



Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Annual Newsletter 2011-2012

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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, email
centralmorpcvs@gmail.com

News from the Board of Directors

By Karen Shanteau Davis (Guatemala 1992-1994)

What a great year to be a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. As many of you know, 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the United States Peace Corps. Locally, we chose to commemorate the occasion with two events held in early 2011: The Third Goal International Film Festival in January and our 50th Anniversary Banquet in March. Both events were very well-attended and appropriately honoring of the service of RPCVs since 1961.

We were particularly fortunate to receive a small amount of funding from the City of Columbia to help us with our film festival. As a result, we were able to work with the University of Missouri's Distinguished Visitor program and the Film Studies Department to bring award-winning RPCV film maker Judy Irola to Columbia for the festival to speak about her film Niger '66: A Peace Corps Diary. The funding also purchased several advertisements in the Columbia Tribune which helped greatly to promote community attendance at our festival.

Our Banquet in March featured keynote speaker, Chancellor Brady Deaton (RPCV Thailand) who spoke eloquently about his Peace Corps service and how it has impacted his life and career. Also, for the first time in our group's history, we held a very successful silent auction, which

raised \$400 to help support small grants for Peace Corps Volunteers from Missouri.

Another first for our group was the offering of a Central Missouri RPCV t-shirt, complete with our new logo. The shirts were very popular and we hope to have other merchandise available to you in the coming year.

In June, the board of directors met to set strategic goals for our group. We will be focusing our efforts on two fronts: financial transparency and management, and development of new leaders within the group. You can help us greatly with both goals. First, we ask that you become a member of Central Missouri RPCVs by completing and mailing the form in the back of this newsletter. Membership dues continue to be an important source of income for our organization. Second, become involved in the work of our group by joining either the social committee or the film festival steering committee. We know that you are busy and we will tailor tasks to fit the time and energy that you have to offer.

Most importantly, attend one of our various events throughout the year. One of the strengths of our group is the diversity of our membership and it is truly enjoyable to meet RPCVs who served years ago as well as those who have just returned.

Welcome letter from the Regional Peace Corps Recruiter

By Andrew Fritz (Zambia 2008-2011)

Hello Central Missouri RPCV community! I am excited for the opportunity to represent Peace Corps at Mizzou and throughout mid-Missouri. As a resident of the area I am committed to increasing central Missouri's understanding of and participation in Peace Corps service.

With an RPCV as a father (Ethiopia 1963-65), I grew up looking forward to my own experience in the Peace Corps. My wife Ashlee and I served in three different provinces in Zambia from 2008 until May of 2011. After serving two years as a

forestry volunteer and a year as a member of the provincial support staff, I became an even stronger supporter of the PC initiative to strengthen our global community.

Like many volunteers before me, I had an amazing experience. Throughout the next year I will be taking on the responsibilities that Mike Burden previously held, and helping potential recruits begin the application process and their

Continued on page 2





News & Highlights

Meet the new Fellows Program Coordinator and MU's Coverdell Fellows

By Meredith Dorneker (Peru 2006-2008)

Hello Central MO RPCVs. I'm looking forward to a great year working as coordinator for the MU Coverdell Fellows program.

As of July 1st, I've moved into an office in the Graduate School and will be spending 20 hours a week coordinating meetings and events for fellows, working on recruiting new fellows, aiding them in finding community service placements, engaging in fundraising work, and more.

Most recently, I've worked with Vicky Riback-Wilson, Don Spiers, and Dr. George Justice (Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Advanced Studies) to prepare a proposal that would renew and expand the MU Fellows program, allowing applications from all master's degree granting departments. As the summer and fall semester progress, I will keep the RPCV group up to date on changes to the program.

For now, I'd like to introduce the newest additions to the Fellows program. Five new fellows will be joining returning Fellows

Colleen Diessner and Joe Neville.

Gary D. Glass Jr.

Rural Sociology Department
Republic of Armenia 2007-2009
The People's Republic of China 2009-2010

Gary is currently working with the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES) at MU. His degree is in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Gary's work in Peace Corps Armenia was focused on Environmental Education and Agribusiness Development. He worked primarily, in a small village on the Ngorno-Karabagh Border and with the Civil Society Development Center of Syunik in the city of Kapan.

In China, Gary worked as a "Teacher Trainer" in the southern most city of Sichuan Province, Panzhihua. His focus was on teaching business English to college students while working with local mining companies to train their middle to upper management employees and

assist in the preparation of quarterly financial reports.

When Gary arrived in Columbia in April 2011, he immediately began to work with CARES and the Community Garden Coalition of Columbia, to integrate into the local community.

Megan Gore

School of Social Work
Guyana 2009 – 2010

Megan is an alumna of the University of Missouri in Columbia. It was there where she received her Bachelor's in Social Work with a minor in Service and Leadership.

