



# e-PASSPORT

A monthly publication for friends of the Peace Corps

*“Never before has man had such a great capacity to control his own environment, to end hunger, poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and human misery. We have the power to make the best generation of mankind in the history of the world.”*

- President John F. Kennedy

See Pages 4 & 5 for the latest Peace Corps Opportunities

**Peace Corps  
Southwest Regional  
Recruitment Office**

**Arkansas  
Louisiana  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Texas**

**207 S. Houston St.  
Room 527  
Dallas, TX 75202**

**www.peacecorps.gov  
1-800-424-8580**

## Peace Corps recruits at South Padre reaching 12,000 plus students

The Southwest Regional Recruitment Office sent six of its staff members to one of the nation’s popular Spring Break destinations — South Padre Island. For four weeks in March, Peace Corps Recruiters conduct outreach and promoted awareness.

More than 240,000 people from all over the nation stayed on the small, narrow island off the coast of South Texas.

Of those 240,000, 75 percent were college students.

Peace Corps Recruiters, along with the U.S. Army and several private companies, set up a career fair/trade show on the popular Radisson Resort Beach.

“It was like a never-ending career fair,” said Recruiter Linnea Ashley. “Monday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., we were out there manning the booth and walking up and down the beach promoting Peace Corps.”

The Peace Corps staff was able to talk to more than 12,000 students on the beach, answering basic questions and sharing their experiences abroad as Volunteers.

“The most popular question was ‘What is the Peace Corps?’ which I was happy to answer. Hopefully if the opportunity is not for them, he or she will tell a friend about it,”



*Above: University of Kansas Spring Breakers signed up for Peace Corps information. Recruiters (L-R) Daniel Mendieta, Linnea Ashley, Errol Mazursky, James Barta and Megan Burkholder spoke to more than 12,000 spring breakers in March.*



said Recruiter Megan Burkholder.

Peace Corps Recruiters also took the opportunity to do outreach in the surrounding community by hosting eight general information meetings in nearby cities and recruiting at local universities.

Out of the 12,000 who came into contact with recruiters, more than 4,600 filled out inquiry cards to learn more about the Peace Corps via e-mail; 168 requested applications on the spot. ♦

*On May 15, Secretary of State Colin Powell met with Peace Corps Volunteers in Bulgaria during a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of U.S.-Bulgarian diplomatic relations. In his speech to the Bulgarian government, he highlighted the work of the Peace Corps. "Today, our Peace Corps Volunteers are working hand-in-hand with you to strengthen your new democracy."*

## Peace Corps in Bulgaria



## More than 1,100 Americans joined Peace Corps this spring

Peace Corps Director Gaddi H. Vasquez announced that Peace Corps is experiencing substantial growth in the number of Americans serving abroad.

By the end of April, more than 1,100 trainees will have been sent to posts worldwide since the beginning of the year. These assignments range in location from Africa to Asia, Central and South America.

Receiving these new trainees are: Panama, Nicaragua, Thailand, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Mali, Bolivia, El Salvador, Zambia, Paraguay, Philippines, Guyana, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Honduras, Romania, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, Nepal, Malawi, Uganda, Ukraine, Senegal, Botswana, Georgia, Namibia, Eastern Caribbean, East Timor, and Bulgaria.

One of those Peace Corps Trainees who left to Bulgaria was Arkansas resident Kara Elizabeth Kinder. "I will help secondary teachers prepare lesson plans for instructing English," said the 24-year-old Clarksville resident.

Joining Kinder in Bulgaria is Clyde Williams of Amarillo, Texas. He will also teach English in the Eastern European nation. "I was bothered by how crazy this

world's situation is currently," said Williams' mother Karon Williams, who thought about joining the Peace Corps when she was young.

"But I am reassured by the safety and security the agency provides. I'm happy and proud of him," she said.

At the end of 2002, requests for applications had risen by 30 percent, and new applications had risen by 18 percent over the previous year.

With increased requests for applications, a record number of Americans are heeding President Bush's call to service. In his 2002 State of the Union Address, the President called for every American to commit at least two years—4,000 hours over a lifetime—to service here or abroad.

