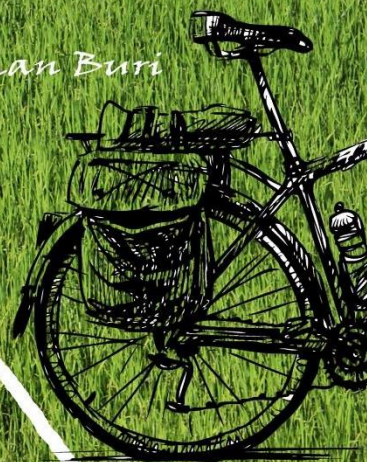
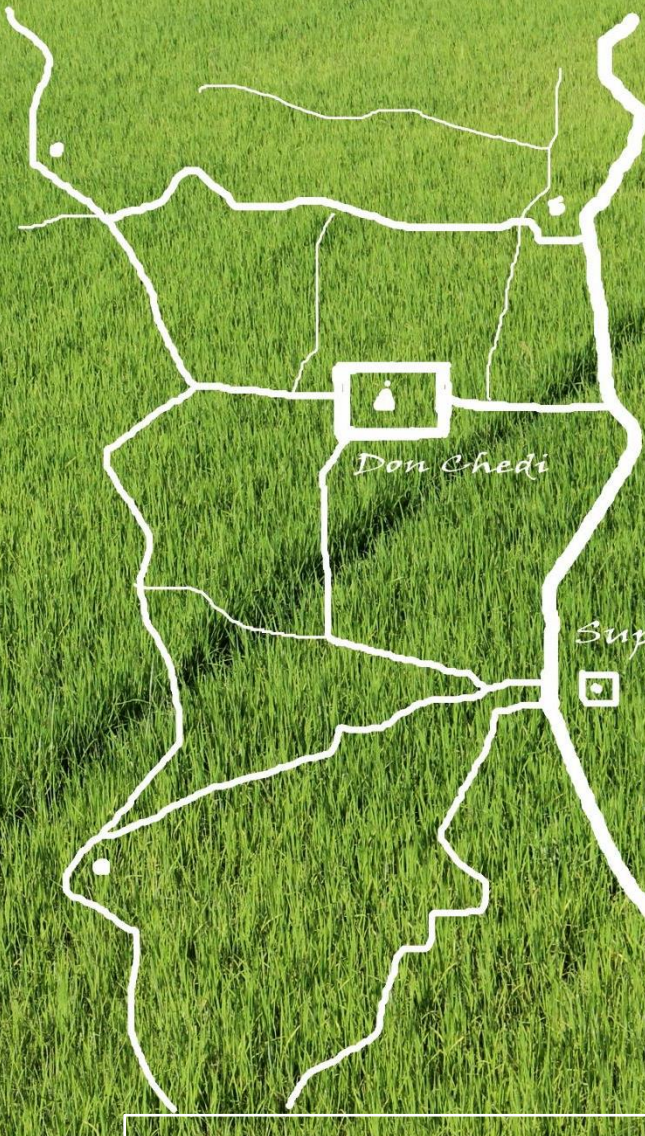
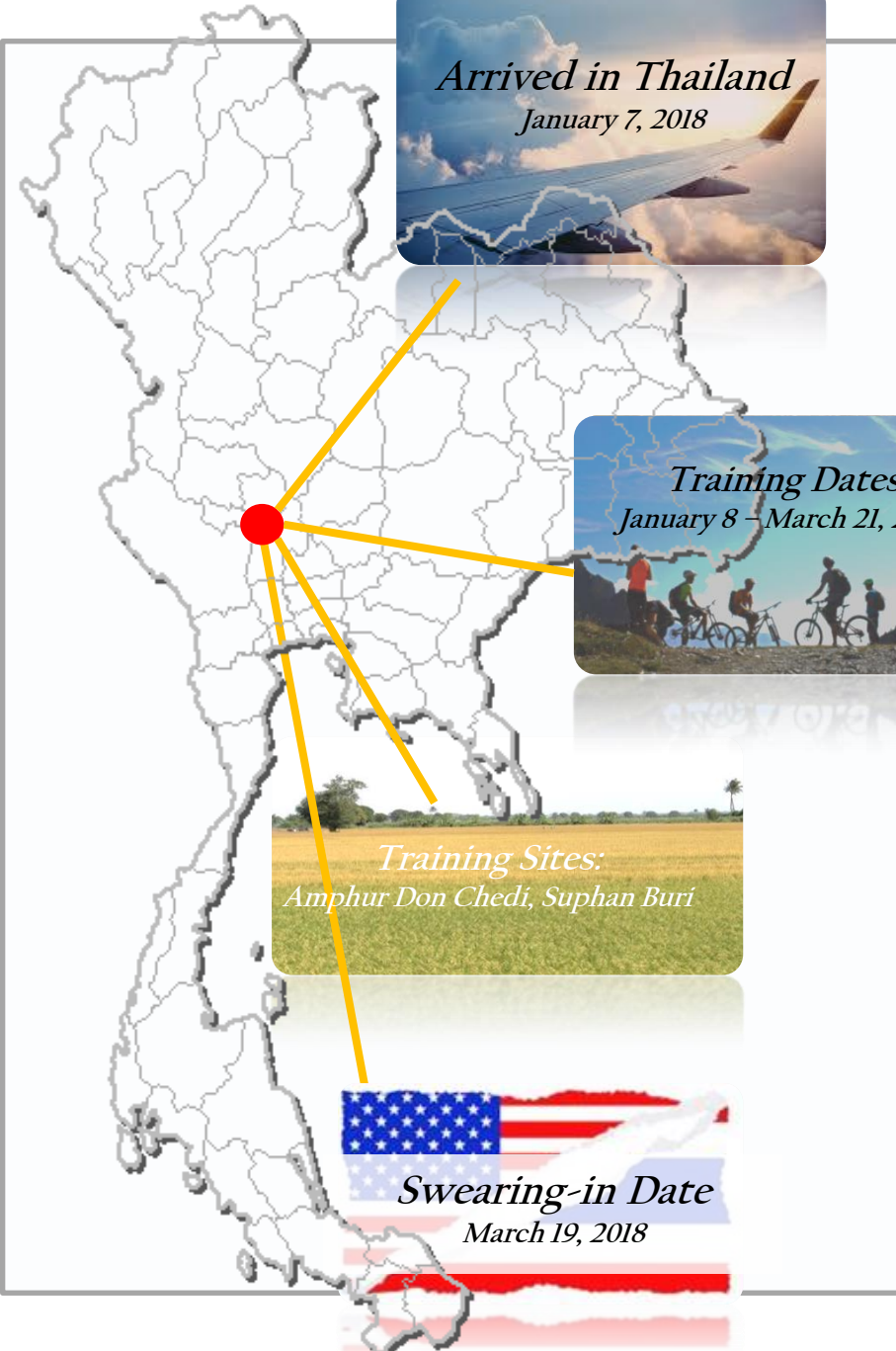




PEACE CORPS THAILAND

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING 130



Arrived in Thailand
January 7, 2018

Training Dates
January 8 – March 21, 2018

Training Sites:
Amphur Don Chedi, Suphan Buri

Swearing-in Date
March 19, 2018

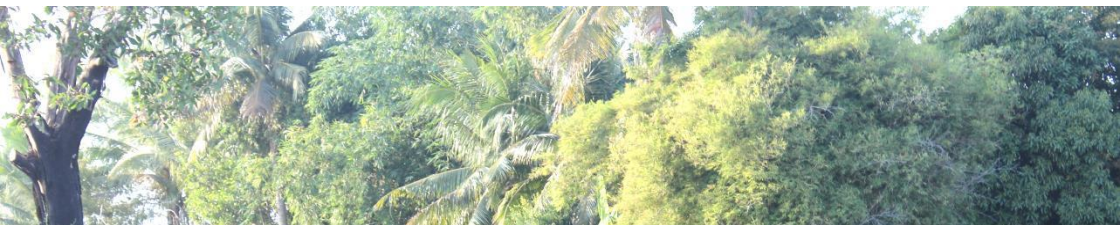


Peace Corps

หน่วยสันติภาพสหรัฐอเมริกา

U.S. Peace Corps Thailand

PST 130 - Suphanburi, Thailand

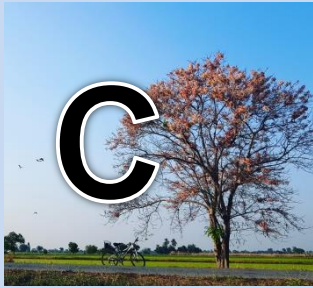


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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF TRAINEES

Name	Program
Abigail Raver	YinD
Ajmal Behsudi	YinD
Alexis Apodaca	YinD
Alexis Baker	YinD
Ali Talwar	TESS
Alice McGown	YinD
Andrea Arian Aribé	YinD
Andrew Cole	TESS
Andrey Shamshurin	TESS
Aseem Kever	YinD
Ashley Abigail Resurreccion	TESS
Atefeh Metanat	YinD
Benjamin Lordi	TESS
Berline Exume	TESS
Bethany McHugh	TESS
Bryan Buckler-Newruck	YinD
Caitlin Orgon	YinD
Carissa Anderson	YinD
Casey Butler	YinD
Chelsea Pritchard	YinD
Christalynn Hamer	TESS
Christine Chorney	TESS
Clark Finkelstein	TESS

Name	Program
Cristal Gonzalez	YinD
Crystal Carter	TESS
Cyrus Ebadat	YinD
Daylisha Hall	YinD
Dillon Kasel	TESS
Elizabeth Kutka	TESS
Elizabeth Steering	YinD
Emmanuel Kidd	TESS
Eric Mills	TESS
Gabriel Reid	TESS
Halena Benson	TESS
Hannah Steffe	YinD
Jenny Samuelson	TESS
Julia Schreiner-Wolf	TESS
Kali Ask	TESS
Kara Anthony	TESS
Keegan Small	YinD
Larissa Delgado	YinD
Laura Hyde	YinD
Lee-Hoon Benson	TESS
Lucy Zhao	YinD
Maisony Schendel	TESS

The background of the entire page is a photograph of tall, thin grasses or reeds silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the grass. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a darker blue at the top. The table is overlaid on this image, with a semi-transparent white background and a light blue header.

