



Fellows

NEWS ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS FELLOWS/USA PROGRAM

New Fellows/USA Program Director



"I am genuinely honored to join our partners in the 'worthy work' of the Fellows/USA Program. I believe that together, we will take this extraordinary program to new heights of achievement."

Dr. Michele Cisco Titi

On November 8, the Peace Corps welcomed the new Fellows/USA Program Director, Dr. Michele Cisco Titi.

Michele's most recent affiliation is with the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) where she first served as Assistant Director for Programs before being named Acting Executive Director. Prior to joining

APSIA, Michele worked at the University of the District of Columbia in several capacities, including Associate Director of the International and Multicultural Center, and International Admissions Counselor. She has also been Adjunct Professor of Communications at American University.

Michele has extensive experience in managing grant-funded programs,

in developing community outreach programs, and in representing higher education institutions in a variety of settings. She also has experience in coordinating logistics of national conferences.

She received her B.A. in French from Oberlin, and both her M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling, and her Ph.D. in Communications from Howard University.

Is One Good Enough?

By Scott Hall
(Nicaragua, '94-'96)
Fellow at Columbia
Teachers College



Scott Hall is currently teaching at George Washington High School in New York City.

If we can connect, save just one child, then your job has been a success.

Someone first said it to me when I worked at a camp for underprivileged children in Missoula, Montana. I heard it again as I began my Peace Corps service in Nicaragua. Recently, I heard it related to teaching in New York City. Although it is a catchy saying, and one that might help me feel like I am making an impact—after all, haven't I connected with at least one

student?—what about the other 124 students I face everyday? Is connecting with one child really enough? An experience last week helped me look at this saying in a new light.

During a routine check-up, I met Dr. Spencer Amory, a general surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. Dr. Amory is a tall, thin man with a salt and pepper moustache and beard. He has an easy manner and a contagious smile.

He also has time to listen to his patients and doesn't seem rushed—a nice change from the usual New York HMO atmosphere.

Following the check-up, Dr. Amory asked me about my background, and I gave him my brief history. When I mentioned my Peace Corps service in Nicaragua, his eyes lit up. "The Peace Corps" he replied, "Now there is one government agency where we really get our money's worth."

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Dr. Amory then began to tell me about how a Peace Corps Volunteer—a science teacher—helped change his life.

As a young child and teenager in the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts, Spencer hated school. The British teachers were strict and the classes were boring. Although he was an intelligent child, he could think of dozens of activities he would rather do than be in school. As I have found in my classes, the smartest students are often the ones with behavioral problems. Spencer was bored and seemed to always be in trouble with the headmaster. He said that he was in real danger of dropping out.

At that time, in the early 1970s, St. Kitts had trouble attracting qualified science teachers. Consequently, they requested a Peace Corps Volunteer to teach biology and chemistry. "I couldn't believe it," said Dr. Amory as he related his first experience with the new teacher. "For the

first time, I had a textbook with photographs—not just line drawings. The biology text didn't look like a dictionary but read like a novel. Rather than just copy information from the blackboard, we had labs and did basic experiments. The Peace Corps Volunteer made me want to learn, and I was hungry for more. I told myself that if this is what learning is all about, I had to get to the United States and go to college."

And he did. After graduating from high school, Spencer moved to New York City where he earned his undergraduate degree. He received his medical training at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Now he works at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where he treats 60% of his patients pro bono. Dr. Amory also goes to Haiti each year on medical brigades.

"My intention had always been to go back and practice medicine in

St. Kitts," Dr. Amory told me, "but I have found a niche for me here in New York City. Just as there is a great need for qualified, caring teachers in Washington Heights, so is there a need for physicians who want to stay and practice in this neighborhood."

If we just can help one child it will be enough. Is it really too low a goal? I'm sure that the Volunteer in St. Kitts faced many of the same challenges and frustrations that we all have. Did he think that he was really making a difference? That science teacher may or may not have influenced many adolescent lives on the island nation, but even if he just reached one child—Spencer Amory—his influence has multiplied since his Peace Corps service. I can think of no greater feeling of success as a teacher than hearing about one of my students—one that I might have given up on—going on to have a successful adult life and helping others.