Travelling and experiencing cultures abroad has always been one of Megan's passions in life even before beginning her service in Guyana. Travelling to places such as Germany, Peru, and the Caribbean islands afforded her the opportunity to experience life abroad which only insulated the thought of the Peace Corps.

Continued on page 7

Welcome letter... (continued from page 1)

own Peace Corps service experience.

My office is in the lower level of the Student Success Center on the campus of the University of Missouri. Feel free to meet with me there Monday through Friday beginning August 15th when I officially assume the on-campus recruiter position. My specific hours will be posted on the exterior of my office door, but I am also happy to meet by appointment as necessary.

Adjacent to my office is a meeting room

where I plan on holding monthly General Information Meetings with the first meeting taking place in early September. If you have an interest in sharing your PC experience with potential recruits you can contact me at peacecorps.missouri.edu or 573-884-2003.

Although recruiting is a major component of this job, it is also a goal to further involve Peace Corps with the international community at the University and improve the overall presence of Peace Corps on the campus. Like Mike encouraged when he was the acting

campus recruiter, I hope the RPCV community will offer ideas and support with making these goals a reality.

While there were 30 nominations to Peace Corps from the Mizzou campus last year, I expect that with the support of the RPCV community we can surpass that number. I hope to work closely with RPCVs in accomplishing that objective and making the University of Missouri one of the top universities for Peace Corps recruitment.

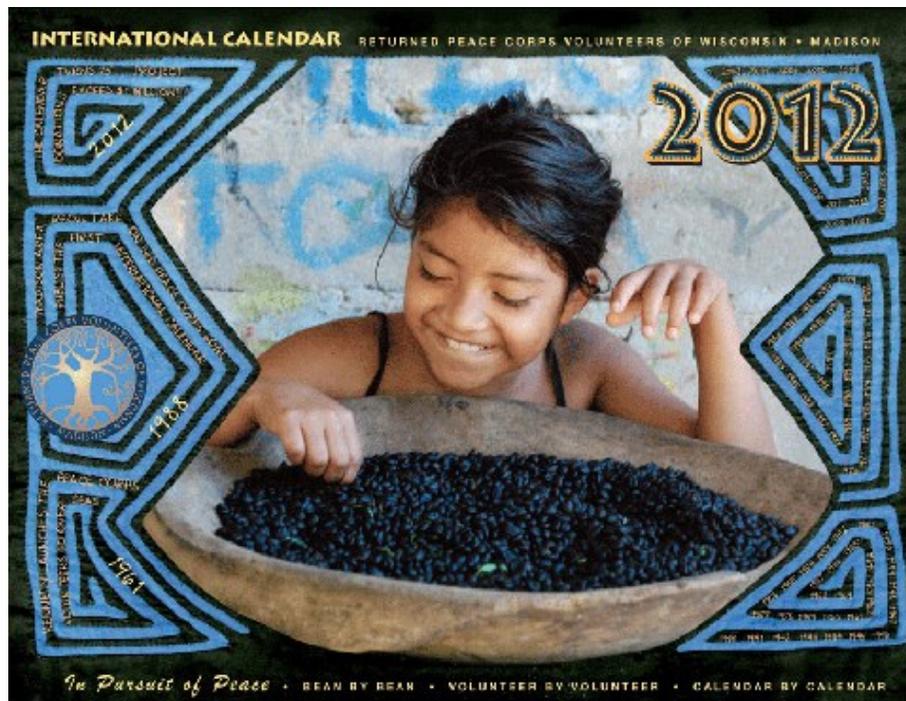
Purchase your 2012 International Calendar today!

Order your copies of the 2012 PC calendar by emailing us at centralmorpcvs@gmail.com.

(\$12 includes shipping for those who request it)

Fantastic photos and great global information are highlights of this year's 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.

\$12



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!



News & Highlights

Our small grants program — How you can help

Central MO RPCVs fund small projects for currently serving PCVs from Missouri with proceeds from our fund-raising throughout the year, including calendar sales and memberships.

Shannon Huett, a PCV from Springfield, MO serving in Kazakhstan,

submitted a proposal for a Civic Education training for youth in her community, which Central MO RPCVs funded this spring.

The group is always interested in proposals for small projects run by Missouri PCVs in the field, so if you

have any contact with currently serving Volunteers, please put them in touch with us! Lindsey Smith coordinates the small grant program and can be reached by email:

centralmorp cvs@gmail.com

Central MO RPCVs support volunteerism in Kazakhstan

From Shannon Huett, currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan [Edited by Ashley Burden]

As an OCAP Volunteer working with local partners to develop programing, it is essential to identify and recruit help for various activities from community volunteers.

