I f you will be job searching after returning from Peace Corps Service, you may want to take advantage of two services offered by the Office of Career Services.

1). Visit www.sph.tulane.edu/career.htm to find compilations of over 250 links to public health employers and sites for jobs, internships, and fellowships related to public health.

2). E-mail Kathy Ball at kball@tulane.edu to request instructions on how to subscribe to the job list-serve for the Tulane SPHTM. You will then receive all announcements that arrive electronically in the Career Services Center.

Greetings all,

We’d like to take time right up front to thank everyone out there in the field for taking a moment from their busy schedules to read our newsletter. This is the second ever printed and the first created by us (Mike & Trina). If you feel that Notes from the Field is lacking or that some articles or sections are not necessary, please let us know. We had a hard time with what exactly we should include. There were intense debates on whether or not to include a Health & Beauty section. In the end Trina won out (we settled it by arm-wrestling) and the section didn’t make the final cut.

Anyhoo, we hope you have as much fun reading Notes from the Field as we had writing it. Please, don’t forget to send us any interesting stories or pictures of yourselves doing what ever it is you people do out there.

Your pals,
Mike & Trina

Who da editors is?

Mike Tubianosa is in the Tropical Medicine Department. He served in Ghana as a Secondary Education Teacher from 1997-2000. He enjoys breakdancing and eating pork products.

Trina Alcorn is in the Community Health Sciences Department. She served in Madagascar as Health Extension Volunteer and PCVL from 1998-2001. She enjoys long walks on the beach and watching professional wrestling.

Letters From the Bayou:

KATHY SAYS:
(For Those Actually Thinking About Real Jobs...)

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**Notes from the Field**

**WHAT YOU SAY?**

*STUFF YOU WROTE IN YOUR QUARTERLY*

**MOROCCO**

Poste de Beni Zoli
Province de Zagora
Morocco

Jennifer Mason
- Administered health education classes at the school, conducted literacy classes for women in the clinic and in individual homes.
- Planned and funded safe birthing kits. Acted as the project manager, computed reports and then trained nurse to take over position.
- Planned and funded 1st Aid Kits for community. Trained local villager to take over project.
- Worked with NGO’s and MOH to administer vaccinations for trachoma.

**MADAGASCAR**

B.P. 620
Peace Corps
Antananarivo 101
MADAGASCAR

Shuma Panse
- Participated in an evaluation survey carried out by the NGO Linkages on breastfeeding. Assisted on the qualitative portion of the survey. Trained the Linkages team on focus groups – what they are, how to run them effectively, etc. *“Thanks to Dr. Bertrand and her Communications Class. It was awesome to see something I learned at Tulane put into action so directly.”*
- Participated in a breastfeeding promotion festival, sponsored by JSI.
- Organized activities for World AIDS Day. *(Don’t forget it is December 1st)*

Nathan Smith
- Developed and funded latrine project for primary school. *“This helped me gain entrance into the community. Now they see that I am here to help them and they have a better understanding of what Peace Corps is and its role in Madagascar.”*
- The Walk and talk attitude. While doing daily activities, Nate would walk and talk to people about the health concerns of the village.

**ECUADOR**

Cuerpo do Paz, APDO 1412
Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic

John Li
- Performed growth monitoring with five nurseries in the area.
- Worked with nurseries to construct organic gardens.
- Worked with NGO: INNFA to manage nurseries around area.

**GUATEMALA**

Voluntario Cuerpo de Paz
San Antonio Iloitenang
El Quiche, GUATEMALA

Chance Cardamone
- Administered needs assessment of schools through collaboration of teachers and parents.
- Developed solutions and sought funding for the needs of the school.
- Developed interventions to promote healthy behaviors at school.
- Developed newsletter for different schools to understand and collaborate on ideas about lessons and activities in school.

Kathryn Buikema
- Assisted in the CHAP program through working relations with the Information, Education, and Communication Sectors of the Ministry of Health as well as local schools and NGO’s.

