Personal growth has been the most special element of my time in Asia thus far. Dealing with the various challenges presented by opaque bureaucracy, occasional incompetence (both my own and others’), endless layers of sweat, a bout of head lice, indescribable traffic, and the isolation inherent to living abroad has made me a more flexible and mature person. What makes this growth unique is that it has taken place in a cloud of wonder and kindness and constant kickstarts of the soul. I’m glad that the lessons I’m learning right now are based not on an affirmation of the ideas I’ve held my entire life but rather a constant destabilization of these ideas: that my movement forward is contingent upon expanding my capacity for negative capability.

Devin Choudhury
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

What makes this growth unique is that it has taken place in a cloud of wonder and kindness and constant kickstarts of the soul.

What has been special about my experience so far? The small moments. Driving my motorbike and the breeze feeling amazing on a hot day. Little girls from down the road yelling “Sabaidee, I love you!” as I walk past. Conversations with my roommates, all of us so different and all of us here because of different reasons, with different expectations, and having different daily realities. Watching a young monk understand my joke and break into laughter. Seeing the geckos, whom I consider my adorable pets, scurry across the wall. The vegetable lady giving me something extra almost every time, the gym guy asking where I was on Tuesday (also that the name of the gym is ‘Happiness Gym’). The way the Mekong River looks at dusk. When my neighbor (a high school girl) understands most of my Lao and I understand most of her English.

Natalie Orentlicher
WLE Greater Mekong
Vientiane, Laos

The principal of my school gave a wonderful speech at our school’s graduation ceremony. In her speech, she talked about how people are like shapes – each one is different, and there are good and bad things about each one. In other words, all the shapes, and by extension, all people, have different strengths. She continued to talk about how when the kids move on to first grade and enter elementary school, they might find that they or their friends have some trouble with various things. Our principal then asked all the kids, “If your friend is struggling, what should you do?” Without missing a beat, despite the fact they’d never heard this speech before, all the kids answered, “You should help them!”

(continued)
The attitude demonstrated right here is a huge, huge pro-instilling this kind of mindset in kids is a wonderful thing. I see this behavior demonstrated all the time at school. When kids fall down their friends will rush over to help them, when they don’t know the answer to something their friends will lean in and whisper the answer, when they can’t do something alone their friends will offer to assist. Teaching kids to help others is a great thing.

Kelsey Henderson
Eko-In Temple
Tokyo, Japan

There are a million things that have made this experience special! I think that learning to speak some Russian has been pretty special. Every time I use a new phrase or construction, I feel like my horizons have opened up just a little bit. Getting to know the people here has also been really great. I was invited to a wedding in Taraz, and dancing with all of these completely random middle-aged/old Kazakh people wearing high-heels and with full sets of gold teeth was a weird sort of joy for me. What I really love about Kazakhs, or at least from my experience, is that the boundaries between what is socially acceptable between old and young people are blurrier in comparison to America. Old people here really boogie, and it’s my favorite thing in the world to participate in. It’s inspiring to me! Also, I’ve gotten to know some truly amazing students. Some of my students have had to deal with incredible hardship to attend KIMEP, and have shared their stories with me. I am endlessly grateful to get to know some of these cool teens- the kind of teenagers I wish I had been a bit more like.

Sonya Bhan
Digital Divide Data
Vientiane, Laos

My students are my raison d’être. I obsess about them constantly. Any time someone shows me a funny video, recommends a book, or sends me an interesting article, my first reaction is “how can I incorporate this into a lesson plan?” (Example topics that I have used in class as a result of such conversations: an octopus documentary; a “what ugly vegetable are you?” quiz; a Hogwarts sorting hat quiz; and a video about bird-of-paradise mating rituals.) I really have loved getting to know my student and I am especially happy to have kept in touch with several of last semester’s students even though they’re not in my class anymore. I think that teaching is a great job when you’re living abroad because it immediately gives you a community of locals that you’re a part of. Even if I didn’t have any local friends, I would still have students that I see every day who help me learn about local culture and customs. Even though I’m teaching them, they are really helping me learn in so many ways. And they’re just a lot of fun, and a lot of them are really inspiring. Seeing them develop goals and aspirations, and helping them achieve them, is really powerful.

