an opportunity to improve their skills and possibly even become a pro one day.

Since the program started, kids that were once sitting at home doing nothing after school hours are now being active and having fun until the sun goes down! When I return to the U.S. I plan to create an organization in America that will collect new and used equipment to send to the village



They skate until the sun goes down on an old house foundation that we unearthed from under tons of rubble.

while also generating funds that will go towards the construction of the skatepark.

I would never have guessed that I would travel to another country and introduce the local community to something so obscure and different—and that they in turn would actually embrace and cherish it. The elders see it as a very good thing that is keeping their children out of harms way and preventing them from sitting

idle, which in any village can lead to drugs and alcohol at a very early age. And the kids? Total excitement and pleasure!

Anthony Parise began his Peace Corps service South Africa in July of 2009, where he is posted to a village in the Northern Cape province with his wife Kimberly Longshore_. Together have established a computer lab with daily classes and a library for the local primary school.



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SHARPENING MACHETES

by Geoff Bendeck

The red-handled and rusting machetes needed a good sharpening. The space we envisioned for the organic vegetable garden had surrendered to the wild equatorial monte. It was time to repossess it. Living in Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer for the past year, I had not accomplished much of value in my own opinion. This garden was meant to change that, to improve the kid's diet at the after school program where I worked.

The Jungle here is relentless. It sprouts back in every ounce of space it can reclaim, turning newly cleared land to reed and vine in a day. The land fights the development, and the development fights it back, with weed killer and machete.

I fetched the machetes and opened the wide gate of the courtyard and snuck past the children trying to escape into the dusty street. *Fletes, tricimotos*, and city buses rushed by kicking up dirt and grinding their ancient gears. I closed the gate, tucking the students back inside, turning to see their faces pressed against the chain link fence. They pleaded with me to let them go buy candy at the corner store as I asked them why they weren't in their classrooms. The five or ten cents burning a hole in their tattered pockets, the prospect of a sugar-water icee or lollipop, more appealing than more school after an already long and boring day of class. Today I shut the door closed, as a few escape the heavy swinging gate to freedom.

I wiped my brow, looking down the dusty street in the direction of the Guayllabamba road, in the direction of a distant two-ton truck. I started walking, sweating in jeans and rubber boots. My shirt already soaked through. Angel, A six-year-old spotted me and tagged along. He smelled an

adventure, the kind of adventure the most mundane adult things can be to children. "Donde va...." he asked, his head slightly tilted up towards me, asking me where I was going. His skinny legs raced to match my quick pace. His eyes looked from the machetes in my hand and back again to my face with curiosity. "To sharpen the machetes," I said in my coastal Spanish. I smiled and shooed him back towards the project. He turned and headed in the direction I pointed him, after a few steps he headed off down a sides street, distracted by a bicycle trailed by yapping dogs. I walked on.

"A veeeeeeeeeeeeeeeer!" I yell. Nothing. "A veeeeeeeeeeeeeeeer!" The building looks like a truck repair shop, out of the second story window pokes the head of a woman with a baby, a towel tossed over her shoulder. She patted the child on the back as she stood assessing me. "I want to sharpen my machetes." She

understood me while at the same time not understanding me. She turned back inside calling her husband. He appeared and I tried again. "Sir, can you help me sharpen my machetes?" I understand his tone but not his reply. He points me farther down the street. I could be headed a few feet or a few miles. There is a lack of specificity here, a slow cadence and relationship with time. There are no exact distances or destinations. So I continue on.

I pass a small wooden kiosk. It has a stem of verde sitting on an old plank bench. Inside are two eggs in a large carton, chips and candy bags hanging from the ceiling—A crate of empty sodas. Three men in old t-shirts and well-worn jeans sit and talk. Each has a cheap colored hat, faded in the unrelenting heat of the equatorial sun. There is a metal sign, hand-painted with black paint offering a service I don't understand. I keep walking, eyeing the stand for any sign of what could



Geoff Bendeck

be electricity and a sharpening blade. I quicken my pace past. I walk another block and turn back, losing confidence in the possibility of ever finding someone to sharpen my machetes.

