



fellowows

NEWS ABOUT PEACE CORPS FELLOWS/USA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

Fellows/USA Coordinator Named 2007 Nurse Hero by Daily Record



Lori Edwards

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHUSON) faculty member Lori Edwards was named the 2007 Nurse Hero by *The Daily Record* for her leadership in the field of community health.

Lori, a member of the Community Public Health Department and coordinator of the Fellows/USA program, was honored for her work in Baltimore's communities and her leadership of the JHUSON [Community Outreach Program](#). Each year, the program educates, trains, and places more than 150 dedicated

student nurses as community volunteers in more than 40 community agencies that provide extensive health-related services to the most underserved people in Baltimore. This year, Johns Hopkins has 69 Peace Corps Fellows enrolled.

Edwards' programs include [Project HEAL](#), which provides support for struggling families with small children in African-American and Hispanic communities, and the [Amazing Grandmothers](#) project, which provides support for grandmothers raising their grandchildren due to family

substance abuse, a major issue for Baltimore City.

In her nomination, JHUSON Dean Martha N. Hill noted, "Lori Edwards is a true hero who works tirelessly to reach Baltimore's individuals, families, and neighborhoods most in need—and teaches others to do the same."

The annual program salutes local unsung heroes in six categories: Advancements in Health Care, Community Outreach, Volunteer, Physician Hero, Nurse Hero, and Health Care Professional Hero.

Peace Corps Begins Historic Partnership with the Kingdom of Cambodia

Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter swore in Peace Corps' first group of Volunteers to serve in [Cambodia](#) in April. The event signified the beginning of a historic new partnership with the [Kingdom of Cambodia](#).

"This first group of Peace Corps Volunteers is bringing with them the great tradition of service and friendship to an extraordinary country and a remarkable people," said Director Tschetter. "They are not only trained professionals, they are dedicated Americans who share a spirit of service and a commitment to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Cambodia."

This new group of 29 Volunteers will be working as English teachers and teacher trainers in seven provinces across Cambodia. Volunteers will teach English



Director Ron Tschetter (standing, third from left) with Cambodia 1

at the upper secondary level and help teachers in Cambodian districts improve their English language proficiency and teaching skills.

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Joseph A. Mussomeli also participated in the swearing-in ceremony. He remarked, "Cambodia is the kind of country

President Kennedy had in mind when he created the Peace Corps. Peace Corps Volunteers do more to advance freedom and justice in the world and protect American ideals and principles than any other program of the United States government."

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Director Tschetter had an audience with His Majesty King Sihamoni. He thanked the king for the warm hospitality and friendly welcome of the Cambodian people.

In return, King Sihamoni said, "On behalf of the Cambodian people, we are grateful for your initiative and cooperation and we thank the Peace Corps and the American people for their work in advancing peace and stability in Cambodia."

Office of University Programs Welcomes New Director

Peace Corps Fellows/USA

To submit stories or ideas:

Write

Peace Corps Fellows/USA
Paul D. Coverdell
Peace Corps Headquarters
1111 20th Street NW
Washington, DC 20526

Call

800.424.8580, ext. 1440

Fax

202.692.1421

E-mail

fellows@peacecorps.gov

Web

www.peacecorps.gov/fellows

Eileen Conoboy

Director
econoboy@peacecorps.gov

Rebecca Coggins

Program Assistant
rcoggins@peacecorps.gov

Julie Driver

Marketing Specialist
and Newsletter Editor
jdriver@peacecorps.gov

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Eileen Conoboy

Eileen Conoboy joined the Office of University Programs as director in February. A returned Volunteer from Mali (1995–97), Eileen previously worked at the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), where she managed the planning, policy and evaluation division and oversaw ANA's training and technical assistance delivery to tribes and Native American nonprofits.

Prior to ANA, Eileen managed the LIR anti-racism program in Dublin, Ireland, while earning a master's degree in international peace studies from Trinity Col-

lege. She facilitated anti-racism workshops for community and government sectors and fostered partnerships to advance intercultural learning.

Eileen also worked as a Peace Corps recruiter and recruitment coordinator at the mid-Atlantic regional recruitment office. In her nearly five-year tenure there, she developed and implemented new recruitment strategies and campaigns, and she built relationships with faculty and staff at 11 universities and colleges within her region.

