

The Global Scholar



NOTES FROM HQ:

PEACE CORPS MOURNS LOSS OF SARGENT SHRIVER



Sargent Shriver at a press conference regarding poverty.

R. Sargent Shriver served as the founding Director of the Peace Corps from the agency's inception in 1961 until February 1966. Appointed by President John F. Kennedy, Shriver embodied the new development agency's optimism and enthusiasm and spoke passionately and eloquently about the Peace Corps mission to promote world peace and friendship.

In June 1967, after concluding his directorship, Shriver gave a commemorative speech at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey, telling students, "We have a new kind of humanism that understands the most important reality of our day—the way to stop war is not to condemn the soldier but to fight the conditions that make war possible: sickness, injustice, poverty."

On January 18 of this year, at the age of 95, Shriver died at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. As news of his pass-

ing spread, family, friends, and political leaders alike paid tribute to Shriver's lasting contributions to American society. Former President Bill Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden participated in Shriver's funeral mass, and Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams issued a special statement in tribute to this humane and inspirational leader:

"The entire Peace Corps community is deeply saddened by the passing of Sargent Shriver. Shriver was a distinguished public servant and a visionary leader who accomplished much in his life of public service, but to those of us in the Peace Corps family, he served as our founder, friend, and guiding light for the past 50 years. Because of his determination and vision, more than 200,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 countries, promoting world peace and friendship. Though he is no longer with us, his legacy of idealism will live on in the work of current and future Peace Corps Volunteers. Today, Peace Corps Volunteers and people worldwide who have been touched by the Peace Corps grieve with Shriver's family and friends."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS AND SARGENT SHRIVER, PLEASE GO TO [HTTP://SHRIVER.PEACECORPS.GOV](http://shrivers.peacecorps.gov).

FIELD NOTES:

BILLY DELANCEY PROMOTES THE THIRD GOAL IN THE 'BLOGOSPHERE'

As the developing world becomes more exposed to the Internet, Master's International students are finding new outlets to spread the word about their Volunteer service. Here are excerpts from George Washington University MI student's, Billy DeLancey's blog, "Do you want to Vanuatu?"

1 month to Vanuatu

That's right, ladies and gentlemen, I will be departing for the island nation of Vanuatu on September 12. Things I am doing to prepare:

- Researching the best way to get electricity. Right now it looks like it's going to be a solar panel connected to a car battery.
- Buying a camera.
- Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork.

I just got to Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a beautiful country and seeing it from above is indescribable. After we landed, we were greeted by Peace Corps staff and current Volunteers. They gave us green coconuts and welcoming gifts.

A typical day

I wake up at 4 o'clock because the roosters crow and I also hear that loud beeping that trucks make when they back up. Still dark outside, so I normally read by a kerosene lamp. I have Bislama language class every day from 8 to 10. We normally have an afternoon session where the medical office comes and gives us a talk on health issues, or I go to another village about 30 minutes down the road and have training for my specific projects. On Monday, we are given assignments that are due on Friday. It is a little bit intense, but not too bad.

October 2009

This week we have to visit a local health facility and ask a series of questions and present our findings to the group on Friday. With a few other friends, I decided to go for a boat ride to another island, Nguena, and check out its health dispensary. Once there, we talked to the nurse who runs the place, asking her all sorts of questions and trying

to figure out what a dispensary provides and what it can and cannot do. In Vanuatu there are five hospitals, 31 health centers, 84 dispensaries, and 208 aid posts. Aid posts are staffed by a village health worker and they are supplied with common medicine, oral contraceptives, and simple first aid stuff for cleaning wounds, etc.

August 2010

August was my busiest month as a Volunteer. A few of my friends and I decided

on an ambitious schedule of five workshops in two weeks. It was an intense trip! We visited three villages in Ambae, took a boat to Maewo, climbed a waterfall, met some amazing people, and informed five different villages about the severity of HIV/AIDS and what they can do to stop it.

November 2010

My replacement, Nancy, came at the beginning of November. She will be an amazing Volunteer. The village instantly loved her and she helped me facilitate the workshop I have been planning for the past six months.

The workshop is called PHAST. To quote my master's thesis: "Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) is an innovative process developed by the



Billy DeLancey plans a leadership camp for young girls and boys on the island of Malekula.

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CAMPUS NOTES:

MI PROGRAMS COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

What is the sound of thousands of Volunteers singing “Happy Birthday”? Close your eyes and you can almost hear it. The Peace Corps 50th anniversary year officially began on March 1, and MI programs across the country are celebrating. Here are just a few of the goings-on:

February

- Northern Arizona University held a potluck and food drive.
- Colorado State University organized various events, including story-telling, market tables, and a meet-n-mingle.
- New Mexico State University took part in a mayoral proclamation.

