

10-25-2016

## Arts & Humanities News

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/cah-news-online>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Arts & Humanities News" (2016). *Arts and Humanities News Blog*. 199.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/cah-news-online/199>

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Arts and Humanities, College of - College Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arts and Humanities News Blog by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# CLASS Alumna Tackles Illiteracy

October 25, 2016



College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Alumna and English Language Fellow Deborah Rodríguez García spent the last three weeks fighting against illiteracy. She began in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa at the 2016 Reading Association of South Africa Conference.

The theme of this international conference was literacy connectivity. Researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and educators from around the globe delivered workshops and presentations on practices to promote literacy in the classroom. Rodríguez García's workshop focused on the use of pre-reading, during-reading, and post-reading activities to support vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. She commenced the presentation by delivering a 30-minute model lesson demonstrating the use of these activities. One of the participants cheerfully commented on the workshop saying that it was the "most useful" and practical presentation she had seen at the conference.

Georgia Southern Alumna Deborah Rodríguez García facilitating a workshop at the Let Girls Learn "Lit Lab" on the use of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol model for addressing literacy needs and the needs of second language learners.

Upon her return to Malawi, Rodríguez García jumped back into the ring alongside Let Girls Learn and Peace Corps at the Let Girls Learn Literacy and Learning Laboratory in Zomba, Malawi. This "Lit Lab" was created by Peace Corps and Read for Life to train Peace Corps staff members, teacher trainers, and secondary teachers on methods to improve student listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Individuals from Ghana, Uganda, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Liberia, Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi traveled to Zomba for the opportunity to gain technical knowledge and practical experience to tackle illiteracy. Rodríguez García served on the coordination team, assisting in the strategic organization of the event. During the two-week intensive training, Rodríguez García facilitated participants' knowledge towards integrating literacy into content areas (specifically in math, science, and languages), the creation of student-friendly schools, the use of gender equitable classroom and community practices, and approaches for making content comprehensible for second language learners.

Deborah Rodríguez García, a "double Eagle", has a background in the study of languages, which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages (Summa Cum Laude) and a Master of Arts from Georgia Southern's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and a certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She began her English Language fellowship in Malawi January 2016 and is returning for a second term in the Warm Heart of Africa. She served as a Peace Corps Teacher Trainer in Nicaragua and aspires to continue working in the global community, with an interest in education development and women's education.

The English Language Fellow program is a program of the U.S. State Department and is part of the new English for All initiative. Participants of the English Language Fellow program are highly qualified individuals who hold a Masters or Doctorate degree and have relevant field experience. From national curriculum design to localized teacher trainings, these individuals share their expertise to increase education quality and teaching capacity in countries throughout Africa, Asia, Western Europe, and Latin America.

Share: [!\[\]\(1d3a1175dd4902218e694b9c098adb83\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(e2297bc882e4a3f95bff068ab9c9101f\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(69eafe5577bb2820ded2637faee72eea\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(63df79f9df20930b0436ff68907f4313\_img.jpg\)](#)

Posted in [Alumni](#), [Foreign Languages](#), [Writing and Linguistics](#)