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## **UNC-Chapel Hill Ranks 14<sup>th</sup> on Peace Corps' List of Top Volunteer-Producing Schools**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 5, 2013** – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ranks 14<sup>th</sup> on Peace Corps' list of 25 top volunteer-producing colleges in the large school category with **62** undergraduate alumni from UNC at Chapel Hill currently serving as volunteers overseas. Last year, the university ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the large university category. Since Peace Corps' inception, 1,203 alumni of Chapel Hill have served in the Peace Corps, making it the 25<sup>th</sup> highest volunteer producing university of all time.

"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."

"Going to school at UNC was and is a great source of pride for me. Being a Tarheel I learned the universal understanding of common courtesy and respect for one's neighbor," said Matthew Boddie, a 2009 UNC at Chapel Hill graduate who is currently serving as a community health volunteer in Uganda. "Here in Uganda, despite such fundamentally different cultures, I am using lessons learned in the 'Tarheel Way' while back at UNC."

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](#).

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.

Peace Corps volunteer Natasha Prados (B.A., 2011, Political Science and Latin American Studies) has been living and working in Peru as a health volunteer since September 2011: "One of my favorite things about Carolina is the incredibly rich and diverse service-oriented community. UNC CH has over 600 student organizations, and most of them



relate to community service in some respect. There are also excellent opportunities for fellowships and scholarships to fund study abroad and international service opportunities. Students at UNC find themselves immersed in a culture that promotes public service, values diversity, and encourages global learning.”

During Peace Corps service, college graduates make a difference in communities overseas. Volunteers return home as global citizens with cross-cultural, leadership, language, teaching and community development skills that position them for advanced education and professional opportunities in today’s global job market. Ninety percent of volunteer positions require a bachelor's degree. Americans with backgrounds in agriculture, environment, teaching English as a second language, and other technical or language skills related to Peace Corps assignment areas are encouraged to apply for service one year in advance of their target departure date. The next application deadline is Feb. 28, 2013.

To find out more about how you too can make a difference in other people’s lives, stop by the next on campus [Peace Corps Information Session](#) hosted by UNC’s Peace Corps campus recruiter and returned Peace Corps volunteer, Sara Zizzo. The session will take place on Feb. 19 in Hanes Hall, room 239 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. Zizzo can also be reached directly at: 919.843.9533 or [peacecorps@unc.edu](mailto:peacecorps@unc.edu).

*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](http://www.peacecorps.gov) for more information.*

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