I pass in front of the kiosk once again and stop as the eyes of the three viejos turn to assess me. I venture again, a deep question in my tone. "Can you help me sharpen my machetes?" The hesitation of their view turns from me to my machetes, as the owner of the kiosk takes one in hand. He turns it feeling the blade with his palm. "Well...." Is all he offers for what seems a few minutes. The pause by now makes me unsure of myself. I shift my weight and study his face. I'm embarrassed as the three stop their conversation to comment and mumble about the poor state of my tools. I feel shame like a hoarder letting someone see the filth and accumulation of crap and rubbish that has gone on for far too long. I don't know how it got this bad my face says. "Yes I can do it with the *tina*, but not the electric blade." I don't know the word *tina*, but grasp at the possibility, any possibility of him fixing my machetes, making them shiny and sharp once again. I pretend to understand, agree with his assessment. "Yeah, it could work," I say in the most assured coastal accent I can muster.

Even after living here a year I still feel the need to prove that I belong, that I know as much about life here as the locals. I wonder now, if the thought of my belonging here occurred to them—or even if it would.

The owner pulls out a wooden-handled sharpener. The same one I bought with the machetes. I have one of those, I thought. I could be sharpening the blades myself. But now of course it is too late. I had thought they needed the big electric sharpener. He goes to work, moving the blade against the tool as a carpenter shaves the edge of his chair or table. Deep concentration overtakes his face as I explain why I need the use of not one but two rusted machetes.

"Do you have any work?" The one in the green shirt asks. He doesn't understand, he sees only that I am white. White around here means you

own a farm, have money, are a potential employer. I smile, "It's a simple garden, the kids and I run it." No, there is no work for you my friend I say.

The owner of the kiosk has stabbed my dull machete into the side of the small wood building. He bends it in an arch as he slides the sharpener down and up the blade. Satisfied, he wipes his brow under the bright neon pink of his cap and hands me the blade for inspection.

"In a garden free of rocks, the wise man still sharpens his machetes three times a day." He silently chuckles as his smile spread slowly wider. His way of telling me I need to sharpen the machetes every day. I offer a grin and agree that he is probably right. They are kind, and hand me back my machetes. I pay them two dollars and head back to the project. "*Chao, nos vemos,*" I offer backwards with a wave. They wave back and watch me walk away.

Isaias, the director of the project, unlocks the wide swinging door and asks where I've been. He takes one of the machetes in hand and bends to cut a patch of thorny weeds to the left of the gate. He flexes his wrist and cuts clean through the first few blades. He is impressed. I am coming to realize after a year working together, we are not that different.

There is still a whole garden patch to clear, seeds to buy, rains to come. But on some level this small accomplishment, learning to do something on my own at once exhilarates me and scares the hell out of me. I still have so much to discover, about living here, about the people and about where I fit in to it all. My time here has reached its mid-point but in many ways in this town lost from the consciousness of the world, so far in actions and spirit from the life I lived once before, my real work is just beginning.

Geoff Bendeck is a freelance writer from Orange County, California. He served with the Peace Corps in Quinindé, Ecuador from 2008-2010 as a Youth and Families volunteer. He is currently serving as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Lusaka, Zambia. You can contact him at geoff.bendeck@gmail.com.

