

## **Boston College Rises on the Peace Corps' Annual Top Colleges Rankings**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., January 12, 2009** – This year, Boston College has risen on the Peace Corps' top 25 list of medium schools producing Peace Corps Volunteers. With 39 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers, Boston College is No. 7 in the rankings. Since Peace Corps' inception, 679 alumni of Boston College have joined the Peace Corps .

Historically, University of California, Berkeley maintains the number one rank, with 3,371 graduates becoming Peace Corps Volunteers. University of Washington is now ranked second among the large schools, with 2,848 graduates joining the Peace Corps. All together, the schools have contributed to the Peace Corps' 16 percent increase in applications this year, the largest increase in five years.

"The Peace Corps relies heavily on the graduates of contributing schools from across the country. Their education and experiences add to the diversity of the Peace Corps and its success in the host countries," said Director Ron Tschetter. "Currently, there are over 3,000 colleges and universities with alumni serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in 76 countries worldwide. We want to thank the schools and the graduates for their continued dedication to the mission of the Peace Corps."

University of Washington holds the top rank for large schools, with 104 graduates serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. In the medium school category, George Washington University ranks number one, with 57 graduates serving. For small schools, University of Chicago ranks highest, with 35 graduates currently serving as Volunteers.

Schools debuting on the Peace Corps' top 25 list for large schools were Ohio State University and University of Virginia. Medium schools debuting on the top 25 list include University of Notre Dame and College of Charleston, among others.

Schools are ranked according to the size of the student body. Small schools are those with less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,001 and 15,000 undergraduates, and large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates.

The majority of Volunteers who have served in the Peace Corps since its inception 47 years ago have been college graduates; however, it is not a requirement for service. Currently, 83 percent of Volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree, with 9 percent of Peace Corps Volunteers having earned a graduate level degree.

As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world. Historically, over 195,000 Volunteers have helped promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of the 139 countries in which they have served. Applications to serve in the Peace Corps have increased 16 percent this past year, the largest boost in the last five years. Currently, 7,876 Peace Corps Volunteers are serving in 76 countries. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment.