



# Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Annual Newsletter 2010-2011

## Central Missouri RPCVs Board Members

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Karen Davis

centralmorpcvs@gmail.com

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### Newsletter Editor, Social Chair

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### USPC Campus Recruiter,

### Speaker's Bureau

Michael Burden

## Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers is a social,

service, and networking group for RPCVs in Central Missouri. The group was formed in 1996 as part of the 35th anniversary of the Peace Corps. It now has contact with more than 175 returned volunteers in Central Missouri.

Our objectives are to provide RPCVs with opportunities to socialize, educate people about the Peace Corps, act as a resource for prospective volunteers, and to promote interactions between RPCVs and the mid-Missouri community.

For more information, contact Karen Davis at centralmorpcvs@gmail.com

## Welcome letter from the Board of Directors

By Karen Shanteau Davis (Guatemala 1992-1994)

Greetings from the Board of Directors of Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. We continue to be very encouraged by the growth and interest in the local Peace Corps community. As a Board, it is our goal to lead our organization in playing an active role in shaping the dialog in our region in terms of how local citizens view the world.

Our new motto, "Local Roots, Global Connections" helps guide us to be pro-active in carrying out the third goal of the Peace Corps, which is to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. We are fortunate in Central Missouri in that our community is genuinely interested in the world outside the borders of the US.

We see this interest in the encouraging community turn out for our recent speaker's panel last May held at the Columbia Public Library. Our panel highlighted RPCVs from all five decades of Peace Corps service. We also had a good response for our Third Goal International Film Festival held last November and hope to exceed attendance at our next festival to be held on January 29, 2011.

Speaking of which, 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the US Peace Corps and we plan to celebrate and honor the service of area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. All too often, RPCVs dismiss the importance of their own global service. The 50th anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect back on how the Peace Corps has effected the lives of people in developing countries and how service has impacted our own life journeys.

To help facilitate this process, we will begin to more actively pursue speaking opportunities in the region. If you belong to a group or organization that might enjoy hosting a speaker's panel from our group, let us know.

Also new this year is our long-awaited group logo. Thanks to the efforts of Ashley Burden, we now have a fantastic logo to represent our group. Watch for opportunities to purchase shirts, water bottles and other gift items with our new logo to help us raise funds for small grants for Missouri Peace Corps Volunteers.

As always, we love to hear from you. Stay in touch by sending an email to centralmorpcvs@gmail.com.

## Welcome letter from the Regional Peace Corps Recruiter

By Michael Burden (Mongolia 2006-2008)

Hello Central MO RPCVs. I'm thrilled to be back for a second year of representing Peace Corps at MU and in mid-Missouri.

I served with my wife, Ashley, in western Mongolia from 2006-2008. I had a fantastic experience there, and I'm eager to help potential recruits through the life-changing decision of applying to Peace Corps.

I'll host General Information Meetings about once per month in the basement of the Student Success Center on MU's campus, just across from Ellis Library. My office is located there in Room 6B. You can reach me there Mondays 1-5,

Tuesdays 1-2, Wednesdays 9-12, Thursday 8:30-11 and 1-3, or by appointment.

The first General Information Meeting is Wednesday September 8 at 7 p.m. If you're interested in sharing a few stories about your PC experiences please contact me at peacecorps@missouri.edu or 573-884-2003.

Last year we had more than 30 nominations for service from mid-Missouri. This year we hope to build on that success!

In addition to recruiting, I'm also charged with improving the presence of Peace Corps on campus. I welcome all ideas and help with this effort.





## News & Highlights

### Fourth Year of the MU Peace Corps Fellows Program Continues to Expand This Fall

By Don Spiers (Venezuela 1973-1975)

It is hard to believe that we are entering the fourth year of the Peace Corps Fellows Program at the University of Missouri with a new group of graduate students on campus.

The fellows had some major accomplishments as they continued to expand their interaction with a wide range of students at both university and grade school levels, and with the general public in the mid-Missouri area. A partial list includes the following:

- 1) Collaboration with MU Department of Geography to develop an educational program to stimulate interest in international cultures;
- 2) Work with the Southern Boone County Learning Garden to integrate the garden experience into school curricula and kitchens;
- 3) Interaction with children and young adults with developmental disabilities to develop cooking abilities;
- 4) Tutor troubled youth through Columbia Builds Youth to earn their

GED; and

- 5) Partner in the development of the "Sharing our World" Program in Columbia to develop a database of area individuals with international experience who can speak on public forums, campus and community panels, and classrooms regarding world issues. Several of the 2009 Fellows have been working on this project throughout the summer.

