

2019 SEAPAX Board of Directors Nominees

President

Brad Cleveland

South Africa 2006 – 2008

Brad was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of South Africa. As a volunteer, he worked at a rural, district hospital in a clinic specializing in HIV/AIDS health care. Projects included the identification of the late AIDS-stage arrival of HIV+ patients at the clinic where he worked, the development of a system to help find HIV+ patients who failed to return for medical follow-up visits, and youth outreach work. After returning to the United States, Brad took a position as a Research Scientist at the University of Washington, which is where he currently works. The focus of the lab that he works in is the design and development of an effective HIV-1 vaccine. Brad has served as the Membership Chair for SEAPAX over the last two years. As President, Brad would like to build upon the work of prior leadership to create a more connected, supportive, vibrant, and engaged RPCV community.

Vice President

Sarah Swenson

Malawi 2008 – 2011

Sarah served as a community based natural resource management advisor in Malawi from 2008-11 working with Liwonde National Park. Her primary projects were focused on women's empowerment in social entrepreneurialism, environmental education and conservation, and wildlife management and preservation. Secondary projects consisted of HIV/AIDS education, prevention, sensitization, food and nutrition, water sanitization projects, and support of various maternal and child health projects within rural communities.

After Peace Corps, she has worked with migrant communities in southern Arizona providing first aid and water. In 2015 she received her Master of Science in Nursing and moved back to her home state of Washington. She now lives in Greenwood and works at the UW Medical Center as a Critical Care Nurse and hopes to continue working in Global health professionally one day. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and traveling all over the local areas and those more foreign.

She has been a member of SEAPAX since 2015 and served as the secretary to the SEAPAX Board since 2017. She wishes to continue serving the Board and SEAPAX members as vice president in 2019 by taking on more of a leadership role. Sarah is excited to also allow room for others to join SEAPAX and grow in other positions. She looks forward to mentoring new members and those willing to serve on the board.

Director at Large Positions

Josh Fliegel

Philippines 1984 – 1986

I was a Community Health, Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines from 1984-1986. Following my PCV service I got a master's degree from the UW Evans School and worked for the Peace Corps as a staff member on and off in a variety of countries for about 15 years. In addition, I have worked for the Washington State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service supporting local AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps Programs. Recently, I have worked for several nonprofits including as an interim Deputy Director for Health Alliance International (HAI). HAI is a nonprofit affiliated with the UW's Department of Global Health. I am currently a nonprofit consultant and volunteer part-time as a tutor for the Youth Tutoring Program at the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club. I am interested in continuing to work with the SEAPAX Board to help support RPCVs service and 3rd goal related activities.

Ilene Jaffe

Costa Rica 1989 – 1992

I began in the Appropriate Technology project building solar grain dryer and Lorena mud stoves. As this project did not gain momentum, I transferred to the School Gardens, Nutrition, and Environment program. While the Appropriate Technology was interesting, School Gardens was a good fit for me. We planted 20 school gardens and I taught lessons to the children in Spanish.

On returning after service, I taught ESL in New York, Singapore, Austria, and Washington. The immigrant students and families bridged my on-going interest in global cultures and issues. In 2010-12, I took leave to volunteer with VSO in Zambia at the Pestalozzi Children's Centre. Now back in Seattle, teaching ELL, I have joined SEAPAX via the Book Club, social events, and now as chair of the Grants committee. In my free time, I kayak, hike, ski, bike, and cook.

Jenn Ritchey

Swaziland 2008 – 2010

Jenn served as a Community Health Education Volunteer in Northern Swaziland from 2008-2010. Last year, Jenn served as one of two Advocacy Coordinators with SEAPAX for the past two years. She also served on the Leadership Student Council for the Jackson School of International Studies at UW Seattle for the 2015-2016 school year. Jenn currently teaches political science and global studies and is the Program Manager for Global Programs for Highline College, just south of Seattle. Jenn joined the board because she wanted to have a stronger connection to the SEAPAX community, and strongly believes in the work.

Carolee Walters

Belize 1996 – 1998

I served as a Rural Primary Teacher Trainer in Belize, Central America, and travel back occasionally to help with school and library programs run by Belizean friends. Sharing with my current students and others, and through SEAPAX programs, is a way to fulfill the Third Goal of Peace Corps: Bringing the world back home. I also host UW international students and teachers each year for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks, and become an American friend to them, just as many Belizeans did for me when I arrived in my village.

During my PC service, I loved making connections and friendships with people from all demographics, both host country nationals and other PCVs, and I continue to enjoy that aspect of membership in SEAPAX: meeting and working with other RPCVs of all ages, occupations, and interests, both those who served long ago, and those who just returned. Peace Corps service was one of the most significant experiences of my life, and I want to support and sustain the RPCV community here in Seattle.