Name	Program
Mary Kubinski	TESS
Matthew Mikrut	YinD
Michael Martinez	YinD
Michael Wade	TESS
Monique Ogunsusi	TESS
Morgan Kubishak	YinD
Nhi Le	TESS
Nicholas Evans	YinD
Nicholas Melrose	TESS
Philip Hendrix	TESS
Poonam Benakatti	YinD
Psian Aviles-Quinones	YinD
Robert Leonard	TESS
Ruhamaiah Bradley	TESS
Skyler Matthias	YinD
Spencer Swansen	YinD
Tatiana Velez	TESS
Timothy Connors	TESS
Timothy Van Sickle	TESS
Trevor Burba	TESS
Triveni Rao	YinD
Yaneth Pena	YinD
Zari Havercome	YinD

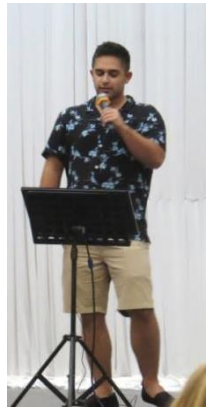
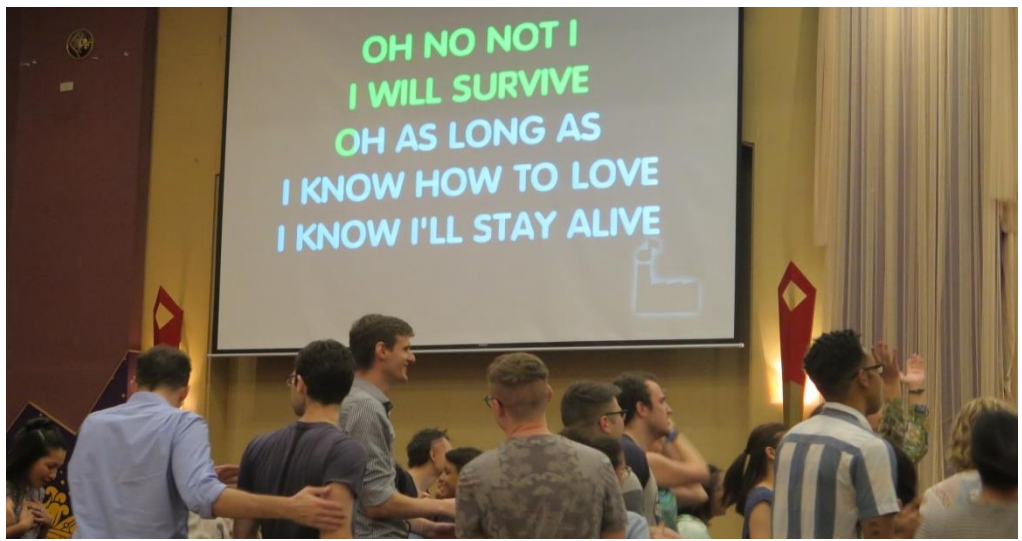
Training of Trainers -TOT



Arrival

Suvarnabhumi Airport





Welcome Dinner

WELCOME!



Meet with the Governor





Bpan jak-ga-yaan



Language Class





Get Ready to Homestay





Meet Host Families





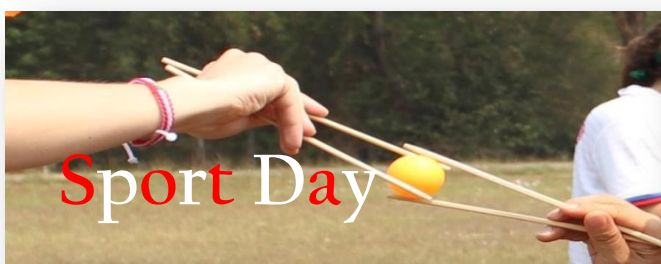


Community Mapping





THAI DAY



Cultural Event Simulations





American Day





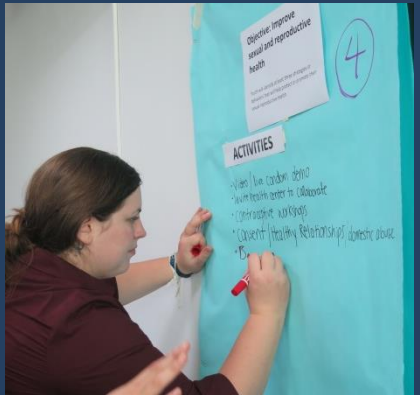
American Day



YinD



YinD



YinD



YinD



YinD



TESS





TESS



TESS



TESS



TESS



PST GROUP 130

LIST OF YInD TRAINEES

Abigail Raver
Ajmal Behsudi
Alexis Apodaca
Alexis Baker
Alice McGown
Andrea Arian Aribé
Aseem Kever
Atefeh Metanat
Bryan Buckler-Newruck
Caitlin Orgon
Carissa Anderson
Casey Butler
Chelsea Pritchard
Cristal Gonzalez
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Laura Hyde
Lucy Zhao
Matthew Mikrut
Michael Martinez
Morgan Kubishak
Nicholas Evans
Poonam Benakatti
Psian Aviles-Quinones
Skyler Matthias
Spencer Swansen
Triveni Rao
Yaneth Pena
Zari Havercome



Abigail Raver

Abigail is from Ann Arbor, MI. She is joining the Peace Corps because she wants to be a part of something bigger than herself. She wants to help and be able to see the world in a new way. She is excited to work within her community, have new experiences, try new foods, make friends, and explore. Abigail has a BA in Sociology as well as a minor in Health Promotion from Michigan State University. Since graduating in the spring she has worked at Camp Al-Gon-Quian as the Junior Staff Director, mentoring and advising staff junior members. In the summer of 2016 she spent 6 weeks living in Greece and interning with unaccompanied minors in the Moria Refugee Camp. She loves sports, being outdoors, spending time on the water, trying new foods and spending time with her friends.

Ajmal Behsudi

Ajmal is from McLean, VA, a suburb a few miles south of Washington D.C. He has been living in Richmond, VA for the last 4 years. Ajmal is joining the Peace Corps because he has always wanted to experience a realistic understanding of how the vast majority of people around the world live. Hopefully this newfound experience of living without the luxuries the United States offers will allow him to bring home valuable life lessons which he can apply in his day-to-day life. In Richmond, he also attended The Virginia Commonwealth University. He studied Biology with a Chemistry minor on a Pre-Medicine track. In high school and college, he was heavily involved in after-school tutoring for elementary aged children. His favorite hobbies include playing soccer, biking, taking naps, and drawing.





Alexis Apodaca

Alexis is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She believes Peace Corps service in Thailand is about developing authentic relationships that facilitate cross-cultural understanding, and serving in any way that she can. Alexis is most excited to work with the youth in her community and her future counterparts. In 2017 Alexis earned a B.A. in Public and Nonprofit Administration and a B.A. in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma. She is passionate about youth leadership development, and has spent six years working with at-risk adolescents to help them cultivate these skills. She enjoys hiking, watching documentaries, and (attempting to) practice yoga in her free time. Alexis is from Phoenix, Arizona.

Alexis Baker

Alexis is a trainee with Peace Corps Thailand. She is joining PC because she loves helping people and is interested in developing countries. She is excited to learn more about Thailand and its people as well as work with youth. Alexis believes that Peace Corps Service in Thailand is about forming relationships between two countries and serving where she is needed most. Alexis graduated from Bentley University with a degree in Business Management in 2017. While at college she oversaw many community service programs with the Bentley Service Learning Center. She started two programs which helped at risk teens in low income housing units. Most recently, she ran from San Francisco to New York City to raise awareness for young adults with cancer. Alexis is from Boston, Massachusetts.





Alice McGown

Alice grew up flying back and forth between Texas and her family in South Africa. She's studied in New Zealand and Georgia, but currently lives in Los Angeles, California. The Peace Corps represents the beginning of a career change for her, and Alice is excited to experience and immerse herself in a culture very different from the western world and help young adults become more productive and happy members of the global community. Alice graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA focused on documentary film production. She's volunteered in the past with GreenPeace and the International Rescue Committee. Alice lives in Los Angeles and has spent almost a decade traveling while filming documentary and reality television projects for broadcast, cable and theatrical distribution. She's a film and computer nerd who loves hiking and drumming in punk bands.

Andrea Arian Aribé

Andrea Aribé carries five years of marketing and communications experience within the nonprofit, academic, and news industries. Previously, she was a reporter for several newspapers, an information specialist at University of Central Florida, a communications specialist at University of Florida, and a development coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in communication with a concentration in journalism and minor in photography from the University of North Florida. Andrea has lived in many places including Connecticut, Rhode Island, Sicily, South Carolina, Guam, and Florida. She joined the Peace Corps to continue applying her skills towards making an impact on lives and a difference in the world. She is excited to be a new member of the Peace Corps team and a mentor for the Thai community.





Aseem Kever

Aseem was born and raised on a farm in Mombasa, Kenya. At the age of fourteen Aseem moved to Orange County, California. Aseem has recently been living in Long Beach and is very excited to join the Peace Corps. He joined the Peace Corps because he is passionate about education and learning about new cultures. He is excited about the opportunity to positively impact the community that he is serving while growing as an individual. Aseem has a BA in Political Economy from the University of California Berkeley. Most recently he led a two month service learning program for youth in Moshi, Tanzania. Aseem is passionate about learning languages, history, and working in diplomacy.

Atefeh Metanat

Alix is a Youth in Development volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She first fell in love with Thailand when she visited Chiang Mai in 2016 as part of a service learning project teaching English to novice monks. She now gets to fall in love with Thailand and the people of her community every day. Alix believes Peace Corps service in Thailand is about sharing human connection and creating supporting relationships. She enjoys the country's fresh coconuts, warm smiles and the jai yen yen lifestyle. Alix has a BS from San Jose State University in Public Relations with a minor in Psychology. Her passions include Muay Thai and analog photography.





Bryan Buckler-Newruck

Bryan is originally from outside of the greater Philadelphia area in Pennsylvania. Bryan endeavors to parlay his experiences in the mental health field working with youth and individuals with mental health issues to his lifetime goal of working to combat against children in the human trafficking industry. Bryan believes that the Land of a Thousand Smiles will offer him unlimited resources in opportunities to be of service. Bryan has a BA in Political Science/Native American Studies. Bryan's work experiences saw him being of service to emotionally disturbed and gang related youth, adults with mental retardation and developmental delays, and individuals diagnosed with Schizophrenia and Bipolar disorder.

Caitlin Orgon

Caitlin believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about building relationships and inspiring future leaders of Thailand. Caitlin is most excited to work with the incredibly respectful and eager Thai students. She is also excited to learn how to cook Thai cuisine. Caitlin has a BS in Psychology from Bemidji State University. For the school year of 2016-2017 she was selected to serve in AmeriCorps, serving youth full time in a charter school. She also served as a partner for a state-wide youth council. Most recently she has been substitute teaching in special education classes. Caitlin was a member of the dance team in college, serving as the head captain her senior year. Caitlin is from Bemidji, MN, a small town on the Mississippi river.