Robin Palmer
KIMEP University
Almaty, Kazakhstan

My relationships with my coworkers in the office are amazing. They are one of the major reasons my time here so far has been so fulfilling. I have made close connections personally and professionally with most of my colleagues that I work closely with on a daily basis. They are all wonderful, warm people who welcomed me with open arms and hearts to their country and into their lives. I will truly cherish these, what I believe are lifelong friendships I have made here during my time here so far. We all have lunch together, hang out sometimes during our free time, and communicate very freely with one another. I have so much love and respect for the people I have gotten to know that when the time comes, it’s going to be really hard to say goodbye to them.

KIMEP fellows Liz, Nick Conlon, and Robin pose after a race in Kazakhstan. “Straight outta PiA!”

VOICES FROM THE FIELD (continued)
bear sanctuary, miscellaneous temples, and a ridiculous number of delicious street food vendors I probably never would have visited otherwise. So on my days off, I just hit up my Vietnamese friends and set out to try something new.

Emily Petsko
Viet Nam News
Hanoi, Viet Nam

...the most meaningful thing I’ve done is not necessarily an activity, but more of a decision to say ‘yes’ to almost every invitation I receive from Vietnamese friends.

Gavin Huang
The JoongAng Daily
Seoul, Korea

Every day I wake up and still cannot believe I am here, and not just here but also living here, that I have the opportunity to call this place a home rather than a stop on a trip.

Pedro Teixeira
Yakage Town Hall
Yakage, Japan

“Everyday life in Yakage is admittedly pretty humdrum, and it should have gotten at least a little dull by this point… but it hasn’t. I’ve essentially had the same routine for the past 15 months. Maybe I’m a little busier these days with club activities and such, but no radical shifts in my lifestyle. And yet it never gets old. I just love seeing my students grow up a little more each day, I love the hilarious conversations I have with my co-workers on slow days, I love my Friday night badminton… It’s just good vibes all the time. If we weren’t limited to a two-year contract, I would happily stay.

Pedro Teixeira
Yakage Town Hall
Yakage, Japan

“Expanding my worldview and developing my values will be an ongoing process, but this experience has been very humbling. It’s easy to come out of college feeling like you have all the knowledge necessary to change the world – and this ambition is important – but it’s also important to think about all the factors that play into a single field of work… The world is a complicated beast. But it’s beautiful, too. It’s not something to “figure out” or “hack” – it’s something to explore, and to enjoy, and to challenge in every day actions. My personal growth hasn’t looked like a huge switch that’s flipped… I find myself thinking about and reacting to situations in slightly different ways, in ways that are more deliberate and informed by my experiences.”

Anna Seeman
World Education Laos
Vientiane, Laos
Sawasdee kha, Friends of PiA:

As the 2015-2016 fellowship year draws to a close, and we prepare to send out our next class of Fellows, we have much to celebrate and look forward to as community. Over in Asia, our Fellows have immersed themselves in communities and cultures across 20 countries, made meaningful contributions to the work of 80 partner organizations in Asia, learned more lessons than we can count and nurtured and forged relationships that will stand the test of time and distance. And at home (both in Princeton, and in Singapore), the PiA team, Board of Trustees, and committed friends and volunteers have laid the groundwork for a fantastic 2016 fellowship year and a vibrant future.