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THE PULAKU PROJECT

Instead of returning home, Christoph Herby is diving deep into Fulbe culture

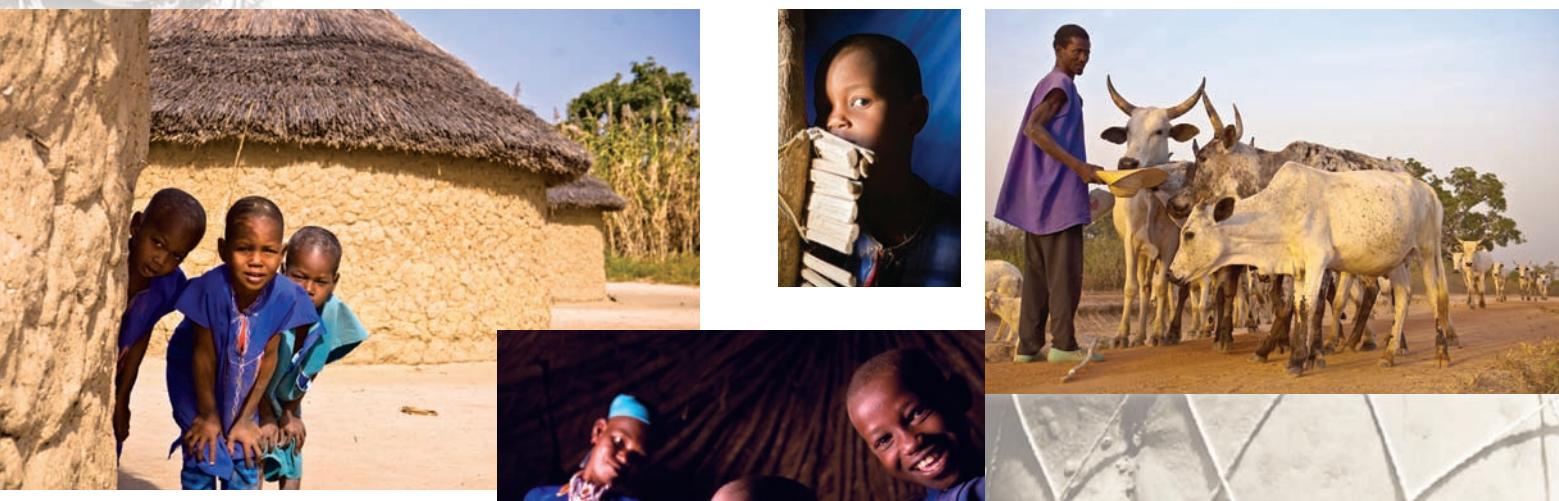
by Christoph Herby

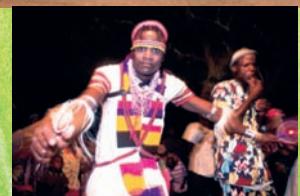
I remember meeting Guida Belco just a few days after arriving in Goumori, my remote post in northern Benin. I'd mentioned something to my neighbors about wanting to learn the local language, so the village gossip mill churned and Guida appeared on my doorstep. Not only did Guida speak both local languages, but he was also one of the lucky few to have attended university, and he was just as curious as I was to explore Goumori through a foreigner's eyes. I had found my interpreter, my companion, my teacher.

Two busy years later, I became a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer—but I didn't return. Guida and I hit the trail to explore the Fulbe world. We traversed West Africa by motorcycle, visiting remote camps in ten different countries to share Fulbe stories through photo, video, and ambient sound. We named this the Pulaku Project, based on the Fulbe word pulaaku which describes the pride, stoicism, and identity of the Fulbe people. We documented our journey and the stories of the Fulbe through our website, www.pulaku.com.

Faced with desertification and agricultural development, the traditional Fulbe life is changing. While some assimilate into city-life, others simply incorporate modern elements in their traditional ways. The Pulaku Project explores their changing lifestyle, sharing an intimate perspective on one of Africa's most intriguing cultures.

Christoph Herby (RPCV Benin 2008-2010) is a self-taught photographer and documentary storyteller.





A UNIQUE JOB

An excerpt from Voices From The Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers

by Angene and Jack Wilson

Voices From the Field (University of Kentucky Press) is based on 100 interviews with Volunteers who served in more than 50 countries over five decades, and follows the life cycle of Volunteers—from why they went, to becoming citizens of the world. This excerpt is from the chapter ... Job You'll Ever Love.

Mimi Gosney (Slovakia 00–02) went to her Peace Corps director after her first year of teaching English in Galanta and said, “I really think you’re sort of wasting me here. If you would move me into central Slovakia, I could probably do more.” Mimi explained her connection to Slovakia.

My dad had gone into Slovakia during World War II as a journalist. When the Slovak national uprising came, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, which became the CIA) wanted to help, as they had with the partisans in Yugoslavia. My dad wanted to cover it, and the Americans said, “No, you can’t do this. We’re just getting this set up. We can’t let a journalist go,” so the first Americans went in to identify where our planes could land. When the second group went in to take supplies and bring out downed American fliers, my dad went. I think eighteen fliers came out at that time. Dad stayed with the OSS group and the partisans.... Unfortunately, the Nazis bombed the airfield, and these guys were stuck.