Carissa Anderson

Carissa is a Peace Corps Thailand volunteer and works in the youth development sector. She acts as a teacher, program facilitator and mentor to children. She believes Peace Corps service in Thailand is relationship building with counterparts and youth with the encouragement of positive human development in education, life skills and health. Carissa is 24 years old and has BA in Global politics and a minor in German from Washington State University. Her choice to join the Peace Corps stems from a desire to work within the developing world and have an impact in improving others' lives. Carissa expects to be a part of a wonderful group of people that will not only be an arm of support for the next two years, but hopefully some very close friends.

Casey Butler

Casey was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. As an adult, he has lived in Los Angeles, London, Florence, Dallas, Amsterdam, Brooklyn, and most recently, Austin. He joined the Peace Corps for several reasons, including his passion for service, his interest in working with youth, and his love of a good challenge. He is very excited to learn about Thai culture and to collaborate on youth development programming with his eventual community members. Casey has a Master of Science in Sociology from the University of Amsterdam. Most recently, he was working as a program coordinator and student development specialist at a large, public university. He is passionate about the arts and has been trained in art, theatre, dance, and filmmaking. He also loves to volunteer, travel, cook, and read.





Chelsea Pritchard

Chelsea is a Youth in Development Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She is joining to Peace Corps because she feels the most joy when she is participating in something remarkable and is looking forward to immersing herself fully into a new culture and adapting to the heat. Chelsea earned a Bachelor of Science from Portland State University in Health Sciences. While in college she worked as a Peer Health Educator where she taught her peers about all things health and wellness. After graduation and before joining the Peace Corps she was working with kids with Autism. For fun she enjoys playing her ukulele, reading and cooking. Chelsea is from Portland, Oregon.

Cristal Gonzalez

Cristal is grow up in Paramount, CA. Paramount is a small city about 30 minutes from the beach and 40 minutes for the City of Los Angeles. She has lived in Minot, ND for the past year. Minot is a small city known for its oil boom and the Minot Air Force Base. She is joining the Peace Corps because she has always wanted to learn more about another culture and help out others. She has a passion for helping kids and is excited to be able do so in Thailand. Cristal studied Energy and Sustainability Policy with Pennsylvania State University. She has volunteered with different environmental organizations. Aside from being passionate about the environment, she also enjoys teaching and helping children. She has done tutoring and educational events. She recently worked as a Youth Care Worker, helping kids with past trauma to adjust to society. She enjoys reading, photography, and horseback riding.





Cyrus Ebadat

Cyrus is from San Jose, CA, and recently moved back home after graduating with a BA in Political Science from Cal Poly SLO. He is joining the Peace Corps to explore the world through a different perspective and to experience a new challenge in life. He is excited to learn about the Thai culture and experience it firsthand and to work with the youth in Thailand. In the past, Cyrus has worked and volunteered as a camp leader for kids ranging in ages 8-16 years old and as a mentor within a program that works with at-risk male youth. In his free time, he likes to be outdoors and taking time to read a great book. He is also passionate about traveling and meeting new people everywhere he goes.

Daylisha Hall (Reid-socially)

Daylisha is from Jackson, Michigan but has lived and worked in Austin, TX, Houston, TX, and Denver, CO over 6 years. She earned a BA in Psychology from Michigan State University. She is joining the Peace Corps with her husband Gabriel to pursue her passion for community and youth development. She is excited to empower Thai youth and equip them with the tools that will be essential for them to become their own self advocates and strengthen their communities. She is excited to create lifelong relationships and travel Southeast Asia. For the past 6 years she has worked in education, recently providing college and career advising to high school seniors. She completed a 200 hour yoga teacher certification in August of 2017 and looks forward to teaching in Thailand!





Elizabeth Steering

Elizabeth is a Youth in Development trainee with Peace Corps Thailand Group 130. She believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about opening one's heart and mind in order to form genuine bonds with Thai people. She is so excited to improve her Thai language skills and learn as much as she can about the Thai culture and way of life. Elizabeth hopes to empower Thai youth by equipping them with leadership and critical thinking skills. She earned her B.S. in Sociology from Portland State University in 2016. Before coming to Thailand, she worked for the youth department of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization in Portland, Oregon. Elizabeth enjoys spicy vegetarian foods from around the world, reading books, and practicing yoga. She was born and raised in Orange County, California.

Hannah Steffe

Hannah is a PCT with Peace Corps Thailand and is currently training to become a Youth in Development Volunteer. Hannah is from Montclair, NJ, a suburb 12 miles outside of New York City. She graduated with a BS in Rehabilitation and Human Services from Penn State University in May 2017. Hannah loves to read, run, spend time outdoors and hang out with friends. Hannah believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about building bridges between two cultures and fostering personal and professional relationships. She is incredibly excited to learn more about the Thai language, culture and people.





Keegan Small

Keegan is from Shoreline, WA, a suburb located North of Seattle. Keegan has always been attracted to new challenges, and Peace Corps presents a positive challenge in which he can grow and learn. Keegan is most excited about the food, the environment, and the lifelong relationships to be built. Keegan has BA from Western Washington University in Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations. You can find Keegan doing much of his volunteer work around local schools as a mentor, tutor, and coach. In the Summer of 2016, Keegan lived in San Diego for 3 months Interning for a global non-profit that specializes in social justice and education for youth around the world. Keegan is dedicated and passionate about helping youth prosper and live life to its fullest.

Larissa Delgado

Larissa is training to become a Youth in Development Volunteer for Peace Corps Thailand. She's Brazilian, a New Yorker and a travel bug. She's outdoorsy and passionate for film and writing. She has a BA from Syracuse University in Anthropology. Prior to Peace Corps she was a video editing intern at INSIDER. She joined the Peace Corps to learn how to better connect to people, and directly impact their lives with on-the-ground work. She is excited to kick off projects that empower Thai's youth through the YinD program. She is also excited to learn Thai, explore the beautiful landscapes of Southeast Asia, and partake in this incredible experience of servitude.





Laura Hyde

Laura was born and raised in the small town of Yellow Springs, OH and most recently has been living in Portland, ME. She is excited to join the Peace Corps and learn about a new community and connect across difference. Laura is looking forward to working with kids again and learning a new language. Laura has a BA in Global Studies, French and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. She also has an MA in African Studies. Recently she has been working at the Council on International Educational Exchange. In the past Laura has worked with students through Camp Joy and Upward Bound. She enjoys hiking, reading and cooking.

Lucy Zhao

Lucy is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She serves as a Youth in Development volunteer where she focuses on teaching Thai youth life skills to become successful adults. Lucy works both in school settings and within the community to promote a more holistic approach to youth development that encourages youth leadership and engagement. Lucy believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about developing meaningful relationships in the community. She is excited to immerse herself in Thai culture, form new friendships, and enjoy Thai food. Lucy is a recent alumni of the University of Minnesota, graduating with a B.S. in Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance and a minor in Biology. She loves being outdoors, exploring new places, and meeting new people. Lucy is from Minneapolis, Minnesota.





Matthew Mikrut

Matt is a prospective YinD volunteer who is currently training with PST 130. He believes that his Peace Corps service in Thailand is an illustration of effective community development: fostering a mutual understanding of people and their environments can help provide effective insights that can lead to a lasting impact. He cannot wait to continue eating delicious Thai food, challenge youth, learn a ton about Thai culture, pick up a Thai hobby, and learn more about himself. Matt graduated in 2017 as a double major from Boston College in International Studies and Economics. He is passionate about soccer, BC football, philosophy, travelling, eating, and discussions about politics and social justice. Even though he has lived overseas most of his life, he calls Boston home.

Michael Martinez

Michael from Austin, Tx, a city that has taught him love of individualism, music and food. He has a BS from Texas A&M University in Applied Mathematics. His passions include developing himself and his relationships as well as learning about life and trivia through various means (primarily podcasts). His hobbies are reading books, health and nutrition, learning, watching really good movies or really bad movies, and being in and exploring nature. Michael is joining the Peace Corps because he believes that this is an opportunity in life to give and receive culture. He also believes that this can be an experience that will help fulfill his personal mission of providing basic needs for those with out and developing leadership skills in individuals.





Morgan Kubishak

Morgan believes that the Thailand Youth in Development program is about empowering youth to identify their own needs, set goals, and work to find solutions. For the last three years she has been a Resident Assistant in University Housing, building relationships with students and supporting their personal and academic success. She is from Osseo, Wisconsin and recently earned a B.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire along with a Peace Corps Prep Certificate focusing on the Environment and a Geographic Information Systems Certificate. During her college career she studied Hmong culture in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Chinese Culture in Chengdu, China. Additionally, she loves musical theater and sings often. Morgan hopes to share her passions for culture, the environment, and theater with her community.

Nicholas Evans

Nick was born and raised in Northern California. He grew up just outside of Sacramento, in a suburb called Elk Grove. He's been living full time in San Francisco every since graduating from college in 2010. He is joining the Peace Corps to make a difference in the world, and to immerse himself in a culture and way of life that is totally different from the one he knows. He's excited to face new challenges and grow as a person, and hopefully make a ton of new lifelong friends in the process. Nick has a dual BA in History and Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a news junkie, and loves to argue about politics with family and friends. He's been working in tech for several years now, and had the chance right out of college to work for a statewide elected official. He's ready for this adventure to begin!





Poonam Benakatti

Poonam is from Dallas, TX, where she was born and raised. She is serving in the Peace Corps because she would like to challenge herself in new ways, experience life from a different perspective, and help a developing community reach its potential. She is eager to work with the adolescent population, share her passion for the STEM field, learn to cook Thai food, and assimilate into a new culture. Poonam has an MS from UT Dallas in Applied Cognition in Neuroscience. Before departing for service, she worked in healthcare and enjoyed volunteering for Girl Scouts. She has experience working with youth through APO, and in various collegiate leadership organizations. Her hobbies include rock climbing, running, and sailing.

Psian Aviles-Quinones

Psian is from Utuado, Puerto Rico, a small town in the Puerto Rican countryside and has most recently been living in North Brunswick, New Jersey and working with at risk youth in Jersey City, New Jersey. She is joining the Peace Corps because she is excited to cultivate hope, empower youth in Thailand and bring about healthy change. She is also very excited to taste authentic Thai food and learn the Thai language. Psian has a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Rutgers University with a concentration in working with youth and families who have experienced trauma. Most recently, she has been doing crisis work with youth and families in Hudson County, New Jersey. She enjoys facilitating art therapy groups and empowering youth of all ages. She loves all mediums of art such as singing, dancing, painting, sculpting and drawing. She enjoys traveling, learning new languages and meeting new people. She is passionate about spreading positivity, cultivating hope and empowering others to reach their best selves.