Director Vasquez said, "Peace Corps Volunteer numbers are a reflection of Americans' willingness to step forward and take up the President's call. If the upward trend continues, Peace Corps will be well on its way to fulfilling its goal of doubling the number of Volunteers by the year 2007—a historic goal which has not been reached since the early '60s." ♦

## Upcoming Recruitment Trips

### ■ Austin, Texas

University of Texas Student Union every Wednesday this summer, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The presentation takes place inside the Cactus Cafe. For directions, call (512) 232-9436.

### ■ Gallup, New Mexico

University of New Mexico at Gallup on July 8, Noon to 1 p.m. inside Calvin Hall Auditorium Room 248. For more information, call (505) 277-6848.

### ■ Fort Worth, Texas

Fort Worth International Center on July 17, and August 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. The FWIC is located on 711 Houston St.. For directions, call (817) 212-2668.

### ■ Dallas, Texas

R.E.I. on July 14, and August 20, 6:30 to 8 p.m. R.E.I. is located on 4515 LBJ Freeway. For directions call (972) 490-5989.

### ■ Houston, Texas

Houston Public Library on July 23, 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. The library is located on 500 McKinney Ave., Concourse Room. For directions, call (832) 393-1313.

### ■ Albuquerque, New Mexico

A Peace Corps Presentation at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque on July 31, 4 to 5 p.m. The presentation takes place at the Latin American and Iberian Institute on 801 Yale N.E. For directions call (505) 277-6848.

**To attend any of these events, please reserve a seat by e-mailing [RSVP@peacecorps.gov](mailto:RSVP@peacecorps.gov). If you are outside the Southwest Region, please visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) for events near you. ♦**

# Exotic places, friendly faces Peace Corps will take you there



*Left: Sayuri Beltran taught primary school as a Peace Corps Volunteer, sometimes on the beach.*

*Below: A picture of one of the many coastal towns Beltran visited during her service.*

Imagine spending your Friday afternoons on a Caribbean beach, watching the waves roll in and out. This was one of the perks University of Texas graduate Sayuri Beltran of Dallas, Texas, enjoyed as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Grenada.

“I lived in a great neighborhood,” said Beltran, who taught teachers how to instruct primary education in the island nation. “I had a wonderful two bedroom cottage with running water.”

Ms. Beltran headed to the Caribbean to work in Grenada’s school system right after college. “I was in charge of teaching techniques in the areas of reading, writing and spelling to local teachers,” she said. Peace Corps’ education sector is the largest request from its host countries. Out of the 6,800 Volunteers currently out in the field, 34 percent work in some form in education, either in a elementary, high school or university setting.

Aside from two years of helping other help themselves, the Peace Corps adventure includes other benefits: 24 vacation days a year,

monthly stipend, housing, medical and dental, transportation to and from your host country, and a \$6,075 readjustment allowance after service. But the most lucrative benefit is graduate study. Peace Corps offers two ways to obtain a master’s degree: the Master’s International Program and the Fellows/USA Program.

The Master’s International Program is a way for students to earn their master’s degree in combination with their Peace Corps service. Some institutions even grant credit hours for Peace Corps services. Students generally attend the university for a year, serve a



*Today, Sayuri Beltran is a successful lawyer in Dallas. She is married to Tommy Morris and mother to Tristan Beltran Morris.*



full two-year term in Peace Corps, and return to finish any coursework. There are 43 schools nationwide participating in the program.

The Fellows/USA Program has partnered with 33 universities to offer financial assistance for Peace Corps Volunteers when they get back to the state, in exchange for internships which help under-served communities near these educational institutions.

“As far as my career, I don’t think I would have had the chance to get into law school without my Peace Corps experience on my resume,” said Beltran, who practices law and is now raising a family. “Peace Corps is one of the most rewarding jobs you can sign up for. You will come back to the United States feeling you received more from your host country than you gave.” ♦

## Open to All

## ENVIRONMENT

**Environmental Education-Europe:** 20 Volunteers are needed to teach environmental topics in schools, summer camps, and communities. Starts February.