Ruchi Mahajan
- Trained four health clinic staff members to do door-to-door HIV talks and condom distributions. *(What were the reactions on this?)* Overall, the feedback was positive but some workers had difficulty dealing with negative reactions.

**TOGO**

Corps de la Paix

BP 3194
Lome, Togo
WEST AFRICA

We would like to have all your reports, please don’t forget to jot down your activities and concerns.
How much do you know about HIV/AIDS?

Test your HIV/AIDS knowledge or test those in your community...

1. I can become infected with HIV by swimming in a pool, sitting in a bath, holding hands or kissing someone with HIV
   - True
   - False

2. People who are living with HIV look different from everyone else.
   - True
   - False

3. HIV/AIDS is incurable.
   - True
   - False

4. People who do not inject drugs or share needles do not need to get tested.
   - True
   - False

5. Only drug users and gay men need to worry about HIV infection.
   - True
   - False

6. A woman cannot become infected with HIV by performing oral sex on a man who is not wearing a condom.
   - True
   - False

7. If a woman is HIV-positive and pregnant, there are medicines that she can take to greatly decrease the chances of her baby becoming infected with HIV.
   - True
   - False

8. Women can’t get HIV if they use a diaphragm.
   - True
   - False

9. A bisexual will automatically be twice as likely to be infected with HIV.
   - True
   - False

10. Unprotected anal sex is only a risky behavior for gay and bisexual men, heterosexual woman therefore do run the same risks.
    - True
    - False

11. HIV/AIDS is not as threatening as it was in the past because we now have a cure.
    - True
    - False

12. If a woman and her partner each had sex with three other people before they got together, but have now been monogamous for two years and the woman was going to start taking the birth control pill instead of using condoms, they should not need to get tested for HIV.
    - True
    - False

13. If I were infected with HIV, I would know because I would feel sick.
    - True
    - False

14. HIV and AIDS new combination drug therapies have slowed the progress through to AIDS in developed countries so that infected people are living longer.
    - True
    - False

15. HIV is present in the semen and blood of infected men.
    - True
    - False

16. HIV is present in the blood and vaginal fluids of infected women.
    - True
    - False

17. It is safe for an HIV-positive woman to breast-feed her baby.
    - True
    - False

18. It is safe to extend friendship and support to people living with HIV and AIDS.
    - True
    - False

19. Some people who are unaware that they became infected with HIV in their teens or early twenties may not develop AIDS or get sick for another 10 years.
    - True
    - False

20. New HIV/AIDS drug treatments have lowered the number of AIDS cases and AIDS related deaths in the UK, because they help infected people stay healthy for longer.
    - True
    - False

Source: UNAIDS
**AIDS FACT...**

95% of all AIDS cases occur in the world’s poorest countries. In several southern African countries, at least one in five adults is HIV positive. In 2000, the HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women in South Africa rose to its highest level ever: 24.5% bringing to 4.7 million the estimated total number of South Africans living with the virus.

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**WAL-MART Comes to Garden District**

The City Planning Commission has approved the Wal-Mart plan for redeveloping the St. Thomas housing project, on the condition that the store size be decreased and number of parking spaces lessened. City Council has final approval.

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**Dirty Pipes in Harvey**

Some local groups are worried about the health risks presented by naturally occurring radioactive material, a by-product of oil and gas production. One lot in Harvey where pipes were cleaned has registered contamination 100 times the normal level. The contamination could seep into ground water or blow with the wind.

*Tulane Hullabaloo 16 November 2001*

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**Sad But True**

Around 11 million infants and children die each year mostly from preventable diseases often coupled with malnutrition. Pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and measles are the main killers. Almost all deaths occur in developing countries – the countries with the least money to spend on health care and welfare.

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**IN REMEMBRANCE:**

On November 10, 2001, Tulane student Julia A. Harrison died at Tulane University Hospital. Health officials have confirmed that Julia, 19, died of meningococcal blood infection.

