



25th
Fellows
USA
Anniversary

fellows

NEWS ABOUT PEACE CORPS FELLOWS/USA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

19 Volunteers Begin Service in Indonesia

Following the December 2009 signing of an agreement between the Indonesian and United States governments, the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to re-enter [Indonesia](#) has been sworn into office. The 19 Volunteers will begin their two-year assignments as English teaching faculty members in high schools throughout East Java and Madura.

U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia and returned Peace Corps Volunteer Cameron Hume (Libya, 1968-69) administered the oath in Malang, East Java, where the Volunteers received pre-service training. The Indonesian official who signed the agreement in December, Deputy Minister Bambang Sutedjo of the National Development Planning Agency, also participated and welcomed the Volunteers on behalf of the Indonesian government.

"Peace Corps is delighted by the manner in which our Volunteers have been received by both the government and people of Indonesia," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. "The welcome is a testament to the growing bonds between the American and Indonesian people. We are confident that our Volunteers will make a profound contribution to greater mutual understanding of Indonesian and American people through their service as teachers and their respect for Indonesian culture."

Since their arrival in March, the Volunteers have focused on learning the national language of Bahasa, Indonesia and experiencing Indonesian culture through living with host families in Malang. Peace Corps partnered with the University of Muhammadiyah to oversee the Volunteers' language, cross-cultural, and technical training program.

Medical Separation Change: More RPCVs May Apply to Fellows/USA

Effective August 6, 2010, all RPCVs who are medically separated from their service after having sworn in as a Volunteer have lifetime eligibility for Fellows/USA, regardless of time served. The new policy is not retroactive.

Fellows/USA eligibility requirements for RPCVs include:

- having completed the full two-year tour of Peace Corps service, or the full tour minus up to 90 days if one has returned home on an emergency leave; or
- having been granted an "Early Close of Service" or an "Interrupted Service" due to circumstances beyond one's control; or
- having been medically separated as a Volunteer.

Peace Corps Partners with Higher Ed Organizations

Peace Corps has developed exciting new partnerships with eight minority higher education organizations to help engage Americans from all backgrounds and experiences in promoting peace and friendship around the world:

- [American Indian Higher Education Consortium](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund](#)
- [Council of 1890 Universities](#)
- [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)
- [Phelps Stokes](#)
- [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#)
- [United Negro College Fund](#)



Indonesia recently welcomed 19 PCVs, the first to re-enter Indonesia under the new "Indonesia-United States Comprehensive Partnership."

Read more at:

www.peacecorps.gov/engage.



Peace Corps Fellows/USA

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Fellows/USA Video Wins Telly Award

Peace Corps is proud to announce that the Fellows/USA recruiting video received a 2010 bronze [Telly Award](#) in the film/video category.

Telly Awards are presented in honor of the best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions and work created for the Web.

Since 1978, the Telly Award organization's mission has been to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring,

promoting, and supporting creativity. This year, over 13,000 entries were submitted from all 50 states and five continents.

The Fellows/USA video is also the third most viewed video on the [Peace Corps YouTube channel](#).



Western Illinois University Lauded for Innovation

For more than 15 years, rural communities in the Land of Lincoln have benefited from [Western Illinois University's](#) (WIU's) Fellows/USA program in community development.

Established at the [Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs](#), with grant funding from the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#), the program was among the first of its kind in the Fellows/USA network. Over the years, it has provided a means through which innovative community programs in economics, business development, recycling, and health and wellness are initiated and sustained.

Recently, WIU's program was recognized for its innovation and contributions to rural life in Illinois by [Innovations in Civic Participation](#) (ICP) and the American Association of State Service Commissions (also known as [America's Services Commissions](#), or ASC).

In a June 2010 report, "Transforming Communities through Service," WIU's program was named one of "52 of the most innovative [AmeriCorps](#) programs in the United States." Susan Stroud, ICP executive director, noted that these "are making a difference in the lives of Americans...AmeriCorps is getting things done."