Local youth from universities, colleges and schools have been helpful but are not always familiar with the expectations of successful volunteers.

Therefore, a program designed to promote volunteerism, responsibilities, and the commitment was developed by myself and a German volunteer, Verena Weber, in conjunction with Center Samal, my primary service site.

Additionally, we planned to commemorate 50 years of Peace Corps and the worldwide commitment to volunteerism and service of so many volunteers.

Training sessions were conducted on Saturdays from January 8-February 12, 2011. A local translator was present at all sessions to provide language help and clarification on subjects (Russian and English). This translator also provided translation services for presentations and activities.

Goals

Predetermined goals of the training included:

- 1) Promote Volunteerism (Peace Corps Goal and Kazakhstan 2030 plan)
- 2) Provide training of marketable goals
- 3) Visible recognition of volunteerism (in the form of a certificate)
- 4) Recruitment of volunteers from various ages and backgrounds
- 5) Provide information pertaining to places and ways to volunteer in Pavlodar

Outcome

After six sessions (Introduction to Volunteerism, Service Learning, Communication, Leadership and Motivation, Goals, Mission and Vision, and Project Design Management) eleven young adults were awarded a certificate of achievement based upon their participation in the training. Following training, four of the students have volunteered under the supervision of PCV Shannon Huett at Center Samal.

Continuation of this training was encouraged by offering an additional certificate to design and manage a project within Center Samal.

Feedback was received at the end of five sessions from students to determine our degree of effectiveness.

Presentations and handbook materials used in training will be used as material for a Pavlodar Oblast (State) wide training on the subject of Volunteerism.

Central MO RPCVs provided a small grant of about \$100 USD which funded supplies for the training (paper, notebooks, etc.) and the celebration at the end (bowling and a cake).

Celebration

A celebration of achievement was conducted after the 6th topic was discussed. Certificates, a Kazakhstan tradition, were awarded. In honor of Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary a cake was shared and then the celebration continued at the local bowling alley.

For more about Shannon's service in Kazakhstan, check out her blog at: <http://web.me.com/shannonhuett>

Your membership dues make our small grant program possible.
Please renew your annual membership today by returning the form
on the back on this newsletter.



Clip-n-Post Central MO RPCVs Events Calendar

August 27, 2011

Beer Tasting, Graduate Students Welcome!
3:00 – 6:00 pm
Rockbridge State Park, Gilbert Shelter (Off Hwy 163)

September 24, 2011

Adopt a Spot
9 am at 6th and Elm Street

October 29, 2011

Adopt a Spot
9 am at 6th and Elm Street

November 6, 2011

Group dinner at a restaurant with ethnic cuisine
Time & place TBA by email

February 4 or 11, 2012 (Final details by email)

Third Goal International Film Festival
1:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Chambers Auditorium, Student Center, MU Campus

March 2012

Adopt a Spot — TBA depending on weather (Announced by email)

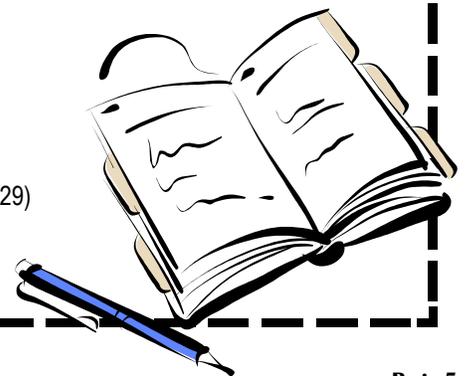
April 14 or May 5, 2012

Nominations BBQ
(Updates by email)

April 22, 2012

Earth Day Festival
11 am-6 pm
Peace Park (Rain date 4/29)

**For information on these events, email us at centralmorpcvs@gmail.com





News & Highlights

Farewell to MU's Peace Corps Recruiter, Hello Film Fest Chair!

By Mike Burden (Mongolia 2006-2008)

It's been an honor serving as the campus recruiter for the last two years. It provided an opportunity to hear many of your stories from service, which entertained, inspired and occasionally shocked potential applicants!

I'm happy to report the number of qualified applicants has increased each year. Last year we had more than 30 nominations from mid-Missouri. That success is due in large part from the willingness of RPCVs like you who share your stories and answer questions from recruits. Thank you for your time, and your commitment to ensuring the long-term success of Peace Corps.

Though I'll no longer be working as the recruiter, I will continue to coordinate Third Goal events as the speaker's bureau chair. If you're interested in presenting, or know someone who would like to host us, please contact me.

This year I'll coordinate the Third Goal International Film Festival. I have big shoes to fill, and I could use your help! We'll need volunteers to screen and select films, help with promoting the event and assistance during the festival. Last year we had a packed house for Niger '66 and great attendance throughout the day. We hope to build on that

success.

