

# What's Happening in Peace Corps/Eastern Caribbean

February 1992, Volume 2, No. 1

Castries, St. Lucia

## FOCUS ON DOMINICA



The Volunteers on Dominica suggested through Brad Whitaker, Lead Volunteer, that "What's Happening" include a spotlight on each of the island nations in Peace Corps Eastern Caribbean. This will mean that each island is the focus once a year. The intention is to provide a brief review of Peace Corps history and a more in-depth exploration of the work in progress. Through this process we can gain a better understanding of the similarities and differences as well as a more distinct picture of PC in the EC.

It seemed only fair to begin with Dominica, since the idea began there. The spotlight for this edition is, therefore, on the Peace Corps program on Dominica.

Peace Corps programming history on Dominica began January 1967, when the first Volunteers arrived, and has experienced an ebb and flow of Volunteers and organizational changes. A brief synopsis follows:

First Volunteers worked in nursing teacher training,

education, community development and engineering.

There were no Volunteers for two years: 1973-1975 after the Government of Dominica abruptly stopped requests in 1970 (no one seems sure why).

Peace Corps service resumed in 1975 with requests for assistance in agriculture, education, community development and health.

1979 was the year of Hurricane David (Dominicans still refer to before and after David as a benchmark in their history). Thirty eight Volunteers were on island by 1982 with most assignments related to reconstruction efforts throughout the island.

Between 1982 and 1985 the Volunteer population declined to 12 assignments in the areas of agriculture, education, health and small business development. One of the variables effecting the decline was the result of program management from Barbados with limited opportunity for the Government to explore potential avenues for Peace Corps assis-

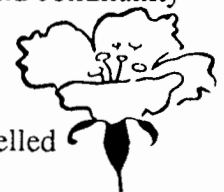
tance. The requests were primarily for highly skilled experts which Peace Corps had difficulty in recruiting.

1985 saw the assignment of an Associate Director to the island of Dominica.

February 26, 1986, the Mavis Tavernier Memorial Peace Corps Center was officially opened in Roseau. The office was named after Mavis Tavernier, a well known resident of Roseau and the owner/operator of Cherry Lodge. Throughout the previous years, Mavis and Cherry Lodge had been the focal point for Volunteers. Mail was delivered there, soup pot was always on for Volunteers and Mavis always had time for a chat, a listen, and good suggestions.

Between late 1985 and early 1990, Volunteer assignments were spread over seven major project sectors: agriculture, small enterprise development, education, youth development, health and community development.

The Volunteer population swelled



to 40 in 1989 and has since tapered off to around 25.

Peace Corps is spoken of fondly and individuals are remembered for their contributions to the island.

Ms Jean Jacobs, the Director of Nursing, remembers the Volunteer who taught her at the nursing school in the late 60's.

Teachers and principals remember Volunteers who were teachers and librarians. The libraries at the teacher's college and 6th form college were organized by Peace Corps Volunteers.

Members of the Forestry Division speak of the marine park which was established in Portsmouth by a Volunteer. Though it was wiped out by Hurricane David, it serves as a model for plans for a park at Scott's Head.

The first published Kweyold dictionary was originally typed and produced with the assistance of a Volunteer.

The President often speaks of the Volunteer who assisted in composing the National Anthem.

These are but a few of the stories told which reflect the impact of Peace Corps on Dominica and the Dominicans. Of course, we also hear of those Volunteers who married Dominicans, live now in the States and return regularly to visit.

In 1990 programming efforts on Dominica turned away from individual assignments and toward project based program-

ming which has resulted in two projects in education and exploration in health and the environment. This effort also emphasized a balance between rural and urban placements.

### *A more in-depth look at current assignments and work of Volunteers*

#### Agriculture:

With the Close of Service of Fred Warren and Art Wilton in December 1990, work in this sector has been phased out. Fred worked with the National Pig Producers assisting them in extending their services to the western side of the island. Art worked with IICA on passion fruit research.

#### Education:

This remains a strong area for requests and assignments. Members of EC 56 are completing our commitment to provide classroom teachers on a secondary level and assistance in special education.

Two Volunteers have been working at Clifton Dupigny Community College: Catherine Cook teaching small business management skills, and Donald Whetstone teaching a pre-entry course in maths, woodworking and technical drawing. Both of these individuals have created a syllabus which includes a scope of work and are leaving the finished product with the principal of the College.