According to Ted Gibbs, executive director of the [Illinois Service Commission](#) and the organization through which he nominated WIU's program for the ICP/ASC honor, the program has sub-

stantial impact in small, rural communities across the state. "The program leverages the expertise of returning Peace Corps members to meet local needs and activates local citizens around a community project," Gibbs said. "WIU's Peace Corps Fellows program is the type of innovative program that President Obama spoke of when he stated that AmeriCorps programs can

be 'force multipliers'; they leverage small numbers of members into thousands of volunteers." Karen Mauldin-Curtis, manager of WIU's program, noted the program leverages volunteer contributions, as well as funding from a variety of levels and resources to impact communities. "Our Fellows are continually leveraging local resources to get things done. They are raising funds. They are recruiting volunteers. They are coordinating community efforts in these small communities across Illinois."

Beyond Illinois, WIU's Fellows/USA AmeriCorps program is also in the running for a national award by the [University Economic Development Association](#) (UEDA). Mauldin-Curtis noted that the program was recently notified of its finalist status—one of three in the entire U.S.—for the UEDA Awards of Excellence. She presents this month at the UEDA Awards of Excellence competition at its annual summit, "Higher Education Institutions as Catalysts for Economic Transformation," in Reno, Nevada.

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New Mexico Coordinator Mentors Next Generation

In the founding years of the Peace Corps, President John F. Kennedy asserted, “The logic of the Peace Corps is that someday we are going to bring it home to America.” Today, Peace Corps Fellows truly embody this objective by applying the experiences they have gleaned during their years of service abroad to communities at home in the United States.

At [New Mexico State University](#) (NMSU), one RPCV is perpetuating this cycle of “learn and return” by helping a new generation of Peace Corps Fellows to make a difference both at home and abroad.

Dr. Mick O’Neill, a senior scientist, agronomist, agroforester, and associate professor at NMSU, served with the Peace Corps in [Ghana](#) and in [Burkina Faso](#) in the 1970s and has spent more than 20 years conducting agricultural research and development in both East and West Africa, a field of study he became passionate about during his Peace Corps service.

Today, he also serves as one of the university’s Fellows/USA program coordinators. NMSU offers a variety of tracks for Peace Corps Fellows, including degrees in agriculture, consumer and environmental

sciences, agribusiness, public health, social work, and nursing.

O’Neill’s own areas of expertise lie in agronomy and plant and environmental sciences. In 2010, O’Neill was awarded the Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production for his contributions in crop research. In particular, he helps people in New Mexico and the developing world to plant, cultivate, and use trees for economic development and to preserve the environment.

Dr. O’Neill’s work has also benefitted his students. He supervised the internship of student Owen Cortner, who spent the summer of 2010 in [Rwanda](#) studying irrigation systems. Through an agreement between NMSU and the [World Agroforestry Centre](#) (WAC), Owen was hosted by the WAC as an attached undergraduate student.

NMSU and WAC are currently looking at future programs for students. In regards to Fellows students, Dr. O’Neill commented that NMSU “has a comparative advantage in the fields of environmental degradation and food security because New Mexico’s arid climate is much like [what] RPCVs have experienced in Africa and our needs match nicely.”

Scientists and researchers, said O’Neill, “are uniquely qualified to develop solutions to global warming, overpopulation and environmental degradation so the next generation—whether in Rwanda, [Azerbaijan](#), or New Mexico—can realize its full potential.”

“We need to make sure that future generations inherit a better earth from us,” said O’Neill. NMSU Fellows—and Fellows around the country—continue showing their dedication to this vision both at home and abroad.



NMSU Coordinator Mick O’Neill (left) hopes to inspire more Fellows to continue his work.

Where Are They Now?

Luke Schtele

Nicaragua, 2003-2005

Master of Arts in International Affairs
Marquette University, 2006-2008



Fellow Luke Schtele credits the Peace Corps and Fellows/USA for his successful transition into becoming a Foreign Service Officer.

My two years abroad with the Peace Corps, my graduate degree in international affairs, and my volunteer experience were all stepping stones toward my current position as a foreign service officer. They gave me the foreign language skills, love of service, wanderlust, and intellectual curiosity and reasoning that have served me well as a U.S. diplomat.

Peace Corps, at the time of my service, was the most defining experience in my life. After eating, sleeping, and being a Peace Corps Volunteer for two years in a remote village in [Nicaragua](#), the idea of being thrown back into general life in the U.S. and expected to readjust was very scary. I knew that I wanted to continue to serve and learn, but I also knew I needed to get a job, or at least do something that would increase my marketability in a competitive world.

The Peace Corps Fellows/USA program at [Marquette University](#) was perfect. I was amazed that there was a program that seemed tailored to my needs: earn a graduate degree in a discipline of my choosing, continue with the higher calling of service, and gain practical professional experience in a nonprofit placement.