We've tentatively scheduled Saturday, February 4 or 11 for the festival (stay tuned by email for final details). If you're interested in helping in any way, please let me know, especially if you know of a great film that we could showcase!

Contact Mike Burden to help with the Third Goal International Film Festival or to speak at an event:

mikeburden77@gmail.com

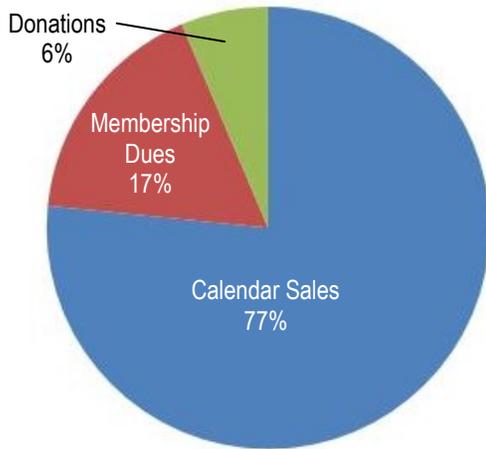
50th Anniversary Dinner Commemorating 50 Years of Peace Corps



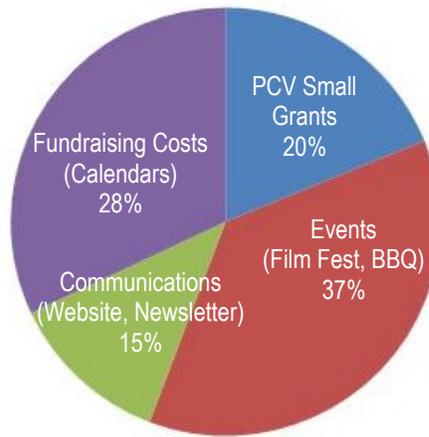
More than 70 RPCVs commemorated 50 years of global service on March 23 with dinner, entertainment by Universal Drum Appeal and a keynote speech by MU Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Central MO RPCVs Budget (2011-2012)

Incoming — \$2,350



Outgoing — \$2125



Thank you.

Your gift—whether calendar purchase, membership dues, or donation—supports the events and small grants program of the Central MO RPCVs.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Membership Dues Fee Schedule

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

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

(See newsletter back panel for details)

Fellows... (Continued from page 2)

Megan's primary project in Guyana consisted of working with a local Non-Government Organization, Volunteer Youth Corps, in which she assisted in the project development and capacity building of their Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

She also taught life skills programs and worked on other programs that the NGO focused on such as their annual Summer Program hosted by the United Nations Development Programme.

Upon receiving the Peace Corps Fellowship, Megan began to build upon ties that had been made as an undergraduate and is now working with the Sol House, a teenage homeless shelter, where she will be teaching peer mediation and conflict resolution to residents.

The "Sharing our World" program is another initiative in which she will be working with throughout her degree for the next year.

Sarah Parsons

Truman School of Public Affairs

Uganda, 2004-2006

Sarah received her B.S. in Mathematics and Atmospheric Science and M.Ed in Math Education from Mizzou.

Her volunteer work in Uganda was focused in education. She taught science and math lessons to pre-service teachers at a Bushenyi Primary Teachers College, modeling student-centered teaching methods such as group discussions, use of textbooks in the classroom, and conducting experiments. She also hosted a reading club at the college library.

Sarah also initiated a project on HIV/AIDS prevention. She trained 25 college students as peer educators, instructing them on HIV/AIDS facts and life skills to avoid becoming infected. The group of peer educators then brought their training to primary school pupils in a local workshop, and served as mentors and role models on the college campus.

Scott Tuttle

Rural Sociology

Niger, West Africa, 2008-2010

Scott served in the Natural Resources Management (NRM) sector. His work generally focused on, but was not limited to, environmental and agricultural issues such as desertification, tree nurseries, natural regeneration, and soil restoration.

He lived in a mud hut in a small village located in the Dosso region of the country called Sakali Ganga. In the time Scott spent there, he learned to speak Zarma and a reasonable amount of French.

He hopes to return overseas in the near future as a humanitarian aid worker. Scott will be starting a Master's program in Rural Sociology this fall, and as a Peace Corps Fellow, he plans on volunteering with the Refugee and Immigration Services to build upon the skills and experience needed to follow his dream.

To learn more, visit

peacecorpsfellows.missouri.edu



Central Missouri RPCVs Membership Form

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

Renewal

New Member

New Contact Info

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? _____

New RPCV (<1 year) FREE!

Couple \$25

Student \$10

Unrestricted donation \$ _____

Single-member \$15

Total Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Central Missouri RPCVs** and send to:

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

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

Community Service

Public Relations

Social

Film Festival

Recruiting

Speaker's Bureau



Central MO RPCVs

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