Three new fellows are arriving on campus for 2010. They are from the western regions of the US, but served in a number of regions around the world.

**Michael Greenwell**  
(School of Social Work – Republic of Macedonia 2007 – 2009)

Michael arrived on campus in May from Arizona. His degrees are in Psychology and Social Work from the University of Utah. He actually began his international experiences prior to entering the Peace Corps in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. In addition, he

worked with the Youth Health Organization in Botswana on prevention and education about HIV/AIDS.

Michael's work in the Peace Corps was in several different areas. He concentrated on working with a co-op of artists to increase their use of technology, education, and marketing of traditional arts and crafts. Also, he continued his interest in educating the public about sexual and reproductive health issues. Finally, he worked with children and adults with mental disabilities. When Michael arrived on the MU campus he immediately began developing connections with the local community by working with the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

**Colleen Diessner**  
(Geography – Northern Senegal 2007 – 2009)

Colleen received her BA degree in Geography from the University of Washington. Her work in Senegal was in environmental

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### Peace Corps celebrates 50 years in 2011 with events, film festival

From peacecorps.gov [Edited by Ashley Burden (Mongolia 2006-2008)]



1961-2011

demonstrating our effectiveness, and inspiring the next generation of volunteers through education and engagement.

In 2011, the Peace Corps will commemorate 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world. Join us in supporting the agency's mission and legacy of service by honoring our past,

#### **October 13 - 16, 2010**

Events at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor commemorating then-Senator John F. Kennedy's 1960 speech which led to the creation of the Peace Corps.

#### **January 29, 2011**

Celebrate 50 years at the Third Goal International Film Festival on the MU campus. Featured films will highlight Peace Corps service and international issues. Watch for email updates.

Those interested in assisting with planning, film selection or event promotion, please send an email to [centralmorpcvs@gmail.com](mailto:centralmorpcvs@gmail.com).

#### **June 30 - July 11, 2011**

The Peace Corps will be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This free event is open to the public and historically draws over one million visitors.

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**Summer/Fall 2011**

Recognition of the departure of the first group of Volunteers to Ghana and Tanganyika (later called Tanzania) and passage of the historical Congressional authorization in September 1961.

**Throughout 2011**

Leading educational and cultural

institutions across the U.S. are marking the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary through a diverse group of activities including academic symposia, lecture series, panel discussions, and award ceremonies. Events are still being finalized but some include an open house at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston; award ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., symposium at the University of California,

Los Angeles, and a conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to name a few.

Watch for nationwide updates and details at [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov). Local opportunities will arise throughout the year. Stay tuned at [www.morpcv.org](http://www.morpcv.org).

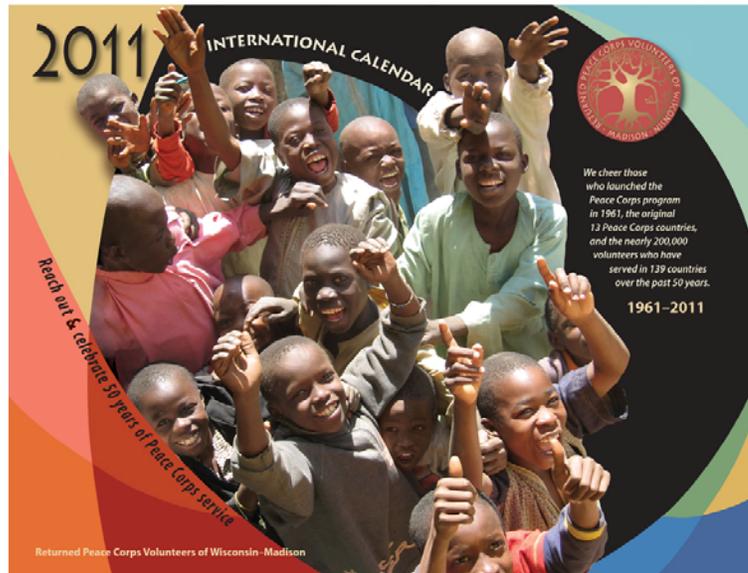
*Get ready to purchase the 2011 International Calendar:  
Celebrating 50 years of Peace Corps*

**Order your copies of the 2011 PC calendar by emailing us at [centralmorpcvs@gmail.com](mailto:centralmorpcvs@gmail.com)**

Fantastic photos and great global information are highlights of this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Peace Corps calendar. Produced by the RPCVs of Madison, Wisconsin, the calendars are both aesthetically pleasing and a terrific fundraiser for our local RPCV group. They make great holiday gifts for family, friends, neighbors and teachers.