I spent two years working as the Assistant Development Director at [Journey House](#), a community-based nonprofit that supports local families through adult education and workforce services and youth development programs.

The service component of my fellowship allowed me to remain involved in community-building activities, while at the same time exploring professional opportunities in the nonprofit sector. My two years at Journey House as part of the Fellows/USA program cemented my desire to work as a public servant.

Share your story and help us promote Fellows/USA!

We seek to increase the national visibility of individual Fellows and programs. If you have a story to share about your experience as a Fellow, or your Fellows/USA program, let us know! Email story ideas, profiles of students and staff, and photos to fellows@peacecorps.gov.

Fall 2010 Coordinators Conference Yields Insight



The Fall 2010 Coordinators Conference hosted more than 40 coordinators, representing 30 universities.

Fellows/USA held its annual Coordinators Conference in Washington, D.C. September 29–30. More than 40 coordinators representing 29 current and one potential university partner made the trip.

Fellows/USA Program Manager, Julie Driver, was pleased with the turnout, declaring, “Every year it is such a pleasure to meet with the coordinators and hear about the evolution of their programs.”

The conference included informational sessions with 15 guest speakers who offered insight to coordinators on topics such as Peace Corps resources, marketing, how to work with partners, and fundraising.

Stephanie Alt-Lamm, coordinator from [Duke University](#), said she particularly enjoyed the

fundraising session that included acting-Director of AmeriCorps [VISTA](#) Paul Davis on the panel.

Alt-Lamm noted that Davis’ presentation was particularly helpful because it informed her that coordinators can tap into [AmeriCorps](#) for funding. In the future, Alt-Lamm would like to research more about the AmeriCorps VISTA program in order to implement it at Duke.

The Graduate School Recruiting Fair, an overwhelmingly popular session among coordinators, featured 25 Fellows/USA universities. More than 70 potential Fellows attended, despite unfavorable weather conditions. They participated in an alumni Q&A session and met with coordinators to discuss opportunities offered through the represented programs.

New Universities Welcomed into Fellows/USA Family

Fellows/USA is pleased to announce four new university partners. These additions increase the total number of partner universities to 55.

[Willamette University’s](#) Atkinson Graduate School of Management will offer Fellows a Master of Business Administration for business, government and not-for-profit management, and a joint degree in management and law in cooperation with the College of Law. Dean Debra Ringold is enthusiastic about starting the program, stating, “We look forward to working with Peace Corps Fellows as they immerse themselves in the Willamette MBA program, explore their career interests, and collaborate with fellow students on experiential projects.”

Fellows at the [University of Notre Dame](#) will earn a Master of Nonprofit Administration. According to Tom Harvey, director of nonprofit professional development, the program will allow “returning Peace Corps Volunteers [to be] immersed in classes with established leaders

from organizations that share the values typically espoused by the Peace Corps, namely, commitment to community and service to others.”

The Evans School of Public Affairs at the [University of Washington](#) will house a program offering a Master in Public Administration. Sandra O. Archibald, dean of the Evans School, citing the specific importance of the Third Goal in the Fellows/USA program, said, “We are excited to help fulfill Peace Corps’ goal to promote a better understanding among peoples of different nations.”

[Clark University](#) offers Fellows a Master of Business Administration in eight different concentrations, including social change. Patrick Oroszko, the associate director of admissions, recently appeared on local television to discuss Clark’s new program, which he anticipates will give Fellows a “quality opportunity [for] social change and strategic planning” which will “help organizations move forward and thrive” in the community.

Play Favorites with Facebook

More than 50,000 [Peace Corps Facebook](#) fans now have easy access to information about the agency’s Fellows/USA and [Master’s International](#) partners without having to log out of Facebook.

The “Favorite Pages” section of the Peace Corps Facebook page plays host to university partners by linking their program’s Facebook fan page.

So far, partners listed as “Favorites” include [Illinois State University](#), [Duquesne University](#),

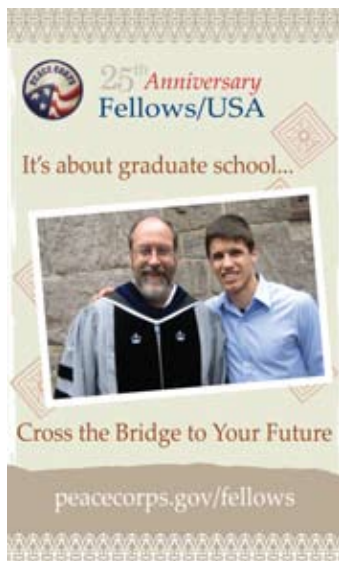
[Teachers College](#), and [Cornell University](#).