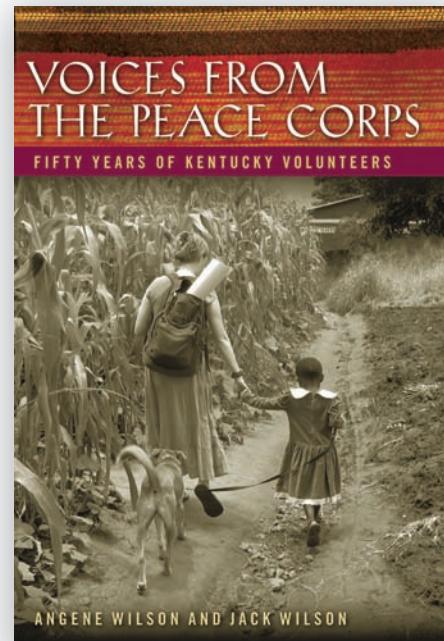
Then the Nazis started moving into central Slovakia, and the uprising really started to fall apart, so the fliers and the OSS, including my dad, all headed into the mountains.... They were captured... and they were taken to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria and executed in January. Nobody talked about it for years because the United States classified the information.... But once communism fell, some people started talking about it, and that little OSS group became folk heroes because they were trying to help and lost their lives. So there’s this museum called the Museum of the

National Slovak Uprising that is in Banska Bystrica, and part of it is dedicated to these fighters and to my dad.... The first time I went there was two years before I joined the Peace Corps, and I laid a wreath. The local people took me to the village, so I’d already made that tie, and that’s what I was trying to say to the Peace Corps director. I know this history.

So Mimi moved to Banska Bystrica, where she had two assignments. “Part of my assignment was at the Museum of the National Slovak Uprising. I had a little office there. ...I did a lot of translating, wrote a grant.... I taped the tour of the museum in English.... The Slovaks were invited to take one of the barracks at Auschwitz and make a display, so I fine-tuned the English translation for that project.”

Mimi was also able to help some of the surviving airmen find the spots where their planes had crashed.

We took John to the crash site. He had been in a fighter on one side of a bomber, and his friend was in the other one. Both of them crashed; John lived, and his friend went in the swamp. While we were there, the local people, visiting Americans, and I did a memorial to John’s friend. Then, of course, John had to meet everyone he was connected with. He had landed on a roof. His plane was already on fire when he bailed out, so he was badly burned. The villagers took him to a local hospital. Later they had two people take him to a Jewish bunker in the hills because the Nazis were coming to raid the hospital. After that they took John to a little village, where he lived with a family for a month. Eventually, when our Allied forces came through, he got his freedom. He was never captured.



We took another man to his crash site—I’ll cry when I tell this—and a fellow came up to him and said, “I remember when your plane fell out of the sky. My father was plowing that field. My father was burned to death.” And the American said, “I am so sorry.” And the Slovak man said, “No, you all were angels of mercy. Things like that happened, but you were trying to help us. It’s important to me that you know that I buried your crew, because no one knew if the Nazis would get them.”

The fliers needed closure, you know, and it was just a wonderful thing to do, and then my time ran out. I’m sure I would have extended and stayed, but we had to leave. Peace Corps closed the program in Slovakia.

Angene Wilson (Liberia 62-64) is professor emeritus of education at the University of Kentucky. Jack Wilson (Liberia 62-64) spent more than 35 years in public service, beginning as a Peace Corps administrator in Sierra Leone and Fiji.

A FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Susan Deller Ross uses law to effect change

by JoAnna Haugen

During Susan Deller Ross' (Ivory Coast 1965-1967) second year of her Peace Corps service, she was invited to attend a ceremony in her village. At the time, she didn't realize what she had stumbled upon: A young girl being subjected to female genital mutilation.

"One of the things that really struck me was seeing the expression on her face when the ceremony ended," Ross says. "She was carried out on top of a wide pan filled with a layer of cloth, and she had such a dead look on her face." Though Ross says she was a feminist prior to joining the Peace Corps, witnessing such a tradition and working with women who essentially raised a village but had no rights of their own stayed with her when she entered law school upon returning to the United States.

She became involved in women's rights issues stateside and then her interest in international women's rights issues blossomed. Ross, a professor of law, started a course on international comparative law and women's human rights at Georgetown University Law Center and ran a fellowship program there that allowed African women's rights lawyers to travel to the United States to learn about international law and gender issues and receive an LL.M. As a result, Ross was given an intimate look at the atrocities committed against—and the lack of rights given to—women in sub-Saharan Africa. "The laws hadn't much changed in Africa since independence," she says, "and, in addition, the colonial powers had often left customary law in place. In the realm of marriage and family, it wasn't colonial law that was governing. It was tribal law."