Skyler Matthias

Skyler was born and raised in Central City, Iowa and after spending many enjoyable winters in Iowa, Skyler is anxious to experience year-round warmth, and is also very excited to meet his counterparts, students and the many smiling faces all across Thailand. Skyler recently received a BA in Theatre Arts and certificate in Entrepreneurship from the University of Iowa and has taken on many roles in theatre including teacher, actor, director, scenic designer, improviser, clown, producer, and entrepreneur. Taking the skills gained from his theatre studies, Skyler has taken a break from theatre to learn more about the world through different hands-on opportunities. Most recently working for a non-profit called HungerU educating college students about food security and hunger. Skyler enjoys reading, hiking, backpacking, and long road trips.

Spencer Swansen

Spencer is from Seattle, WA; a city kid surrounded by forests and mountains that stretch off into the world he hopes to experience. He grew up with dreams of the Peace Corps and is now seeing them come to life as incredible opportunity stares him in the face. He hopes to learn as much as he can from those he gets to know and that he is ultimately successful at bringing more light into this world we all share. Spencer graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 2015 with degrees in Biology and Ecology, and then studied Forestry at the University of Washington. When he's not working on boring adult stuff he likes to read, play and listen to music, and play basketball with the youth in his community.





Triveni Rao

Triveni is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She serves in Youth in Development program. Volunteering in Peace Corps had been a long time dream for Triveni. She believes in making learning a fun activity and hopes to build meaningful relationship with the community members so that its incredible youth can be productive participants and leaders of the global society. Triveni received her doctorate in Physics and had been working as a scientist in one of the National Laboratories in the US. She is also an adjunct professor at an US university where she had been active in promoting STEM education and career advancement of women and girls in STEM fields. She enjoys cooking, reading and gardening. Triveni is from Shoreham, NY.

Yaneth Pena

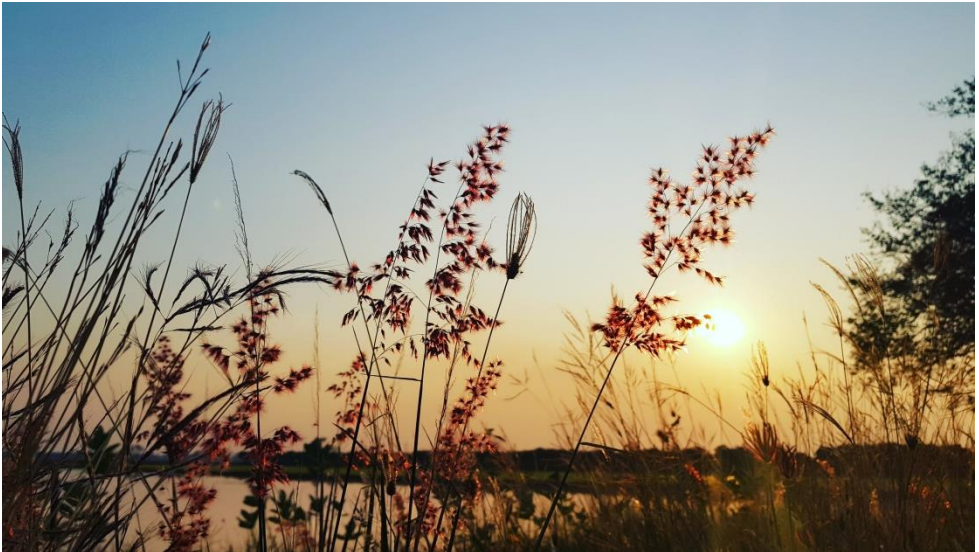
Yaneth is originally from Los Angeles, California but has been living in Monroe and Raleigh, North Carolina for the better part of 12 years. She is joining the Peace Corps because it has always been her dream to serve abroad and learn first hand about a new culture. She is excited to break out of her comfort zone, learn a new language, make friends, and eat all the amazing and delicious food Thailand has to offer. Yaneth has a BA from NC State University in Political Science. Most recently, she has been working for 4-H as a Youth Development Program Assistant in Union County. She is passionate about the outdoors, dancing, and trying new foods.





Zari Havercome

Zari is from Brooklyn, NY. Thailand is a location she has been interested in experiencing for years, and now she can do so by encouraging and working with dynamic youth and by actively immersing herself into a community to live, work, and grow together. Zari has a BA in Health Policy and International and Global Studies, minoring in Anthropological Studies from Brandeis University. Since graduating she has served as an AmeriCorps member in a local elementary school to support students with English Language Arts and Math, through City Year. She is passionate about minimizing and ending accounts of dating violence, sexual assault, and relationship abuse. She spends her free time reading, producing music, writing and performing spoken word, traveling, and eating all the tasty things of the world.



PST GROUP 130

LIST OF TESS TRAINEES

Ali Talwar
Andrew Cole
Andrey Shamshurin
Ashley Resurreccion
Benjamin Lordi
Berline Exume
Bethany McHugh
Christalynn Hamer
Christine Chorney
Clark Finkelstein
Crystal Carter
Dillon Kasel
Elizabeth Kutka
Emmanuel Kidd
Eric Mills
Gabriel Reid
Halena Benson
Jenny Samuelson

Julia Schreiner-Wolf
Kali Ask
Kara Anthony
Lee-Hoon Benson
Maisony Schendel
Mary Kubinski
Michael Wade
Monique Ogunsusi
Nhi Le
Nicholas Melrose
Philip Hendrix
Robert Leonard
Ruhamaiah Bradley
Tatiana Velez
Timothy Connors
Timothy Van Sickle
Trevor Burba



Ali Talwar

Ali is a current TESS program trainee for Peace Corps Thailand. Ali believes that Peace Corps service is about creating a beautiful balance between two cultures, that helps both grow in knowledge and development. She looks forward to building relationships with students and is excited to be living in the Land of the Smiles! In December 2016, Ali obtained a B.S. in Public Health from Tulane University where she was a NCAA Division I swimmer. She loves exploring the outdoors, specifically hiking and swimming in the ocean! She also enjoys watching TV and movies. Ali's parents were in the Navy so she is not "from" one place, but does consider Jacksonville, FL home. Most recently though, she has lived in Ashland, OR and New Orleans, LA.

Andrew Cole

Andy is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. He serves as an English teacher at Anuban Phraboromrachanusorn School in Don Chedi. He reports directly to the school director and is one of 63 teaching staff under the supervising authority of the Ministry of Education in Thailand. The school teaches 1,300 students. Andy believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about forming professional and personal relationships and helping out wherever he can. He enjoys getting to experience the food, music, language and the people of Thailand, especially the smiles. In 2016, Andy earned his B.A. in Geography and in 2017 earned his Colorado Teaching License through the University of Colorado-Boulder. Andy is from Littleton, Colorado and enjoys camping, singing, playing frisbee and teaching.



Andrey Shamshurin

Andrey Shamshurin is a TESS Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. Andrey was born in Ukraine and has lived in Sacramento California for the last thirteen years. He has attended Sacramento State and majored in English. He has worked as a teacher assistant, focusing on children with disabilities. Andrey hopes to integrate into the Thai community and learn as much as possible about the Thai culture. He looks forward to working with children and starting projects that focus on literacy and the needs of students.

Ashley Abigail Resurreccion

Ashley is a Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She serves as an English Co-Teacher in Anuban Proborom Don Chedi, Thailand. She reports to the principal and as a teaching staff under the Ministry of Education in Thailand. The school teaches a total of 1,200 students. Ashley believes the Peace Corps in Thailand contributes to the wealth of culture and education by nurturing strong relationships in diverse communities. She is humbled by the eagerness of Thai students, is motivated to share American culture, and is appreciative of Thailand's food, music, and cultural events. In 2016, she graduated with a degree in Psychology and Sociology from California State University, Northridge and taught Special Needs students at Northpoint School. Ashley is from Los Angeles, California.



Benjamin Lordi

Ben is from Denver, Colorado where he grew up and went to college. He is joining the Peace Corps because he wants to experience and learn about a new culture. He is excited to get to know a new community and learn a new language. He is also excited to teach English as a foreign language, something he has some experience in, but is excited to learn more about. Ben has a BA in Psychology from the University of Denver. He has been working as a bartender and banquet server for the Hospitality School at the University of Denver. He loves music and plays the guitar and he also loves to cook.

Berline Exume

Berline is originally from Orange, NJ. Berline has lived in a small town named Muhlenberg in PA for the past 10 years. She is joining the Peace Corps because her mission and life goal has always been to give back. Berline also loves to travel, so she sees this as an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. Berline is most excited about the school that she will be a part of and the impact she hopes to make. Berline is also excited to create new memories. Berline has a BA in Secondary Education (English) from Kutztown University. Berline is a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority Inc. Berline recently moved back home from Philadelphia where she taught 6th grade Technology as a Permanent Substitute Teacher. Berline has had the opportunity to volunteer all over her town with the likes of the Salvation Army and The Girls and Boys Clubs where she worked with kids. Berline is passionate about service and loves making people smile. She also loves music and writing.



Bethany McHugh

Bethany is a Peace Corps Trainee in Thailand. She is currently in training with the Teacher Empowerment for Student Success (TESS) Program in Don Chedi. Bethany received her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and is excited to apply her knowledge and skills in a foreign country. Bethany believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about serving her country, as well as Thailand, through training educators to have efficient English teaching and lesson planning skills. She believes her service here is all about empowering others through the power of education. Bethany enjoys outdoor activities, yoga, laying on the beach, hanging out with family and friends, and eating. Bethany is from Azle, Texas.

Christalynn Hamer

Christalynn is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She serves as an English teacher at Wat Sadan school in Don Chedi. She temporarily reports to the school principal and is one of the five volunteers completing her teaching practicum in lieu of receiving permanent site location. Christalynn believes Peace Corps service in Thailand means meeting the people of her community where they are so she can give wholeheartedly and learn about their culture to better herself and her environment. She is most excited about learning the language, trying new foods, and bonding with her counterpart/community through hobby exchange. Christalynn earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Professional Education from Austin Peay State University. She enjoys reading, watching movies, crafting, writing, cooking, and gardening. Christalynn is from Nashville, Tennessee.