If you are the coordinator of a Fellows/USA program and would like to see your program’s Facebook fan page listed as a “Favorite” by Peace Corps, contact Ellen Alderton at ealderton@peacecorps.gov.

Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them.

Henry Steele Commager

25th Anniversary Campaign Captures Fellows/USA Spirit



Marketing is sometimes viewed with a jaundiced eye. Fortunately, some efforts rise above the suspicion through their honest celebration of a worthy cause.

In honor of Fellows/USA's 25th anniversary, Ellen Alderton, the program's marketing specialist, developed a comprehensive plan.

Alderton updated the Peace Corps website with new Fellows

profiles, including one from the original [Teachers College](#) cohort; a [historic timeline](#) with links to documents, such as a congratulatory [letter from President Reagan](#); links to [partner social media sites](#); and profiles of [Fellows internship organizations](#).

The plan also included designing a series of [commemorative posters](#). One of the posters features Dr. Henry Schwalenberg, Fellows/USA coordinator at [Fordham University](#), and his student, Fellow Anthony Cotton.

Both were pleased with the recognition from Fellows/USA. They've been enjoying the positive support gained through this marketing strategy, which "helps the informed community realize the relationship with Fordham and the Peace Corps, as well as our relationship with our Fellows on a personal level," explained Schwalenberg.

He added that Cotton was the first person to contact him to joke about being famous. "He really is a terrific human being," remarked Schwalenberg. "His commitment to public service

and the Third Goal is outstanding."

Nearly 20,000 posters were distributed across the country to organizations that have hosted Fellows, to [YMCA](#)s, libraries, returned Volunteer groups, and Peace Corps partner affiliates, including [City Year](#) and the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#).

The marketing plan has proved to be quite popular. Fellows/USA Program Manager Julie Driver confirms, "We're delighted with how well our 25th anniversary has been progressing. The response to our special marketing efforts—the anniversary web pages and the series of posters—has been wonderful. The public is excited to learn about our program."

Fellows/USA would not be possible without three important and interconnected parts; the universities, the Fellows, and the internship organizations. Peace Corps and its partners are proud to celebrate 25 years of bringing the world home.

If you would like to display a Fellows/USA 25th anniversary poster but did not receive one, we have made them available for downloading at our website: www.peacecorps.gov/fellows.

We also have a limited number of printed posters in our office. Send an email to fellows@peacecorps.gov to request as many complimentary copies as you need.

From the Fellows/USA Program Manager

Tempus fugit. Indeed it does. As my time at Peace Corps draws inexorably to an end, I'm drawn back to the beginning, to August 2005.

The drive from Arizona was long and hot. The culture shock upon arriving "inside the Beltway" was instantaneous.

As a Boren Scholar I owed the government 10 months of service, which I was determined to fulfill to the best of my ability. After that, I thought, it would be best to move back to the private sector.

Except, I didn't realize how the Peace Corps can draw a person in, make them feel at home, and show them what meaningful work does for a

person's spirit. I didn't know that, long before the 10 months were up, I would have a mental "to do" list that would compel me to stay.

So, five years on, how has the list fared? Gratefully, I can say that with the indispensable help of a talented and supportive staff, every item has either been checked off, or is in the process of being done.



Program Manager
Julie Driver

In those same five years, the program has experienced phenomenal growth. Much like a parent, I'm proud of its progress. From 351 Fellows enrolled with 39 partners in 24 states and the District of Columbia, Fellows/USA has expanded to

512 Fellows enrolled with 55 partners in 28 states and the District.

As the deadline that once seemed too far in the future to worry about looms larger with each passing day, I'm saddened by the thought of no longer being part of a group of people that I've come to respect and admire—the Fellows/USA family of coordinators, Fellows, alumni, internship supervisors, and their supporters.

At the same time, there is a sense of accomplishment that leaves me feeling as though the coming transition is right, both for me and for the program. A natural cycle is being completed, and so I'll move on, knowing I fulfilled that obligation as best I could.