



# fellowS

NEWS ABOUT PEACE CORPS FELLOWS/USA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

## Peace Corps Fellows/USA Welcomes New Partners

### University of Pennsylvania

Already ranked among the top 15 mid-sized universities producing Peace Corps Volunteers, the University of Pennsylvania now welcomes returned Peace Corps Volunteers to participate in a university-sponsored Fellows/USA program.

Peace Corps Fellows at Penn will be able to pursue a master's degree in governmental administration, in addition to graduate certificates in nonprofit administration, economic development and growth, politics, and public finance. The program will be run out of the Fels Institute of Government. Expanding on its original mission of improving local government, Fels prepares graduates for a broad range of public leadership positions in city, state, and federal government, nonprofit organizations, and private firms with close connections to the public sector.

To fulfill the internship component required by all Fellows/USA programs,

Fellows at Penn will participate in the Fels Internship Program. In the past, Fels interns have worked with organizations such as the People's Emergency Center, Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia Housing Authority, School District of Philadelphia, and the William Penn Foundation. As Peace Corps Fellows at Penn, returned Volunteers will receive a minimum of \$6,000 per year for two years and will be eligible for other merit-based awards.

Admissions director Michelle Garcia-Navarro can be contacted at [garciana@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:garciana@sas.upenn.edu) or by calling 215.746.6684 for further information.

### Cornell University

The Peace Corps recently welcomed Cornell University as a partner school. Cornell, ranked within the top five mid-sized universities to produce Peace Corps Volunteers, is a natural partner for Peace Corps. Cornell's program, offered through the Department of City

and Regional Planning, will grant successful Fellows master's degrees in regional planning.

The program, besides class work toward the degree, will include a required summer placement with Cornell Urban Schools, a program that supports field placements with community organizations serving New York City's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. Fellows admitted to the program will be granted a research stipend of \$3,600, plus a \$1,000 allowance for housing for their summer placement. Fellows will also be given tuition and stipend support.

For more information about the program, contact Fellows/USA coordinator Tina Nelson by phone at 607.255.6848 or by email at [tmn2@cornell.edu](mailto:tmn2@cornell.edu).

### University of Maryland, College Park

The newest Peace Corps Fellows/USA partner school is the University of Maryland, College Park, which

joined the program in April. College Park's program, housed in the Maryland School of Public Policy, will grant successful Fellows master's degrees in either public policy or public management.

The University of Maryland, College Park program will include work with high-needs populations in and around the College Park area. Work placements will be coordinated in concert with the Community Partners Program of the Engaged University. Fellows will receive a half graduate assistantship, which carries a yearly stipend of \$6,350 and five credits of tuition remission per semester. All other credits will be charged in-state tuition rates. Fellows/USA participants will also be eligible for other merit-based assistantships.

For more information about this Fellows/USA offering, contact Taryn Faulkner at [faulkner@umd.edu](mailto:faulkner@umd.edu) or by phone at 301.314.2486.

Would you like to see yourself in the Fellows/USA newsletter? We hope to increase the visibility of individual Fellows and programs. If you have a story to share about your Fellows experience, or your Fellows program, let us know! Email story ideas, profiles of students and staff, and photos to [ascherger@peacecorps.gov](mailto:ascherger@peacecorps.gov).

# Fellows

## Peace Corps Fellows/USA

To submit stories or ideas:

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# Peace Corps Makes Historic Return

## Rwanda

President Bush announced in February that the Peace Corps will return to Rwanda, beginning an impressive climb, both figuratively and literally, in “the Land of 1,000 Hills.”

Following the historic announcement, Africa Regional Director Henry McKoy visited the country to begin the process of formalizing relationships with partner ministries. McKoy met with the minister of education, the deputy minister of local government, and a currently serving senator who had served as the Peace Corps medical officer in Rwanda until 1993. McKoy also met with various heads of the U.S. mission agencies.