Reprinted from the Teachers College Fellows Newsletter, Peace Corps Fellows Times. The entire newsletter is available on the Teachers College Web site at www.tc.columbia.edu/pcfellows.

New Peace Corps Fellows/USA Programs

University of New Orleans

The Peace Corps and the University of New Orleans (UNO) are pleased to announce a new Fellows/USA Program in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at UNO. The UNO program will grant Fellows master's degrees in urban and regional planning, urban studies, and public administration, and a Ph.D. in urban studies. The

College of Urban and Public Affairs has a long and distinguished record of service to the diverse communities of the New Orleans metropolitan area. Fellows will be placed with non-profit agencies or local units of government actively involved in community development projects, such as Neighborhood Housing Services, Community

Resource Partnership, and the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative.

Fellows are appointed as Graduate Assistants and benefit from a waiver of out-of-state tuition costs. A stipend is also provided in the range of \$850–\$1,000/month for master's level and \$1,000–\$1,250/month for doctoral level.

For more information, contact Jane Brooks at the College of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of New Orleans, at (504) 280-6514 or cupa@uno.edu, or visit the UNO Web site at www.unor.edu/~cupa.

Texas Southern University

Peace Corps and Texas Southern University (TSU) have developed a new Fellows/USA Program for RPCVs interested in receiving master's degrees in business administration (MBA), city planning, public administration, industrial technology, and transportation planning and management. A Ph.D. in technology is also offered.

Fellows will be involved in activities such as researching needs for housing, day care, adult care, and retail establishments; community organizing and planning; program development; proposal writing; and program implemen-

tation in housing and economic development. A concentration is offered to Fellows who desire a career in community development.

Texas Southern University represents an ideal setting for a Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program. The University's predominantly minority student population, its diverse faculty, and most importantly, its urban location makes TSU a natural change agent for the local community. The University's philosophy of community development and outreach dates back to the 1960's and its early involvement in the training of teachers and Volunteers for the Peace Corps. This

culture of community involvement and the production of leaders for social and economic change, has long been institutionalized in the University's mission and curriculum.

Recently TSU's School of Technology has emerged as a leader in university programs with a focus on the urban programming mission. It directs the University Center on Transportation, the Small and Minority Contractors Technical Assistance Center, the Summer Energy Institute for Inner City School students, and houses the TSU/Third Ward Community Development Corporation.

For more information on the TSU Fellows Program, contact Joshua Hill, Professor and Interim Dean of the School of Technology at Texas Southern University. Call him at (713) 313-1845, e-mail him at tchajxhill@tsu.edu, or visit the TSU website at www.technology.tsu.edu/home.html.

News from the Peace Corps Fellows/USA Programs

Wichita State University

America Goes Back to School

Peace Corps Acting Director Charles Baquet III visited the Fellows/USA program at Wichita State University and two Wichita public schools September 22, as part of the Department of Education's 'America Goes Back to School' program.

"The Peace Corps believes that education is paramount to the success of a community, and our volunteers work around the world to teach students and train

teachers on how to better involve communities in the education of their children," said Baquet. "Many volunteers who served as teachers overseas continue this vital work in classrooms here in the United States. The programs for students and members of the community in Wichita are indeed worthy of special recognition."

"America Goes Back to School" was proclaimed by the White House as an opportunity to encourage

family and community involvement in providing quality education for America's students. Events took place around the country.

Bob Lane is the coordinator for Wichita State University's secondary education program and Fellows/USA Program Coordinator. Currently eight RPCVs are enrolled in the Fellows Program at WSU. Thanks to Bob and his Fellows for their participation in this national initiative!

The New School University

Baquet Inaugurates New Fellows Program In the Big Apple

On October 25, Acting Director Charles Baquet traveled to New York, where he spoke to a large crowd at the Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy for the inauguration of the 29th Peace Corps Fellows Program.

In welcoming the Fellows, Baquet spoke about how they will have the chance to make important contributions to the field of non-profit management, a growing field of graduate studies. Edward Blakely, the Dean of the Milano School (which is part of the New School University system in New York) praised the Fellows Program and the experience and spirit of service that the Fellows will bring to the school. Blakely also spoke of future potential collaboration with the agency, such as recruiting more New School graduates into the Peace Corps.

