From the Director

The Peace Corps Fellows Program has been whirring with activity this spring!

Looking back, here were some of the highlights:

- **Meeting Ms. Amity Pierce Buxton**

  In March, I had the great pleasure of meeting a longtime friend of the Peace Corps Fellows Program, Ms. Amity P. Buxton. We spoke about Amity’s wide-ranging experiences in promoting inquiry-based learning, the meaningful exchange of ideas among teachers and authentic learning through student-centered curriculum development. Amity has a deep love for New York City students that was cultivated when she taught in Harlem and earned her doctorate at Teachers College.
• The Fellows’ Seminars

The Fellows meet together one Friday of each month to share ideas, support each other and learn. Every other meeting was hosted by a cultural institution. This spring, we enjoyed a guided tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Highlights included examining artwork in the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas exhibits.

Peace Corps Fellows engaged in discussion at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

In May, we visited the Harlem Studio Museum for a guided tour of their current exhibits. Highlights included creating pictures as a team and poetry from our collected writing.

The Harlem Studio Museum visit provided an opportunity for us to learn about how our students can be inspired on a class visit.
The Jaffe Family, Peace Corps Fellows and NYC Students Play On!

"If music be the food of love, play on."
- William Shakespeare

The Jaffe family’s love for music and movement has inspired the innovative new Jaffe Music and Dance Program for the world’s greatest audience: New York City public school students. “Let’s bring music and dance directly to the Fellows’ schools.” This idea was expressed by Mr. Elliot Jaffe, a longtime friend of New York City students and the Teachers College Peace Corps Fellows Program. Lincoln Center Education partnered with the Jaffe Family and the Teachers College Peace Corps Fellows Program to bring both the Caribbean band Los Pleneros de la 21 and the Blues Heritage Trio to twelve of the Teachers College Peace Corps Fellows’ schools. Curriculum materials were created by Lincoln Center Education to broaden the students’ experiences.

The Jaffe Music and Dance Program has opened up the opportunity for students to share their talents, rich heritage and deep passion for learning through singing, movement and playing instruments in an environment that cherishes their cultural identities.

In May of 2017, the Peace Corps Fellow Kateri Kranz-Odendahl brought her students to Milbank Chapel at Teachers College because her school does not have an auditorium. When Los Pleneros de la 21 band began to play, the crowd became invigorated. The students, their teachers, the Jaffe family and President Fuhrman jumped to their feet, clapped their hands to the rhythm, swung to the beat and sang along with the lively lyrics. The performance transformed into a festive dance celebration that wove together historical context with an appreciation for powerful music and movement.

During the show, the sixth grade students played instruments while their teachers showed off their flair for Caribbean dance moves. After the show, students as well as teachers lined up to individually thank the Jaffe family for their generosity and love.

“I felt transported,” said one teacher.
“This was the best day ever,” proclaimed a young lady.

The Jaffe Family’s love for the arts is contagious. The excitement that was generated inspires artistic passions in both the students’ educational spaces and in their hearts. In the spirit of sharing a love for the arts, let it all continue to “play on!”
Elliot, Roslyn and Helen Jaffe after the show

The founder of Los Pleneros de la 21, Juan Gutiérrez
The Peace Corps Fellows Program BBQ

The 2017 Peace Corps Fellows Program was great fun!
The new Fellows were introduced and 2017 graduates were celebrated.
We even had a game show with prizes for answers to questions about the Peace Corps Fellows Program history.

Program Alumni

Fellows from Cohort 2016
The 2017 Fellows!

The 2017 Fellows have been busy visiting schools, learning during their workshops and getting to know New York City.

During our Intensive Summer Institute, a three-month program to prepare the Fellows for their teaching in the fall, the Fellows focus on social justice, maintaining a positive classroom culture and preparing their lessons.

During orientation, we toured Harlem and the North Woods in Central Park.

The 2017 Fellows during Orientation

Alumni News? If you have professional or personal news you would like to share in the upcoming newsletters, please send it along!

Jobs! The new Fellows are interested in learning about NYC teaching opportunities.

Please email Elaine at esp2012@tc.columbia.edu if you have any leads or would like to see our job opportunities list. Thank You!


Enjoy a wonderful summer!