

DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

# THE ALUMS CORNER:

## *The Scoop After Service*

### Happy Holidays from Service Year Alliance!



As we approach the end of 2023, we are thrilled to be sharing our last newsletter of the year, filled with updates, opportunities, and reflections from our alums community.

It's been a big year for national service and service year alums. With the launch of this newsletter in April and the continued engagement of alums in our [LinkedIn Group](#), we're working with you to build connections across generations of alums. Let's keep it going as we move into 2024.

We'd love to get your reflections and feedback on the newsletters we've shared throughout the year! What are you looking forward to seeing in future newsletters? How would you like to engage with our LinkedIn group? Contact us at [alums@serviceyear.org](mailto:alums@serviceyear.org) to share your thoughts.

In service and happy holidays!

Juanita Henry  
Manager, Communications

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# AmeriCorps Recap of “Public Service Loan Forgiveness: A Primer for AmeriCorps Members & Grantees”

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, AmeriCorps hosted “Public Service Loan Forgiveness: A Primer for AmeriCorps Members and Grantees.” During this event, US Department of Education officials provided an overview of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, recent changes to the program and income-based student loan repayment plan options, and special considerations for AmeriCorps members.



If you could not attend, we encourage you to check out a [recording](#) and the [presentation slides](#).

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## Meet Service Year Alliance’s Leadership Council Alums Committee Members



The Alums Committee of Service Year Alliance’s Leadership Council is a subgroup of our bipartisan and cross-sector Leadership Council consisting of select service year alums who act as advisers and thought leaders by bringing service year alums voices and perspectives to Service Year Alliance’s work. In this group we have Willie Brooks, Kalan Cole, Jaynice Del Rosario, Nicki Fiocco, Jason Hatch, Chelsey Hudson, Jamier Jones, and Heather Thomson.

[You can learn more about each member by clicking here](#)

# Leadership Opportunities

## AmeriCorps External Grant Reviewer Opportunities

AmeriCorps is working to expand its pool of qualified external reviewers to support future grant reviews, including its upcoming FY 2024 grant application reviews. The agency's [External Reviewer website](#) provides interested individuals with information about what to expect, the time commitment, and how to sign up to be considered for a review. Reviewers must meet the minimum qualifications in order to be accepted and must describe these qualifications in their application. It's an excellent opportunity for someone who has five or more years of demonstrated experience in such fields as disaster services, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, economic opportunity, veterans and military families, and/or capacity building.

[Learn more here](#)

## Virtual Service Pilot Engagements



Robby Robinette followed his service as a Youth in Development Peace Corps Volunteer (Armenia 2009-2011) with AmeriCorps VISTA service at Washington's Imagine Children's Museum. Robby believes it's important to support communities - domestically and internationally - to pay it forward. He credits his teachers and mentors for where he is today. In 2023, Robby donated his services to co-facilitate online English classes with university teachers in Armenia through Peace Corps' Virtual Service.

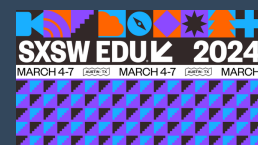
"Learning how to respect and learn from others of different backgrounds was one of the greatest lessons I learned from both my Peace Corps and AmeriCorps services. That awareness helped me with my virtual engagement to better collaborate with my counterpart, as well as work with our students to support their goals and ambitions," reflected Robby.

Want to participate in a short-term virtual engagement like Robby?

[Explore virtual service opportunities here](#)

## SXSW EDU 2024

AmeriCorps will be at SXSW EDU 2024! AmeriCorps CEO Michael D. Smith will be hosting a conversation about AmeriCorps' [impact on education](#) over the last 30 years, and they'd love to connect with you when they are in Austin. If you plan to attend SXSW EDU or would like to have senior leaders from AmeriCorps join an event you are hosting in Austin, please email [P12education@americorps.gov](mailto:P12education@americorps.gov).



# Career Resources, & Job Opportunities

## Call Time Manager Bootcamp

Call Time Manager Bootcamp is back! [New Politics Leadership Academy](#) is hosting a Call Time Manager Boot Camp, a virtual training for early career professionals, college students, and AmeriCorps alums who are eager to work on a political campaign. Call Time Managers are campaign staffers who support candidates' fundraising efforts. They research potential donors, prepare lists of contacts, manage candidates as they actually make the calls, and follow up as needed with individual donors. This is an entry-level, high-impact role, and we know that many campaigns are hungry to find staff who are skilled and effective in this role. New Politics created this training to equip servant leaders with the tactical skills they'll need to succeed in this role.

Here's how it works. Participants will learn:

- Overview of Campaigns
- Overview of Campaign Finance
- How to prepare, execute, and follow-up on call time
- How to handle challenges faced by Call Time Managers



Expect an engaging mix of presentations, dialogue, and active learning. If you know of anyone in your network who might be a good fit, please spread the word! Click [here to learn more and apply](#) by January 8!

[Apply here](#)

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## America's Service Commission's Service Job Board

America's Service Commissions regularly shares job openings for staff positions within the field of national service. [Check out the open jobs here!](#)



# 2023 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Leadership Award Winners:

*Service Year Alliance is thrilled to introduce our [2023 Segal Leadership Award](#) winners! These inspiring and dedicated citizen leaders join a network of 155 lifelong fellows across a wide range of issue areas and sectors. The AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellows will work with Service Year Alliance to promote national service as part of the 2023 National Service Cohort. Learn more about each of the fellows below!*

A Jacksonville native, **Megan Potts** has been a trailblazer throughout the field of education for the last decade. The innovative educator has worked with organizations such as AmeriCorps, City Year Dallas, City Teaching Alliance, and the Department of Education TRIO Talent Search Program.