Christine Chorney

Christine is from Armada a small community in MI, but has most recently been living and teaching in Rochester Hills. She joined the Peace Corps because she has always wanted to learn more about other cultures and live abroad. She is excited to continue to work with children, and try the authentic Thai cuisine. Christine has a BA from Oakland University in Elementary Education. Most recently, she has been substitute teaching in third grade. She has also been a part of a non-profit farm. She is passionate about nutrition and fitness. For three years, Christine has worked at a barre studio. She also completed her yoga instructor training. In her spare time, Christine enjoys crafting, baking/cooking and being outdoors.

Clark Finkelstein

Clark is a Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. During this time Clark hopes to build relationships and trust within the school and community. She wants to help create a positive learning environment and to be involved with school and community events. She has a passion for yoga, dance, and reading and hopes to bring some of these hobbies to her school. Clark wants to help the community with whatever they need. She has always loved traveling and learning about new cultures. Clark is grateful to have the opportunity to teach and train alongside her counterparts in Thailand.



Crystal Carter

Crystal has a B.S. in Integrated Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education and English as a Second Language from the University of Nevada, Reno. From the University of Nevada, Reno, she also obtained a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies. She has been working and volunteering with children grades preK-5 since high school. When she's not rereading Harry Potter, she enjoys running and doing pilates. She loves trying new recipes with friends and taking trips anywhere (from the park down the street to the gelato lined streets of Italy).

Dillon Kasel

Dillon is a volunteer for Peace Corps Thailand. He is volunteering in the TESS program that focuses on teaching students and teachers to be more prolific using the English language. Dillon received his degree in History at Mercyhurst University in Erie, shortly after he became a volunteer for ABLE. This organization focused on encouraging, teaching, and mentoring the inner city youth of Buffalo, New York. Dillon is looking forward to teaching the very intelligent students and people of Thailand. He hopes to bridge a gap between these two cultures and learn more about the nation as a whole. The most exciting new experiences that he is looking forward to is learning more about the food, language, and amazing people of Thailand.



Elizabeth Kutka

Liz is from Stone Ridge, a small town in Central New York known for its library and cows, but has recently been living in Burlington, Vermont for graduate work and maple syrup. She has always dreamed of joining the Peace Corps to experience the world deeply, and to become a better teacher. She is excited to integrate with Thai communities, to stumble through language learning, and to eat rice every day. Liz has bachelors degrees in Childhood/Special Education and Mathematics from SUNY Geneseo. She is completing her Masters in TESOL through the Masters International program at St. Michael's, combining her passion for teaching and linguistics. She has also been substitute teaching, volunteering with the local refugee community, and working retail. Her hobbies include reading, photography, mathematics, and eating every food.

Emmanuel Kidd

Emmanuel is a Peace Corps trainee in PST130: Thailand. Emmanuel currently is in pre-service training in Don Sarai; training to serve as a primary education English co-teacher. As he is currently a trainee, he does not yet serve at a school. Emmanuel hopes to learn about Thai culture and the Thai language as much as he will teach. He believes that Peace Corps offers invaluable opportunities to build cultural bridges, through shared work and community experiences. Emmanuel is a martial artist, and is fascinated by the sport Muay Thai. Emmanuel received a B.A. degree in history from Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland. He has worked in special education as a teacher's assistant for two years. Emmanuel is from Baltimore, Maryland.



Eric Mills

Eric is part of Peace Corps Thailand Group 130. He believes Peace Corps service is an excellent opportunity to teach the English Language to Thai students as a path for opportunity and success, as well as build relationships between Thai and American cultures. Eric is excited for the challenge of teaching and the learning experience he himself will have, as part of the culturally vibrant and beautiful country of Thailand. Eric has a BA in English Literature from Temple University. He had the privilege to tutor students during his time in school and taught music lessons in both guitar and violin. He loves to read, write and play soccer. He is interested in farming, an avid book collector and plays in a small bluegrass band with two friends.

Gabriel Reid

Young Brother Reid has a BA in History from the Historically Black College/University, Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He has had the privilege to volunteer for two years with AmeriCorps as a College Access Coach in Houston, Texas; he has had the honor to teach Middle School in History, Math, and Writing; and he has taught High School English. Furthermore, he is a Certified Personal Trainer and he tutors in-home Mathematics, Reading, and Writing in his spare time. He is extremely passionate about chess and, according to Chess.com, he is ranked in the top 95% percentile of chess players for Blitz Chess in the world! He is excited to grow with his beloved wife, Daylisha, as their journey takes them on this Peace Corps adventure!



Halena Benson

Halena ("Halli") is a volunteer in the TESS program. She is excited for the opportunity to teach and utilize the various skills in her community to hopefully stimulate an increased focus on English fluency. Halli decided to join the Peace Corps because her beliefs align with the ground-up, process over product focus of Peace Corps programs. Halli has a BA from University of Central Florida in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing on behavioral and social sciences, education, and music. She knows this time teaching in Thai schools will allow her to practice her passion for creative education. This opportunity is part of a period where Halli plans to travel and learn from school systems around the world. Halli wants to research the impact of creative expression on the learning process and the possible implications in creating new educational models and education reform in America.

Jenny Samuelson

Jenny is from Melrose, MA and now lives in Malden, a small city 15 minutes outside Boston. She is joining the Peace Corps to challenge herself and fully immerse herself in a new language and culture. Jenny expects this experience to be one of the hardest she will ever encounter and is very excited to work with an older age group of children than she has previously worked with. Jenny has a BA from Salem University in Early Childhood Education. She has been teaching preschool and toddler students in a bilingual Japanese/English Daycare setting. She enjoys staying active in all seasons with hiking, snowboarding, swimming and dancing. Also, she loves painting and drawing!



Julia Schreiner-Wolf

Julia is a trainee with Peace Corps Thailand. She is training in Suphanburi Province, Amphur Don Chedi, as part of the Teacher Empowerment and Student Success (TESS) Program. She will be completing her teacher practicum at Ban Naret School. Julia believes Peace Corps service in Thailand is about engaging with and integrating into local communities to make sustainable change in accordance with community goals. She is excited to teach Thai students because they seem very friendly and eager to learn English. She is also looking forward to learning more of the Thai language so she can build deeper relationships with community members. Julia earned her BA in International Politics & Economics from Middlebury College in 2017. She loves being active, especially through running and dancing. Julia is from Wilmette, Illinois.



Kali Ask

Kali's a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand and serves as an English teacher in the TESS program. He's joined the Peace Corps to expose himself to other ways of living and challenge himself in areas he wouldn't otherwise have the chance. Kali's had good experiences in the past with helping others in educational settings and hopes his service will be a vehicle to have additional involvements akin to these. Kali has a BS from the University of Minnesota in Physics with an emphasis in Teaching. He invests time in playing guitar, studying ethnobotany, observing the night sky, and watching "The Lion King"; he aspires to someday learn to sail and read hieroglyphics. His favorite biome is the xeric shrubland desert and his favorite metabolic process is ketosis.



Kara Anthony

Kara is a native of Jackson, Tennessee, but has most recently been living and working in Huntsville, Alabama as an educator and researcher. Kara enjoys learning, writing, and traveling. She is joining Peace Corps because she has passions for education, service, and cultural diversity. She is most excited about learning more about Thailand culture, meeting people, and creating and establishing meaningful friendships. Kara has a BS from Middle Tennessee State University in Public Administration with a concentration in Pre-Law and SW/ Family Studies, and a MS from Alabama A&M University in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in HDF and Family Studies. She is currently a 4th grade educator in Alabama, and a research analyst, where she has conducted various studies on resilience, human development, and morality.



Lee-Hoon Benson

Lee-Hoon is excited to co-teach English to rural Thai students and honored to teach alongside a Thai teacher. She believes her own experience as a learner of English as a Foreign Language can be useful in helping Thai students master the English language. Intercultural learning is one of Lee-Hoon's passions and she hopes to gain better insights into Thai culture through this service. Born and raised in Malaysia, Lee-Hoon has taught high school, supported students at two Minnesota colleges and managed programs at several nonprofits. She has a bachelor's degree in geography and education from Universiti Sains Malaysia and a masters in public policy from the University of Minnesota. Lee-Hoon enjoys reading, gardening, hiking, traveling, and cooking with family and friends.

Maisony Schendel

Maisy is a Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. Currently, she serves in practicum as an English teacher at Anuban Phraboromrachanusorn donchedi School, Suphanburi Province. Maisy believes the Peace Corps service in Thailand means making connections with the Thai people and culture on a personal level and sharing our profound experiences together. She is most excited about the food, shared music, getting to know her students, and strengthening her ability to speak the Thai language. Maisy earned her B.A. in Elementary English & Middle School Science from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2017, where she was the president of a volunteer organization Students Today Leaders Forever. She enjoys doing arts & crafts, cooking, reading, and is slowly learning how to play the ukulele. Maisy is from Edina, Minnesota.





Mary Kubinski

Mary is a volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand with the Teacher Empowerment for Student Success (TESS) Program. Mary believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about the respectful strengthening of intercultural bridges and creates an opportunity for day-to-day mutual learning. Mary is eager to continue working with Thai students, who have been thoughtful and engaged. Mary is excited to continue building new friendships, learning the Thai language, and preparing Thai dishes. Mary earned her BA from William Smith College in Political Science and Public Policy. Mary has worked in classrooms and English programs in Geneva, New York and Grahamstown, South Africa. She is an avid reader, long-distance runner, and lover of food and wines. Mary is from Elmira, New York.

Michael Wade

Michael is a Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. Michael is originally from Philadelphia, PA where he left the cold winters for the warm weather and smiles of Thailand. Michael believes that being in the Peace Corps is about making sustainable change and serving in any way he can. He is excited to learn more of the Thai language and work with the Thai people. Michael has a BA from Drexel University in Marketing. Before joining the Peace Corps, he was managing factories in China that manufacture clothing accessories. He oversaw the operations of the fastest growing company in Philadelphia and educated all employees on various topics important to the company. Michael is passionate about hockey and Korean pop music.





Monique Ogunsusi

Monique is from Riverdale, Ga, a quiet suburb part of the Atlanta metropolitan area. She is joining the peace corps because she has a strong desire to help a needing community, as well explore the culture of southeast Asia. She is most excited about learning Thai and Thai traditions! She's been working with kids for over 2 years and can't wait to learn about children of a culture different from her own. Monique has a BA from Georgia Tech in Chemical and Biomolecular engineering. Throughout college she has worked with AmeriCorps Jumpstart by volunteering in underfunded city pre-K classrooms. She has a strong passion for music! She plays guitar and piano and loves to produce music in her spare time.

