

## NEWS RELEASE

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# 2005 Saint Mary Graduate to Join Peace Corps

*Travis Schultz Departs for Eastern Europe in August/September*



Travis Schultz (left) poses after commencement with history and political science professor, Dr. Randy Scott.

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— While graduates of the Class of 2005 are scurrying around the nation in mad search for employment, one graduate knows exactly where he's headed.

Travis Schultz, a 2005 graduate of the University of Saint Mary originally from Topeka, Kan., has been accepted to the Peace Corps and will ship to Eastern Europe in late August or early September. A history and political science major, Schultz's exact destination is yet to be determined, but he expects to have a nomadic position with the Corps, traveling across Europe assisting in any way he can. Ironically, Schultz has never been out of the U.S.; his tour in Europe will mark the first time his feet touch foreign soil.



Demonstrating the true value of charitable service, Schultz reflects on his future in the Peace Corps by the Sisters of Charity fountain, located on the Saint Mary campus in

The Peace Corps was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to promote world peace and friendship. Since its inception, more than 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers have been invited by 138 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education, information technology and environmental preservation.

Schultz decided to join the Peace Corps after careful consideration and a little encouragement from university professors. "During my junior year, I spoke to Dr. Steger, Ken Mulliken, Wasiq Khan and Randy Scott (all university professors) and they planted the seed in my brain," Schultz said. "I thought about it, and since I have no significant debt, I decided I might as well go for it and try to help the world a little."

The position will last for 27-months with a three-month in-country training period. The Corps covers housing and food, and provides a stipend for living expenses. He will receive about 48-vacation days as well. Schultz's actual responsibilities have not been defined, but he thinks he will be teaching English as a second language and assisting with after-school tutoring programs.

Schultz said he's positive joining the Corps is what he wants to do. If he wasn't, he probably never would have completed the application. The tedious process, taking about 6 to 8 months to fully complete, included a full medical examination, multiple interviews, and a host of cross-cultural and reference letters explaining why Schultz wanted to join the Corps. Looking back, Schultz said the process was grueling and difficult, but definitely worth it.

"I think this is going to be fun. It's going to be an adventure to try to find my true calling in life," he added.

No stranger to the political arena, Schultz served as an intern in the spring legislative session for Leavenworth House Democrat Marti Crow. He said it was a great opportunity to fully understand how politics operate. He also played for three years on the Saint Mary soccer team.

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