Julia, a Newcomb College sophomore, was from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She had a great passion for music and dance and was very active with music programming at WTUL. She was also involved in Theatre and Dance Program. Her parents said that Julia was also deeply interested in Latin American Studies program, as well, and had recently traveled to Cuba through Tulane’s Summer in Cuba Program. She had a real zest for expanding here intellectual and artistic talents and interests while at Tulane. Julia’s parents have expressed a desire to meet with the professors who had so influenced her life. This is a real reminder that what we do every day touches people’s lives in profound ways.

*Excerpt from Scott Cowen’s Tulane Talk*

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**People Working Together**

In New Orleans on October 13 & 20, schools, groups, and organizations gathered to rebuild and refurbish homes. *Christmas in October* was a project designed to promote and encourage volunteering in the New Orleans area and assist the elderly around town. Each group or organization interviews the person before choosing the home to refurbish.

This year, the LaRPCV, MI’s and RPCVS’s from SPHTM, and an all girls school in New Orleans joined together to scrape, paint, and replace siding on Ms. Louise White’s house on Conti Street. The best part of the service was watching the neighborhood children pass by and ask, “why are ya’ll helping repair Ms. Louise’s house?” We explained the project of *Christmas in October* and then some of us explained why we were out that day helping in this important service. A number of kids were excited about the possibility of painting a house and actually working with us that we invited about ten of the neighborhood children to experience their first volunteer work. They had so much fun doing it the first day, they asked if they could help out on Oct. 20th as well. I left Ms. Louise’s house with a smile and good feeling. Doing the work by yourself is sometimes the easy part, but getting others to do it with you is the art of volunteering!

- Trina Alcorn

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This Issues Featured Disease:

Dengue Fever

Dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) is primarily a disease of the tropics. Dengue is caused by 4 distinct, but closely related, virus types. Dengue is transmitted by the \textit{Aedes aegypti} mosquito, which feeds during the day.

**Clinical Features**
- Sudden onset of high fever lasting 2-7 days and can reach temperatures of 40-41°C, severe headache, joint and muscle pain, leukopenia (reduced number of leukocytes in the blood), thrombocytopenia (reduced number of blood platelets) and hemorrhagic manifestations
- Occasionally produces shock and hemorrhage, leading to death

**Where is Dengue Fever?**
Dengue is now endemic in more than 100 countries in Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific are most seriously affected. Before 1970 only nine countries had experienced DHF epidemics, a number which had increased more than four-fold by 1995. Some 2500 million people - two fifths of the world's population - are now at risk from dengue. WHO currently estimates there may be 50 million cases of dengue infection worldwide every year. In 1998 alone, there were more than 616,000 cases of dengue in the Americas, of which 11,000 cases were DHF. This is greater than double the number of dengue cases which were recorded in the same region in 1995. Not only is the number of cases increasing as the disease is spreading to new areas, but explosive outbreaks are occurring. In Brazil nearly 475,000 cases were reported between January and October 1998 – more than were reported from the entire continent in previous years.

**Why is Dengue Fever such a concern now?**
- \textbf{YOU CAN DIE FROM IT!}
- The development of ill-managed urbanization has led to increased incidence of dengue fever due to the greater potential of breeding (inadequate water, sewer, and waste management systems)
- Dispersal of viruses via air travel
- Emergency control methods are ineffective
- Government-based programs need improvement
- Lack of community participation in control and prevention

**What can be done?**
- Educate medical community
- Develop community-based, integrated prevention programs
- Improve laboratory-based international surveillance

\textit{Source: CDC & WHO}

\textbf{DID YA KNOW?}
67 percent of females across the country participate in community service, while only 33 percent of males volunteer. †

\textbf{AIDS Fact...}
Worldwide, and in 2000 alone, AIDS claimed 3 million people last year. That's over 8,000 people every day. But the story does not end there: just under 15,000 new cases of HIV infections occur every single day. †

\textbf{Bet you didn’t know...}
Of the 33.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS right now, 14.8 million of whom are women.

There are half a million infections in children (under 15), most of which have been transmitted from mother to child.