**Environmental Education-Asia:** 17 Volunteers are needed to work in environmental education in the community; 5 Volunteers needed to work in marine conservation and ecology. Starts January.

## AGRICULTURE

**Crop Extension-Africa:** 5 Volunteers are need to work in community-based agroforestry projects. Starts February.

**Agriculture Economics-Central Asia:** 2 Volunteers are needed to work with farmers' co-ops, food processing centers and agriculture students. Starts February.

**Agriculture Extension-Africa:** 7 Volunteers are needed for community forestry assignment. Starts February.

**Agriculture Extension-Asia:** 5 Volunteers are needed to work in community development and coastal resources management. Starts January.

## HEALTH

**Hygiene Education and Sanitation-Africa:** 7 Volunteers are needed for community water/sanitation and health extension projects. Starts January.

**Environmental and Water Resources Engineering-Asia:** 2 Volunteers are needed for sustainable use of water resources. Starts January.

**Health Degreed-Central Asia:** 5 Volunteers are needed to help strengthen public health education services and promote healthy lifestyles. Starts February.

**Health Degreed-Caribbean:** 4 Volunteers are needed to work in community health. Starts February.

**Health Extension-Africa:** 8 Volunteers are needed to teach health in schools and HIV/AIDS awareness. Starts January.

**Health Extension-Central Asia:** 3 Volunteers are needed to develop education programs and awareness campaigns focused on maternal, youth and reproductive health, as well as HIV/AIDS, STDs, smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, hygiene and nutrition education. Starts February.

**Health Extension-Africa:** 8 Volunteers are needed for health education with a focus on HIV/AIDS. Starts January.

## Open to All

## HEALTH

**Health Extension-Asia:** 4 Volunteers are needed to work in centers with out-of-school youth, ages 15-25. Activities will center on health education, community mobilization and non-formal education activities. Starts February.

**Health Extension-Caribbean:** 6 Volunteers are needed to work in the community promoting health. Starts February.

## BUSINESS

**Business Advising-Europe:** 25 Volunteers are needed to teach business courses, develop curriculum and contribute management skills. Starts February.

**Business Advising-Asia:** 32 Volunteers are needed to work in developing livelihood projects with youth groups or community centers. Starts January.

**Business Development-Europe:** 30 Volunteers are needed to advise businesses on free market activities in private and public institutions. Starts February.

**Non-Governmental Organization Advising-Central Asia:** 2 Volunteers are needed to work on public health development and awareness in the community; 10 Volunteers are needed to help increase capacity of NGOs to work effectively with local government. Starts February.

**Non-Governmental Organization Advising-Europe:** 30 Volunteers are needed to help staff learn how to access outside resources to upgrade equipment, facilities and training. Starts February.

**Non-Governmental Organization Advising-Central Asia:** 10 Volunteers are needed to assist community-based organizations on developing into sustainable entities. Starts January.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Community Service-Africa:** 8 Volunteers are needed to work on community-based health education; 11 Volunteers are needed to work on non-formal education assignments based in primary schools. Starts January.

**Community Service-Central Asia:** 12 Volunteers are needed to work in secondary schools, universities and nongovernmental organizations teaching environmental education to teachers and developing supporting materials for the assignment. Starts February.

## Open to All

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Community Service-Asia:** 9 Volunteers are needed to work in centers with youth, ages 15-25, by organizing activities and non-formal education (literacy, English and life skills). Starts January.

## EDUCATION

**Primary Education/Teacher Trainer-Africa:** 16 Volunteers are needed to train teachers; 4 Volunteers are needed to work in non-formal primary school education and teacher training. Starts January.

**Primary Education/Teacher Trainer-Central Asia:** 15 Volunteers are needed to work with local counterparts to assist English teachers. Starts January.

**Primary Education/Teacher Trainer-Asia:** 20 Volunteers are needed to work in primary schools with English teachers and classrooms, also working to build links between the school and community through various projects. Starts January.