The New School is known for its progressive academic environment and approach to research, and the Fellows program is part of its efforts to add an international perspective to its programs. The first RPCVs to serve as Fellows at the Milano School are: Donald Starke (Russia), Irma "Lolie" Camacho (Mali—and a former Peace Corps staffer), and Kathleen Brick (Moldova).

Photo: Jerry Spreier



In photo, Peace Corps Acting Director Charles R. Baquet III, Dean of the Milano Graduate School Edward Blakely, Peace Corps Fellows Kathleen Brick and Donald Starke

Listservs

*The Peace Corps
Fellows/USA Program
has set up listservs
(e-mail groups)
for Coordinators,
current Fellows and
community partners.*

Coordinators

Visit the e-groups web site at www.eGroups.com/group/fellows-coordinators, or send an e-mail to fellows-coordinators-subscribe@eGroups.com. From here you can change your information, add another e-mail address, access a list of other members, and see archives of past messages. Only members have access to this information.

Fellows

Only Fellows are eligible to join this list. We encourage open communication about all aspects of your participation in the program. To join, visit www.eGroups.com/group/pcfellows or send an e-mail to pcfellows-subscribe@eGroups.com. We must approve all members of the group, and you must be in our Fellows database to join.

Community Partners

Community partners and Coordinators are eligible to join this list, which serves as a forum for discussion about the program and the work of the Fellows. To join, visit www.eGroups.com/group/fellows-communitypartners, or send an e-mail to fellows-communitypartners-subscribe@eGroups.com. Members of this group must be approved, and therefore must be in our database.

To get connected, just follow the directions above or visit our web site for direct subscription information. Please call Beth Allgood at (800) 424-8580 x1434 for more information.



Mark your
calendars
for the millennial
Fellows/USA
Convocation
in Miami, Florida,
April 13-15, 2000.
More information
soon to come!!!

Fellows/USA Program
**CONVOCATION
2000**

Call for Monograph Papers: Open to all Fellows/USA Program Participants

Although we are already planning for Convocation 2000, we haven't forgotten the important work we began at last year's Convocation in Chicago, entitled, "Blueprints for Change." Whether in education, health, housing, or business, the partners of the Fellows/USA Program are involved as change agents in communities across the United States. As such, you are faced with the challenge of moving beyond traditional approaches to

change to deeper, more systematic strategies.

Many of you left last year's conference with a lot of good ideas and inspiration to develop your own blueprints for change in your communities. Now is the time to share the ideas you have developed. We hope to receive your collective wisdom in areas of lessons learned, insights, and guidelines for the successes you have achieved. All submissions will be included in the

Fellows/USA Monograph: Blueprints for Change, and shared with current Volunteers, other Fellows, and the general public. The blueprints will include best practices for the classroom, information on school reform, teacher preparation programs, community organizations, health agencies, businesses, and networks for comprehensive community development, both in the States and abroad. We hope you will help us to make this collection a treasure for all those working in development!

*The deadline for submissions is February 15th, 2000. Please submit papers to:
Fellows/USA Program, 1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526*



New Fellows/USA Materials Unveiled

We are proud to introduce the new Fellows/USA "look." We have produced a new brochure and catalog, Plans are underway for the production of a poster that will be sent to each overseas post and to Volunteers as they begin

their service. Many of you have suggested ways that we can improve recruitment for the Fellows/USA Program, and these suggestions played a large part in the creation of this new campaign. The new look will be applied to

the Fellows/USA web site as well, which is expected to be ready in January.

We look forward to hearing your reaction to the new materials.

Crisis Corps: *Immediate Impact in Difficult Situations*



Joe Wilson (standing, right) was a PCV in Panama and Nicaragua and was one of the first Crisis Corps Volunteers to arrive in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch.

"The Crisis Corps reminded me why I joined the Peace Corps in the first place. It was an intense and unforgettable experience. I'm glad I had the chance to use my construction skills and Spanish to help people through a very rough time."

Joe Wilson, RPCV and Crisis Corps Volunteer

When Hurricanes Georges and Mitch slammed into the Caribbean and Central America last year, RPCVs who had served in the region immediately began calling the Crisis Corps to see how they could help. The Crisis Corps is a Peace Corps program that mobilizes Volunteers completing their tours and returned Volunteers to provide short-term assistance after natural disasters and in humanitarian crises.