Nhi Le

Nhi is in the TESS Program for Peace Corps Thailand. She believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand's purpose is to promote cross-cultural understanding and to empower the teachers and youth for future success. She is most excited to work with Thai schools because she loves the enthusiasm and excitement people have when discovering the joy of learning something new. She is looking forward to learning about Thai culture through her community. In 2013, Nhi earned her B.A. in Classical Civilization from the University of Vermont, with minors in English and Studio Art. She has volunteered at a school for children with disabilities in Quito, Ecuador. Subsequently, she co-taught English in Sano, Japan for one year. She loves to read, watch movies, hike, and travel. Nhi is from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.





Nicholas Melrose

Nick is from Kansas City but moved to Champaign, Illinois in 2013 for school and currently resides in Illinois. He is joining the Peace Corps because he is passionate about education. Nick is looking forward to contributing to his community. Nick graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2013 with a BA in English and Spanish Literature. He then pursued a Master of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While a graduate student at Illinois, Nick had the opportunity to teach several undergraduate seminar courses in the Department of Economics. After completing his Ed.M in 2015, he began working full-time as an academic advisor in the Department of Econ where he continued to teach. Nick is passionate about education and loves working with students!

Philip Hendrix

Phil is a Trainee with Peace Corps Thailand, and will serve as an English teacher in the TESS program. He is looking forward to mastering the language, learning more about Thai culture, and building lasting connections with his peers, students, and neighbors. Phil grew up between Boston, MA, and London, UK. He earned his BA in Economics from Amherst College in 2014. After graduating, he taught English in China for a year, where he passed the HSK Level 5 Chinese Proficiency Test and earned a TEFL Certificate to teach English in China. Back in Boston, he has worked at a management consultancy and at a specialist provider of financing solutions for regulated financial institutions. He loves sports, music, and mindfulness practice.





Robert Leonard

Skip is from Seneca Falls, NY. Skip went to college at SUNY Geneseo, in none other than Geneseo, NY. At Geneseo, Skip got a BA in Mathematics, and met Liz Kutka, where he became swept up in her dreams of joining the Peace Corps. Skip and Liz moved to Burlington, VT, where they have been eagerly making this dream a reality. Skip is very excited to teach English and go on this next adventure with Liz. Skip had previously taught an Astronomy Lab during his time at SUNY Geneseo, and has experience helping younger children get motivated about reading while working at as a librarian. He worked as a Data Entry Specialist for JP Morgan before coming to Thailand. Skip enjoys eating Thai food and sweating all the Thaime.

Ruhamaiah Bradley

Mya is from New York City, more specifically Harlem, NY. Mya joined Peace Corps because she understands that opportunity is not distributed equally and wants to provide others with the opportunity to learn and better their English. She is excited to learn about Thai culture and exchange some of her culture with the people she meets. In 2017, Mya graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with her B.A. in Gender and Women's Studies with a minor in journalism. During her undergraduate career, she wrote articles and produced videos for the student newspaper. She also spent a semester volunteering in Morocco where she taught English to adults. Some of Mya's hobbies include playing chess, photography, and videography.





Tatiana Velez

Tatiana is a Volunteer with Peace Corps Thailand. She serves as a TESS Volunteer for Group 130. Tatiana believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about teaching Thai students English so they are able to excel in the future. Peace Corps service will also help create a meaningful relationship between the Thai and American culture. Tatiana is most excited about working with children and integrating in a new community. She is also excited to gain more knowledge on teaching foreign languages through the PC, practicum schools, and her counterpart. Tatiana is looking forward to learning more about the Thai language, food, and culture. Tatiana was born in Greenville, South Carolina. Tatiana earned her B.A. in English from Lander University in 2017. Her favorite hobbies include reading, yoga, hiking, and hula-hoop dancing.

Timothy Connors

Tim is from Hopedale, Massachusetts. After attending college in Easton, MA he moved to Boston and has lived and worked there for six years. He is joining the Peace Corps for the challenge of teaching English in a country where English is not a primary language and to experience a new culture as a member of the community. He expects to be challenged every day, to meet many new people, and bike everywhere. Tim has a Master's in English composition and a TEFL certificate. He has taught introductory college writing courses for three years and English to non-native speakers at different skill levels for one year. He is an avid reader and writer who enjoys books, movies, discussing books and movies, practicing yoga, running, and meditating.





Timothy Van Sickle

Tim was raised in Minneapolis, MN, the youngest of 8 children. Following high school he completed his B.A. at Evergreen State in Olympia, WA with a focus in International Politics. Following graduation, he moved to Portland, OR where he dove into the world of youth and community development, working with at-risk youth and families with the Boys & Girls Clubs of SW Washington, and most recently in Portland, OR with, "I Have a Dream" Oregon. Joining the Peace Corps has always been a dream of his and he is beyond excited to experience Thai culture, develop long lasting friendships, and to contribute any way he can to the education of the children and families with whom he will work. In his own time Tim is passionate about music, as a musician and fan, and is also a lover of the outdoors, always up for a hike, camping trip, or adventure..

Trevor Burba

Trevor believes that Peace Corps service in Thailand is about cross culture exchange and building relationships. He greatly appreciates all the warmth and hospitality the people of Thailand have already shown him. In 2017 Trevor earned a BBM and a BA in International Studies from the University of Kentucky. Trevor is from Bardstown, Kentucky.



Group 130

List of PST Staff

Core Staff

Ms. Rumpai Chalongsuk
Mr. Wichai Dornnam
Mr. Thanakom Yospolsakul
Mr. Chaturon Kathong
Ms. Wanthida Saiphim

Assistant and Support

Ms. Pannarat Yutthawareechai
Ms. Sirina Oungvitoonsatit
Ms. Mai Yongkhum
Ms. Sasiwimon Janpoung

Homestay Coordinator

Mr. Pattarapong Chaowai

PST Driver

Mr. Jira Kunkongstien
Mr. Saman Tempiam
Mr. Warin Phikunthong

Language Integration Facilitator

Ms. Araya Ananprakrit
Ms. Arunee Thongratanakaew
Ms. Bharistha Sreshthaputra
Mr. Kiattichai Panyanin
Ms. Kessirirak Nityasuddhi
Ms. Krisaporn Suriyachan
Ms. Kritsana Tongmual
Ms. Nopparat Nakruang
Ms. Nussara Khakhao
Mr. Pisut Prasertpan
Mr. Prawate King-Ngern
Ms. Suleewan Sinsanyanukul
Ms. Thanapron Boonmun
Ms. Wanpen Outharasawat
Ms. Wanwisa Yingyuad
Ms. Wero Eckert



Rumpai Chalongsuk (Training Manager)

Rumpai has served as the Training Manager of Peace Corps Thailand again since July 2014. From May 2004 to December 2006, she served as the Program Manager of Teacher Collaboration & Community Outreach (TCCO) Program at Peace Corp Thailand and then changing her position to Training Manager from January 2007 to May 2009. She worked for a French company in Louisiana, USA for 4.5 years before returning back to Peace Corps Thailand. Prior to Peace Corps, Rumpai worked in the non-profit sector as a Senior Consultant for Kenan Institute Asia, emphasizing on social accountability. She also had experienced working with many private companies in Thailand. Rumpai is a native Thai and a graduate of Master Degree, major in International Business from Dhurakitpundit University and a B.Eng in Chemical Engineer from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Rumpai loves travelling and practicing Vipassana meditation.

Wichai Dornnam (Training Assistant)

Wichai is originally from Khon Kaen North East of Thailand. He moved to Bangkok, where he worked and attended college. He received his Bachelor's degree there and furthered his education by attending the Berkeley English Academy in Berkeley, California. He subsequently received his MBA in "Business Management" from Khon Kaen University (Bangkok). He worked at the Asian Institute of Technology, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and the Asian Development Bank before joining the Peace Corps in December 2015 as Training Assistant. Wichai is excited to have the opportunity to have more experience with the American culture, to develop strong friendships and to assist in any way that he can to make a positive contribution to the group with whom he will work. He has travelled extensively in Europe and in the U.S. In his free time, he tries to capture the beauty of everyday life through eating and photography.





Thanakom Yospolsakul
(Language and Culture Coordinator)

Thanakom has been working as the Language and Cross Culture Coordinator (LCC) since January 2014. Thanakom joined Peace Corps Thailand in November 2011 as a Language Integration Facilitator. In 2016, Thanakom was a temporary duty officer in PC Timor Leste to assist and to work with the LCC there. Prior to his affiliation with Peace Corps Thailand, his career has spanned work for more than 16 years in teaching the Thai language at Berlitz and teaching element school students at NIST international school. Thanakom was also a team leader in developing the Thai language curriculum for Berlitz Thailand. He earned his M.A. in English for Careers and Bachelor of Law from Thammasat University. Thanakom enjoys reading and writing short stories. He is also a big fan of stage performances, especially Broadway musicals!

Chaturon Kathong
(YinD Programming and Training Specialist)

After his graduation in 2003, Chaturon started working with Peace Corps as LIF for Group 117-119 and came back again for Group 123. He enjoys working as a bridge between two different cultures. After Peace Corps, he also worked with International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a trainer who provided pre- departure training for refugees in the temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar borderline who need to be resettled in the third countries. When Peace Corps started Youth in Development program, he did not hesitate at all to apply for the position "Programming and Training Specialist". His gut feeling told him that this will be "the toughest job you've ever loved" and it is true. Working with diverse groups of volunteers and community members each year helps him grow professionally and spiritually.





Wanthida Saiphim
(TESS Programming and Training Specialist)

Wanthida is a Programming and Training Specialist for TESS program. She has been working for Peace Corps for 5 years. Before working with Peace Corps, she was a volunteer serving in a Muslim community on an island in Southern Thailand for a year. Her passion has always been working with children and in a developmental sector. She believes that working for Peace Corps aligns well with her values. She enjoys supporting Peace Corps volunteers and their Thai counterparts to work together effectively, successfully and happily during their service. She believes that the contribution of the volunteers will broaden Thai children's horizon, create a long-lasting, positive learning environment for them, and improve their lives in the long run. In her free time, she enjoys having meaningful dialogues with friends, reading good books, watching interesting movies and thinking about life in general.





Pannarat Yutthawareechai
(TESS Programming & Training Assistant)

Pannarat has been working as a Programming and Training Assistant for Teacher Empowerment for Student Success (TESS) program at Peace Corps Thailand. Pannarat earned her B.A. in Psychology from Thammasat University, in relation to Clinical Psychology and she has been trained as a psychologist at psychiatric hospital. She had an opportunity to work in USA, as a cashier at Indianapolis zoo for 3 months. Before joining Peace Corps, she has worked as a Human Resource Officer in St. Stephen's International School for approximately 2 years. While she was working at the school, she had a part time job as a Teaching Assistant at Phonics 1st Institute. Recently, she is excited to work in cross cultural environment, non-profit organization and pleased to work with children. Pannarat enjoys playing sports, especially, badminton and swimming. She is a fan of Netflix and Asian T.V. series.