**Primary Education/Teacher Trainer-Asia:** 7 Volunteers are needed to teach grades 4-5 the first year, then work with counterparts to train primary English teachers. Starts February.

**English Teacher-Africa:** 10 Volunteers are needed to train teachers in English teaching. Must have six months of direct teaching experience. Starts January.

**English Teacher-Central Asia:** 10 Volunteers are needed to teach primary grades. Experience working with primary kids, summer camps and tutoring/mentoring preferred. Starts January.

**English Teacher-Central Asia:** 6 Volunteers are needed to teach in secondary schools and work with teachers on methodologies, lessons plans and English conversation, plus a variety of secondary projects. Starts February.

**English Teacher-Asia:** 27 Volunteers are needed to teach English in secondary schools and work with marginalized populations to improve educational opportunities. Starts January.

**Secondary Education/Math-Africa:** 7 Volunteers are needed to train math teachers in curriculum development, will not involve direct classroom teaching. Must have six months of direct teaching experience, not tutoring. Education degree required. Starts January.

## Open to All

### EDUCATION

**Secondary Education/Science-Africa:** 7 Volunteers are needed to train science teachers in curriculum development. No classroom teaching will be involved. Must have six months of direct teaching experience, not tutoring. Education degree preferred. Starts January.

**Secondary Education/Science-Asia:** 10 Volunteers are needed to teach in secondary schools in chemistry labs, plus organizing labs, identifying materials, and planning lessons. Starts February.

## French Speakers

### ENVIRONMENT

**Forestry-Africa:** 5 Volunteers are needed to teach an agroforestry project. Starts January.

**Forestry-Middle East/North Africa:** 10 Volunteers are needed to teach forestry. Starts February.

**Environmental Education-Africa:** 10 Volunteers are needed to work in environmental education project. Starts January.

**Environmental Education-North Africa/Mediterranean:** 10 Volunteers are needed for environmental projects. Starts February.

### AGRICULTURE

**Agriculture Extension-Africa:** 5 Volunteers are needed to work in agroforestry projects. Starts January.

**Agriculture Extension-Africa:** 40 Volunteers are needed to work in agriculture, gardening and natural resource management. Starts February.

### HEALTH

**Hygiene Education and Sanitation-Africa:** 32 Volunteers are needed for community water/sanitation and health extension projects. Starts January.

**Hygiene Education and Sanitation-North Africa/Mediterranean:** 10 Volunteers are needed for community water/sanitation and health extension projects. Starts February.

**Environment and Water Resources Engineering-Africa:** 5 Volunteers are needed to work with community and design a water resource management system. Starts January.

## French Speakers

### HEALTH

**Environment and Water Resources Engineering-Africa:** 3 Volunteers are needed to work on a water resource management system. Starts February.

**Health Extension-Africa:** 26 Volunteers are needed for health education in rural areas. Starts January.

**Health Extension-North Africa/Mediterranean:** 15 Volunteers are needed to work on hygiene, sanitation and disease control. Starts February.

**Health Extension-Latin America:** 57 Volunteers are needed to work in water sanitation; 9 Volunteers needed to address health issues in a rural setting, including nutrition. Starts January.

### BUSINESS

**Urban and Regional Planning-Africa:** 4 Volunteers are needed for water and sanitation rehabilitation. Starts January.

## Spanish Speakers

### ENVIRONMENT

**Forestry-Latin America:** 8 Volunteers are needed to help protect natural resources. Starts January.

**Forestry-Latin America:** 15 Volunteers are needed to help protect natural resources. Starts February.

**Parks and Wildlife-Latin America:** 10 Volunteers are needed for conservation/income generation projects. Starts January.

**Environmental Education-Latin America:** 8 Volunteers are needed to teach in schools and the community about the environment. Starts January.

**Environmental Education-Latin America:** 4 Volunteers are needed to work on environmental awareness in the community. Starts February.

### AGRICULTURE

**Crop Extension-Latin America:** 14 Volunteers are needed to work with farmers to increase production and improve soil quality. Starts January.