One highlight of the trip included a day-trip to the Ruhengeri region, where the team visited a vocational training center for orphans and a passion-fruit cooperative. Getting to Ruhengeri necessitated a slow climb up Rwanda’s numerous hills—resulting in a view that reinforced the fact that the team had, in fact, climbed above the clouds.

The visit ended with a reception of RPCVs currently working in Rwanda—at-

tended by over 35 individuals who are interested in supporting Peace Corps’ return. The first class of trainees will arrive in December 2008.

## Ethiopia

Peace Corps officially reopened in Ethiopia with Director Ron Tschetter swearing-in Volunteers in December of 2007. All 42 Volunteers will focus on the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS during their service in the East African country.

“I’ve been looking forward to this day, the day we come back to Ethiopia. All 42 new Peace Corps Volunteers have a life-changing experience ahead of them. I cherish our relationship with the people of Ethiopia and hope to grow this program year by year. I congratulate the Peace Corps staff that has been working hard to re-start our program. Today I have the honor to swear-in 42 people who will serve as unofficial American ambassadors who represent the best of our country,” said Director Tschetter.

Ethiopia was one of the first countries to invite the Peace Corps to establish its program in 1962, just one

year after the Peace Corps was founded. The primary focus of the program was on education, with the goal of training skilled workers and promoting economic development. In addition, Volunteers worked in agriculture, basic education, tourism, health, economic development, and teaching English as a foreign language.

The Peace Corps remained in Ethiopia until 1977 and returned again in 1995, but the program was suspended again in 2000 due to security concerns during the border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Since 1962, 2,934 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Ethiopia.

With the re-entry into Ethiopia, Peace Corps will work in partnership with the government of Ethiopia, specifically with the Ministry of Health. The new program is in cooperation with the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The Volunteers will be developing HIV/AIDS education and prevention activities, including care and treatment; orphan and vulnerable children services; and home-based care (palliative care) services.

## Two Schools Celebrate Ten Years of Fellows/USA

Full story on page 4



In the photo above Julie Driver, Program Manager of Peace Corps Fellows/USA at Peace Corps headquarters, and Dr. Evan Stoddard, Peace Corps Fellows Coordinator at Duquesne University, surrounded by current and former fellows, graduate administrators and community partners, mark the tenth anniversary of Duquesne’s participation with Peace Corps Fellows/USA.

## Peace Corps Fellows/USA 2008 Spring Semester Census

School	Fellows
Johns Hopkins University	56
University of Arizona	52
University of Denver	46
Columbia University Teachers College	38
The New School	19
University of Maryland - Baltimore County	18
Carnegie Mellon University	15
Western New Mexico University	14
Western Illinois University	13
New Mexico State University	12
George Washington University	11
Indiana University	10
University of South Carolina	9
Florida Institute of Technology	9
Marquette University	8
Duke University	8
University of Oregon	7
University of Vermont	6
University of Maryland - Baltimore	6
University of Cincinnati	6
Southern New Hampshire University	6
University of Missouri - Columbia	5
Loma Linda University	4
Illinois State University	4
Duquesne University	4
Xavier University	3
University of New Orleans	3
Rutgers University - Camden	3
George Mason University	3
Fordham University	3
*Yale University	2
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	2
*University of Michigan	2
*Kennesaw State University	2
*University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Missouri - Kansas City	1
Seton Hill University	1
Northern Arizona University	1
Georgia College & State University	1
*Cornell University	0
DePaul University	0
Humboldt State University	0
*University of Colorado Denver	0
*University of Maryland - College Park	0
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point	0
University of Wyoming	0
Wichita State University	0
TOTAL	414

\* Denotes schools new to the program in the 2007-2008 academic year.

## Where Are They Now?

Scott Jackson: Fellows/USA Program, Teachers College,  
Columbia University

As a 22-year-old Villanova University finance graduate, a lucrative Wall Street career beckoned. As I considered my next step, however, I found myself more preoccupied with images of poverty I'd seen during a volunteer project in El Salvador than I was with researching the day's financial news. I decided to bypass Wall Street and pursue the road less traveled, the path that was in my heart—Peace Corps. I joined the Peace Corps to be a part of something larger than myself, to help others, and to make an impact. But somewhere along the way, the people I sought to help ended up helping me by changing the course of my career and my life.

