The spring season has been filled with activity! Below are some highlights.

**The Jaffe Celebration is Honored with the Attendance of Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen**

The Jaffe family has been providing friendship, advisement and support to the Jaffe Fellows for 30 years.

To celebrate, we hosted a festive Jaffe Celebration!

Below is an excerpt of the PCFP Director’s address:

Over 3 decades ago in 1986, there was a shortage of teachers in high need NYC schools. Here at Teachers College, my alma mater, a group of people were figuring out how to solve this issue, including one of our special guests this evening who has traveled all the way from Washington DC to be here. Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen was around that table when there was a discussion about how to fill that need. The idea created was for former Peace Corps Volunteers who had served for two years in countries around the globe to return from service, study at Teachers College and continue their impactful and positive community work here at home in the most under-resourced New York City public schools. Thank you for helping to establish the Peace Corps Fellows Program, Director Olsen.

The decision was made that Teachers College would be the very first graduate school to provide scholarships for Peace Corps Volunteers returning from service, making Teachers College the flagship graduate school for the Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows Program. Today we are celebrating 34 years of this special relationship.

Four years after the establishment of the Program in 1989, exactly 30 years ago, the Jaffes joined the Peace Corps Fellows family.
Getting to know the Jaffe family has been one of the greatest perks of my position. The Jaffe family has been a friend to NYC students in three ways, through their enrichment fund, their cultural arts program and with their Teachers College scholarship support.

The Jaffe family has created an enrichment fund that provides resources for Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows to take their students on field trips or conduct exciting projects like creating a vegetable garden on their school’s rooftop.

Another idea of the Jaffe family is the Jaffe Cultural Arts Program. This innovative program provides opportunities for hundreds of the Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows’ students to attend performances at Lincoln Center. In some cases, the Jaffe Cultural Arts Program has sent performers directly to the Jaffe Fellows’ schools.

The Jaffe Fellows have been inspiring and outstanding teachers for tens of thousands of NYC students. Their teaching ability has benefitted from their experiences in the Peace Corps and at Teachers College. In the Peace Corps, they became leaders of community engagement. At Teachers College, the Jaffe Fellows study at the finest graduate school of education, an oasis for a new teachers’ launch into the profession. The rewards stemming from these two experiences can be both seen and felt when I have had the honor of visiting the Jaffe Fellows’ classrooms.

This year, with support from both Teachers College and the Jaffe family, the Program is now providing full tuition scholarships for all Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to bring more talented teachers to our beautiful and brilliant NYC students. We are delighted to be celebrating this gift.

Thank you again for joining our Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows community as we recognize our accomplishments, rejoice about our future and celebrate the Jaffe family’s three decades of support for Teachers College and NYC students.

The PeaceMakers Speakers Series

This year, we kicked off a PeaceMakers Speakers Series to bring inspirational speakers to address the Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows and the Teachers College community about the pursuit of peace and education. This series was an idea generated in the hope that sharing wisdom can improve the quality of our service to New York City’s young people.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams was our first speaker. About the efficacy and relevance of Peace Corps service and its power to enrich our classroom practice while encouraging our community’s commitment to learn about ourselves, each other and our world. He supports starting each student’s day with meditation. Borough President Adams has built greenhouses in public housing so that food can be grown and shared to support healthier communities. He has spearheaded the creation of an institute at Bellevue Hospital to reverse disease through a plant-based diet.

Our second speaker served in Armenia during Peace Corps and teaches refugees and immigrants at the Newcomer Center in Spokane, Washington. National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) Mandy Manning spoke about the need to promote civics, love our students and open doors of opportunity. We had dinner with NTOY Manning after her talk.

Stay tuned for the 2019-2020 PeaceMaker Speakers!
Cohort 2019 Has Arrived!

This year’s Intensive Summer Institute is off to a great start! Innovative elements include full-day Saturday classes taught by alumni, attendance at the Reimagining Education Conference at TC in July, volunteering at Harlem Grown, and classes with Professor Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz. The Jaffe Fellows learned about child development by observing classes of ages three to eighteen in chronological order. We observed classes at the John Ruszwurm Elementary School, Middle School for Arts and Academics and WHEELS High School. The Jaffe Fellows also individually taught classes about the benefits of doodling to PreK through fourth graders.

The 34th Annual PCFP BBQ!

Since 1985, the Peace Corps Fellows Program at TC has been celebrating our achievements, friendship and community at the annual spring BBQ. This year, the trivia questions were more challenging than ever, and the prizes for right answers supremely good! One highlight of the BBQ was meeting some of the new PCFP babies!
Contact the PCFP Director Elaine Perlman at esp2012@tc.columbia.edu to find about the following:

**The Peace Corps Fellows Program Book**

The first edition of our free PCFP book entitled, “From Peace Corps to Teachers College to NYC Classrooms” has been published! Volume One contains 14 stories by Fellows and alumni, two by mentors and one by Professor Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz. This is a great read! Please consider writing a chapter for Volume Two, debuting in Spring of 2020!

**Enrichment Grants**

Jaffe Grants for alumni and current Fellows of up to $500 are available for both enrichment projects and service learning. Applicants will be notified about the award three weeks after the application is submitted. Please contact the Director to obtain the application.

**Cell Phone Wallet** - We have free PCFP cell phone wallets.

**Have extras?** We are collecting and donating clothing + hotel shampoos & soaps to PS 197 families.

**Alumni News?**

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

**Follow Us!**

We are posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

[Peace Corps Fellows Program at Teachers College, Columbia University](tc.edu/pcfellowstc)

*PCFellowsTC*