55% of adult infections in sub-Saharan Africa are in women, 30% in SE Asia, 20% in Europe and USA. †
An Interview With
Norberto de Anda:
Former Crisis Corps
Volunteer

As promised from the last issue, we are currently interviewing a former Crisis Corps Volunteer. Norberto de Anda is a graduate student in Tulane’s newly created International Health Systems Management program. He is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, who did his volunteer service in Honduras from September 1997 to December 1999. He was also a Crisis Corps Volunteer in the same country from March to August 2000. Former MI Coordinator, Veronica Rodriguez recently spoke with him over lunch and discussed what it was like being in the Crisis Corps. This interview took place on September 6, 2001, at Café Arabesque (formerly known as An Apple A Day).

Veronica: How did you hear about Crisis Corps?

Norberto: A year through service, Hurricane Mitch paid a visit to Central America. Because of the destruction left behind, Crisis Corps descended on Honduras to help them rebuild their lives and homes. There were a lot of jobs after the hurricane.

VR: What made you decide to do CC?

The need existed in that country plus it coincided with the need for me to obtain more experience. As a Crisis Corps Volunteer, I worked with a non-government organization, so I could gain more international experience.

VR: Describe your job.

I was assigned to the Pan-American foundation, based in Washington, D.C. with operations in Latin American and the Caribbean. They received funding from USAID to develop an early alert system and community disaster preparation project on the north coast of Honduras, which suffered the most devastation from the hurricane. Mainly, we focused on two areas: 1) establish an early alert system and 2) prepare a community disaster preparation program within the village. For example, we helped establish emergency committees and mapped out evacuation routes. These committees assigned roles/responsibilities, established a routine and policy in the eventuality that this kind of catastrophe happened again. We began with a needs assessment. The Early Alert System was a network that measured rainfall. It was located in the mountains with the installation of radio transmitters in the homes of individuals who were trained to assume a responsible role.

VR: Was the job everything you thought it would be?

It was more than originally thought. I was assigned to a non-government organization, like I mentioned earlier. The benefits of working with a non-government organization were more than what we were used to as a PCV with an office set up, internet access, access to a car, and having your project funded. It has all these benefits yet it has the flexibility of Peace Corps, in that you define means and ways to reach objectives. Safety factors were reassuring in the health sense.

VR: What was the learning curve having been a PCV and then a CCV?

No, jumped right into it because it was still the same country. The general skills I had as a health volunteer served me in good stead. Working with grass-roots organizations, gaining confidence of the community since it was in a different site was all the same as Peace Corps.

VR: Would you do CC again?

Yeah, thinking about it.

VR: Would you recommend CC to fellow PCV/RPCV?

To motivated PCVs. It’s a good opportunity to gain international experience and expand skills base. Also, to see what it is like to work for a non-government organization. It is more serious and goal/objective oriented type of work. There is a set agenda, set execution, and set objectives. I enjoyed that type of structure.

Notes from the Field thanks Bert for his invaluable insight into volunteerism!. If you are thinking of doing Crisis Corps after your Peace Corps service, please contact Crisis Corps at crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov. In conclusion, I ordered the 4 cheese sandwich and Bert had a Reuben Havana, which he recommends.

To date, more than 440 Crisis Corps Volunteers have served in 29 countries in Latin America, Africa, the Pacific, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The Crisis Corps is currently recruiting Volunteers to work in Belize in hurricane reconstruction activities, in El Salvador in earthquake reconstruction activities, and in Africa on HIV/AIDS related activities.
10 Basic Facts about the World’s Children

1. 40,000 children under the age of five die each day from malnutrition and vaccine preventable disease.

2. Universal access to just four low-cost health care measures could save the lives of half of the 15-18 million children who die each year from preventable causes. Nearly 8,000 children are dying each day because they have not been immunized; nearly 7000 are dying from dehydration caused by diarrhea, and approximately 6000 are dying every day from pneumonia. Making available today’s low cost solutions to all of these child health problems would cost approximately $2.5 billion a year. This is as much as the 10% of the EEC’s annual subsidy to farmers, as much as the Soviet Union spends on vodka in a month or U.S. companies spend on cigarette advertising yearly. $2.5 billion is as much as 2% of the developing world’s military spending and what the world spends on the military in one day.