40 Years of PiA in Thailand

The numbers are staggering – 453 fellows at 35 partner organizations in 10 communities over 40 years – but they can in no way capture the innumerable friendships, transformations, and plates of *som tam* and sticky rice that PiA fellows have enjoyed over the past four decades in Thailand. We’ll be celebrating PiA’s rich and vibrant history in the Kingdom at gatherings far and wide – both here in the US and in Thailand – over the coming year. We’ll also be working to compile a history of PiA in Thailand to share with our community and friends because, let’s be honest, there’s far too much *raak* to fit into the pages of this newsletter. Naturally, we want to hear from you! We’d be grateful if you could share with us recollections of the people, places and *pad thai* stalls you came to know and love; of your schools, classrooms and favorite Ajarn; of your changes in perspective and personal transformations; of your experiences – ordinary and extraordinary. We’ve included a sampling of reflections from current Fellows in this issue to jog your memory – and hope you’ll share a story and add to the *sanook*.

New Posts & New Frontiers

As we celebrate partnerships in Thailand that have stood the test of time, we are similarly thrilled to be rekindling a partnership, launching several immersive and impactful posts (a selection is included below!), and embarking upon new frontiers. For the first time since 1995, we will be sending fellows to the *University of Macau* in Taipa, where they’ll be teaching and mentoring students in a new residential college system. We’re sending our first fellows to the *Luang Prabang Film Festival* in Laos, to the *Dhamma Moli Buddhist International Education Center* in Myanmar (where our fellow will be living and teaching in a Buddhist nunnery!), and to *Lakehouse*, Sri Lanka’s largest news publishing house, which publishes over 60 newspapers and periodicals in Sinhalese, Tamil and English. And we will continue to grow our vibrant program in Central Asia by launching our first post in Kyrgyzstan at the *American University of Central Asia* in Bishkek. We can’t wait to share updates from our fellows pioneering these posts in the fall – stay tuned!

Strengthening Foundations

While our Fellows were out in the field, making the magic happen, Team PiA hunkered down and made progress on a number of important initiatives outlined in our Strategic Plan, including:

- Conducting a year-long governance review, which resulted in a rewrite of the organization’s bylaws and the establishment of an Emeritus/Honorary Board, among other important enhancements;
- Establishing an Asia Advisory Council, to provide an avenue to solicit regional, on-the-ground perspectives and local, topical advice on strategic issues from senior, Asia-based friends of the organization;
- Hiring of PiA’s first Director of Alumni Relations, Natalia Rodrigues, in May 2015. Natalia is leading the launch of the PiA Alumni Network, comprised of regional chapters across the US and Asia led by fantastic alumni leaders, and a digital platform, to be launched this summer;
- Hiring of PiA’s first full-time Director of Development, who will join the team in September 2016.

We are confident that these investments in strengthening our ‘foundations’ will help enable us to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that future decades hold, so we can continue to run a vibrant, impactful program that changes lives, transforms perspectives, cultivates long-lasting relationships, and benefits local and global communities.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for your generosity, which knows no bounds. Thank you for your passionate engagement, enduring commitment, and generous support.

With fondness, gratitude, and *kwam raak*

Maggie Dillon
Executive Director
From the desk of Alex Jones, Director of Asia Operations:

Back in Princeton, everyone knows that Fall becomes Winter when the squirrels disappear, and Winter turns to Spring when the ice cream stores reopen. Here at the PiA office in Singapore, where every day hovers in that sweet spot between 80 and 90 degrees, we need to rely on something other than weather to mark the passage of time. Luckily, we're blessed with a diverse mix of holidays to celebrate and mark the months gone by.

Spring brings new life to our program, as 140 future fellows get the chance to join PiA and sweat it out with us here in Asia!

For Mid-Autumn Festival, the Princeton in Asia staff teamed up with our friends in the Princeton Alumni Association of Singapore to host a cooking class. We split into teams to cook some Peranakan classics: fishball soup, chicken with ginger, and a coconut-mango-sago soup for dessert. No moon-cakes were eaten, but the overall effect of closeness and family was just like a Mid-Autumn Festival spent in China. Hearts were warmed and bellies were full—what more could you ask for?