March

- The University of Pittsburgh hosted an RPCV panel.
- The Driscoll University Center at the University of Denver hosted “Celebrating the Journey,” a photo exhibition.
- Tulane MI students participated in the Orpheus Parade as part of Mardi Gras.
- Boston University organized a “Fond Memories” event.
- Emory University hosted a peace vigil.
- Bard College organized an RPCV panel.
- The University of Maryland, Baltimore County hosted a story-telling workshop.

April

- The College of Charleston hosted an RPCV cocktail reception.



MI students at Tulane take part in the Orpheus Parade for Mardi Gras.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Do you want to publicize your 50th event? Post your program to the National Peace Corps Association’s online calendar at: <http://peacecorpsconnect.org/50/>.

USE THE PATCH LOGO!

The Peace Corps has authorized Master’s International partners to use the patch logo. To receive an electronic copy, email mastersinternational@peacecorps.gov.



WORDS OF ADVICE...

HELPING MI STUDENTS WITH THEIR MASTER'S PROJECTS

Master's International students occupy a special place in Academia. With a year of classes under their belt, they depart for foreign destinations to work on projects that still require the feedback and advice of their faculty advisors back home. How do MI students and faculty manage this delicate balance between Volunteer placements and the rigors of academia? We asked faculty advisors and MI students at four universities how they bridge the gap between far corners of the world and ivory towers in the United States. Whether students are studying English instruction or environmental engineering, we found that there were some common strands that make for a successful student/advisor relationship:

1) Help students with the Peace Corps system.

The process of applying to the Peace Corps, receiving a nomination, getting medically approved, and finally receiving a placement is a lengthy and complex one. The schools we spoke with highly recommended helping students with Peace Corps system. Professor Kathleen Bailey at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) says, "The main questions (MI students) have are about the Peace Corps application and placement process."

Professor James Mihelcic at the University of South Florida shares that his students are required to have regular group meetings where they not only discuss their education and research requirements, "but also items related to the Peace Corps medical and placement processes."

2) Prepare students for life overseas.

A wonderful advantage for MI students is that they can take classes to help them prepare for their Volunteer service overseas. This preparation need not be only academic. Mihelcic and Professor Blair Orr, of Michigan Technological University, underscored that their MI students take classes in subjects such as anthropology, ethnography, and community planning before leaving the country.

3) Create a vibrant RPCV community.

Mica Nicole Tucci, herself an RPCV and a graduate assistant to Bailey, points out that "a sense of connection with the

Peace Corps Volunteer ... provides inspiration for pre-service students." Beverly Beyer, an associate director at Illinois State University, echoes this sentiment and says she brings MI students together twice—within a month of starting the program and again before they depart for the Peace Corps—so they may meet, network, and come to learn from one another. At MIIS, Bailey says they bring incoming MI students together for a lunch or other social event, which includes a Power-Point presentation of highlights from previous MI students' services.

4) Be flexible about overseas assignments.

Professor John Gierke of MTU frankly acknowledges, "The first six months of Peace Corps service are not very productive from a research standpoint." Gierke expects his students initially to adjust to their Peace Corps assignments and perhaps not come to an idea for a research project until the end of their first year abroad. While it is best for students to work on a project that interests them, he adds, "We will forgo the 'interests them' attribute in favor of what is pragmatic for their situation and (what is) needed. Interest will often grow as progress is made."

5) Keep the lines of communication open.

Students and faculty alike underscore the need for both parties to remain in contact while the MI student is overseas. Ways to do so include email, Skype, and even overseas visits by faculty. When asked what makes for a successful MI project, MI student Caleb Fader responded, "I would say that communication is a huge factor."

Another student, Sky Lantz-Wagner, notes, "It would be easy for the faculty and staff to send their MI students into the field and forget about them until they return. My advisor is very present in my service ... We often communicate via email and exchange news, information, and ideas. It means a lot to me to know that I am not forgotten."

PERSPECTIVE:

MI STUDENT PARLAYS EXPERIENCE INTO DOCTORAL PROGRAM

By KATE CLEARY, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Kate Cleary handles a garter snake during an environmental education demonstration in El Aprisco, Guatemala.

When I was 23, I spent most of my days holed up in a dim, cluttered office in downtown Denver, Colorado, where I was a grant writer for a small nonprofit organization. As I researched grants for exciting projects ranging from fair trade coffee certification in Mexico to ecotourism in Nicaragua, I realized that I had little interest in frittering away my youth reading about these projects. I wanted out of the office and onto the ground! So when I heard a returned Master's International student speak at a local bookstore, I was hooked.