Three Volunteers have

been teaching in secondary schools: Bill Gaynor teaching Spanish, Brad Whitaker teaching maths and physics at Convent Girls school in Roseau; Paul Ryneski teaching maths at Portsmouth Secondary School. Each have worked throughout the two years to prepare their students for the CXC examinations with classroom presentations and extra tutorials.

Susanne Fitch has worked with Operation Youth Quake, a residential and day center for disadvantaged youth. The goal of her work has been to establish a tutorial program for the boys so that they are better able to manage regular classroom learning. This year she has worked with the boys in their classrooms and has been able to assist both the boys and the teachers with methodologies and materials.

#### School Gardens: Life Lab Science:

The purpose of this project is to improve the curricula, instruction and learning in



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This newsletter is published in the regional office of the Peace Corps/Eastern Caribbean to enhance communication from the Director to Volunteers serving on their respective islands.

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science, ag. science, maths and nutrition utilizing life lab methodologies in the primary and junior secondary school programs. Life Lab methodologies are hands-on and the school garden is the laboratory for teaching.

Collaborating in this project are the Ministry of Education, Peace Corps and Life Lab Science, an exemplary science education program in Santa Cruz California. Four Volunteers are currently working in this project: Barbara Greenwood, an extender from LI 3, Ingrid Heckman, Chris McCoy and Mary Rosenfield from EC 57. Barb works with the school of Belles, Ingrid works in Calibishie and Chris in Soufriere. Mary is assigned to the Curriculum Unit in Roseau.

The teachers are serving as resources assisting the regular school staff to plan and implement the program. This means they do everything from planning and preparing the garden beds; to teaching, co-teaching and establishing a resource center for the program. Mary, with Barb's assistance, is working to train staff in the use of the program and to adapt the U.S. curriculum to the needs of Dominica.

This program is in the second year of a three year pilot and all signs are go! Four new schools will be introduced next year and Volunteers and staff are getting requests from additional schools.

#### **Science Resource Teachers:**

The purpose of this

project is to develop scientific literacy at primary and secondary levels which will emphasize the impact of science and technology on the local, natural, and cultural environments.

A primary goal is to encourage participation in an annual National Science Fair with exhibits which portray an aspect of science/technology relevant to the local, natural, and cultural environments.

Elaine Alexander, Penny O'Brien, Jay Wasserman and Peter Rosenfield (members of EC 57) have initiated this project with the curriculum Unit at the Ministry of Education. Elaine, Penny and Jay serve as resources for several schools: Elaine in Roseau, Penny in the Scott's Head area and Jay in the Grand Bay area. Peter is assigned to the Curriculum Unit in Roseau.

So far this group has assisted in the creation of a science teaching manual which utilizes hands-on approaches focusing on local materials for the teaching of scientific concepts at the primary and secondary level. Staff development sessions at each of the schools have begun. The focus on Science Fair projects will begin next year with a target date of Spring 1993.

#### **Health:**

Molly Barber, Pat Kirkwood, Evalyn Taylor and Doris Stoehr (Members of EC 57) are completing a Peace Corps commitment to provide District Nurses while the Government of Dominica trains local individuals.

By August 1993, the Ministry of Health will have a sufficient number of locally trained nurses to fulfill the needs of the primary health care system.

In the meantime Molly, Pat, Evalyn and Doris are fulfilling the varied tasks of a District Nurse which include casualty and emergency care (they each have utilized skills in suturing and initial diagnosis) some health education sessions such as prevention and care of diabetes, pap smears, family planning, and home visits.

Lisa Gardner and Michelle Somoza are assigned to the Health Education Unit in Roseau. Since most of the illnesses on Dominica are related to lifestyle; i.e., diabetes, hypertension, obesity, the importance of the work of this unit has increased over the last few years.

Lisa and Michelle are assisting staff in presenting health education sessions throughout the Districts, preparing materials for national distribution and planning the work for efficient products. They have worked on such issues as weight watchers, cholera, leprosy, diabetes and AIDS. This unit is sponsoring an AIDS band during the annual carnival. Both Michelle and Lisa will be in costume and have encouraged many other Volunteers to join.

