Three other Ohio schools made the list – Miami University-Oxford among medium-sized schools with 43 volunteers, and among smaller-sized schools, Oberlin College with 16 volunteers and Denison University with 14 volunteers.

This year, University of Washington holds the top rank for large schools with 101 currently serving Peace Corps volunteer undergraduate alumni. In the medium school category, The George Washington University ranks number one with 53 undergraduate alumni serving. For small schools, St. Olaf ranks highest, with 26 currently serving undergraduate alumni volunteers. You can view the entire top 25 rankings for each school size category here.

“For nearly 50 years, enthusiastic college alumni have contributed to the success of Peace Corps programs and our mission to promote world peace and friendship in host communities around the world,” said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. “Peace Corps service is a life changing leadership opportunity and a great career foundation in almost every field, ranging from international development, education, public health, engineering, agriculture, and law, to name a few. I am proud of our historic relationship with over 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States and look forward to recruiting and training the next generation of Peace Corps volunteers.”

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing schools annually according to the size of the student body. Small schools have less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates, and large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates.

Currently, there are 7,671 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 76 host countries around the world. A college degree is not mandatory for service; however, approximately 89 percent of volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree. Relevant skills and experience is required in Peace Corps program areas such as education, English teaching (ESL); youth and community development; public health and HIV/AIDS work; environment, agriculture and forestry; and business development and IT. In 2009, Peace Corps received over 15,000 applications, an 18 percent increase over 2008. This is the largest number of applications since the agency began electronically recording applications in 1998.

The Peace Corps provides both tangible benefits and a life-defining leadership experience. Peace Corps volunteers return from service as global citizens and receive support from the Peace Corps in the form of career services, graduate school opportunities, advantages in federal employment, readjustment allowances, and loan deferment and cancellation opportunities.
Peace Corps works with The Ohio State University to host an on-campus recruiter to provide information about Peace Corps and share personal experience as a Peace Corps volunteer. Jack Campbell, who served two terms in Peace Corps in Fiji and Botswana, can be reached at 614-292-3008, peacecorps@osu.edu, or anyone interested in learning more can attend one of his public Peace Corps Information Sessions this semester:

Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center, Room 100F

Thursday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. at Ramseyer Hall, Room RA110

Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Kuhn Honors and Scholars House, Room 201

Wednesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Townshend Hall, Room T0247

In addition, Peace Corps’ nine regional recruiting offices across the United States work to recruit and provide information and guidance to prospective Peace Corps applicants. Peace Corps recruiters work locally throughout each region and many are responsible for specific college and university campuses. Potential applicants can connect with their local regional recruiting office by visiting the Peace Corps website at www.peacecorps.gov/events.

There are approximately 317 Ohio residents serving in the Peace Corps, making it one of the highest Peace Corps-producing states. Overall, 6,593 Ohio residents have served in Peace Corps since 1961, when it began under President John F. Kennedy.

As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world with 7,671 volunteers serving in 76 host countries. Historically, nearly 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age, but there is no upper age limit to serve. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. To learn more about the Peace Corps, please visit our website: www.peacecorps.gov.