In 2004, I applied to the Master's International program at Colorado State University. Shortly thereafter, I began two years of course work toward a master's of science in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. In January 2007, I set off for Guatemala equipped with a head full of statistics, a backpack full of binoculars, and high hopes for my Peace Corps experience.

I will never forget the moment the chicken bus dragged itself over the final hill and I caught my

first glimpse of Tonicapán, a crowded, smoggy city of more than 100,000 inhabitants. This was the presumed future site of my groundbreaking wildlife research? This was a city: a sprawling, unregulated city!

This would not be the only time that my first impressions were utterly wrong. Over time, I learned that the city of Tonicapán is actually a nationwide leader in conservation. Its citizens jointly own a 16,404-hectare parcel of mist-wreathed coniferous forest above the city, and this forest is rigorously protected by a community council of elected mayors. Without the help of the federal government or foreign NGOs, the Q'iche people of Tonicapán have successfully preserved their communal forest for more than 500 years.

I realized that I needed to seek out a thesis project which fit local needs as well as my own, and I knew a good place to start was the mayor's council. I eventually coordinated with the council president, Don Enrique, on some of the most rewarding projects of my Peace Corps service.

One of these projects, which tied together my master's thesis research with our site's environmental education initiatives, was producing a set of educational materials about the birds of the communal forest. Together, we created a complete guide to the birds of Tonicapán. We combined my data with knowledge from local people who had been roaming the forests for years. Over many cups of sweet, weak coffee, they helped identify the Q'iche names of each bird, and told detailed stories of what plants and insects each bird ate. The council raised the money to print the materials, and continues to sell them to raise funds for their tree nursery.

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INCREASE PEACE

Join the Peace Corps in launching the exciting new applicant referral program Increase Peace! We are reaching out to currently serving PCVs, Peace Corps partners, the global RPCV community, and Peace Corps staff to get involved in making referrals of quality applicants through the new landing page, www.peacecorps.gov/increasepeace. From there you can send a personalized email message to a friend or family member who you think would make a great Volunteer, encouraging them to learn more about applying with Peace Corps.

This campaign is being carried out primarily online and on social media venues such as Facebook, making it accessible to Peace Corps stakeholders worldwide. After visiting our website and making a referral, you will have the opportunity to download an Increase Peace “badge” for display on your Facebook profile or blog, to show both that you have helped us to increase peace, as well as spread the word about the program to even more people. To learn more and view additional resources, please visit the Peace Corps website.

MI WELCOMES MAUREEN O’NEILL



A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Maureen O’Neill describes herself as an avid fan of Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Hoyas’ basketball, and the Washington Redskins.

Maureen O’Neill joins the MI team after having worked as administrative assistant in the Peace Corps Placement Office since August 2009. Originally from Fairfax, Virginia, she holds a bachelor’s degree in foreign service from Georgetown University, and plans to pursue a master’s in public administration in the fall.

Maureen served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras from 2007 to 2009, where she worked on various initiatives to promote business education in area schools. Prior to her service, she worked as a logistical coordinator for international visitor programs at the Academy for Educational Development.

FIELD NOTES, FROM PAGE 2



Billy DeLancey and village health workers wrap up an HIV/AIDS workshop.

World Health Organization to address water and sanitation in developing countries.” PHAST uses a methodology of participatory learning that builds on people’s pre-existing knowledge and “innate ability to address and resolve their own problems.” The workshop was a huge success.

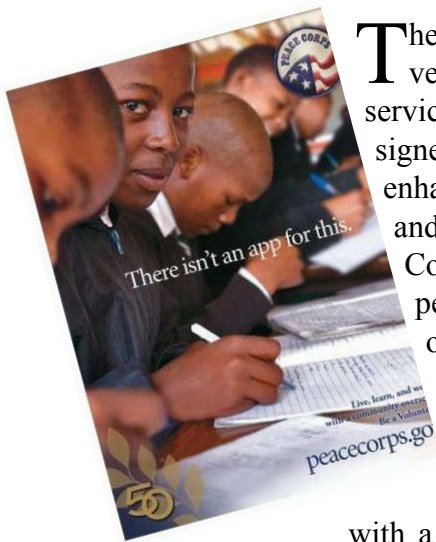
Do you want to thank you!

I want to publicly say thank you to all the people who supported me in my last Peace Corps Partnership. We were able to raise \$5,870 to provide clean water and new toilets. Unfortunately, I will not be in the village to oversee all the construction. My replacement, Nancy Miyake, will be handed the task. I hope you all know how much I appreciate your support in what we are trying to do here. It means a lot to me and to the people of Vanuatu.