Pat Klinger (an extender from LI 1) is finishing up her tour with the Dental

Health unit in Roseau. Pat has assisted this unit in developing and implementing an information management system which focuses on inventory control, patient care, and staff accountability. She also has developed a dental health education program and trained district staff in the implementation of the program. Each of the schools in the nation will have been introduced to the program before Pat COSes in June, 1992.

The Ministry of Health and Peace Corps will work toward a project in health during 1993.

That is a summary of the programming efforts which currently include Volunteer assignments. Volunteer community activities included participation in Scouts, church groups, Special Olympics, sports clubs, tutoring, and working with organizations such as Dominica Conservation Association.

EC 58 will include requests for Life Lab, Science Resource, and for the first time environmental awareness. These environment Volunteers will work with a US AID funded project ENCORE to assist the residents of Portsmouth and Scott's Head as they identify environmental problems related to the marine environment.



**Contributor:**  
Maryann Murray, APCD/  
Dominica and the PCVs of  
Dominica.

## ***LIFE BEYOND PEACE CORPS/EASTERN CARIBBEAN***

***Contributor:***  
***Gwen Pelletier, APCD***

Friends of the Eastern Caribbean (FEC) is a non profit Returned Volunteer Group affiliated with the National Council of RPCVs. Its purpose is to help RPCVs from the Eastern Caribbean stay in touch with each other and their countries of service.

FEC hopes to be able to provide support to PCVs serving in the EC. Primary activities until now have been a newsletter, trying to determine how to support PCVs in service, and trying to get information about what is going on with countries in the Eastern Caribbean (until you get back to the states, you cannot imagine how little news there is about the EC in the U.S. media!) FEC's first attempt to provide support for PCVs in service is beginning now. In order to get some idea of the kinds of projects and the dollars needed, FEC would like for Volunteers to submit requests for funds or items for projects.

Any PCV is invited to submit a preliminary proposal with the following information:

- a. Name of PCV
- b. Country of Service
- c. Name of assignment
- d. Brief description of project for which funds or items are needed.

e. Amount of money needed in US\$ or Item needed.

FEC members will raise funds among themselves or solicit funds or items from other RPCVs want to know what you are doing.

Send preliminary proposals to:

Gwen Pelletier,  
Peace Corps,  
P.O. Box 766,  
St. George's,  
Grenada.

All of you are invited to write an article for the FEC newsletter.

FEC will also coordinate with the EC Country Desk Officer to connect RPCVs with PCVs about to leave the U.S. for their assignment.

I will serve as the FEC liaison to current PCVs. Articles for the newsletter of preliminary proposals for funding should be sent to me:

Gwen Pelletier,  
Peace Corps,  
P.O. Box 766,  
St. George's,  
Grenada.

Information about your work, community etc. would be of interest to RPCVs from this region. Send submissions to:

Steve Malinowski,  
President,  
Friends of the Eastern  
Caribbean,  
13816 Wanergarden Dr.  
Germantown, MD  
20874

## UPDATE:



### WORLD WISE SCHOOLS by: Jacintha Lee, APCD

In response to my article "Promoting Peace Corps' Third Goal", printed in the last issue of "What's Happening", I received a number of comments from Volunteers concerning their involvement/non-involvement in World Wise Schools.

Although a number of persons expressed satisfaction with the programme, there were those who outlined certain concerns:

1. Not being assigned to home states.
2. Receiving assignments too late (near COS date).
3. Wanting a school but not receiving it.

After discussing these concerns with Ms Shirley Puchalski, the Director of World Wise Schools (WWS), I learned the following:

1) Although she would like to match PCVs to home states, it is not always possible. The number of schools and states requesting support does not match evenly with PCVs in the field.

2) The newness of the program has created some assignments at inappropriate times, i.e. toward the end of service. These are being

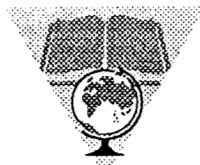
worked out and should not be a problem in the future.

3) If you have not been assigned and are interested in participating, I will be glad to provide you with a form. Please let your APCD know of your interest and he/she can contact me. I will send the form to you through your APCD with instructions. If you want to be matched to a specific school/teacher it is imperative that the teacher in the U.S. agrees to participate. You would therefore need to be assured of the teachers commitment before sending the form back to me. I need to have all forms by May 1, 1992. I will send them to World Wise Schools.