She has several years of experience working with urban communities in the education and non-profit sector. A leader within her field, she received the AT&T Discipline Award during her service year with City Year Dallas and was named an Emerging Leader on behalf of Florida State TRIO and 2023 ampED National Fellow in partnership with Communities in Schools and Duval County Public Schools.



[Read more about Megan](#)



[Read more about Jennifer](#)

During her AmeriCorps service year in Wisconsin, **Jennifer Bañarez**, building on her experience in medical school and in direct patient care, brokered a crucial partnership with the National Guard, extending COVID vaccine access to underserved communities in central Wisconsin. She also regularly administered COVID tests in congregate settings during the winter of 2020-2021.

Jennifer displayed exceptional organizational skills by setting up the capacity of the first free clinic in her city which included implementing an electronic health record system, establishing the clinic's online presence, and conducting personnel training.

In the future, Jennifer aims to tap into her medical experience by championing healthcare data that reflects the diversity of patients. Having observed firsthand the shortcomings in healthcare data collection, aggregation, and reporting, she's committed to rectifying these issues and providing a more accurate portrayal of a population's health.



# "50ish" VISTA Reunion for Rochester Alums



*We love the stories we receive from service year alums and especially this one from Steve Quigley, a VISTA alum who served in 1972. He shares a recap of his recent reunion and offers a glimpse into what it means to reconnect with fellow alums after years of service.*

Eighteen VISTAs gathered from various parts of the country—California, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Trenton, Boston, Nevada, Portland, and, of course, Rochester.

For a magical five hours, we embarked on a bus tour of Rochester, revisiting the places we once called home (some now gone), the Cadillac hotel where we stayed during our initial training (still standing), the agencies we worked for (some no longer in existence), witnessing the city's progress over 50 years and acknowledging the work that remains.

An emotionally charged reunion dinner on Saturday night featured a captivating seven-minute slideshow set to music, showcasing us as VISTAs in Rochester then and now.

Sunday's brunch welcomed Glenn Cerosaletti, a former VISTA and the current coordinator for AmeriCorps VISTA at the University of Rochester. Glenn brought along his team of currently serving AmeriCorps VISTA members, joined by Rachael Tachco, Director of Rochester AmeriCorps, and her team of AmeriCorps members.

The pinnacle of the event was an inspirational presentation by Mark Gearan, President of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, former Peace Corps Director from 1995-99, and former Chair of the Corporation for National and Community Service (now AmeriCorps). President Gearan invigorated the group with his impassioned call to national service as our most potent tool for bridging the divides in our nation.

"On a scale of 1-10, the 50ish Rochester VISTA reunion was a 12! I'm confident I speak for all 18 participants. It was truly extraordinary, as many echoed the sentiment, 'It's been SO LONG...' Yet now that we're back together, it's almost as if we never left." - Steve Quigley

# Spotlight: Dr. John Scott, AmeriCorps Alum

Dr. John Scott was nervous about quitting his job as a flight attendant to join AmeriCorps. But he says it ignited his passion about bringing people together to dismantle systems of oppression and build more robust systems of equity. That passion has guided his career as a transformative leader, instructor and coach for the past 25 years.

It's apparent in everything he does, from teaching executive directors and staff at nonprofits how to view their work through a racial equity and anti-oppression lens to making public spaces safe and welcoming.

"Something I continue to love about this work is the ability for me to use my professional and lived experiences to support communities I care deeply about," Scott said. This work of transformation, coaching, community-centered pedagogies, all keep making me a better human." -Dr. John Scott

[Read more about Dr. John Scott's service story here](#)



*"Something I continue to love about this work is the ability for me to use my professional and lived experiences to support communities I care deeply about..."*



## Meet Jason Hatch

Service Year Alliance has been actively recruiting diverse alums to join our Leadership Council to spearhead our newly-created alums committee. These members bring their perspectives, voices, and experiences as service year alums to Service Year Alliance's work. We're excited to introduce you to one of our Alums Committee members, Jason Hatch.

Meet Jason Hatch. Jason is a retired military officer and a former accredited diplomat. He conducted his AmeriCorps service year in 2017-18 with Virginia State Parks. He has worked in international consulting, macro disaster resiliency, human trafficking, and other international issues of note. He is an entrepreneur with two startups under his belt and devotes much of his spare time to conservation issues, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. He is a father, a grandfather, and a devoted doggie dad.

"Witnessing the passion and commitment for the environment by younger generations and their ability to apply solutions to difficult problems by leveraging emerging technologies, communication, and based on scientific research were the best things to come out of my service year." -Jason Hatch

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# AmeriCorps Alum Spotlight: Steven Silverman

## 1. What is your name, and where are you from?

My name is Steven Silverman and I grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs.

## 2. Where have you served, and how many terms have you served?

I served with City Year Greater Philadelphia in the '09-10 school year.

## 3. What is your favorite memory from AmeriCorps?

My favorite AmeriCorps memory is from when we organized a service event. During this event, my teammates and I assisted students in painting murals of their own design on the walls of their school.

## 4. How has serving with AmeriCorps benefitted you?

During my service with AmeriCorps, I built many lasting relationships including meeting my now spouse, a fellow corps member.

## 5. What advice would you give to current AmeriCorps members and Alum?

Make the most of your service experience by leveraging the opportunities it offers, such as scholarships and career support within this network. I continue to wear those Tims proudly, and thanks to AmeriCorps, it's now helping fund my graduate school education!

*"I continue to wear those Tims proudly, and thanks to AmeriCorps, it's now helping fund my graduate school education!"*

