



2002

ROBERT J. SALERNO

• PSYCHOLOGY •

SERVES AS A GLOBAL HEALTH CONSULTANT IN 14 COUNTRIES

In the decade since graduation, Robert J. Salerno's degree in psychology has taken him to more than a dozen countries in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. He spent much of 2012 in Ethiopia advising an "urban gardens" program that allowed women and children infected by HIV/AIDS to grow healthier food and, in turn, support their families.

Salerno '02 is a global health consultant for DAI, an international trade and development company in Washington, D.C., that is the largest supplier of technical assistance to USAID, the United States Agency for International Development. His work in Africa was part of a five-year, \$9 million USAID initiative.

Salerno originally majored in English because he loved to read. He switched to psychology because he believed it gave him more opportunities to apply his knowledge, especially in public health. At PC, he learned observational skills, statistics, and research methods, and held internships in immunology at Brown University and in epidemiology at the Rhode Island Department of Health. After graduation, he went to the Fiji Islands with the Peace Corps.

"I was encouraged to learn beyond campus," said Salerno. "Having internships, I acquired new real-world skills. Religion plays a huge role in the work I do because the communities I work in have strong religious values. PC made me sensitive to that." ■