Sirina Oungvitoonsatit
(YinD Programming & Training Assistant)

Sirina is originally from Nakhonratchasima(Korat) North-East of Thailand. She moved to Bangkok to study secondary school and university. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education (Business Education) from Kasetsart University and graduated Master of Technology Management (MTM) from University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia. She had experienced working with both private sector and Non-profit sector in Thailand. She worked as Human Resources Officer at Save the Children Sweden SEAP Regional Office, worked as a Visa Assistant at Embassy of Sweden, Human Resources Assistant, Workshop coordinator and Procurement&Admin Assistant at Save the Children International(SCI) and Consultant (Programme Assistant) for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) ROSEAP office before joining the Peace Corps in December 2017 as a YinD Programming Training Assistant. Sirina loves listening to music, watching movie, travelling and photography.





Mai Yongkhum
(Site Logistics Assistant)

Mai joined the Peace Corps Pre- Service Training (PST-130) in December 2017 as a Site Logistic Assistant. This is her first time working for Peace Corps. She is excited for the opportunity to have more experiences with the American culture, and to develop strong friendships. She likes working and supporting peace Corps team to work effectively. Mai is originally from Chiang Mai, North of Thailand and grown up there. She received her Bachelor's degree from Chiang Mai University. After graduated, she worked at Club Med Bali, Indonesia and Club Med Guilin, Guangxi, China as a Gentle organizer (G.O.) for 2 years and worked for Global Leadership Adventure (GLA) in Thailand Elephant Village Initiative Summer Camp Program for 3 summers

Sasiwimon Janpoung
(Site Logistics Assistant)

Sasiwimon is originally from Rachaburi province, Southwest of Thailand, and moved to Nonthaburi with her parents. She grew up in the village and studied in the rural school. She received the Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Thammasat University in 2017. Before joining the Pre- Service Training (PST 130) Peace Corps Thailand as a Site Logistic Assistant, Sasiwimon interned as a General Officer at Lomography Thailand, and Land Department as a research assistant in December 2017. She is excited to have the opportunity to gain more experience with American culture and also to have chance to speak English with native speakers. Sasiwimon loves to work with people and volunteers. She is eager to explore the world and have more adventurous life experience.





Pattarapong Chaowai
(Homestay Coordinator)

Pattarapong is a Homestay Coordinator who comes up with an extensive experience of volunteering and staying with the host families abroad (e.g. Turkey, U.S.A., Peru, Hungary, South Korea, Japan). Before joining Peace Corps, he has worked in the field related to international development, environmental sustainability, migration, and volunteerism with government agency, international organizations, diplomatic mission and research projects. Currently, he's pursuing a master degree in International Development in Grenoble, France, where he has developed his deeper interest in global development discourse and its impacts to local community dynamic. He is also interested in international relations and diplomacy, he went to Thammasat University, Thailand for a bachelor degree in International Relations.. To have a multidimensional set of life experience is one of his major life's goals. Having appendicitis while trekking in Himalaya Mountains is part of it.

Jira Kunkongstien
(Local Driver)

Jira was born on 15th May 1964. He earned a vocational certificate from Thai Suriya Technical college, Bangkok. He loves playing sports, cooking and playing guitar. Jira has been working with Peace Corps since PST 127. He has no idea about what PC does when he first joined PST, now he has learnt more about it and realized this job has actually been offering him great opportunities to learn things he has never experienced before, e.g. American culture, language and foreigner daily life.





**Saman Tempiam
(Local Driver)**

Saman Tempiam was born on 5th April 1966 in Khai Bang Rachan District, Sing Buri. He finished Matthayom 3 from Tha Chang Wittayakarn School. He has diverse professions ranging from Agriculture, mechanism, carpentry, driving, plumbing to welding. Saman has been working with Peace Corps as a driver since PST 128. He is very appreciated this opportunity as it allowed him to work with talented people from different backgrounds as well as with foreigners. Undertaking this position has enhanced his ability in various aspects, roles and responsibilities, working as a team player, manners, exploring new places and cultures, and language. He is thankful for being trusted to carry out this task with Peace Corps.

**Warin Phikunthong
(Local Driver)**

Warin Phikunthong is originally from Don Chedi, Suphanburi. He is happy to work with Peace Corps. From this opportunity, he has learnt more about language and American culture. He has gained new interesting experiences that he could share them with his son. He humbly thanks Peace Corps for the opportunity to work in PST 130.





Araya Ananprakrit
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Araya has worked for Peace Corps Thailand as a Language Integration Facilitator since December 2012, PST 125 and again in PST 126, 127, 128, 129 and 130. Araya started teaching Thai since 2009 and got a Graduate Diploma and a Master degree in Teaching Thai as a Foreign Language from Srinakharinwirot University. She got a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from Thammasat University and had worked as a D.J. on the radio programs for 30 years. She also has experienced working as a narrator for documentary and many T.V. programs. As a freelancer, she occasionally works with non-profit organizations as a project coordinator. She enjoys learning new things through different projects and tasks. Araya loves needlework, trekking and usually joins in spiritual training.

Arunee Thongratanakaew
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Arunee is a Bangkok-born person. She has a Bachelor's degree in English teaching and Master's degree in English-Thai-English translation. She had worked in several positions in various international organizations during the past 30 years. And she has also been a freelance translator and interpreter for over 20 years as well. She has got passion in being a teacher and as she used to get a chance being an English teacher in primary schools in a remote area when she worked for a company, she realized that Thai students need more improvement in English capability. Arunee is interested in joining Peace Corps because she learned about the program that prepare American volunteers to be English teachers in Thailand nationwide. She would like to be a part that helps developing English skills of Thai students.





Bharistha Sreshthaputra
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Bharistha is from Chiangmai, the north of Thailand where she lives and works for more than 25 years. She originally came from Bangkok and moved to study for her BA at Chiangmai University in French majoring and her MSc. in Geosocial Based Sustainable Development at Maejo University. She joins the Peace Corps (PST-130) as a Language Integration Facilitator or LIF. Prior, she has 8 years of working experience with the Thai NGO, the community and Thai teachers of the government schools in the remote areas in the north and west of Thailand where majorities are the indigenous people. She commits herself to help the disadvantage people in Thailand. She also worked for an American and Swedish INGO in Thailand for 2 years. She was a French speaking guide in Thailand for 12 years. Therefore, she loves travelling so much.

Kiattichai Panyanin
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Kiattichai has graduated from Ramkhamheang University in Bangkok. He has worked with Peace Corps Thailand as a Language Integration Facilitator (LIF) since 2015. Before joining Peace Corps, he worked with a non-profit organization in Chiang Mai for 2 years, he worked as a Project Leader. The projects he led included working on eco-tourism, educating Thai and Burmese refugees, promoting sustainable tourism, and promoting elephant conservation, protection and care. He is passionate about volunteerism because of his personal relationship with Buddhism which holds the belief that when, "you give something to others, you shall expect great things in return." In his free time he enjoys cooking and taking time to pursue photography, a skill that he has perfected over time.





Kessirak Nityasuddhi
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Kessirak has been an LIF for Peace corps Thailand since PST 120. Many years ago, a girl from the small world in Isan coming to Bangkok for studying in the faculty of journalist and mass communication at Thammasat University. She dreamed of working in an advertising company. She got it. Then she had a new dream and many dreams of working in a big city. She used to be a news reporter, a DJ on radio programs, a lyricist and co-producer. Almost 20 years of working in the entertainment business, it turned to be boring and she started to learn something in a totally different ways of life. Studying master degree of teaching Thai as a foreign language led her to meet new people, different norms, explore the world, and also grew up. Working with Peace Corps pushes her to understand the others better as well as knowing herself better. Now she loves teaching Thai language and practicing Vipassana meditation

Krisaporn Suriyachan
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Krisaporn is a Language Integration Facilitator. Prior to Peace Corps, she was a trained medical and court interpreter serving with several nonprofit organizations such as Catholic Charities providing services to help refugees and immigrants freely communicate language barriers. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago, working at Heartland Alliance undertaking the Freedom from Trafficking Program. Her role was to help clients build the capacity to be able to stand on their feet and be able to return to society and live a normal life. And another year at Howard Brown Health Center assisting HIV+ clients to complete their AIDS Drug Assistance Program applications. She has also been a volunteer at a Thai Buddhist Temple in Chicago for more than seven years setting up various workshop programs such as medical & legal interpreter training, florist sessions, and English programs for adults, manage in-kind donation for the temple and Thai community.





Kritsana Tongmual
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Kritsana graduated her bachelor in English. She was born in Isan region, Surin, a province of elephants. On 2006, she started her first job as a Guest relations Officer at Six Senses Evasion Hua Hin. Enjoyed working in eco-friendly style hotel and high occupancy every weekend. On 2011, went to Brisbane, Australia, worked as kitchen hand and packer. One year with new environment and explore beautiful places, facing of diversity and learn to adjust were challenged her. 2014-2017 she work in Hospitality and Catering training center (HCTC), as a community development manager, to recruit new students from border area and mountain site as well as providing them guideline of hospitality through past experience. She likes playing badminton and visiting the temple, after PST she will go for meditation trip.

Nopparat Nakruang
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Nopparat is an Language Integration Facilitator or LIF for Peace Corps Thailand. She worked in 6 Pre-Service Training groups. Those are PST 122-124 and 128-130. She used to be a Teacher Assistant at St. Stephen's International School in Bangkok for 3 years before joining Peace Corps. She was also an English teacher at Jianhua School in Naknon Pathom for 3 years. Then, she came back to work with group 128. She graduated B.A. in Mass Communication from Chiang Mai University, Thailand and M.A. in Film and Television Studies from The Waikato University, New Zealand. She earned Professional Teaching Certificate from Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University. She loves cooking vegetarian food and enjoys traveling around the country visiting her friends and relatives.





Nussara Khakhao
(Language Integration Facilitator)

She has been working as a Language Integration Facilitator since PST 129. Apart from this, she is working with non-profit organization, was named International Volunteers for Social Development Association, in the south of Thailand. She graduated bachelor's degree and master's degree in accounting from Thammasart University. Volunteering is one of her interests. She did some volunteer workcamps during her studying. Then, she was a volunteer with Solidarites Jeunesses in France for 1 year. After that, she had taught the kids voluntarily for 1 month in Vietnam. She is interested in non-formal education. She believes that all of kids should have opportunities to learn and to be who they want to be in the future. Moreover, traveling is another one of her favorites.

