



45<sup>th</sup>  
Peace  
Corps  
Anniversary

# fellowS

NEWS ABOUT PEACE CORPS FELLOWS/USA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS



## Peace Corps Welcomes New Director

This past September, the Peace Corps welcomed its new director Ronald A. Tschetter. Director Tschetter is no stranger to the Peace Corps family. He is the third director in the Peace Corps' history to have served as a Volunteer. With his wife, Nancy, he served from 1966–68 in India as a community health worker. After returning home, Director Tschetter worked in the financial securities industry for more than 30 years, gaining strong management and leadership skills throughout his distinguished career.

Prior to his Peace Corps appointment, Director Tschetter was the president of **D.A. Davidson & Co.** in Montana, the largest full-service investment firm based in the Northwest, a position he held for two and one-half years. Before that, he was president of the Private Client Group for **Dain Rauscher**, a position he held for 10

years until his retirement in 2001. Director Tschetter began his career in 1970 with Blyth Eastman Dillon Union Securities and joined **Dain Rauscher** in 1973.

Director Tschetter has received numerous awards in recognition of his public service. He has served on the **Securities Industry Association** sales and marketing committee and on the **New York Stock Exchange** Regional Firms advisory committee. He was chairman of the board of trustees of **Bethel University** (formerly Bethel College and Seminary) in St. Paul, Minn.; chairman of the board of **Daystar U.S.**, an affiliate of Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya; and director of the **Community Bank Plymouth** in Minnesota. He also is a former chairman of the **National Peace Corps Association**.

Director Tschetter succeeds **Gaddi H. Vasquez**, who was the Peace Corps' first Hispanic

American director. Vasquez was sworn-in on September 7 by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as the new U.S. Representative to the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations in Rome.

Ambassador Vasquez began his tenure at the Peace Corps in 2002 and was the third longest serving director in the Peace Corps' 45-year history. Under his leadership, the Peace Corps reached a 30-year high in the number of Volunteers in the field. He directed the entry or re-entry into more than 20 countries, including the agency's newest program in **Cambodia**, which will open in early 2007. Under his leadership, the agency established a unique Peace Corps program in **Mexico**, and sent RPCVs to assist in the Gulf Coast region in the aftermath of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Peace Corps Director  
Ronald A. Tschetter

## A Small Victory in Darfur

by Jeffrey T. Silverman, MPH



Jeff Silverman (center) with a CHF staff member (left) and a local head sheik (right).

Finally having a day off, a group of us went out to the airport to go jogging. It sounds odd, but leading to the airport is a straight, paved, three mile stretch of road. Plus, it's outside of town, which means there's no one to bother you and not much dust.

On our way out there, I saw smoke in the distance, but didn't think much about it at the time. The following day while visiting a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), I learned that there had been a fire at Otash, another camp for IDPs.

Otash Camp has a population between 20,000 and 25,000 IDPs, but no one knows for sure because there has not been a head count there for at least six months. **International Rescue Committee** (IRC) staff working there told me

that the fire had been accidental and that no one had been hurt. However, about 145 shelters had burned to the ground and another 138 had been damaged by people running away and/or knocking them down to make fire breaks. The cause of the fire had likely been a hut catching fire while someone was cooking. The huts in this part of Otash Camp are made of thatching and paper from discarded food-aid bags, and they're built very close together. Otash is also very windy as well, so when one hut started to burn, the wind probably spread the flames very quickly to the other huts.

When I saw the affected area, it looked as though a bomb had gone off. A large area where all the

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# Fellows/USA Alum Joins Peace Corps Staff



Nathan "Hale" Sargent (center) with Office of University Programs staff at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC

In October, the Peace Corps **San Francisco Regional Office** welcomed Fellows/USA alumnus Nathan "Hale" Sargent as their new public affairs specialist. Hale received his bachelor's degree in foreign affairs from **Miami University** and a master's degree in communications, with a focus in journalism, from **Marquette University's** Fellows/USA program.