In November, we gave many thanks to David Johnson (PiA Singapore Trustee) for hosting the Singapore-based PiA fellows, alumni, and friends for a Thanksgiving feast beyond compare. It turns out Thanksgiving dinner at PiA Trustee David Johnson's home in Singapore is a perfect way to celebrate one of PiA's favorite holidays! We are grateful for another year of transformational experiences, relationship-building, and delicious meals in Asia.

Though we missed the Chinese New Year celebrations for PiA interviews in the US, our fellows in the field sent us updates that stuffed us full of good spirits just like a big plate of homemade dumplings. Kat and Rachael (Singapore '15) ate Longevity Noodles for the first time and cheered “lo hei yu sheng” in traditional Singaporean fashion. Michael DiRosa (Jishou '15) in Hunan Province spent his entire break with his students, and hiked up to Mt. Heng to make sure his wishes were carried all the way back home to the Hudson Valley. Many more fellows (Amber Stewart, Rebecca Oliver, and Libby Faus from Thailand; Simon Shieh and Jordan Cash-Cooper (from China) made the New Year's trek down to Singapore, and were happily hosted and kaya-toasted by our fellows here in the Little Red Dot. Spring brings new life to our program, as 140 future fellows get the chance to join PiA and sweat it out with us here in Asia! We're incredibly lucky for the hard work of PiA's Director of Alumni Relations, Natalia Rodrigues, who will be organizing send-off events for new fellows throughout the US, and welcoming them to this wonderful part of the world, and celebrate another year of holidays together (preferably with lots of noodles).
2016 marks Princeton in Asia's 40th year of sending Fellows to the Kingdom of Thailand. Over the past 40 years, PiA Fellows have embarked on the journeys of a lifetime in universities, schools, and non-profit organizations across the country. To commemorate this occasion, we have asked current Fellows (l to r) Jeremiah Firman (Khon Kaen), Kelsey Hartman (Bangkok), Ana Olson (Nan) and Maria Rose (Chiang Mai) to tell us about their adventures in the Kingdom.

When you do PiA you get to step into something much bigger than yourself, and I’m grateful to have been able to play my small part.

Jeremiah Firman (Khon Kaen ‘14-'16), Khon Kaen University
1. What are you doing on your PiA fellowship? Since August 2014, I have led nearly a thousand hours in classrooms, working with 535 different students. Khon Kaen, one of the bigger cities in Thailand, is still small enough that I see my students everywhere. It is the relationships here that have revealed to me the responsibility and deep joy of being a teacher.

2. Oh, and let's not forget -- you're one of our fabulous second-year fellows! What inspired you to stay for round two with PiA and KKU? I decided to stay for round two because I loved my job and I felt that with a year of added experience I could be a much better teacher. My first year was marked with ups and downs, a few blunders, some small victories and so much learning, and this laid the groundwork for what has been a lovely second year. I was able to build on professional relationships and put down roots in the community. I stayed for my students, my friends, and the amazing food.

3. Most embarrassing moment in Asia? My most embarrassing moment was definitely when I tried to order more dipping sauce, “nam chim”, but said the wrong tone, and said “nam jim”, asking for vagina sauce. The look of horror on the waiter’s face has been forever imprinted on my mind.

4. Any words to the alums/people who have already done PiA? A huge thank you to everyone whose individual actions and contributions over the years have created the great force of good that is PiA. When you do PiA you get to step into something much bigger than yourself, and I’m grateful to have been able to play my small part.

5. Any words for the future PiAers to come? Dear future PiAers, there might be times—let’s be real, there will almost definitely times—when you are utterly frustrated or perplexed, about some aspect of your job or life on PiA but remember that PiA isn’t about you. It is about the relationships that you continue to build. As the author George Sanders says, “my heartfelt wish for you: as you [embark on your PiA fellowship], your self will diminish and you will grow in love. YOU will gradually be replaced by LOVE.”

