

### What was your undergraduate alma mater?

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota

### Program(s)-of-study?

Family Studies

### Where did you serve? When?

I served in Nakung, Thailand from 2011-2012

### What was your primary job?

I co-taught English with Thai elementary and secondary teachers.

### Did you have any secondary projects?

Secondary projects were Community English classes for people of all ages and English Camps for elementary students.

### How did you go about starting those?

I worked closely with my co-teachers, high school students, school staff, and community members to plan and lead classes and camps.



### Do you think your current career choice was influenced by your Peace Corps service? In what ways?

My current career has been pursuing a PhD in Language, Reading, and Culture. I was a US Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow for the first two years here at University of Arizona. During my third year I've been a graduate teaching associate. I plan to return to the Nakung village in Thailand where I served as a PCV and will conduct a community-based participatory action research project related to language vitality with an intergenerational team of community members! So, I would say, yes, my current education and professional path has been greatly influenced by my Peace Corps service.

### Did the Peace Corps service change your perception of your professional skills and strengths?

The Peace Corps service changed my perception of professional and personal skills and strengths. It also changed my worldview and the way in which I go about my day-to-day living.

### Do you have one key piece of advice to give undergraduates interested in joining the Peace Corps after graduation?

JUST DO IT!!! And be ready for your life to change dramatically! I wished I had done it right out of college. I waited way too long to apply and serve. I had just turned 50, was the 5000th volunteer as PC Thailand celebrated its 50th year with Peace Corps when my service began in January 2011!