Since the program was created several years ago, more than 200 Crisis Corps Volunteers have worked in 20 countries. Through their good work, these Volunteers have confirmed the assumption underlying the creation of the Crisis

Corps: that returned Volunteers, by virtue of their Peace Corps training and experience, have the language, technical and cross cultural skills to make an immediate impact in the most difficult situations.

Over the last year, 112 Crisis Corps Volunteers have worked on hurricane relief and reconstruction projects in the Caribbean and Central America. They repaired water systems, built houses, trained unskilled workers in basic construction techniques, worked with farmers on agriculture rehabilitation projects, and provided health care and trauma counseling to communities.

Crisis Corps Volunteers have also been working in Guinea with refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in Zambia with Congolese refugees. Their work includes teaching basic business skills to refugees, monitoring and evaluating food distribution programs, and helping with the construction of housing and sanitation facilities.

There will be more requests for Volunteers to help with ongoing reconstruction activities in the Dominican Republic and in Central America. The Crisis Corps will also continue working with refugees in Africa.

RPCVs interested in the Crisis Corps can obtain an application and additional information about the program by calling 1-800-424-8580, ext 2250 or by e-mail at: crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov.

Here's what I do to introduce the concept of "stereotypes" to my students. I've used it with kids of various ages and cultures and it has always been a hit.

Sherry Hyatt
(Bulgaria, '96-'98)
Fellow at
Northern Arizona University

Teaching About Cultures

1. Ask for four brave volunteers.
2. Give one pair of volunteers a made-up name like (Kiki people) or (Juma people).
3. Let each pair read a card stating what they believe about the other pair. For example "I believe that the Kiki people spit in people's faces when they are meeting for the first time" and "I believe that the Juma people consider it polite to get close to another person's face when meeting for the first time."
4. Give the two groups a minute to discuss separately how they will act when they introduce themselves to the other group.
5. Explain to the class that each group believes something about the other, but they don't know what the other people believe about them.
6. Have the two pairs come in front of the class and introduce themselves to each other.
7. Ask them how they felt the meeting went, how they felt during the introduction, and why they think the other group behaved the way they did.
8. Have each group reveal what belief they thought to be true about the other group during the introduction.

I then go on to define "stereotype" with the students. We discuss what stereotypes exist in our culture, and how those beliefs might limit us.

Peace Corps Day 2000

Share Peace Corps experiences with your community on Peace Corps Day — March 7, 2000. This year's theme, "Bringing the World Home to Our Nation's Schools," is intended to raise awareness nationwide about the educational resources that the Peace Corps, returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), and RPCV groups offer on national and local levels throughout the year. Fellows, with their unique connections within their communities, have an important role to play in the celebration.

What can *you* do to get involved? Informational brochures will be mailed in late November encouraging all returned Volunteers to share stories from their host country with students. Commit to participating by returning the brochure reply card and then following up with your Fellows Program Coordinator to plan Peace Corps Day events. You may work with students on a daily basis and have many classrooms to choose from, or you might need to do some research to find a classroom. Make an ef-

fort to make it a valuable day for you and the students you reach!

Fellows Coordinators have received information about Peace Corps Day and can help connect Fellows interested in organizing a larger program. In the past, Fellows have been especially successful organizing group presentations in their communities. Whether you coordinate with other Fellows or go to a school independently, the important thing is to participate!



Questions? Ideas? Contact Lisa Ward, Peace Corps Day Coordinator at eward@peacecorps.gov or (800) 424-8580 (press 2, press 1, then ext. 1422).

Closing Notes



If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in the Peace Corps publication "Hotline"... please contact Shanta Swezy at hotline@peacecorps.gov. Hotline articles are centered on career exploration and advice (Fellows/USA Program experiences count.)

Show your support for Peace Corps by making sure all of your letters have the Peace Corps stamp! The new Peace Corps stamp, part of the 1960's series from the U.S. Postal Service, is now available at your local post office.

Help to make this newsletter better... Submit your articles (with pictures, if possible) by February 15th for the Spring 2000 issue. Thank you to the education Fellows for all of your submissions. Stories on community development work are always welcome.

Please address all comments/suggestions for the newsletter to the Newsletter Editor, Beth Allgood, (202) 692-1434, eallgood@peacecorps.gov.

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