After the Storm: Xavier University Welcomes Its First Fellow

Peace Corps service is a life-changing experience. It's a truism, but it's also a concept that deserves more consideration than it sometimes gets. Take Jason Denlinger, for example. Influenced by his Aunt Lynn, a wildlife biologist who served in Kenya from 1982 to 1984, Jason joined the Peace Corps hoping to work on projects that would let him use his hands.

Instead, he taught biology in a Mozambique high school. Since he had never thought about becoming a teacher, Jason was surprised by how much he enjoyed watching his students learn, and he's delighted that some of them are now teachers themselves.

After returning to the United States, Jason, an Eagle Scout, spent several years running a camp for the Boy Scouts. When he was ready to go to graduate school, he knew he wanted to get back into teaching, so he investigated all of the Fellows/USA programs that offer education certificates and degrees.

In the end, he enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana because it was just what he was looking for. New Orleans suited

trina struck nearly two years ago are now facing extreme resource shortages.

Jason likens teaching science in his school to a Peace Corps experience—there aren't enough books, the building is in disrepair, and students face other challenges that make studying difficult. Jason teaches at Rabouin High School, which is a part of the Recovery School District. The district was created in 2003 to allow the state of Louisiana to take over failing schools. To hear a PBS segment on Rabouin that aired March 1, go to http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/education/jan-june07/nola_03-01.html.

While Jason is happy with his job and graduate school, he's already looking to the future. His wife, Berta, is studying to be a nurse. They met in Mozambique and they hope to eventually return so that Berta can give back to her country, just as Jason is doing for his country in New Orleans.



Berta and Jason Denlinger

Jason's preference for a small city environment. He also appreciated the fact that the city is known for its unique culture. Plus, K-12 schools that were already struggling before Hurricane Ka-

Peace Corps Sponsors Global Education Conference

Peace Corps' [Coverdell World Wise Schools](#) is proud to announce its conference "Global Issues in the Classroom: Teach a World of Differences, Make a World of Difference." This is a free, one-day conference on August 1 for globally oriented educators and organizations and will be held at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC. The conference will feature a resource fair showcasing educational classroom materials related to global issues. The day includes presentations by Susan Sclafani from the [Chartwell Education Group](#); [Thiagi](#), a self-defined "Mad Scientist" in innovative learning methods; and

Matthew Erdman, who recently returned from Peace Corps service in [Madagascar](#) and works for [Ecofusion](#) as a Google Earth project manager. The conference will also feature two panels—*Integrating Global Issues Into the Curriculum* and *Taking Action: Global Issues and Service Learning*. Lunch is also included.

For more information on the conference and biographies of speakers and panelists, and to register for this free event, go to www.peacecorps.gov/wws/conference/. You can also e-mail wswinfo@peacecorps.gov or call 800.424.8580, x1450. Space is limited.

Fellows/USA Partners with Yale University

[Yale University](#) students have long been known for their academic achievement and strong tradition of community service. Now, they will be able to build on that legacy as Fellows/USA's newest partner school, and its first in Connecticut.

Returned Volunteers will apply to Yale Graduate School through the regular admissions process. If admitted, they will enroll as Fellows in the international relations master's degree program. This two-year program is part of Yale's [Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies](#).

"A partnership between the MacMillan Center and the Peace

Corps is a natural fit," said Yale Graduate School Dean Jon Butler. "Both organizations promote international understanding and appreciation. Volunteers' real-life experiences in the field will add a new dimension to the intellectual excitement of the IR program."

In addition to the IR program, Peace Corps Fellows at Yale may also pursue any of the joint degree programs available through IR and the MacMillan Center, including forestry and environmental studies, management, law, and public health. For more information, contact Alice Kustenbauder at 203.432.3418 or International.relations@yale.edu.

*The most solid comfort
one can fall back upon
is the thought that
the business of one's life
is to help in some small way
to reduce the sum of ignorance,
degradation and misery
on the face of this beautiful earth.*

✎ GEORGE ELIOT ✎

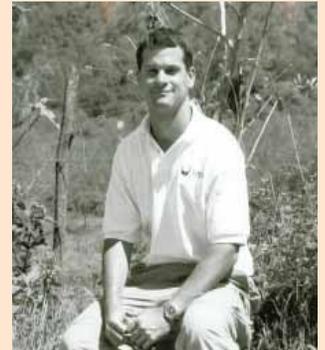
Where Are They Now?