**Agriculture Economics-Latin America:** 8 Volunteers are needed to work in agriculture business. Starts February.

**Animal Husbandry-Latin America:** 8 Volunteers are needed with experience in veterinary technology or a degree in animal science. Starts February.

## Spanish Speakers

### AGRICULTURE

**Agricultural Extension-Latin America:** 8 Volunteers are needed to work with farmers to improve soil quality and increase crop production. Starts January.

**Agricultural Extension-Latin America:** 11 Volunteers are needed for agriculture business in a rural area. Starts February.

### HEALTH

**Hygiene Education and Sanitation-Latin America:** 29 Volunteers are needed for sanitation education. Starts January.

**Environmental and Water Resources Engineering-Latin America:** 6 Volunteers are needed for water and sanitation projects. Starts February.

**Health Degreed-Latin America:** 5 Volunteers are needed to teach students health. Starts January.

**Health Degreed-Latin America:** 5 Volunteers are needed for community services health specialists. Starts February.

### BUSINESS

**Urban and Regional Planning-Latin America:** 5 Volunteers are needed to work on water and sanitation rehabilitation. Starts February.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Community Service-Latin America:** 30 Volunteers are needed to work in rural community development and regional planning. Starts January.

**Urban Youth Development-Latin America:** 25 Volunteers are needed to work with urban youth. Starts January.

### EDUCATION

**Primary Education/Teacher Trainer-Latin America:** 2 Volunteers are needed for environmental conservation/income generation projects; 12 Volunteers are needed to teach health; 10 Volunteers are needed for early childhood education. Volunteers will also train teachers of Pre K through grade 3 bilingual education (Spanish and Guarani) with a health outreach component. Starts January.

**Apply Now  
To Be Abroad  
This Winter!**

# Volunteer takes IT skills to the South Pacific

When Bao-Luan Le graduated in May 2000 from the University of Texas at Dallas, he walked away with an impressive background — one degree in physics and the other one in applied mathematics, plus years of experience in the technology field. But rather than compete with hundreds of thousands for lucrative jobs in the IT field, he opted for an adventure in the South Pacific.

“I first learned about the Peace Corps when I was in high school and even then Peace Corps Volunteers already had my admiration. The idea of becoming a Volunteer didn’t materialize until my third year in college when I was taking a course in ethics which strongly affirmed my conviction in volunteerism,” Le said. “Then I decided to join the Peace Corps and made it part of my education.”

While many tech heads experienced layoffs in the IT-bust of 2001 in the United States, Le put his degree to work and experienced life outside of his comfort zone in one of the most exotic places on earth... Vanuatu.

Le brought 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to many young students of an island community, located between the Fiji Islands and the east coast of Australia. But if one thinks it was all grass huts and/or tribal councils *ala* “Survivor,” think again. “I was assigned to Malapoa College, an anglophone secondary school, which taught grades 7 through 13, in Port Vila,” he said. Port Vila is the capital of Vanuatu, with a population of 35,000, making it the largest city in the archipelago strung out over 800 miles of the South Pacific.

Vanuatu, a former colony of France and Great Britain, became independent in 1980. Only 67 of Vanuatu’s 82 islands are



*(Above) When not instructing computer courses, Bao-Luan Le oversaw science-field trips, such as the one pictured above which observed polola worms spawning at night. (Upper Right) Le ran a student computer lab, which also served as his classroom. (Right) Le hopes to return to the Peace Corps as a Country Director.*



inhabited with a total population of 200,000. “Information Technology Advisor was my official title and my duty was to teach computer studies, electronics and mathematics,” Le said. “In addition to my teaching duty, I also helped build a computer network and maintain two computer labs. I also built two databases to ease the record keeping task and to improve the process of writing student report cards for the teaching staff.”

Vanuatu’s citizens, “Ni-Vanuatu,” welcomed Le, along with other Volunteers, in their community. “I would say that the majority of Ni-Vanuatu think favorably of America, Americans and particularly Peace Corps Volunteers,” Le said. “Many of the older Ni-Vanuatu have fond memories of Americans from World War II. They like to tell stories of ‘when the Americans were here... they brought this... they did that.’”