Peace Corps sent me to Ukraine, where I served from 2000 to 2002. At my site, I used my skills and knowledge to make a difference to the people around me—specifically, in the classrooms and small businesses within the burgeoning local economy. But far beyond the scope of my work there, I experienced how another culture lived, I formed unique friendships, and I mastered a second language. I found fulfillment in helping others that the peers I'd left at home had not yet discovered. After two years of teaching English and business in a Ukrainian high school, I thought my life would return to “normal.” I realized quickly that normal had changed forever, and that public service was in my blood.

The Peace Corps shaped who I am as a teacher, a student, a friend, a son, and a husband more than anything else I have ever done in my life. So, instead of going back to my former dreams of Wall Street, I enrolled in the Peace Corps Fellows/USA program at Teachers College, Columbia University. I was able to earn a master's degree in education while working with the underserved student population of new immigrants in New York City public schools. Somewhere along the line I realized that the Peace Corps had given me the tools I needed to teach in a classroom where as many as 12 different languages were spoken.

Now I teach at Brooklyn International High School, a unique, collaborative learning environment with dedicated, hard-working teachers, and students who represent a United Nations-worth of countries. My students make each day feel like a Peace Corps celebration. There is nothing more satisfying than watching a student whose education was interrupted in his or her home country by war, lack of opportunity, or poverty, succeed in the American public education system. Their successes start small—a first sentence in English, a correct answer to a history question, a shy student's ability to stand before her peers—but they build to much greater accomplishments: the first in a family to graduate from high school, a scholarship to an esteemed university, a student confident in his or her dreams of the future. Every day I spend teaching these kids is a lesson for me. A lesson in how success follows when we choose the path in our hearts, and how when we give of ourselves, the gift always finds its way back to us.

## Two Schools Celebrate Ten Years of Fellows/USA

### Duquesne University

For 10 years Peace Corps Fellows in the Duquesne University Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy have made outstanding contributions to communities and to the Pittsburgh region through their work in over 30 organizations.

Dr. Stoddard, the Policy Center's associate director for community outreach, works closely with Fellows to help them identify and secure a position that will move them in the direction they want to go after they finish their degree. Because of his long history of working in the Pittsburgh community, he knows leaders in many organizations and can usually quickly connect Fellows with the organization with which they would most like to work.

Since the program began in 1997 (formalized by an agreement between Duquesne University and the Peace Corps in 1998), 21 Peace Corps Fellows have studied in the Policy Center. After leaving the Policy Center, they have gone on to work for such organizations as American Red Cross, Brother's Brother Foundation, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Catholic Relief Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Family Health International, NASA, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, Peace Corps, World Learning, and World Vision.

### The New School

The New School is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a Fellows/USA partner school this year. Dean Fred Hochberg, Fellows/USA coordinator Susan Morris, staff, current Fellows, and program alumni gathered at a reception given in honor of Fellows/USA Program Manager Julie Driver's visit to the school.

The Fellows/USA program at The New School is offered through the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy, and allows student participants to study urban policy analysis/management; health services management and policy; human resources management; and organizational change management. Fellows who participate in the master's program are also given a variety of internship opportunities. One current Fellow, interning with a nonprofit dealing with the homeless, has been instrumental in creating summer camp opportunities for homeless children. Fellows/USA alumnus Vinh Do said, "The event at The New School was a great celebration of what is happening now and how that was, in part, made possible through the introduction to international development via Peace Corps. The fellowship enabled a continuity of service to life and service back in the States. The event also reminded me of my intention to serve in Peace Corps and how the intention to serve looks different to many people in many different professions. Service has its own brand of diversity. And that is refreshing too."

About 25 people attended the evening reception, during which Driver presented a plaque commemorating the anniversary to Dean Hochberg. The Fellows/USA program at The New School attracts approximately 16 Fellows per year.