Assignments will be made by September/October, 1992.

Some Volunteers might regard their participation in World Wise Schools as an added burden. Don't think of it that way. Just imagine how much information you can furnish students about the Eastern Caribbean, an area which is virtually an unknown to millions. Help put the E.C. on the minds of American students. Support World Wise Schools.

Thank you.



## EC #55 A Pioneering Group

EC 55 will finish their service in May. This was the first group to come into the E.C. with St. Lucia as our headquarters. Prior to that the E.C. was split into a Windwards/Leewards configuration. Consequently, EC 55 were pioneers in many areas, including a new training design and our focus on project based programming.

The group is made up of talented and highly committed people. They have all served with distinction. Their names, islands and assignments are as follows:

### ANTIGUA

Karla Brockie

Occupational Therapist

Carole Grady

Community Health  
Educator

John Grady

Journalist

Margaret Loring

Respiratory Therapist

Karen Valenti

Physiotherapist

### ST. KITTS

Nancy Blackstock

Business Advisor

James Welsh

Computer Programmer

### NEVIS

Everett Duckworth

Engineer

### ST. LUCIA

Elizabeth Holmes

Water Safety  
Coordinator

Leigh Shaver

First Aid Instructor

Hugh Sauer  
Beekeeper  
Bertha Sauer  
Crisis Centre  
Counselor

### ST. VINCENT

Jane Aldridge  
Speech Therapist

Gary Haas  
Natural Resource  
Developer

Leon Liem  
Co-op Management  
Advisor

Lurine Parker  
Geriatric Nurse

Robert Rittgers  
Farm Bus. Manage-  
ment Advisor

### GRENADA

Nora Green  
Language Arts  
Teacher

Ann Meyer  
Farm Business Advi-  
sor

James Meyer  
St. Andrew Dev.  
Organisation

Lisa Satterthwaite  
Business Advisor

Tod Satterthwaite  
Business Advisor

Karen Thieme  
Creative Dev. Instru-  
ctor

Michael Thieme  
Business Advisor

### CARRIACOU

Linda Rogers  
Museum Curator

Robert Davidson  
English Teacher



## TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Duane Karlen, TO



I recently read an article reviewing a talk given by psychologist Gordon Bower of Stanford University. He described research on the topic of moods and how moods affect the way we perceive our surroundings.

In one experiment researchers induced a happy or a sad mood in subjects by asking them to recall happy or sad events in their lives. The subjects then either read about or met strangers and were later asked to give their impressions and reactions.

The researchers found that people in a good mood had more positive impressions and spent more time recalling positive details about the people they met or read about.

Those in a bad mood had more negative impressions and recalled more negative details.

Bower also described the effects of mood on self image. People who feel down tend not only to see themselves critically but also to have negative or even hostile impressions of others. Furthermore, negative self-perceptions influence the choices a person makes in his or her life. "Mood affects self-interpretation of competence and

abilities, including romantic, athletic, assertion and scholastic abilities," Bower said.

It is an easy step to relate these findings to our lives as Volunteers and staff of the Peace Corps. Certainly we have all had the experience of hearing two different people describe the same kind of cultural interaction. One person feels frustration or anger; another describes the event with humor or even appreciates it as a learning experience.

Another thing that comes to mind is how things often look bleakest when we are physically ill or emotionally stressed. We tend not only to feel bad about being sick but look at our whole life as being out of sorts. We may not only feel sad about missing a loved one but also doubt whether we can ever be happy in the community in which we live.

We might not only feel angry at the street corner comment we heard this morning but begin to see everyone out there as a potential source of difficulty. In other words, our mood influences how we see the world around us. We have a feeling that makes perfect sense when we think of the experience that preceded it. But danger comes if we allow it to color our whole mood and determine a range of reactions far removed from the precipitating event.

These particular months have the potential to be difficult



ones for our entire PC/EC community.

For Volunteers who are COSing soon there may be frustration in accepting the limits of what has been done, sadness in leaving a lifestyle that has become familiar, and pre-occupation with what comes after Peace Corps.

For Volunteers who arrived last summer, the initial novelty has long since evaporated, the realities of slow change and hard work are apparent and the efforts of creating new supports and lifestyle are exhausting.

