March 1 marked the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, as supporters around the country kicked off a month-long celebration of the volunteer program’s legacy of international service. On that same day, members of the Ohio State community and leaders from around the state gathered at the Ohio Union to commemorate the occasion.

Among notable faces like President E. Gordon Gee, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman and former Ohio Governor Bob Taft, Stephan L. Honoré, Ohio State’s first Peace Corps volunteer, stole the stage.

Honoré served in Colombia for two years, followed by two more years of service as a member of the Peace Corps staff in the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Steven Gabbe, senior vice president for health sciences at Ohio State, served as co-master of ceremonies with Joyce Beatty, senior vice president of outreach and engagement. Dr. Gabbe spoke to the crowd about his personal experience as the parent of a Peace Corps volunteer. His son, Adam, served in Western Niger from 1995–1997, digging wells to provide potable water to a village where one-third of the children didn’t live to age 5.

“We had to look at the map to find out where Western Niger was,” said Gabbe, who was clad in a handmade t-shirt from the African country. “But that’s part of the joy of the Peace Corps.”

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps provides service to 27 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Volunteers live, learn, and work with a community overseas for 27 months, providing technical assistance in six program areas: education, youth and community development, health, business and information and communications technology, agriculture, and environment.

Ohio State has been committed to the Peace Corps for 50 years and has been called “a leader among universities for graduates entering into the Peace Corps service.” Since Honoré paved the way for their service, 1,576 Ohio State alumni have served in the Peace Corps in 117 countries, including 68 undergraduate alumni of Ohio State, and nine graduate alumni who are currently serving.

Ohio State joins U.S.-China clean energy research partnership

Ohio State has been named to one of two research partnerships between the U.S. and China, seeking breakthroughs in clean energy development. U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced. The two consortia, one led by the University of Michigan and one led by West Virginia University, will receive a total of $25 million over the next five years under the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) program.

Ohio State will participate in the CERC-Clean Vehicles consortium led by the University of Michigan. Other consortium members include MIT, Sandia National Laboratories, Joint BioEnergy Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Chrysler, Cummins, Fraunhofer, MAGNET, A123 Systems, American Electric Power, FirstEnergy Corp., PJM and the Transportation Research Center. The U.S.-based consortium will collaborate closely with a similar group based in China.

The Ohio State team, led by researchers at the Center for Automotive Research, includes faculty experts in mechanical, electrical, integrated systems and materials engineering. Ohio State will provide significant research expertise in the areas of vehicle-grid integration and plug-in vehicles; aging and damage characterization of advanced batteries; lightweight vehicle structures; thermoelectrics for the recovery of waste heat; electric drive and power electronic systems; and alternative fuels and advanced engines.

Ohio State will receive $3 million and will cost share for a total program value of more than $7 million.

Students learning across the globe

Emily Severt

I have studied abroad three times, but my most recent experience was on the Human Animal Interaction program in New Zealand during Winter Break 2010. New Zealand was an amazing experience because I’d never been in another developed country like the United States. I am pursuing a career in food animal veterinary medicine, and being able to talk with farmers and compare their agricultural practices against our own was really beneficial. This experience also allowed me to compare human-animal interaction on a companion and zoo animal basis. I traveled with 34 students, and was able to get to know and connect with people from my college that I would not have otherwise. Animal welfare is such an important topic in today’s society, and I learned so much about what I thought, my classmates thought, and what people around the world thought.

Emily is a senior majoring in animal science.

Molly Heister

During the Autumn 2010 quarter at Ohio State, I took a class that met once a week for two hours. We studied the history and culture of London, England. At the end of the quarter, over winter break we traveled to London on the London Honors Study Abroad Program for 10 days to explore and live the culture we had studied. My study abroad experience was memorable because many of the places that we visited were the types of things that most people only get to see on television or in books. I felt like I was a part of something bigger because I was able to live the history and culture of so many landmark destinations.

Molly is a freshman majoring in business administration.
Global Strategies
A Q&A with William Brustein

How do the Gateways benefit internationalization at Ohio State?
There are two overarching strategies that comprise the six goals of the President’s and Provost’s Council on Strategic Internationalization: the Gateway strategy and the Academic strategy. The Gateway strategy emphasizes relationship building in key parts of the world in which Ohio State already has strong connections in terms of faculty research, students and alumni. It directly benefits those at Ohio State who are involved in some capacity with China, India and Brazil at the outset. The Gateways indirectly benefit the university as a whole by providing us with a strong physical presence in another country, which demonstrates our understanding of the importance of the global marketplace and our commitment to being an active participant in these knowledge-based centers of the world.