As a Trinity Fellow at Marquette, Hale worked as a marketing coordinator for **St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Inc.**, a nonprofit child welfare agency in southeast Wisconsin. During this two-year internship, he

completely revised the organization's marketing strategy, material, and website to more effectively communicate its services and demonstrate staff and client diversity. He also coordinated donor and promotional events.

Though skeptical about working in child welfare at first, Hale found that "in Fellows/USA, like the Peace Corps, you can bring your own interests and skills to the table in a way that helps your community partner reach its own goals."

Hale served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in **Armenia** from 1998

to 2000 as an English teacher. While serving, he secured and managed an \$8,000 **USAID** grant to repair a school auditorium. He continued his overseas service after Peace Corps as a human rights monitor for the **Guatemalan Accompaniment Project**. He also has media experience as an editor for **U.S. Newswire**, and as an intern for **American RadioWorks**, public radio's largest documentary unit. At American RadioWorks, he pitched story ideas, wrote articles, and provided other marketing and public affairs support.

## Fall Census Complete: Record Enrollment—Again!

The 2006 fall census is now complete. Thanks to all of the coordinators for their cooperation in getting this done! We are very happy to announce that we currently have 415 Fellows enrolled in the program—an 18 percent increase from 2005!

Carnegie Mellon University	15	University of Arizona	58
Columbia University—Teachers College	49	University of Cincinnati	9
DePaul University	0	University of Denver	
Duke University		(International & Intercultural Comm.)	2
(Master of Public Policy)	11	University of Denver	
Duke University		(International Studies)	38
(International Development)	4	University of Maryland—Baltimore	7
Duquesne University	2	University of Maryland—Baltimore County	16
Florida Institute of Technology	4	University of Missouri—Columbia	0
Fordham University	2	University of Missouri—Kansas City	0
George Mason University	9	University of New Orleans	2
George Washington University	3	University of North Texas	0
Georgia College & State University	0	University of Oregon	7
Humboldt State University	0	University of South Carolina	
Illinois State University	7	(Business)	4
Indiana University	10	University of South Carolina	
Johns Hopkins University	69	(Social Work)	4
Loma Linda University	3	University of Vermont	4
Marquette University	7	University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee	2
New Mexico State University	9	University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point	2
Northern Arizona University	0	University of Wyoming	1
Rutgers University—Camden	1	Western Illinois University	14
Seton Hill University	1	Western New Mexico University	19
Southern New Hampshire University	3	Wichita State University	0
The New School	16	Xavier University	1

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# Peace Corps Week 2007 Planning Resources Available Now

Darfur

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Have you started making plans to celebrate Peace Corps Week 2007? Would you like to do something, but don't know what—or how to begin? Regardless of where you are in the planning process, Peace Corps' Office of Domestic Programs has materials to help you.

The Peace Corps Week website at [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

[www.peacecorps.gov/pcweek](http://www.peacecorps.gov/pcweek) is full of suggestions, tips, and ideas for celebrating the agency's anniversary. Whether you're a returned Volunteer or a friend of Peace Corps, it's easy to register online, request a presentation kit, and download fact sheets and other materials. If you have any questions, send an e-mail to [pcweek@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcweek@peacecorps.gov) or call 800.424.8580, ext. 1961.



huts had burned to the ground had only some mud rings left. The air had a thick, burnt smell to it. With all the destruction, it was a miracle that there had been no injuries or deaths. However, the residents had very little to begin with, and now they had lost even those few possessions. They were worried about shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities. I knew I had to do something to help.

Three international aid organizations work at Otash Camp: the IRC, CARE, and UNICEF Water, Environment, and Sanitation (WES). I learned that another aid organization, the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), was going to assist with shelter reconstruction. One staff member said it would take days to get the necessary resources together. I asked what we could do to assist the residents that day and until CHF had replaced the shelters. I knew that the IRC would donate space in our community center, health center, and child-friendly spaces for residents to sleep in at night to get them out of the cold and wind. I went back out to the camp and sent word to all the sheiks (leaders) in the affected area telling them that I wanted to hold a meeting as soon as possible. I also invited staff from CARE, UNICEF, CHF, and the Humanitarian Assistance Commission (HAC). HAC is a Sudanese government department that oversees all humanitarian activities and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in Darfur.