Pisut Prasertpan
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Pisut has served as the Language Integration Facilitator for Peace Corps since December 2014. From January 2009 to December 2014, he worked as a Thai Teacher at Green Valley International School in Rayong Province. He enjoyed teaching with primary students and working in multi cultural atmosphere. Prior to International school, Pisut worked as an expatriate services coordinator in the refinery in Rayong Province. He used to be a tennis player to represent Rayong Refinery Company. He is a native Thai from Songkhla Province with a Bachelor degree in Education from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He is interested in playing tennis, cooking and traveling. He has been to USA, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia. He loves Japanese food very much.





Prawate King-Ngern
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Prawate Kingngern has served as LIF from PST 122-123 in TCCS program and PST 127-130 in Yind and TESS. Prior to Peace Corps, he joined Cambodia international Airlines, Qantas Airways, and Icelandic Airways as a flight attendant for almost 17 years and used to be an English teacher in a refugee camp for several years. Prawate is a native Thai who is from Chiang Mai and graduated from Chiang Mai University : BA in English and American Literature. He loves traveling ,cooking ,growing organic vegetables. He loves to have slow life and enjoys having dog.

Suleewan Sinsanyanukul
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Suleewan has joined Peace Corps as LIF. Prior to Peace Corps, she worked at an International school in ChiangMai as an Activities Leader as well as teaching English as a second language for young learners. She moved to work at New York YMCA Greater, USA for a year as an Activities Leader, a Life guard and a counselor with young& teen American campers. She moved back to Bangkok to work at an International School as an Activities Leader and IA Coordinator (Outdoor Education) and moved to Bangkok Patana School as ECA Coordinator. She then starts her own small business –teaching arts & crafts to international student in Bangkok. Suleewan graduated M.A of Education from Sukhothai Thamathirat University and B.A. from Rachamagala University. Suleewan loves nature and traveling, She has been travelling to many different countries in Asia, Europe and America. Suleewan lives in Bangkok with her lovely husband and “maew 2 dtua : Kham-Oon and Thong-Deeng”





Thanapron Boonmun
(Language Integration Facilitator)

She is the youngest daughter and grew up in Sakeaw province, the border of Thailand. She has been interested in Language since she was young, but she received Bachelor's degree in Applied Thai Traditional medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Thammasat University. After graduation, she decided to turn back from what she had studied to try a new thing. This is her 1st PST and also 1st time to be a teacher. She thinks not only volunteer can do hard things but all staff as well. Peace corps taught her to know more about American culture and her own roots. She spends her free time to write calligraphy, carve an eraser stamp and play with her cats. After PST ends, she plans to improve her English, learn 3rd language, apply for Master Degree and explore the world.

Wanpen Outharasawat
(Language Integration Facilitator)

She joined PST 130 as a Language Integration Facilitator (LIF). She was born and grew up in Bangkok. She graduated from Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University in 2014, with English language and literature major and Psychology minor. Prior to Peace Corps Thailand, she used to be a Thai instructor for foreigners, most of whom are adults, in Bangkok for three years, and a part-time piano teacher for kids. She is interested in linguistics, culture, travel, music, movie, and baking. She enjoyed all the jobs she has done since she had great opportunities to meet many fascinating people from various backgrounds. She did not only teach students, but also learned many interesting things from them everyday.





Wanwisa Yingyuad
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Wanwisa is a Language Integration Facilitator (An Aajaan). She has been working with Peace Corps since PST group 128. She was born and raised up in Bangkok. She earned her B.Sc. in Psychology from Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand and M.Sc. Psychology from Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. Wanwisa can speak 5 languages (Thai, English, Korean, Danish and Russian). She was an exchange student when she was 16 in Denmark and lived in Russia for 3 years. She knows how hard to learn a new language and is accustomed to live in different culture well. She believes that we all have capacity to learn and adjust to all those new things when we are being motivated for it. Wanwisa loves to work with people and volunteers. She is excited to meet new people and make new friends. She likes to hear and learn from other's experiences. She enjoys listening to music, singing, and likes to read and travel.

Wero Eckert
(Language Integration Facilitator)

Wero is originally from North of Thailand, Chiang Mai. She has worked as LIF with Peace Corps Thailand in PST 118,119,122,128,129 and 130. Wero is very happy to work with Peace Corps. She is proud to be a part of the team to support volunteers integrated into Thai community. She had work with TCCO, CBOD, TCCS, and YiND programme. In between working with Peace Corps, Wero had worked with various organizations along Thai-Myanmar border since her graduation with Local NGOs and INGOs in GBV prevention and respond program, Malaria prevention, Interpreter, Social Worker, and Student Sponsorship Programme. She received her Bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from Rajabhat Institution Lampang. She is Karen tribe, one of the tribal in Thailand.

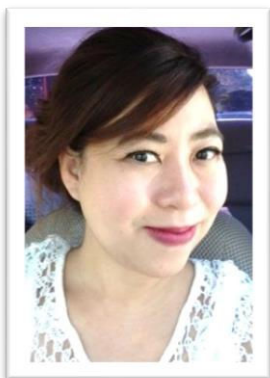


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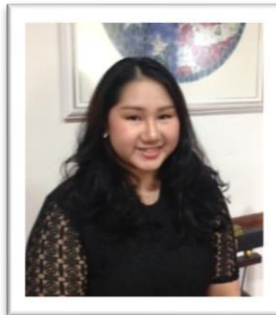
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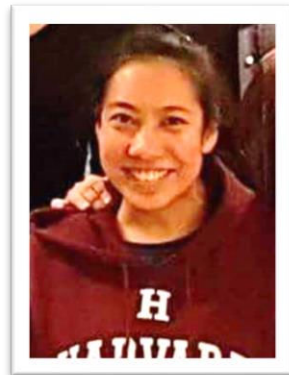
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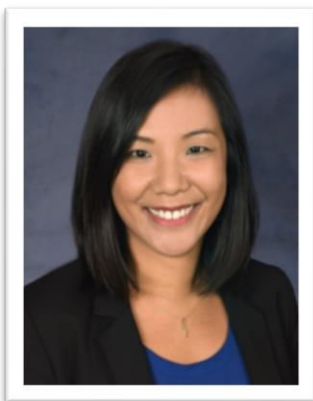
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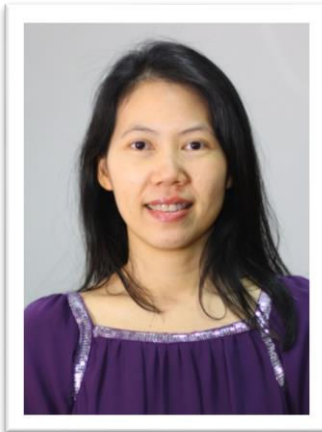
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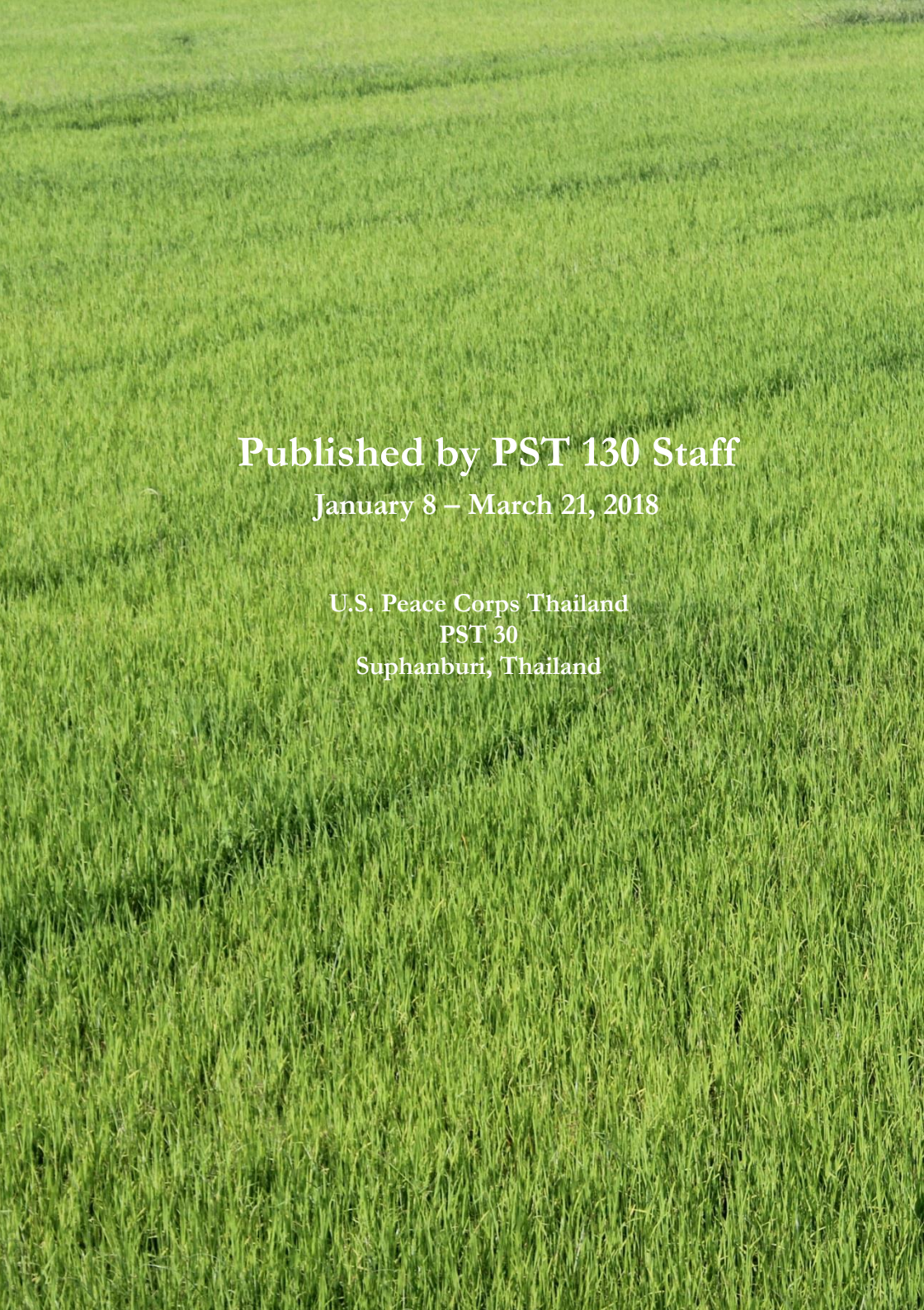
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