

What was your undergraduate alma mater? Graduate alma mater? Program(s)-of-study? Were you a Coverdell Fellow?



Paige making pierogis

I graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in Geosciences (1984). I earned an MBA just before joining the Peace Corps, so when I returned I jumped into the workforce and did not have the opportunity to apply for a Coverdell Fellowship. I am now back at the University of Arizona as an employee and working towards a PhD in Higher Ed.

Where did you serve? When?

I served in Ostróda, a small town of about 30,000 in north-central Poland (1997-1999). I lived in the Methodist Church rectory/English School and worked in the town's Teutonic castle. Like much of Poland this area was invaded many times during its history. It has experienced influence from Prussia, Poland, France, Russia, and the Soviet Union.

What was your primary job? Did you have any secondary projects? How did you go about starting those?

I was in the Environmental Group of Peace Corps but ended up helping to establish a regional history museum in the town's Teutonic castle. I won a US AID grant to fund an archaeological dig on the castle grounds. The artifacts were studied and then added to the museum's collection. The activity that was the most fun and rewarding was running an English club for kids that met every Friday night. This was a natural project since I was living in the basement of an English school. The highlights were teaching the kids tongue-twisters in English and holding an annual Halloween Party.

Do you think your current career choice was influenced by your Peace Corps service? How?

Yes, I was hired at Eller MBA in part due to my Peace Corps experience which has led to my career in Higher Ed. We usually have one or two RPCVs in the Full-time MBA and

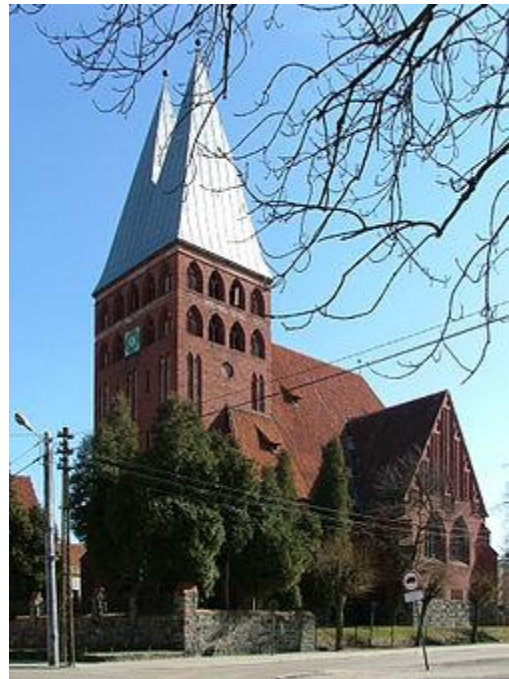


The Teutonic Castel where Paige worked

being an RPCV helps me understand the transition these students are about to make. It is rewarding to see them use their Peace Corps experience and MBA education to pursue their professional dreams.

If you had to only name one thing, what was your favorite part about being a Volunteer?

All the people I met along the way! Learning their stories was fascinating.



The Methodist Church where Paige lived

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

Do it - it is the best experience ever! You will learn so much along the way while having fun!