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American University Ranks 2nd on Peace Corps' List of Top Volunteer-Producing Schools

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 5, 2013 – American University ranks 2nd on Peace Corps' list of 25 top volunteer-producing colleges in the medium school category with **55** undergraduate alumni currently serving as volunteers overseas. American University moved up from last year's third place standing, overtaking George Washington University in the medium school category. Since Peace Corps' inception, 889 American University alumni have served in the Peace Corps.

"Every year, graduates of colleges and universities across the United States are making a difference in communities overseas through Peace Corps service," said Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. "As a result of the top-notch education they receive, these graduates are well prepared for the challenge of international service. They become leaders in their host communities and carry the spirit of service and leadership back with them when they return home."

"American University is a fantastic school for students who are interested in multiculturalism, international relations and service – the pillars of Peace Corps service," said Chris Marsh, a Peace Corps youth development volunteer in Cambodia who graduated with his bachelor's and master's degrees from American University. "From the diverse student body, to the incredibly experienced and worldly faculty and down to TDR's daily menu options from around the globe, AU is constantly preparing its students for the diverseness of our planet."

The Peace Corps ranks Top Colleges annually according to the size of the student body. Small schools have less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates and large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates. Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2012 data as of September 30, 2012 as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers. To see the full list of colleges and universities on the Peace Corps' Top College list, visit the website [here](#).

Jamie Albrecht, who graduated in 2010 from American University with a bachelor's in international relations, is now working as a youth development volunteer in El Salvador: "I would recommend Peace Corps to current seniors at AU because it is honestly the best decision I have made in my life thus far. It challenges you to be better, it challenges you to live outside your comfort zone, and it challenges you put all those years of study into



real life practice. Gain the practical experience to back up your theoretical knowledge while enjoying one of the best, most rewarding adventures of your life.”

Currently, more than 8,000 volunteers are working with communities in 76 host countries on projects related to agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth development. The next application deadline is Feb. 28, 2013.

To find out more about how you too can make a difference in Peace Corps, join us for the next on campus **Peace Corps Information Session** hosted by Peace Corps recruiter and returned Peace Corps volunteer, **Ariel Simons**. The session will take place Feb. 13, **from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** in the Mary Graydon Center, room 247. **Simons** can also be reached directly at: 202. 692. 1055 or asimons@peacecorps.gov. For the full list of events at AU, click [here](#).

About the Peace Corps: *Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 210,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 8,073 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth in development. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency’s mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries. Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.*

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