Ross continued to learn about the oppressive laws against women that were



In 2007 Ross (second row, third from left) traveled to Swaziland to meet with a group of 8 students.

the norm in much of Africa, and in the spring semester of 1999, she started the International Women's Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown. Since the creation of the center, students have been enrolling in semester-long, intensive courses that allow them to work directly with lawyers from a variety of countries who studied at Georgetown to help change laws so that women could achieve equal rights. These students help draft new legislation, write human rights reports and draft litigation papers that lawyers can use in their countries to try to win rights for women. They may even travel overseas to conduct interviews and gather research in country.

Through the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, Ross and her students have helped enact legislative changes to laws in several countries. In Ghana, for example, the government has passed an anti-trafficking law, an anti-domestic violence law and a law that gives women rights to protest employment discrimination. Just as importantly, Ross says, "they've repealed old laws that said women couldn't work at night or in mines."

In Nigeria, the Clinic participated in a lawsuit that Ross says is a "typical case." The suit challenged a man who seized his

deceased brother's property when the land should have gone to the deceased's wife and children. After their mother died, the children were forced to live with grandparents who could not support them, and, as a consequence, they did not receive the medical care or education they should have received. Using a new law on the books, a public interest group using litigation papers the Clinic has helped prepare was able to support the children in the case.

These are just two of many cases the Clinic has worked on over the years. From polygamy and female genital mutilation in Uganda and sex discrimination in marriage and divorce laws in Swaziland to inheritance laws in Tanzania, Ross and her students have touched on many of the inequality issues that African women in particular and those around the world in general continue to face on a daily basis.

Ross' former students have gone on to pursue a variety of law-related careers with public interest groups and in developing nations. They, like Ross and her current students, continue to make notable headway in the fight for women's human rights one case at a time, and though each victory is a sweet one, Ross notes that there is still a lot of progress to be made. "There are many women working for equal rights for women throughout the African continent, and I'm very pleased to be working on this," Ross says. "I think it's so important and worthwhile, and I think it's important for American students to learn about the degree of inequality that women face in other places."

JoAnna Haugen (Kenya 04-05) is the community news editor for the National Peace Corps Association.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

by JoAnna Haugen

BRAZIL

Susan (Corry) Luz (72-75) has released her book *The Nightingale of Mosul, a Nurse's Journey of Service, Struggle and War*. Luz was the highest-ranking soldier in the Army Reserve's 399th Combat Support Hospital when she was called to serve as a nurse in Mosul, Iraq. She was awarded the Bronze Star in 2007. Luz was a public health nurse with certification as a psychiatric nurse in Iraq, and she was charged with helping soldiers with emotional trauma and providing comfort to dying soldiers. Though she retired from the military in May, Luz still works full time at Gateway Health Care and volunteers at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Providence. Her book is about her commitment to give herself to others, which began when she served in the Peace Corps.

CAMEROON

Andrew Richards (03-06) spent time in Haiti earlier this year helping a local non-profit organization expand its services in order to provide microfinance loans to farmers affected by the January 2010 earthquake. Richards, who works for the New York office of McCarter & English, helped put together a banking charter and an application to the Central Bank of Haiti for the organization. The new status will allow the organization to help around 2,000 Haitians working in the food and agricultural sectors. At McCarter & English, Richards is the co-head of the social investment practice and has advised financial institutions interested in investing in microfinance programs. He was recruited for the case by the International Senior Lawyers Project.

Pamela White (71-73) has been appointed by President Barack Obama as the ambassador to The Gambia. She joined the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1978.

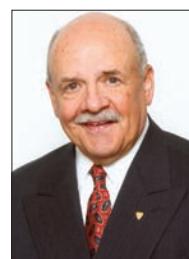
Her first position was as a community liaison officer in Burkina Faso, then she served as deputy executive officer in Senegal and Haiti and the executive officer in Haitian, Egyptian and South African Missions. In Washington, D.C., she was USAID's deputy director for East Africa, and in Mali, she was the deputy and mission director. Most recently, White served as the USAID mission director in Tanzania and then in Liberia.

