



Domestic Partners

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Coverdell Fellows Program Seeks to Expand

The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program has extended an *Invitation to Participate* to all American graduate schools. Would you, as an administrator, like to see a new Coverdell Fellows partnership at your school? Or maybe, as an RPCV, you would like to recommend the program to a school? [Visit our website to learn more.](#) Proposals are due on October 1, 2012.

Master's International Student Jake Grossman Conducts Studies in Paraguay

As a senior at Oberlin College, I felt ambivalent about my post-graduate plans. I'd decided to pursue a career in academia, focusing on teaching and research in ecology. At the same time, I wasn't ready to plunge into a Ph.D. program right away. Instead, I wanted to live abroad, apply my undergraduate education to solving practical problems and, most importantly, contribute to those who had not benefitted from the same privileges I have enjoyed.



I had dreamed of doing Peace Corps service since I was a teenager, but didn't want to put my formal education on hold. Through online research, I came across the University of Washington (UW) School of Environmental and Forest Sciences Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI) program in international forestry. This program offered me everything I wanted: A chance to live abroad, to get real-world experience, and to give of myself. At the same time, I wouldn't have to leave my current professional track and could continue growing intellectually. It seemed the UW PCMI program suited me perfectly and, five years later, I can say that my expectations were realized.

Congratulations to Our Graduates



Across the country, hundreds of Fellows and MI students have made their graduation walks and received their degrees. University and Domestic Partnerships extends its heartfelt congratulations for this great accomplishment. Carnegie Mellon Fellows graduate Dilana Martinez says her program was "highly rigorous," but she is proud to have graduated a semester early.

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Each year, the United States Office of the

[Read more of Jake Grossman's story.](#)



Coverdell Fellow Katie Murphy Reaches Out to U.S. Latinos

I am currently pursuing a Master's of Public Health at the University of Pennsylvania, while also completing my coursework for a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development. For most RPCVs I know, the time we spent as Peace Corps Volunteers was the most formative, practical, "real world" experience of our lives. Transitioning from life as a Peace Corps Volunteer back to life in the United States can be a challenge. Yet, at least for me, by continuing to be engaged in service projects, by interacting with people similar to those in my old Peace Corps site, by pursuing education, and by working to tackle some of the health and education issues I confronted as a Volunteer, the transition becomes less difficult. Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows provides an important bridge from life as a PCV to a fruitful experience as an RPCV.

I entered the Peace Corps as a water and sanitation Volunteer in El Salvador in 2002. While my technical training included latrine construction and water system design and management, most of my training group ended up focusing on rural health, sanitation, and education. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, I learned the importance of interdisciplinary thinking in the real-world context. Tackling issues of child health and hygiene in the community where I lived required understanding inter-related issues such as education, income, environment, infrastructure, health behaviors, and the social and cultural contexts. The Peace Corps experience has changed the way I approach problems and has fueled my interest in working in the field of child and family health.

[Read more of Katie Murphy's story.](#)

AmeriCorps Partnerships Prove Fruitful

For RPCV Cameron Lewis, Suriname/2009-2011, three



President recognizes institutions of higher learning that do an exemplary job in fostering community service. This year, four Peace Corps partner schools were lauded as [awardees and finalists](#). North Carolina State University (Master's International) and the University of Pennsylvania (Coverdell Fellows) were among five schools recognized as awardees. North Carolina Central University and Tulane University (both Master's International schools) were among 14 schools named as finalists.

Vermont Fellows Plan Frightful Halloween



Coverdell Fellows at the University of Vermont will be raising money for local charities by helping to stage a haunted house. These community development and applied economics students will take charge of recruiting and overseeing volunteers for a successful fundraising project, [Nightmare Vermont](#), in the Burlington area. The scares and thrills include a customized experience, an integrated story line, and live combat. Fellows supervisor and project director Jana Beagly says, "I think we are the

times was the charm in his volunteer trajectory. Lewis became interested in volunteering in college, but felt he was not prepared for the Peace Corps. To pick up skills that would make him more competitive, Lewis became an [AmeriCorps NCCC](#) (National Civilian Community Corps) volunteer. "After I graduated, I was looking for a more structured atmosphere for volunteering," he explains. Through this full-time residential program, Lewis worked on strengthening communities in the greater Denver area.

Still bitten by the volunteer bug, Lewis next served as an [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) volunteer in Montana. VISTA, according to Lewis, "requires you to make your own way... You are on your own, and I was working with children who were victims of domestic violence." From this emotionally charged work, Lewis took home the lesson that "one person can have an impact."

After completing VISTA, Lewis felt well prepared for the Peace Corps, and he went on to serve as a water and sanitation Volunteer in Suriname. During this time, he led a countrywide training in project design and management, helping rural people implement their ideas for improving community life by developing income-generating and water and sanitation projects. A die-hard proponent of volunteering, Lewis now works for AmeriCorps NCCC as a selection and placement assistant.

The UDP Team

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MI Student in Georgia Featured on Peace Corps YouTube

Enjoy some beautiful footage of Georgia (the country, not the state) and [watch Master's International student Tom Lang](#) discuss how he developed his technical and people skills while he worked as a business Volunteer. Lang studied public affairs at the University of Washington.

MI Project Newsletter Read Nationwide in Uganda

When South Florida Master's International student Aditi Desai founded a newsletter celebrating Uganda youth, she had no idea how it would take off. Today, *Uganda's Young Stars* is read nationwide. The newsletter touches on whimsical themes such as, "If you were an animal, which would you be?" and serious topics such as, "What was the proudest day of your life?"

Desai says, "Youth can make a difference, and they will."



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