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Alum Keep UNH Peace Corps Ranking In Top 25

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UNH Media Relations

January 22, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - With 24 graduates currently serving in the Peace Corps, the University of New Hampshire ranks number 19 on the service organization's annual list of top volunteers among colleges and universities of similar size.

Schools are ranked according to the student body population. Medium size schools like UNH have between 5,001 and 15,000 undergraduates. Since its inception in 1961, 633 UNH alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers.

Although it is not a requirement for service, the majority of volunteers who have served in the Peace Corps have been college graduates. Currently, 83 percent of the volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree; 11 percent have graduate degrees. Two alumni now volunteering received their graduate degrees at UNH.

Students from more than 3,000 colleges and universities across the nation and Puerto Rico have entered the Peace Corps since President John Kennedy called upon America's youth to volunteer in developing countries.

"The Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for graduates to use their education and skills and apply them in the real world," said Peace Corps director Ron Tschetter. "These institutions can be proud of the contributions their graduates are making in the lives of others around the globe."

Presently, more than 7,800 Peace Corps volunteers are living and working in 76 countries around the world. To date, nearly 200,000 people have helped to better relationships between Americans and the people of 139 countries.

UNH volunteers have served in the Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Malawi, Micronesia, Moldova, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zambia and are helping with agriculture, business advising and development, teaching English, high school or secondary level math and science, environmental education, forestry, protected areas management, health, and youth development.

Fields of study while at UNH included education, business administration, health administration, communications, anthropology, biology, wildlife biology/management, forestry, economics, English, environmental studies, journalism, political science, Spanish, social work, sociology and international studies.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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