The Academic strategy directly affects students and faculty at Ohio State, and is based on enhancing research opportunities, formalizing agreements with institutions around the world and developing curriculum content rich in international themes. Additionally, other elements of an international education include study abroad, language competency, cultural awareness, and the potential for dual degrees.

How has the Gateway helped expand international partnerships?
The Gateway provides Ohio State the flexibility to build partnerships with a wide variety of constituencies. Our presence in Shanghai has helped us develop stronger relationships with universities in China and our faculty has been able to further their research efforts. We have seen our alumni begin to reconnect with each other — and Ohio State — and they are now more than 100 strong and growing.

(continued on page 2)
Students grapple with issues facing African countries.

Having spent months researching the country's policies on an array of topics, eight Ohio State students represented the Republic of Guinea at the National Model African Union Conference held at Howard University in Washington, D.C. last February. The Model African Union is a simulation of the African Union proceedings, and serves as the culminating event of students' studies at their home institutions. Ohio State was a first-time participant among the 30 universities sending a team of students.

The Model African Union provides a unique opportunity for students to study the role, structure and activities of the African Union as well as the economic, social and political-security issues facing African countries. At the conference each student group represents one or more member states of the African Union. Students initiate discussions based on their state's situation, draft resolutions, deliberate through committees, and follow their resolutions path to success or failure.

Darby O’Donnell, a junior majoring in international development and Arabic, said that on behalf of Guinea the Ohio State team drafted resolutions addressing mineral resource management, HIV/AIDS, and the establishment of a post-election peacekeeping division of the African Standby Force. After negotiating and attracting co-sponsors, all of their resolutions were passed through committees.

While attending the conference, it became apparent to O’Donnell that the needs of individual African nations are diverse and plentiful. “When addressing these issues it was crucial to identify other countries that shared similar concerns in order to draft and pass resolutions in the best interest of Guinea,” she explained. “My participation in this conference provided me networking opportunities with Africanist faculty from across the country and enriched my knowledge of issues facing the African continent.”

One of the key aspects of the conference for Evan Davis, a senior majoring in international studies and political science, was realizing the “sense of connectivity and reliability in the African Union. In speaking with ambassadors and researching I found that many African nations are dependent on one another economically and politically,” he explained. “This interdependence helps to create a common goal for the African Union and works to further unite the African continent. This experience also exposed the bureaucratic side of international organizations. Due to the structure, at times, it was difficult to come to consensus.

“This conference gave me a better understanding of International Organizations and public policy. Interacting with ambassadors and other students with similar interests allowed me to target my interests while learning more about the International system.”

Upon arrival in Washington, D.C., each student group was briefed on the issues plaguing their particular assigned country. In the case of Ohio State, students met with the Ambassador, Counsellor in Charge of Political Affairs and the First Secretary of the Embassy of Guinea. Kelechi Kalu and Laura Joseph, director and assistant director of the Center for African Studies, respectively, served as advisors to the Ohio State group of students.

CFAES grants (continued from page 1)

"With global population exploding, and new uses for the crops we grow, this grant is critical for addressing poverty and hunger in this part of the world," said Bobby Moser, Ohio State's vice president for agricultural administration and dean of CFAES. "This grant validates Ohio State's knowledge and tools for improving global food security and contributing to poverty alleviation and hunger reduction worldwide."

The five-year grant will boost the training and research capabilities of Tansania's National Agricultural Research System and Sokome University of Agriculture — the chief institutions of higher learning, research and outreach for the agricultural and food industry in this country.

CFAES has previously managed international development, research and outreach projects in many other sub-Saharan nations, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

What I was waiting for: Two chance encounters at Ohio State led to a global career

I was waiting tables at the Faculty Club when a French-speaking delegation arrived for lunch. The center of the group was a short, plump, graying man dressed in a dark blue suit and an old tie.

It was April 1950, my final quarter in the College of Agriculture. The previous autumn, I had applied for a Fulbright scholarship to study overseas. I was not accepted. The scholarships awarded that year, the first of the Fulbright program, favored liberal arts graduates.

I had been determined to go abroad ever since I met a Finnish graduate student, Jouko Voutilainen, at an International Students Day on campus the previous year. He showed me a picture book of his country. The orderliness and modern architecture—along with his description of Finland’s progressive social democracy—shook me out of my belief that the U.S. was the only modern country in the world. I decided I had to see Jouko’s country for myself.

The man at the Faculty Club, it turned out, was the director of the French National School of Agriculture and the first French agricultrist invited under the Marshall Plan to visit the U.S. after World War II to learn about the land-grant colleges of agriculture.