ETHIOPIA

Ambassador **Dane F. Smith, Jr.** (63-65) has been appointed as the senior U.S. diplomat to Darfur. He has a long history in the Foreign Service dealing with African affairs, including experience as the deputy chief of mission to Sudan, ambassador to Guinea and Senegal and special president envoy for Liberia. Smith served as the National Peace Corps Association president from 1999-2003..

MALAWI

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) awarded **E. Jackson Allison Jr., MD, FACEP**, (66-69) with the John G. Wiengenstein



Leadership Award, the highest honor given by the organization. Allison is a professor of emergency medical care in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Western Carolina University. He has held several leadership positions in the emergency care industry including serving as president of ACEP, one of four founding presidents and first presiding president of the International Federation for Emergency Medicine, chair of the Emergency Medicine Foundation and founding president of the Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine..

ROMANIA

Craig Dreves is the mastermind behind VolunTravel, a nonprofit organization specializing in volunteer and cross-cultural learning opportunities. The first trip, being launched this spring to Cusco, Peru, will allow people to help with daily chores with local people as well as visit significant landmarks such as Machu Picchu.

SAMOA

Kevin V. Daley (86-89) recently released his first book, *South Pacific: Survivor in Samoa*, which was published by Novels Plus, an imprint of DMI. The book is a character-driven thriller with information about Samoa's history and culture. Daley is also working on two other novels and a memoir. He studied fiction writing at UCLA and is a graduate of Northeastern University and the Howard University School of Law.

SENEGAL

Dr. Stacey Chamberlain is one of the founding members of the non-profit organization, Global Emergency Care Collaborative (GECC), which has developed an emergency room and training program for nurses in Uganda.



Dr. Stacey Chamberlain (right)

Incorporated in 2008, GECC identifies areas in the world that do not have access to quality emergency care then partners with existing hospitals and trains nurses to provide this needed care. The first partnership site was at Nyakibale Hospital in Uganda, and the organization hopes to expand to other hospitals in Uganda and other developing countries. Chamberlain is the assistant director of the International Emergency Medicine and Health Fellowship Program at the University

of Illinois in Chicago. She also works as an emergency physician at St. Mary's of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago.

SIERRA LEONE

Nancy Grant (81-83) has been named as the new executive director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. She has been the coalition's board president for the past two years and has been an active member on the board since 2005. Grant founded the North Yarmouth Safe Bike and Walk Ways Committee, served as a founding member of Bowdoin College's Commute Another Way Committee, was a part of the coalition's delegation to the National Bike Summit and served on the Portland Bicycle Network Advisory Group. In addition, she rides with the Women's Portland Velo Club, is an educational technology consultant at Bowdoin College and has served as a staff advisor to the college's bicycle sharing program.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) has appointed **Argrow "Kit" Evans** to the board of directors where she will serve as vice chair. Evans



has worked with SAVE for more than 12 years. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she is currently a candidate to receive a master's degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. In addition to serving in the Peace Corps, Evans is also a Teach for America alumna.

TANZANIA

Erik "Boots" Christensen (08-10) is one of four men preparing to begin a thru-hike trek of the Appalachian Trail, which will begin in March. Known as the Hospital Hike, the 2,175-mile trek is being used as a fundraising vehicle for The Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project, an effort based in rural Tanzania to help orphans, vulnerable children, people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Christensen and the rest of the Hospital Hike team hope to raise \$25,000 for the construction of Mdabulo General Hospital in Mufindi, Tanzania..

THAILAND

University at Buffalo Law School professor **David M. Engel** (68-71) received an honorary degree of doctor of laws from Chiang Mai University in Thailand. Engel has studied and written about Thai law for more than 30 years. He has also taken law students to Chiang Mai for a course on the legal culture of Thailand for many years.

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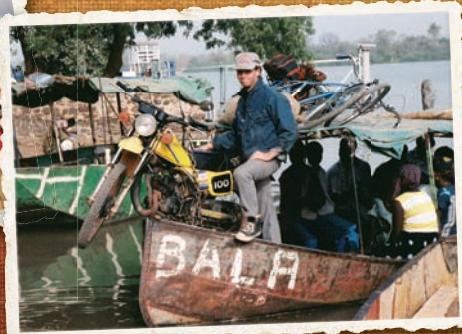
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