For all of us there is the need to adjust to changes in staffing, budget and programming. While change is inevitable and can also be exciting, it always brings more stress. Since this is a time of much change for all of us, it is also a time of much stress.

The first thing to do to cope with all of this is to acknowledge that this is a stressful time and accept that. It helps to have the perspective that this will change, as all things do, and that difficulties are therefore all temporary.

Finally, in picking up the themes from above, it may be necessary to look for some positives in life and not let the stress color our whole experience. For some positive energy to counteract the difficult, think about what you like to do, and do it! I have come across more interesting suggestions for

managing stress and difficult times and will review these in a future column.



#### *Training Notes.*

The EC#55 COS Conference is behind us. Thanks to all of you who participated by sharing your experiences, reflections and feedback.

The "Talent Show" was particularly memorable.....

The EC#57 OMNI IST is coming up in late March. We are fortunate to be receiving SPA assistance in running the Project Management Workshop at the IST. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again.....

I am also planning for the summer PST. If you are interested in working on training and have not submitted your interest letter, do so as soon as possible. Your APCD has details.....

The PC/EC Language

Assessment has been delayed to allow more time for designing a good evaluation form. I hope to send it out by the end of March.

#### *Loose coconuts.*

We have received an excellent booklet from PC/Washington entitled A Few Minor Adjustments, by Craig Storti. He talks about adjusting to a new culture and all the emotions and reactions that can go with it.

I had the delightful privilege of working with Craig as a trainer in Nepal. He is a good writer with a wonderful sense of humor, so his booklet makes for interesting reading. Copies have been sent to all island offices and will arrive soon, if not already there. There is a copy for each of you to pick up and keep.

The Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program has been greatly expanded with a US\$330,000 grant by the Knight Foundation. This program trains RPCVs for hard-to-fill teacher positions in public schools throughout the US. The grant will be allocated to several universities around the country. Write me if you want more info.....

As some EC#55 COSing Vols requested, I am sending the DOS Guidelines and SF171 form to each island office on computer disk. Check with your APCD if interested in using these formats on Mac computer.....

**Take It Easy, PC/EC.**

This is the beginning of a regular feature in this column. Four lines are provided below. You fill in the fifth (limerick style) and send it to me.

*There was a Volunteer on St. Kitts  
Who was well known for keeping her wits,  
When heckled on a bus  
She responded without fuss*

.....

I will publish a couple of the best responses in the next issue and provide more lines for your creative talents. Anonymous contributions will not be published, and I reserve the right to be judicious in choosing the ones for print. I am sure you can understand why. Enjoy!

**APCD  
ST. VINCENT  
DON EVANS**



On March 16, Don Evans will be assuming the APCD/St. Vincent position from retiring Van Keane. We welcome Don to the EC. A synopsis of his background is as follows:

- PCV in Tanzania,

1979-81 (Fisheries Extension Officer).

- Extension specialist in Kenya as part of a USAID regional project.
- Married with 3 children. His wife Katharine is also a former PCV.
- Born and raised in Wisconsin. Graduate of Marquette with a masters degree from Cal. Poly in San Luis O'Bispo, California.



**APCD/  
ADMINISTRATION  
STEVE GALLAGHER  
COMPLETES FIVE  
YEARS OF PEACE  
CORPS SERVICE.**



As all of you are aware, Steve Gallagher will be departing next month and will be replaced by Jane Ferguson. Jane has already arrived and has been busy settling in and becoming acquainted with her new position.

Jane was introduced in an earlier issue of "What's Happening" but to refresh your memories here is a synopsis

on Jane:

- PCV in Benin from 1989-91
- Selected as the Peace Corps Fellow for Africa
- This past year she has been in training for the APCD/ Administration position in Washington, D.C.
- Home is California. Graduate of UC Berkeley.

While we are pleased to have a person of Jane's quality joining us, we are sorry to see Steve leave. He has done an excellent job in building a strong administrative system.

The administrative area often is not noticed and recognized unless something goes wrong in the form of late payments, missing records, etc.

Steve deserves a big "Vote of Thanks" from all of us for his skills in bringing together the EC from the old Windwards/Leewards configuration and effectively managing the transition from Barbados to St. Lucia. Many things didn't go wrong because of him.

So on behalf of all of us, a Vote of Thanks to Steve. We wish him and his family (wife Ashley and new baby Austin) "all the best" for the future.