At the meeting we discussed what had happened thus far and what still needed to be done. The most immediate needs were shelters for that night, blankets, water buckets, sleeping mats and food. I decided to go into town to ask for assistance at the head NGO offices there. I hurried into town and found a few people at the UNICEF offices with whom I had worked on other projects. Otash Camp residents

needed blankets most of all, but UNICEF's stockroom was out of blankets. They suggested I try the United Nations Joint Logistics Center, which supplies many NGOs with non-food item supplies. Off I went, and just in time. I caught a staffer on his way out the door to Otash Camp to investigate the situation himself. I filled him on what was happening and he gave me 17 large bales of blankets.

When I returned to the camp late that afternoon, the residents were thrilled to see that I had made it back with the much-needed blankets. Most hadn't thought I would make it back that day. They thanked me over and over. I told them I would be back the following day to check in on them and to see if the water buckets IRC donated and the sleeping mats CHF contributed had arrived.

Before I left, the sheiks said that HAC wanted me to come back in the morning so they could thank me. They also wanted to have a meeting with the other NGOs in the camp if I could organize it. This may not sound like a big deal, but it is. To have the Sudanese government appreciate what an NGO has done is a real honor.

This is what I love about my job—I can make a difference and see the results right away. I can see what needs to be done and how to do it. Although there are hurdles to overcome to work in this environment, much can still be accomplished. From this "small victory" we learned how to resolve a crisis and act together to anticipate future needs of the camp's residents.

One lasting change was the formation of a weekly coordination meeting that involves all the NGOs working in Otash Camp. Such proactive efforts were absent before this crisis, and should lead to longer-lasting solutions and faster responses from the NGOs in the future.

## Where Are They Now?

Monica Tooki  
Kiribati, 1993-96



Monica earned a bachelor's degree in education from [Mississippi State University](http://www.msstate.edu) before serving as an English teacher in [Kiribati's](http://www.kiribati.org) rural primary schools. After returning to the United States, she enrolled in the [University of Southern Mississippi's](http://www.usm.edu) Fellows/USA program, where she earned a master's degree in education.

As a Fellow, Monica taught at the [North Woolmarket Elementary School](http://www.nwms.edu) in Biloxi, the same school she returned to after taking some time off to raise her two children Kai, 10, and Asia, 6.

Monica uses her experience as an RPCV to teach her third-grade students about the importance of global awareness. She regularly uses [Coverdell World Wise Schools](http://www.coverdell.org) materials in her classroom, observes [Peace Corps Week](http://www.peacecorps.gov) with her students, and spends one week each year teaching about the culture and traditions of Kiribati.

"I feel strongly that my job as a Volunteer wasn't over once I hit stateside," Monica said. "There is no way that one can live through such a life-changing experience and not want everyone else to understand and get involved."

Jeff Silverman has an MPH in family and child health, with a focus in international health from the Fellows/USA program at the [University of Arizona](http://www.arizona.edu). After graduation in 2005, he worked on contract with the International Rescue Committee in Darfur, Sudan, as a hygiene promotion manager in 15 camps for internally displaced persons. Jeff is now studying Spanish in Central America and looking internationally for a new public health position with an NGO. Jeff is an RPCV from [Kenya](http://www.kenya.org) (1996-98) and a [Crisis Corps](http://www.crisiscorps.org) Volunteer from [Malawi](http://www.malawi.org) (2003).