Kelsey Hartman (Bangkok ‘14-'16), WWF
1. What are you doing on your PiA fellowship? I’m in Bangkok, Thailand doing regional communications for the World Wildlife Fund - so basically getting to talk about all the cool conservation work we’re doing in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam all day long.

2. What inspired you to stay for round two with PiA and WWF? Round one wasn’t enough! I loved being part of the PiA family my first year (and still do!) and felt like I’d barely scratched the surface of the work I’m doing and of Thailand.

3. Can you describe your experience in Asia thus far in three concise and varied words? Stimulating, humbling, sweaty.

4. What is the most significant thing you have learned during your time on PiA? To get in over my head - there have been so many times that I’ve been pushed out of my comfort zone and those have always been the most rewarding experiences. It’s made me more willing to take risks and potentially fail, because I know the discomfort is temporary.
Ana Olson (Nan ‘15-’16), Bandon Srisermkasikorn School
1. What are you doing on your PiA fellowship? I was an elementary school teacher at Bandon Srisermkasikorn where I taught 680 spirited and thoroughly charming Kindergarteners, 2nd, 3rd and 5th graders.

2. What did you learn on PiA? I think the biggest thing was actually un-learning jai ron (“hot heart”). Throughout the year, I would catch myself feeling anxious or angry and would stop and ask - what would happen if I let myself smile right now? Also important: whatever event you’re going to, you have to plan to spend at least thirty minutes to an hour for taking pictures. If you haven’t taken at least six group shots and a dozen individual selfies, you aren’t done. You are so far from done, friend.

3. Any words for the alums? Questions, mostly. Like: how did you hold on to the person you felt you became while you were here? (If you wanted to, that is) How did you describe your experience to others when they asked about it? What has stuck with you as more time has passed? Has every subsequent som tam been a disappointment? Etc.

4. Any words for the future PiAers? Let go of the need to measure yourself by past Fellows’ experiences. Have faith that you will do what you need to be doing. In listening to and pursuing what you want - not what anyone else does or did - you will find what you need from this year, and you will better understand what you have to give.

Maria Rose (Chiang Mai ‘15-’16), The Life Skills Development Foundation
1. What are you doing on your PiA fellowship? I am working with Rak Dek, also known as TLSDF. It’s a completely Thai organization, and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I was able to contribute. One of the projects I’ve been working on the most and have partially led is a new program we started in February that targets Shan migrant workers in the Chiang Mai area and is focused on assessing, improving, and increasing the service provision available to them, and that also works with a specific Shan migrant organization to build their capacity and help them create crisis response teams and career advancement centers.

2. What activities do you participate in during your free time? If I’m not gorging myself on the magnificence that is Thai food or purposefully getting lost on back roads, I can be found training at 5 am with the Thai National Track Team (they run at the stadium near my house, and let me try to keep pace with them); tutoring the world’s cutest five-year-old named, I kid you not, Captain; climbing with PiA fellow Meghan O’Hern who works at Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures and has never failed to make someone smile; and perusing Chiang Mai’s plethora of coffee shops in pursuit of the perfect Thai iced tea.

3. Words for the future PiAers? Wear clean underwear. Don’t worry about saving the world and don’t get caught in making the experience focused on “learning about yourself.” Write home. Leave the camera behind sometimes. Enjoy it. It’s simpler than it seems.
To keep the Thailand love going, here are some more tidbits from current Thailand fellows and alumni!

Enjoy the photos, reflections, and memories (and the poem!).