MASTER’S THESES ANTHOLOGIES AVAILABLE ON CD-ROM

The Master’s International staff at Peace Corps headquarters has carefully collected theses from scores of MI students in numerous programs across the country. These theses are available for your perusal in a convenient, searchable CD-ROM format at your country office or with your program’s MI coordinator. Whether you are studying community planning or public health, find theses that other MI students have successfully presented and get ideas from your predecessors!

SPREAD THE WORD WITH BEAUTIFUL PSAs



The Peace Corps has developed six new public service announcements designed both to beautifully enhance publication space and to promote the Peace Corps mission of world peace and service to others.

All of the ads call on audiences to “Live, learn, and work with a community overseas.

Be a Volunteer.”

The ads can be downloaded in high resolution, print-ready format from the Peace Corps website at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.psa.print>. Each PSA is available in three sizes and in full color or black and white.

MEET LÖKI TOBIN ON YOUTUBE



A Peace Corps video features MI student Löki Tobin discussing her service in Azerbaijan and her commitment to return to her home community in Alaska.

MI University of Alaska–Fairbanks student Löki Tobin understands the problems of brain-drain. An Alaskan resident, she is currently volunteering as an arts instructor in Azerbaijan. Tobin intends to return to Alaska after her Peace Corps service “with more training and skills” to enrich her local community. Watch Tobin tell her story on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU1Gtjm2iQ>.

JOIN MI ON FACEBOOK



Former MI student Kristina Owens has started a new Facebook page for members of the MI community as well as for those who want to learn about our program. Join the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=121971204504167>.

PERSPECTIVE, FROM PAGE 5

I left Guatemala in July of 2009, but Guatemala never left my heart or mind. When I returned to the United States I spent a final year at university finishing my thesis and working part-time at the National Park Service, a job I got through Peace Corps connections! During this time, I did not know what my next step would be, but realized I wanted it to be in the direction of Latin America again. After many months of searching, I found and applied to a Ph.D. program at the University of Idaho. This program brings together diverse students to work in teams on urgent ecological questions in Costa Rica, and emphasizes the importance of involving local people in the research. When I flew to Idaho for the interview, many of the faculty members told me that having Master’s International on my resume was an enormous boost. I am now in my second semester as a Ph.D. student.

If you want great returns, you must make great investments. If you are about to enter a Master’s International program, you should know that it will be years longer, more challenging, more frustrating, and more demanding than any other master’s program; but the rewards will be broader and deeper than a traditional master’s degree, and they will last a lifetime.



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FROM THE MANAGER:

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN OUR SUCCESS

There is nothing like the Master's International experience: going to graduate school and connecting it to Peace Corps service; benefiting from academics, practical application, international service, new and unknown places, and challenges and rewards. In fact, all of these elements probably only scratch the surface of what it means to take part in our rich program.

To make this possible, the role that each of us plays with MI is paramount.

To those students currently in school, before going overseas please follow through with the application, medical, and placement processes—which we know is not easy. Also, keep talking with RPCVs and take advantage of every opportunity to learn from them. Our expectations for your service are as great as yours.

To the MI Volunteers overseas, your continued feedback is important. Indeed, we are hoping to include a short set of MI-related questions in the annual Peace Corps Volunteer survey to better identify how you might be distinct from other Volunteers, and to gather your impressions of your overall experience. We also encourage you to send a copy of your final project to the staff at the post where you served.

To faculty and staff administering the program at the universities, we ask you to continue to increase the visibility of MI at your school, to do what you can to garner university support that could lead to incentives for MI students, and to stay in touch with us at the Peace Corps. We also remind you to take advantage of the MI coordinator listserv—pcmastersinternational@lists.umbc.edu—to ask questions of and seek suggestions from one another.

As for us at the Peace Corps, we will continue to work for MI applicants to have a competitive advantage, to advocate on behalf of students and MI schools, and to facilitate the expansion of the program within currently participating universities. There is more we want to do, such as developing a resource page on our website and communicating more closely with students both before and during service, and we will strive to reach these goals.

All of us are a part of this unique experience together, and each of us, in our own way, can strengthen the program. We can all spread the word about MI and we can all communicate with each other. Most of all, I ask that you stay in touch with us at Peace Corps headquarters. We seek and appreciate your questions and recommendations.

Warm Regards,

Eric Goldman

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A STAFF CHANGE?

We ask that you notify us at Peace Corps headquarters immediately if there is a change in the MI coordinator position at your school. Program administration is a vital component of your agreement with the Peace Corps and we need to be kept informed in order to manage our partnerships effectively. Thank you very much for your assistance with this important matter!