**\$10**

Calendar sales represent the number one fundraiser for our group throughout the year and help fund the PCV projects that are highlighted in this newsletter.



**Calendars are only available by special order this year. Please email today!**



## National Peace Corps Association Group Leaders Forum Report

By Gloria Levin [Edited by Frank Yates (Ghana 1973-1975)]

*Each summer the NPCA holds a meeting of affiliate leaders. We are fortunate that Board Member Frank Yates has been going to Washington, DC to represent our group for the past two years.*

*The following is an excerpt from the June meeting report:*

### 50th Anniversary

Anne Baker, Vice President of NPCA, stated that the celebration “belongs” to everyone – PC; NPCA; member groups; etc. However, it will drive NPCA’s agenda over the next 18 months.

To inform and coordinate the multiplicity of events, NPCA will maintain a master calendar online. As for events coordinated by Peace Corps itself, Peace Corps will

(only) announce those events for which contractual agreements have been signed, but expects the full slate of dates and events to be posted by the end of September.

The official kickoff will be October 13-14, 2010 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with students planning an event to take place at 2 a.m., exactly 50 years after President Kennedy challenged students to serve overseas. March 1 (2011), customarily viewed as the birthday of the PC, will involve house parties (on the model used by the MorePC campaign) around the world.

Also planned is an event on March 5, 2011 at the JFK Library in Boston, coordinated by PC, and a summer festival will be held in Boston.

Just announced Thursday is the inclusion of PC as one of 3 major themes of the 2011 Smithsonian Institution’s Folklife Festival on the Washington, DC Mall, between June 30 and July 11.

The other main events in Washington, DC will be held September 22-25, 2011. Generally, they will include an advocacy day (Thursday); a community service day (Friday); country of service activities (open for Saturday); a reception, symposium on the future of PC and a gala (Saturday evening); gathering at Arlington Cemetery and noontime march of flags across the Memorial Bridge (both organized by RPCV/W) to an event on the Mall (Sunday).

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## Clip-n-Post Central MO RPCVs Events Calendar

### August 28, 2010 (Saturday) 2-5pm:

New RPCV Welcome & beer tasting at Bethel-Cosmo park  
At 4500 Bethel St in Columbia. Details by email.

### September 25, 2010 (Saturday) 10am - noon:

Adopt-a-Spot clean up, 6th & Elm. Coffee at Uprise Bakery following.

### October 16, 2010 (Saturday) 10am - noon:

Adopt-a-Spot clean up, 6th & Elm. Coffee at Uprise Bakery following.

### November 7, 2010 (Sunday):

Ethnic Dinner, time & location. Details by info.

### January 29, 2011 (Saturday) 1pm - 9pm:

Third Goal International Film Festival, MU campus  
*Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps at this year's film festival!*

### April 9, 2011 (Saturday) 10am - noon:

Adopt-a-Spot clean up, 6th & Elm. Coffee at Uprise Bakery following.

### April 17, 2011 (Sunday) noon- 6pm:

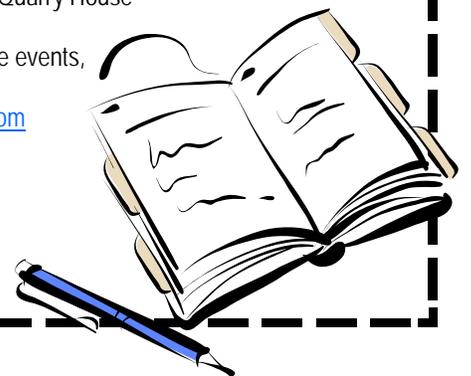
Columbia Earth Day Festival, Peace Corps Info Table

### May 7, 2011 (Saturday) 5-8pm:

Nominations BBQ, Rock Quarry House

\*\*For information on these events,  
email us at

[centralmorpcvs@gmail.com](mailto:centralmorpcvs@gmail.com)



# Central MO RPCVs support brings books to library in Paraguay

From Jesse and Lisa Stauffer-Baum, currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers in Paraguay [Edited by Ashley Burden]

Things are moving along well with the Paraguay Library Project. With the money the Central MO RPCVs donated, we were able to ship 300 books from the US. We also received a grant from USAID to help complete the project.