## RPCVs Rave About Career Events

*"I have just been offered a contract to work on a USAID project. This job offer is a direct result of my attendance at the career fair, and it probably wouldn't have happened if RVS didn't exist. So, thank you very much. RVS is a valuable resource to RPCVs."*

*-Becca Acuña (Panama, 2005-07)*

Becca, along with over 160 other RPCVs from 28 states, attended the RPCV Career Event sponsored by Returned Volunteer Services (RVS), Office of Domestic Programs, in February. The event included a series of hands-on workshops that focused on translating the Peace Corps experience into skills and accomplishments to share with non-RPCV employers and other professional contacts. RPCVs identified their Peace Corps accomplishments, practiced their verbal résumés, discussed best practices for written résumés, and had a chance to participate in mock job interviews, among other sessions. Caleb Varner (Ecuador, 2003-2005, and Dominican Republic, 2005-2006) called the event "a highly organized and efficient time where experienced professionals from RVS shared essential 'tools of the trade.'" The career fair drew over 30 hiring organizations, and RPCVs had the chance to leverage their noncompetitive eligibility with visits to the Department of Education and Millennium Challenge Corporation. Evelyn Parr (Kiribati, 2005-2007) wrote, "The RPCV Career Development Event was so helpful in pulling out the most of my PC experience and applying it to the career search process that I think it should be required for all RPCVs." Visit [www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/events](http://www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/events) for more details and information about upcoming events.



RPCVs and employers network at the Spring, 2008 Career Fair

We have a hunger of the mind which asks for knowledge of all around us, and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing.

Maria Mitchell

# Western Illinois Fellows Bring the World Home During Peace Corps Week, 2008

## From the Fellows/USA Manager

I'm a lucky woman. My office on the second floor of the Peace Corps downtown D.C. building is lined with windows. On this beautiful day I can watch a soft breeze ruffle the leaves on the sidewalk trees and delight in the sunshine filling every corner of my cubicle.

But the truly defining bit of good fortune that graces my daily work is contact with some of the motley crew who make up the Peace Corps family. Volunteers and their parents, teachers, and employers all cross my path from time to time. Some have occasion to call or e-mail the Fellows/USA office; others, I meet on the road while visiting our partner schools.

Coming to the Peace Corps from the private sector by way of business school, I was astonished to discover that so many people serve others simply and with such compassion; that has renewed my faith in the basic humanity within us all. Despite the negativity and cynicism that find expression in far too many outlets, we are not a nation of people focused narrowly on ourselves, our careers, or our bank accounts.

There is no such thing as a "typical American,"

though I do believe there are characteristics that are typical of Americans. The most important one may be optimism. We tend to believe that the future will be better than the present. We think we are capable of effecting positive change not just in our immediate circles, but in the greater world. We root for underdogs, seeing their victories as ours and as emblematic of our own ability to prevail in the face of sometimes dauntingly bad odds.

This optimism runs deep within the souls of Peace Corps family members. They act on it, and we, as a people, benefit because of their efforts. And so, on this sunny day, I'm grateful for the luck that brought me to the Peace Corps and to Fellows/USA.



Julie Driver



Peace Corps Fellows/USA students and their international colleagues celebrate Peace Corps Week 2008. (Photo courtesy of Western Illinois University)

Western Illinois University's 35th annual International Bazaar took place during Peace Corps Week this year. A number of RPCVs in the Fellows/USA program turned out to celebrate the convergence of cultures represented by their countries of service and the home countries of international students at WIU.

RPCVs staffing the Peace Corps booth prepared Jamaican rice with kidney beans and Chinese *going boj ding*. To inspire WIU students to consider serving in the Peace Corps, RPCVs shared the concrete benefits of Peace Corps service, such as student loan deferment and possible scholarships for graduate school, as well as the "softer" benefits that come from living and working for two years in another culture.

### In The Next Issue

The Fellows/USA Coordinator's Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on September 24 and 25th, with the sixth annual graduate recruiting fair taking place on the evening of September 24. Look for coverage of the event in our next issue.