# Fifth Annual Graduate School Fair a Resounding Success

The Office of University Programs co-hosted the fifth annual graduate school fair on October 5 with the Peace Corps' [Mid-Atlantic Regional Recruiting office](#) and [Returned Volunteer Services](#). The fair began with a panel discussion on graduate school selection, admissions, and funding. Panel members included program coordinators and staff from [American University](#), [George Washington University](#), and [Columbia University](#). A lively question-and-answer

session featured six current and former students in the [Master's International \(MI\)](#) and [Fellows/USA](#) programs. The evening concluded with participants visiting exhibit booths staffed by representatives from 29 MI and Fellows/USA partner schools. The annual graduate school fair is one of the largest general information meetings presented by the Peace Corps. This year, 76 potential Volunteers and 48 RPCVs attended.



Meredith McDill (left), an RPCV from Chad and Director of Enrollment Services at the School for International Training, speaks with a graduate school fair attendee.

## World Wise Schools Program Launches Peace Corps' First Ever Podcasts

The Coverdell World Wise Schools (CWWS) program at the Peace Corps launched the agency's first podcast series in September. Called [Volunteer Voices](#), the podcasts feature stories written and read by Volunteers.

Daniel Laboe, who served in Papua New Guinea (PNG), describes the new and odd feeling of being "at center stage, every moment of each day" in his podcast, "Sunday Morning Stares." He knows that "all these stares, every look shot my way by the dark eyes of the PNG, they are 100 percent curiosity, zero percent animosity." Daniel believes that "a loneliness that lessens over time and being on stage most of the day are "small prices to pay for knowing this country and its people."

Users can hear the podcasts on the World Wise Schools' Volunteer Voices page and can subscribe to new ones as they become available through a variety of music software, including iTunes, MyYahoo!, Odeo, Juice, and others. A new Volunteer Voices podcast is distributed each Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

The World Wise Schools program has also unveiled its redesigned website at [www.peacecorps.gov/wws](http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws). Through it, Volunteers can access information about the [Correspondence Match](#) program, which connects them with students in U.S. classrooms. Volunteers can also search through a lesson plan database by grade level, region, and subject area to find activities that support their education projects.

To complement the new website, CWWS has redesigned its monthly e-newsletter for educators, now titled [World Wise Window](#). The first issue featured a series of stories and slide shows on disaster relief written and narrated by [Crisis Corps](#) Volunteers. Published on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the issue included lesson plans on both hurricanes and tsunamis.

CWWS is named for former Peace Corps Director and late Senator Paul D. Coverdell. It creates award-winning classroom readings, lessons, and cross-cultural activities. All of its standards-based materials are free.

## From The Fellows/USA Director

In addition to welcoming a new Peace Corps director (see article on page 1), the Office of Domestic Programs will soon welcome a new director to the Office of University Programs (OUP). OUP houses the Peace Corps' two graduate education programs: [Fellows/USA](#) and [Master's International](#). Dr. Michele Titi, who served as director of Fellows/USA from 1999-2005 and took the helm of OUP at its inception last year, departed in November. We sent her off with many good wishes and much appreciation for all that she accomplished for both [Fellows/USA](#) and [Master's International](#).

Michele was a strong advocate for succession planning, motivated greatly by the passion she felt for [Fellows/USA](#) and her desire to strengthen and expand the program. Before she left, Michele and I spent quite a bit of time preparing for her departure. Because my tenure at Peace Corps will end in June, we also started planning to assure that [Fellows/USA](#) will enjoy a seamless transition.

Leadership transitions in individual [Fellows/USA](#) programs create significant vulnerabilities. One frequently cited reason for losing university partners is the loss of the program coordinator. When the program's "champion" moves on without preparing a successor, the program often flounders.



So I'd like to remind everyone to try to anticipate your departure and plan for the continuation of the [Fellows/USA](#) program you currently lead. Be alert to someone who might take your place and familiarize them with the program. Share with them the [Coordinators' Guide](#), encourage them to meet the [Fellows](#), and answer questions they may have.

Of course, don't forget to tell us about any changes! We are delighted to help bring a new person on board and provide any support and assistance they may need. We value each and every one of our "champions." You are the reason the [Fellows/USA](#) Program thrives, and we want to help you—and your successors—to thrive as well.

Best wishes for a peaceful New Year!

*Cary Ballou*