Students Learning Across the Globe

Ohio State ranked 13th in Peace Corps volunteers

The Peace Corps released its yearly ranking of universities producing the most Peace Corps volunteers and Ohio State has once again made the list. The Ohio State University ranked 13th among the top 25 large universities, with 71 alumni currently serving abroad. Ohio State also appears in the rankings of the top 10 all-time highest producers of Peace Corps volunteers, taking the number 10 spot with 1,613 alumni volunteering since the program’s inception in 1961.

Anupama Joseph

“My experience involved spending six weeks in the small town of Toledo, Spain, 45 minutes south of Madrid. I took three different classes, all taught in Spanish, in the areas of culture, literature, and philosophy. Only having class Monday through Thursday left my weekends free for travel and exploration around all parts of the country; some trips were orchestrated by the school, and others were individually planned. Students had the opportunity either to live with a host family or in the dorm; I chose to stay in the dorm, finding that traveling through the cities provided plenty of cultural immersion with native Spanish speakers while simultaneously forging close friendships with the others in the dorm. Studying abroad was the most ideal way allowed for me to experience something I would have never would have learned, allowing me to broaden my worldview and expand my respect for diversity.

Anupama is a senior majoring in biochemistry and Spanish.

Chris and Laurie Williams

“When I was asked about my primary responsibilities, Bustos said, “As a volunteer in education and youth development, I work with primary and secondary grade teachers, students and principals to strengthen basic reading and math skills. I also work with students to improve their life skills and community service by working and empowering youth.”

Bustos works on secondary projects as well, such as creating solar fruit driers and organic gardens, composting and teaching fish farming.

Bustos said that Ohio State prepared her well for international service in that the university “helped me adapt to people of different backgrounds such as ethnicities, religions, race and forms of thought because OSU is so diverse, open-minded and progressive.”

Upon her return from Paraguay, Bustos said she would like to earn her master’s degree in landscape architecture, perhaps start an architecture and landscape architecture firm with her husband and “of course,” she said, “become a volunteer in my future community and work on different issues such as environmental awareness, education and organic farming.”

Metamucil is currently home for Chris and Laura Williams, two more married alumni committed to humanitarian service through the Peace Corps.

“When we left Columbus in early March to spend 10 days traveling in India, we held our breaths for building Upon Ohio State’s global connections. A small delegation from Ohio State led, by President E. Gordon Gee, traveled to Ahmedabad, New Delhi and Mumbai to forge new partnerships in research, connect with our alumni, meet with high school students interested in pursuing higher education and build new friendships – hopefully at Ohio State – and most importantly, officially launch the Ohio State India Gateway in Mumbai, our second international office. The Ohio State India Gateway is the division’s business section of Shanghai opened in the summer of 2010.

Ramneek Bhattacharya, who serves as our director of the India Gateway, had arrived in Mumbai just a week earlier, and had just finished completing much of our arrangements in-country. Ramneek is a native Ohio State grad, most recently from the Moritz College of Law. Based in Mumbai, he will focus on developing our alumni network, building relationships and facilitating academic and corporate partnerships in India and beyond.

Our schedule in India was tight, but worthwhile. President Gee had invited us to give a keynote address at the EDGIE Conference on Higher Education in New Delhi, the Distinguished Lecture at the world-renowned Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad, and a major address before the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Mumbai office. We also met with the University of North Carolina.

During our stay we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with IIM – where we have an ongoing MBA student exchange program – that will focus on agribusiness. The new MOU makes a total of six between Ohio State and universities in India. And we met with some of our Ohio State alumni who are now working and teaching in India.

It was also fortunate to have a representative from the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and Indian Origin General Council with us as we met in Mumbai and when we met with leadership of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Tata Trust to discuss collaboration on health related issues in India. AAPI had a gala to benefit the India Gateway, which raised $25,000 to help operating expenses for the India Gateway office.

Working in India is nothing new for Ohio State. The university has been collaborating with universities and corporations in India since 1958, focusing on advancements in agricultural and environmental health.

Most recently, researchers from Ohio State and Pondicherry University have teamed up with experts from the University of Illinois to study the effects of gene flow between crops and their wild relatives, further solidifying research in the areas of food production, safety and supply. Students from the Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India, are collaborating to study the challenges of marketing products internationally. Ohio State’s internationally recognized Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering is working with partners in India on the development of a joint executive education program in automotive noise and vibration control.

It is these types of partnerships that strengthen Ohio State’s vision to be a global university.

William Brustein on global initiatives

For my research trip to Berlin, I was moved to discover who Magnus Dieter was. I felt quite connected to the topic I was undertaking, something I look directly connect with Germans is always a highlight being abroad.

I look forward to Kelechi continuing the course Dieter has established in support of the internationalization of this high university.

Kalu is a Korea Foundation visiting scholar at Ewha Womans University, and has previously held positions at the University of Denver, the University of Dayton and the University of North Carolina.

He is currently serving as associate editor of both the International Journal of Nogarian Studies and Development and the African Social Science Review, and is a member of the International Screening Committee for the Social Science Research Council program on Global Conflicts and Security. A past president of the International Studies Association-Southwestern, Kalu is also the author of Economic Development and Peace, and the recipient of African Scholars Research Board 2010 Excellence in Authorship award.

Kalu appointed to lead Office of International Affairs July 1

Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs William Brustein has selected Kelechi Kalu as the next Associate Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs at Ohio State.

Subject to approval by the Ohio State Board of Trustees, his appointment is effective July 1, 2012. Kalu is currently the director of the Center for African Studies and a professor of African American and African Studies at Ohio State. Dieter Wanner, the current Associate Provost, will retire at the end of June, remaining with the Office of International Affairs until that time to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

“Kelechi is a highly accomplished scholar possessing tremendous passion for preparing students for the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century,” said Brustein. “The position of Associate Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs is crucial to the success of Ohio State’s plan for internationalization and eminence, and Dieter has made considerable contributions to the internationalization of The Ohio State University during the past five years.

Kalu earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics at the University of North Texas, a master’s degree in political science and international affairs from the University of Dayton and a doctorate in international studies from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

“It is a privilege for me to help Ohio State achieve its goal of global preeminence through strategic internationalization in learning, discovery and engagement,” said Kalu. “I look forward to working with faculty and staff to help our students navigate the complex global marketplace, and guiding these citizens from Ohio and abroad who desire to know, discover and engage the world.”
Learning about Tibet in the museums of Europe

Champions of Change honors three from Ohio State

Ohio State's own Alexander Wendt named world's most influential scholar in international relations

International Student Profile: Helen Fan

Ten students participate in National Model African Union Conference