



# Peace Corps Partners

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## Graduate Student Organization Raises Funds for Master's International Students



Every year, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at the School of Public Health at the University at Albany SUNY hosts an International Night celebration and fundraiser. This year, the GSO decided to focus all fundraising efforts on supporting Master's International students serving in the Peace Corps' multi-country Stomping Out Malaria campaign.

Rebecca Lewis, a second-year Master of Public Health student and president of the School of Public Health's GSO, explained, "We thought choosing the Stomping Out Malaria campaign was a great way to connect our event to World Health Day, which focused on vector-borne disease this year, while also showcasing two of our Master's International students working on malaria prevention. Each year the GSO chooses an organization or a cause to support which has a special connection to our students and our school. This allows us to not only donate funds to a worthy cause, but also to celebrate the work that our students and alumni are doing to address important health issues around the world."

At this year's International Night, held on April 3, the GSO orchestrated a silent auction and raffle with proceeds going to Master's International Peace Corps Volunteers [Lindsey Jackson](#) and [Melanie Bolden](#). Jackson is currently in her second year as a Volunteer in Kenya, while Bolden is in her first year as a Volunteer in Mozambique. Both students are participating in the Stomping Out Malaria initiative, and GSO raised \$1,500 to support the two students' efforts.

John Justino, director of the [Center for Global Health](#) at the University at Albany, and the [School of Public Health](#)'s Master's International program coordinator, said he was "very pleased that the GSO decided to focus on and support the work of some of our amazing Master's International students." In particular he said, "The way the GSO event organizers planned the evening, with video presentations by Lindsey and Melanie, really brought the global health experiences of our MIs to life." He was also pleased to see a link made between this annual fundraiser and World Health Day. "This was a great idea and this year's World Health Day theme of 'vector-borne diseases' made it a natural to specifically focus on Lindsey's and Melanie's efforts to stomp out malaria."

The Peace Corps' [Stomping Out Malaria](#) in Africa initiative mobilizes more than 3,000 Peace Corps Volunteers across the continent to make lasting impacts on malaria treatment and prevention. Partnering with the President's Malaria Initiative and Malaria No More, specially trained Peace Corps Volunteers and staff are proud to be part of an international team with the goal of ending malaria.