So far we have a book shelf, desk, and over 300 books! The local carpenter is making the table and chairs for the library. We have been waiting for bars to be put on the window and doors before we buy the computers for security

reasons, which the guys are working on tonight as I type this letter, so looks like we will be getting the computers this week.

We still have many books to buy in the coming months. Also, we have started a

world map project with the local teenagers. They are helping draw a world map on the wall of the library. We just started but it is moving along nicely. We are using a grid to draw the map.

There is a lot of work to be done to prepare the Library. A young boy named Ignacio has been helping us label the books and stamp them. We are unsure of the opening day but I will keep you posted. Thank you all again for your donations and for you support in this project.

*“Thank you all again for your donations and for you support in this project.”*

From Jesse and Lisa Stauffer-Baum  
Peace Corps Volunteers in Paraguay



## You can continue to support Peace Corps projects

By Ashley Burden (Mongolia 2006-2008)

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteers living in Central Missouri, you have an opportunity today to continue to support projects in the field. When you pay dues, a portion of your donation to the Central MO RPCVs, a 501(c)3 non-profit, goes to supporting the work of currently-serving volunteers.

The Central MO RPCVs Board selects projects that are sustainable and meet a

pressing community need. The grants are small, but as you can probably attest, even a small donation can make a big difference in our Peace Corps communities.

If you've been looking for a way to continue your contribution to Peace Corps, please use the form on the back of this newsletter to pay dues to the Central MO RPCVs. We will keep you posted as we select projects.

### Fee Schedule for Membership Dues

(Members are allowed to run for Board positions and vote)

- New RPCV (<1 year) FREE!
- Couple \$25
- Student \$10
- Single-member \$15

(See back panel for details)



## A Note from the Field — Condom Education in Cameroon

From Phillip Berger, currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon

The country: Cameroon.  
The village: Adoumri.  
The problem: no condoms.

This nicely sums up the justification for my project funded by the Central Missouri RCPV's earlier this year.

The project's aim is to construct a permanent market boutique for local trained health workers to give condom demonstrations, distribute educational information regarding reproductive health, and make

condoms available at a locally affordable price to the community.

After mounting numerous bureaucratic hurdles, this project is finally underway. A bench and table have been purchased for the

stall and construction of the 6 ft by 9 ft market boutique is almost complete.

Next month, community health mobilizers in the area will assemble for a brief training on correct condom usage and the importance of condoms in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As there is no current government strategy actively at work in Adoumri and condoms are not readily available and remain somewhat taboo, this project stands to make a dramatic, long-term impact in the community.

*“I want to thank the Central Missouri RCPVs for funding this project and look forward to joining your ranks this coming December. Merci!”*

From Phillip Berger  
Peace Corps Volunteers in Cameroon

### Group Leaders Forum from page 4

Outside of NPCA, a reunion for former PC staff (Friday evening) is also being organized.

### NPCA's New Look

NPCA has unveiled a “new look,” including a new NPCA logo, tagline, and an improved Web platform for communication. Previously, NPCA had several different websites, each with a different look and branding, which did not show NPCA in its best light.

By bringing all of the disparate sites together, streamlining the content, unifying the “look” and focusing the message about why people should join the national Returned Peace Corps Volunteer community, NPCA believes that the new site will be significantly easier to use and compelling to prospective members. In addition, all information pertaining to the 50th Anniversary will be consolidated onto one website. The 50th Anniversary website will launch in August.

### New Membership Options

Out of 200,000 RPCVs, NPCA currently has only 4,700 paid members, while 18,000 subscribe to the e-newsletter and over 20,000 are registered on NPCA's website. To generate more commitment within the community and attract more new (paid) members, NPCA's Board approved a new membership structure and two new NPCA membership options which member groups can also choose to adopt or not. (To date, 33 member groups have chosen to adopt these new options including the Central MO RPCVs.)

First, any RPCV who has never been a member of NPCA is now eligible for a free, one-year membership. Second, any currently serving PCV can activate a free membership for two years, by registering online from the field. (Recently returned PCVs will continue to be eligible to receive the free year of membership upon completing their service.)