**My job in Khon Kaen is to be an English teacher at Khon Kaen University. Khon Kaen is a small city in the Northeast of about 300,000 that is the quintessence of chill. Khon Kaen is the kind of place where weekends are spent lounging, whether that be in bed, in a cafe, or in a bar. Everywhere I turn there’s a new restaurant grilling up some amazing pork neck or whipping up insanely good tom yam. Other highlights have included an amazing Northern Thailand road trip with Sam and Kanav, incredible times with PiA bros at Angkor Wat, and late, Sangsom-filled nights in Khon Kaen with my post-mate Taylor Bain getting either really deep or really ridiculous. This post rocks and has given me great time to myself, great friends, and a great mix of experiences that I’ll remember for a very long time.**

*Marcus Budline (Khon Kaen ‘15-’16)*

*Khon Kaen University*

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The past 10 months living and working at RPK 35 School in Bangsak has been an unbelievably rewarding experience. RPK is a school funded by the King for students coming from financially unstable or unsafe homes throughout southern Thailand. It is located along the coast away from the more tourist-oriented area of Khao Lak which provides a very authentic and local feel. One of the many highlights of my year was taking part in the new swim program for students where we took them out to swim, snorkel, and teach them about marine life and environmental safety.

*Libby Faus (Bangsak ‘15-’16), RPK 35 School*

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I was an English teacher (and occasional swim instructor) for Mathayom 1-6 (grade 7-12) at the lovely Satree Phang Nga School. Things are still a poppin’ in Phang Nga, and by a poppin’ I mean kinda not really. But the sun is still a shinin’ and the rain is still a fallin’ (and the mosquitos are still a bitin’ and the noodles are still a fryin’ etc. etc.). But in all seriousness, even still to the last month, each time I looked up at the mighty monoliths and every time I cut open a glorious mango, a big smile would come to my face. And the kids weren’t so bad either. They were great actually, and the source of my motivation. I miss the stinkers a lot. As well as the Pad Thai Lady’s Pad-See-Ew.

*Madeleine Bavley (Phang Nga ‘15-’16), Satree Phang Nga School*

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The ants don’t seem to mind their daily treks through the graveyards of the ones that came before them. It’s as if our frustration encourages them, like our students they sense weakness. This daily battle is a kind of cathartic distraction, like spicy food or walking to find clean water. It isn’t what we are used to but it doesn’t leave room for other things—the way we are all hostage to our own logic.

*Alyssa Northrop (Chiang Mai ‘14-’15)*

*Payap University*

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*Alyssa Northrop (Chiang Mai ‘14-’15)*

*Payap University*
Keeping it in the PiA Family

When **Conrad Bauer** (China ’08) departed for Asia with PiA, his mother said, “Have fun! Just don’t meet any women and get married and settle down over there...” Oops! After a 3-year engagement, he and Pana Asavavatana were finally married in Bangkok on July 4, 2015. They met in Singapore, where he was teaching yoga, and she was teaching kindergarten. They are both now teachers at Taipei American School (soon to be joined by **Dante Benson**, Taiwan ’13). Stop by for some stinky tofu next time you are in Taipei!

**Kenneth Ewell** (Philippines ’11) and his wife Julia welcomed Emma Rose Marie Ewell into the world on August 28th, 2015. Her name reflects her heritage on both sides: “Rosemarie is Julia’s grandmother’s name, and Rose is a family name on my side as well. We just both loved the name Emma!”

**Ian Fuller**, now Cahn-Fuller (Singapore ’11), married **Katherine Cahn**, now Cahn-Fuller (Singapore ’11), on October 2nd, 2015. The couple had a small wedding at City Hall in downtown Manhattan, followed by dinner at a friend’s apartment (with an Asian-inspired menu, of course). Their best PiA friend unfortunately couldn’t attend, but their Singaporean friend (who now works for the Singaporean embassy in Saudi Arabia) was able to make it! A belated honeymoon to Vietnam or Indonesia is in the works.

**Jon Nuger** (Vietnam ’04) also has an important new member of his family. He reports, “My wife, Ali, and I welcomed a son, Andrew (our first child) on October 23rd, 2015. We are rapidly adjusting to life as parents and it is simply awesome. Also, I am really glad that Ali and I took advantage last winter of our pre-parenthood life to take a multi-week vacation back to Southeast Asia, including the Mekong Delta, while we could. We can’t wait to make it back!”