A typical day for Le would have him get up around 6 a.m. and get ready for school, which started at 7 a.m. His walk to school took 10 minutes.

“When I didn’t have classes, I usually spend the whole morning at school doing odd jobs like fixing minor PC/printer problems, which occur regularly, or preparing next lessons when needed,” he said. “After school, I usually go straight home and prepare dinner. My day mostly

revolved around the computers, the school and the students.”

Those students felt comfortable enough to accept Le as a peer. “I remembered how good I felt when I found out that one of my student took my bottle of water and hid it from me,” Le said. “I knew then that I was accepted among my students. She would never do such a thing to any other Ni-Vanuatu teacher because it’s not appropriate to play pranks with one’s teacher in Ni-Van culture. That was one of my best moments.”

Le got back in December 2002, and often shares his experience with others. “The Peace Corps is a beautiful concept,” he said. “I think that anyone would be very proud to be a part of it.”

He admits, though, that the Peace Corps is not for everyone. It takes a special, dedicated person. “To me Peace Corps is more than just about helping other people or an unique experience for oneself to grow. My personal view of a Peace Corps Volunteer is that she/he is an agent of exchanging differences, of friendship, of fostering an equal relationship between cultures,” he said. ♦



## “Everything You Wanted To Know...”

By Errol Mazursky

### Do you recommend I apply online or through the mail?

**Christopher from Roswell, N.M**

There are many reasons why applying online is more convenient. When you apply online the system automatically prompts you if you have made an error. We often receive paper applications that are incomplete and that can significantly delay the application process because we have to return the application and wait for it to be completed correctly. When you apply online there is no delay in our receiving your application. We can usually upload your application in 24 hours where as the mail system is...well it's the mail system and you just never know how long it's going to take.

### What should I do before I interview with a recruiter?

**Elizabeth from Baton Rouge, La.**

I cannot tell you the number of times I contact applicants to discuss the interview process and they want to know what they can do to get themselves prepared. As with any interview, the more you know going into it the better you are. I would highly suggest attending a general information meeting. You can find out about recruiting events in your area by using our website. The website is also a great place to find out more information about Peace Corps. By being informed you can ask your recruiter intelligent questions. Make sure that you review your resume before your interview, you would be surprised what you can forget if you start to get nervous. Most importantly, dress professionally. Although many people have a perception of what the Peace Corps is you have to remember that you are applying for a job. Although we like to conduct our interviews in-person it is possible to conduct interviews over the phone. We know that it is not always possible for you to make the trip to Dallas or we may not be coming to a city near you for awhile. You will certainly want to discuss the interview logistics with your recruiter. ♦

**Interested in joining the Peace Corps?**

**Call 1-800-424-8580.**

**Or visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).**

## Postcards from Abroad

“Hello! I have started my training. I have been here for a week now and have thoroughly enjoyed my stay so far! I was suprised by how much the government hooks us up. There are 37 of us from my training group ranging in age from 21 to 53. We all live with a family in different villages surrounding Santa Lucia Milpas Atlas just outside of Guatemala City.”

**Brook Sawyers**  
Agriculture Volunteer  
Guatemala

“I have been a Peace Corps Trainee a month now, and things continue to go well. There is so much that I want to share — the smells, the sounds and tastes amaze me still. As I stand looking out the window of my upper-story room, I can see about 30 shades of green.”

**Melissa Davini**  
Education Volunteer  
Thailand

“Life is pretty hectic, and I just realized I have been in my site for almost a week and haven't let anyone besides family know. I live in a mud hut that is 11-feet across with a thatched roof. My host father is not the village chief, but I will live in the chief's compound. The only reason I know so much is that I got to meet the current Volunteer at the site right now.”

**Stephanie Hunnicutt**  
Agriculture Volunteer  
Senegal

“Today we found out whre we will be stationed, and we will be leaving to visit our future sites this next week. This is the most exciting day for all of us. The high points for me so far have been the visits to the parks nearby the training center and seeing giraffes, zebras, warthogs, water buffalo and, of course, hippos.”

**Robin Reider**  
Business Volunteer  
Kenya