A new category for engagement in the NPCA

community has been created – Associate – for individuals who create profiles on the PC Connect social network, representing a demonstrated interest, sufficient to have an (unpaid) affiliation with NPCA. Not being members, Associates cannot vote in NPCA elections or have other rights of membership, according to NPCA's bylaws. However, information obtained from the profiles can be used by NPCA to promote more active engagement, including paid membership.

By these changes, NPCA hopes to take advantage of the increased interest among RPCVs to be generated by the 50th anniversary and convert these persons into paid members. The other two levels of engagement in NPCA remain the same – paid members (at \$35) and Director's Circle (\$1,000 minimum or equivalent in-kind expertise).

## SHARING THE WORLD WITH COLUMBIA: Creating international exposure

From Nadege Uwase, Director, GILD; Amy Bowes (Lesotho 2005-2007) [Edited by Ashley Burden]

Global Issues Leadership Development (GILD) and Peace Corps Fellowship are seeking to create a database called *Share the World with Columbia*, to help broaden global exposure in Columbia, MO through access to people who have lived, worked, volunteered, and were born abroad. The database will achieve the following:

- Widen the base of international exposure
- Encourage conversation from a wider base of individuals
- Provide a fresh perspective on human rights in the USA and the world
- Motivate students to become engaged in learning
- Broaden international appeal in our community

Using the database, professors, organizations and other community members planning educational events

will be able to select what type of experience they would like to convey to students. If a lesson is being taught on Latin American culture, for instance, there may be people in the database who were born in Peru or did business in Ecuador who would be available to come speak about their experiences.

We will use the database to invite speakers to small and large events. The small events consist of quarterly brown bag series discussing international issues that are current and relevant to students' interests.

The International Center could also use it to connect students getting ready to go abroad

with those who have already been to the country, or the College of Business could host people who have worked in international business to speak to their classes.

By bringing in new perspectives to the classroom and to the community, individuals with international experiences will present new opportunities to their listeners.

Students will be encouraged to seek out study abroad opportunities, internships that help train them better for the jobs they want, and lead them to pursue higher levels of education. In addition, the presence of people who have volunteered abroad will increase volunteering outlets during semester break and after graduation.

Bringing these world perspectives to Columbia will help students think outside the city, outside the Midwest, and outside of the United States.

For more information or to join,  
**Email Nadege Uwase**  
Director, Global Issues Leadership Development  
[uwasena@gmail.com](mailto:uwasena@gmail.com)  
*A new website will also launch soon*

### Fourth Year of Fellows from page 2

education. There she worked with local primary school teachers in the village of Gamadji Saare on discussing critical issues of the environment in the classroom. She was also involved in nutritional tree-plantings, HIV/AIDS testing events, and education on reduction of problems associated with mosquitoes.

A large component of her educational activities was the construction of health murals in medical facilities and schools in the area. Colleen was involved in training new

Peace Corps volunteers in mural construction, with themes that included health education, environmental awareness, and the development of small businesses to ensure a continuation of the work that she began in Senegal.

**Joseph Neville**  
(Geography – Guatemala 2006 – 2008)

Joseph received a BS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala he served as an ecotourism specialist. He worked with the Defenders of Nature Foundation to manage the Guatemalan

National Forest – Sierra de las Minas, and provide environmental education and assistance in the production of income generating projects.

One of his specific projects was to work with coffee and cardamom farmers to improve their businesses. In addition, he assisted with the development of a biological corridor adjacent to Sierra de las Minas that will increase biological habitats in the area.

To learn more, visit  
<http://peacecorpsfellows.missouri.edu/>



**Central MO RPCVs**  
 Karen Davis, President  
 2645 S. Winding Trail Dr.  
 Columbia, MO 65201

I am interested in serving on the following committees:  
 Community Service  
 Public Relations  
 Recruiting

Social  
 Speaker's Bureau

Frank Yates  
 152 Sac Rd. Unit 1B  
 Sunrise Beach, MO 65079-5539

Make checks payable to Central Missouri RPCVs and send to:

New RPCV (<1 year)  FREE!  
 Couple  \$25  
 Unrestricted donation  \$  
 Student  \$10  
 Single-member  \$15  
 Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Peace Corps Country and years of service: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Occupation & Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you're a student, what & where are you studying? \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member  New Contact Info

**Central Missouri RPCVs Membership Form**  
*Your dues go to supporting the many wonderful projects of our currently serving Central MO PCVs ~ Thank you!*