3. Nearly 100 million children of primary school age are not taking part in any education programs.

4. Only half the children in the developing world have access to clean drinking water, and fewer have access to sanitary waste facilities.

5. Half a million mothers die annually as a result of pregnancy or childbirth.

6. Breast feeding is on the decline in many developing countries although bottle-fed infants contract far more illnesses and are as much as 25 times more likely to die in childhood than infants who are exclusively breast fed.

7. Each year at least 250,000 young children lose their sight for the lack of a small amount of vitamin A in their diet. Two 2 cent doses of vitamin A could prevent this.

8. Over 100 million children throughout the world are forced to work under hazardous and often fatal conditions; many are employed under slave-like conditions for no pay.

9. More than one billion people - the majority of them children - either have no home or live in inadequate housing.

10. There are more than 10 million child refugees around the world, comprising 60% to 70% of the refugee population. Malnutrition, chronic infectious disease, physical and mental retardation are widespread in refugee camps. Many children, often separated from their parents, have spent their whole lives in closed refugee camps, encircled by gun towers and barbed wire.

PLAN International

Yet Another Sad Fact...
At any given time perhaps one-half of all peoples in the developing world are suffering from one or more of the six main diseases associated with water supply and sanitation (diarrhoea, ascaris, dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm), hookworm, schistosomiasis and trachoma).

† Source: WHO

DID YA KNOW?
The first recipient of an entirely mechanical heart is experiencing difficulties three months following his surgery. The patient’s life expectancy before surgery was no more than 30 days.

Source: Tulane Hullabaloo

Notes from the Field

Sadly...
Every eight seconds a child dies of a water-related disease. Every year more than five million human beings die from illnesses linked to unsafe drinking water, unclean domestic environments and improper excreta disposal.

†
New Harry Potter Film Turns Children On To Magic Of Not Reading

LOS ANGELES—Around the world, children are being turned on to the magic of not reading by the blockbuster film *Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone*. "My daughter Julia never liked to sit passively and stare at a screen, but this new movie has really locked the power of her imagination," said Hannah Foss, 38, of Dayton, OH. "She can't put her books away fast enough." "Movies are great," said Tarzana, CA, 10-year-old Emily Hart. "You can see exactly what the characters look like without having to guess."

Lab Rabbit Strongly Recommends Cover Girl Waterproof Mascara For Sensitive Eyes

CINCINNATI—LR-4427, a two-year-old laboratory rabbit at Procter & Gamble's cosmetics testing facility, Monday gave his full endorsement to Cover Girl Long & Luscious waterproof mascara for sensitive eyes.

Gatorade Pledges $240 Million In Thirst Aid To Underquenched Nations

UNITED NATIONS—In the largest humanitarian electrolyte-replenishment effort in decades, Gatorade will donate $240 million in thirst aid to citizens of 27 U.N.-designated underquenched Third World nations, spokespersons for the company announced Monday.

New Cambodian Barnes & Noble—Will It Threaten Cambodia's Small Book Shops?

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA—The paint is barely dry on the new Siem Reap Barnes & Noble, a gleaming, $6 million, 60,000-square-foot book store/coffeeshouse that the American bookselling giant boasts is the finest in this rural village of 2,100. But already a serious question is being raised: Can the new bookstore—with its enormous selection, discount prices and chic espresso bar—peacefully co-exist with smaller, independently owned bookstores in the area?

Answers to Yuletide Excerpts

"Dad...I can't sleep in the tent. Is it okay if I go sleep in the car?"

"But what if a bear comes?"

"Good heavens, son. We came camping so we could commune with the great..."

"Why...? Do bears like peanut butter?"

"I don't know, but it sure got those blood-soaked marshmallows..."

"We don't have to worry about bears... I took the precaution of smearing the..."

Source: The Onion