Congratulations to all!

Still Living the Dream in Asia

**Ali Kennedy** (Philippines ’06), a freelance writer, speaker and life coach, has returned to Manila with her husband, Noah, who now serves as the pastor of the Union Church of Manila. The two extended the legendary PiA hospitality to PiA fellow **Alex Ward** (Philippines ’15) with a holiday meal in their home. Ali wrote, “It was fun swapping stories and hearing about how PiA has been a blessing to us both.”

**Matt DeButts** (China ’14) has been awarded a prestigious Yenching Scholarship to study for a year at Peking University. Although the program has not officially started, Matt couldn’t wait to get back to Beijing and resume studying Mandarin. He recently wrote us, “I’m now almost two months in, and loving it. I just today handed in the Yenching materials and walked around the PKU campus. It was gorgeous. I couldn’t be more excited.”

**Alex Long** (Kazakhstan ’10) has moved to Dushanbe, Tajikistan to become the Development and Evaluation Manager at the Eurasia Foundation. He is excited to find himself back in Central Asia, both for the familiar experiences (speaking Russian) and for the new (trying Tajik fried chicken). Also headed to Dushanbe is **John Ellington** (India ’11, Singapore ’13), who has been awarded both a State Department Critical Language Scholarship and a Boren Scholarship to study Persian for the summer and upcoming year. Leave some language grants for the rest of us, John!

**Forrest Watkins** (China ’14) is back in the saddle, bicycling around the world to collect stories of climate change. With 6,000 km of China and Vietnam behind him, Forrest is now in northwestern China and peddling on towards Europe (with stops in Shihezi and Almaty, of course!). Follow his journey at 360bybike.org. Ride Forrest, ride!

The newlyweds took pictures together at Grand Central after they officially tied the knot at City Hall.

**Conrad and Pana’s beautiful Bangkok wedding was picture perfect!**

**Forrest posing with his trusty steed at Rabbit Mountain**
Tim Cavnar (China ’13) will be going back to the U.S. to do a graduate degree in English, but he would never leave China without returning to the Shiheeyz first! Tim went back to his old post, and brought along his Shanghai metal band to play a show for the opening of his friend Da Peng’s music shop. Tim said, “Your current crop of Shiheezian PiAers seem like a fine bunch, and were, I think, pretty tickled to have a weird screaming sweaty Shanghai metal band randomly roll through and get a bunch of Shihezi University students head-banging. Woo!”

On the Job in the US of A

Still based in DC, Erin Crossett (Vietnam ’11), has a new position with the Development Innovation Ventures group at USAID. She has her fingers crossed for more business trips to Southeast Asia. Also in our nation’s capital, Edgar Chen (Kazakhstan ’97) has taken up a new position at the Department of Commerce’s Office of General Counsel working on oversight issues after nearly 10 years at the Department of Justice. He took a well deserved “sabbatical” between the two positions during which he spent time with his 6-year-old son and volunteered for pediatric brain tumor advocacy.

Rishi Reddy (Cambodia ’10) has started his company, Lost Tea (losttea.co), which sources high quality, hard-to-find teas directly from Yunnan, China. To try these exquisite teas, join him for a tea tasting at his home in Cambridge, MA!

Russell Ottalini (Japan ’13) has relocated to work on Japanese product classification for HCL America, Inc. (onsite at Google Pittsburgh). He reports, “The move to Pittsburgh went more smoothly than expected and the new apartment is chock full of mementos from my time on PiA, including the most recent addition: that stylin’ tote bag.” We’re glad you like the newest item of PiA swag, Russell!

Over in Ann Arbor, Tyler Rodgers (Thailand ’14) is working on demand planning for Wolverine Worldwide. He landed the position with no formal interview, after shadowing an employee for two days – well done, Tyler!