As I served the distinguished guest the customary Ohio dessert of apple pie, I was thinking: agricultural school . . . France . . . Europe. Finland was in Europe.

I interrupted the director’s interpreter. I would soon graduate in agriculture, I told her. Could I get a postgraduate position at the man’s school?

She translated my request to the director. They talked intently for a minute or two, then she turned to give me his answer.

“Yes, you can. The school will give you free room and board and full tuition. Come when you like, and you can stay a year.”

I walked out of the Faculty Club that day on a cushion of air. In a few weeks, I was on my way to a new continent.

I would come to know the director, Jacques Ratineau, and his school well. The buildings were on the grounds of a château that Louis XIV reportedly had built for one of his mistresses. I was the first American many of the employees had seen, and they treated me like a king.

I worked in the school’s agricultural chemistry lab and spent much time learning the language.

When the work slowed in midwinter, I set off to visit farms throughout Europe, including in Finland. I stayed a month there, and the country and the people—still recovering from the war—more than lived up to my starry-eyed expectations.

I returned to France in late July. I would be heading home soon, so I arranged to return a Finnish phrase book that a friend had lent me.

When I arrived at her apartment in Paris, she told me that a Finnish friend would be stopping by. Because he had been in the U.S. and she and I had both been in Finland, we could compare notes about our countries.

As we were chatting, the doorbell rang and Jouko Voutilainen, the graduate student from Ohio State who had inspired my trip to Europe, walked in. Speechless, we stared at each other.

It was fate and coincidence. I would be leaving France in two days. He was leaving for Geneva the next day. We talked for two hours. I never saw or heard from him again.

My first encounters with Jouko Voutilainen and Jacques Ratineau changed my life. As a French-speaking American agronomist, I found that many doors were opened to me in international agriculture. After working for Quaker Oats in France as a marketing and product development manager, I was recruited by USAID to teach agricultural extension in Madagascar. Later, I joined the USAID program for wheat production improvement in Morocco, where I collaborated with Dr. Norman Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. I continued my work in Algeria and Mexico, then joined the World Bank and held positions in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and Latin America.

Thank you, Jouko, for lighting my fire.

Herb Floyd retired in 1989 from the World Bank and now lives in Colorado. Jouko Voutilainen, who earned a master’s degree in economics in 1949, became a director of the Bank of Finland. He died in 1993. This story was republished with permission from the Ohio State Alumni Association.

International Student Profile: Tejaswini Gosavi

What most surprised you about your experience in Columbus and the United States?
Living on campus was a pleasantly surprising experience. The grading scales for each of my classes was also very different than what I was used to. It took a little getting used to having assignments due in the first week of classes.

What has been the hardest thing to adapt to since you’ve come to Columbus?
The weather! Coming from a warmer climate to Ohio was definitely a change. I am looking forward to spring and summer!

What have you done to keep yourself busy?
I love being involved in student organizations and offices across campus. Over the years I have been a part of BuckeyeThon, the Asian Business Association and the Undergraduate Research Office. My involvement with each of these groups has helped me improve my leadership and communication skills.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State?
Being a part of the Honors Cohort Program at the Fisher College of Business was very rewarding. The small class size helped me connect with faculty members and develop my teamwork abilities while participating in hands on class projects. As a part of the program, I went on a service-learning program to the Bahamas over winter break. Volunteering at a local children’s home and interacting with local residents helped me experience the welcoming culture first hand. It was the perfect culmination to the program.

How has the Office of International Affairs helped you adapt to campus life?
The Office of International Affairs was the first place I visited when I came to Ohio State. The new student orientation organized by the office helped me meet other incoming students. I have always been a big fan of the special events of OIA such as the Thanksgiving dinner, New Year’s Celebration and the Taste of OSU. OIA has done a great job of serving the international student body.

What are your career plans after college?
I will be joining the Transaction Advisory Services, Valuation & Business Modeling division at Ernst & Young in Cleveland upon graduation. I am also pursuing my CFA designation and will be taking the Level I exam in June 2011.

Home city and country: Mumbai, India
Year in school: Senior
Major: Mathematics and Finance

How long have you been in the United States/Columbus?
I have been in Columbus since fall 2007.

Why did you choose Ohio State?
The academic program at Fisher is well designed and highly ranked. I was also interested in studying math concurrently. The dual degree program at OSU seemed perfect for me. I would be getting the large campus experience that I always wanted with lots of extracurricular activities.

What is your CFA designation and will be taking the Level I exam in June 2011.

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