Cristian Shoemaker
Guatemala, 1992-94

I graduated from [Loyola Marymount University](#) (LMU) in May 1997. It was a great experience studying for an MBA while working with other Peace Corps Fellows in public housing communities of Los Angeles. I am grateful to Peace Corps, LMU, and the [Knight-Ridder Foundation](#) for making my participation in the program possible.

Following LMU, I worked briefly at [TRW Systems](#), also in Los Angeles, before heading to Washington, D.C., to join [FINCA International](#), a microfinance institution working in more than 20 developing countries. With FINCA, I have been fortunate to have led two programs, FINCA Haiti from 2000 to mid-2002 and FINCA Guatemala from 2003 to the present.

While tough on a personal level, living and working in Haiti was a wonderful experience. We developed a team of committed Haitians who continue to contribute to providing small loans to microentrepreneurs who are struggling to survive.



In [Guatemala](#), the focus has been on building a high-quality institution that provides loans in difficult areas. In three years, we have taken the program from 3,000 clients served to more than 20,000 receiving credit as of the end of 2006. It is like coming home to be working again in the same country where I did my Peace Corps service.

As with many Volunteers, the experience with Peace Corps changed my life in many ways beyond brief description. The fundamental lessons learned as a PCV have remained the same along the way.

Highlights from Peace Corps Week 2007



Anthony Poore (left) and Kathleen Kennedy of **Southern New Hampshire University**. SNHU hosted a welcome back-send off celebration for new and returning Volunteers in concert with the **New England regional recruiting office**. Photo courtesy SNHU.

University of Maryland-Baltimore County's Shriver Peaceworker program hosted a special screening of the documentary *American Idealist: The Life & Legacy of Sargent Shriver*, which showcased the legacy of the Peace Corps' first director.

The first lady of Colorado, Jeannie Ritter, addressed **University of Denver** students about the Peace Corps at a wine-and-cheese event at the university's Graduate School of International Studies.



A Peace Corps Fair was the highlight of **University of Arizona**'s week of activities. Among the 250 registrants were 100 RPCVs, including most of the university's 55 Fellows. Photo courtesy Ed Stiles.

During **Western New Mexico University**'s third annual Culture Day Festivus, 18 RPCVs shared stories and displayed traditional items and artifacts from countries in which they served.

From The Fellows/USA Director

It is with mixed feelings that I write my last note to you as director of Fellows/USA. My service at Peace Corps began in late 1999 as a program specialist, and I have had the pleasure of serving as director for the last two years. I've appreciated every day playing whatever small part I could to support not only the program, but, most importantly, the Fellows who continually inspire me. I am looking forward to taking the summer off, continuing my own community work, and returning to work part time in the fall. I know I will miss Peace Corps and my wonderful colleagues within and outside the agency.

Fellows/USA is an incredible learning experience. In visiting program sites across the country, I have seen and learned about the myriad problems facing our communities,

some similar and some unique to location. I have also seen our great diversity in both human and material resources and the strengths and challenges they bring us. Best of all, I have met all kinds of wonderful people—university faculty and staff, local community leaders and elected officials, scores of volunteers, and the Fellows themselves—all working to improve the lives of the people around them, often with little or no personal compensation. These visits have continually brought to mind the well-known quote by anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Our Fellows and the people who support them live that precept every day, and that's the source of the inspiration

that I will carry with me as I move on.

In addition to my departure, Fellows/USA is losing program assistant BJ Helwig. He came to us in February 2005 and brought us organization, efficiency, commitment, and a wonderful sense of humor. BJ's accomplishments are too numerous to mention, and, although he will be very much missed, he is leaving things in such great order that his successor will be able to step in without missing a beat. BJ is taking a terrific summer internship with the **National Park Service** to support his work toward a master's degree in geographic and cartographic sciences. We wish him the very best.

Fellows/USA will rest in the very capable hands of new Office of University Programs Director Eileen Conoboy (see



page 2). Please welcome her and support her as she takes on the responsibilities of her new role.

Best wishes and thanks to all of you who work so hard on behalf of Fellows/USA. Know that you are indeed "changing the world."

Cary Ballou