30 years after graduating from Princeton University, Adrienne Nagy DaPonte (Macau ’82) has returned to campus as the Special Assistant for Communications and Research in the Office of the President. Welcome back Adrianne! New to the area, Neil Atkinson (Singapore ’13) is working as an Expedition Specialist for Nomadic Expeditions (nomadexpeditions.com), an expedition outfitter specializing in Mongolia, Bhutan, China, Siberia, and Tibet. Who else can say their next business trip will be to Mongolia?

PiAers of New York: Budding scrawling superstar Rachel Alter (Thailand ’14) writes, “I am currently working as a staff writer for David Chase’s upcoming HBO miniseries, Ribbon of Dreams! The show is still in development and has yet to start production. My favorite moment of work occurred just last month when I had the unique pleasure of teaching my boss what it means to ‘swipe left.’ My boss has been married to his high school sweetheart for over 40 years, so this age of millennial dating is fascinating to him. I’ve not been totally successful in inundating him, because he was rather confused last week when I casually referenced ‘The Bachelor’ in our meeting. Oh well, one step at a time!” Meanwhile, Allison Behringer (Thailand ’12) has completed Season One of her wildly successful podcast “The Intern” (intern.fm), a first person narrative of a young woman navigating New York City and a new career in tech and media. We can’t wait for Season Two! Also in the media world, Evan Gershkovich (Thailand ’14) is working as a News Assistant at The New York Times. No big deal.

In the Bay Area, the PiA Singapore 2010 contingent continues to grow with the additions of Amy Rubinger (’10) and Lisa Qi (’09). Jordan Metro (Thailand ’14) is working as an analyst for The Center for Effective Philanthropy. Sabina Tarnovka (China ’13) has relocated to work for VIVA Strategy + Communications, a full-service strate-
The Tong Wars: The Untold Story of Vice, Money, and Murder in New York’s Chinatown
By Scott Seligman (Taiwan ’73)
Tong Wars is historical true crime set against the perfect landscape: Tammany-era New York City. Representatives of rival tongs (secret societies) corner the various markets of sin using admirably creative strategies. The city government was already corrupt, so once one tong began taxing the gambling dens and paying off the authorities, a rival, jealously eying their lucrative franchise, co-opted a local reformist group to help eliminate them. Pretty soon Chinese were slaughtering one another in the streets, inaugurating a succession of wars.
The book roars through the three decades of turmoil, with characters ranging from gangsters and drug lord to reformers and do-gooders to judges, prosecutors, cops, and pols of every strip and color. A true story set in the Prohibition-era Manhattan a generation after Gangs of New York, but fought on the very same turf. Tong Wars is available for preorder on Amazon.com (to be released July 12, 2016).

The Way of Wanderlust: The Best Travel Writing of Don George
By Don George (Japan ’77)
The Way of Wanderlust will be of interest to anyone who enjoys travel writing. From George’s high-spirited account of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro on a whim when he was 22 years old to his heart-plucking description of a home-stay in a muddy compound in Cambodia as a 61-year-old, this collection ranges widely. Other stories include a moving encounter with Australia’s sacred red rock monolith, Uluru; an immersion in country kindness on the Japanese island of Shikoku; the trials and triumphs of ascending Yosemite’s Half Dome with his wife and children; and a magical morning at Machu Picchu. The Way of Wanderlust is available at Amazon.com.

Host of Memories: Tales of Inevitable Happenstance
By Peter Rupert Lighte (Taiwan ’69)
Peter Lighte’s new collection of personal stories reveals just how powerfully one man’s present has been shaped by the richness of his past. Following his parents’ divorce in segregated pre-Castro Miami in the late 1950s, Lighte moved with his fragile mother to New York City, where he was raised amidst a community of eccentric and loving relatives and friends. In Host of Memories, he shares tales of his early years as an awkward “only child”; his Jewish roots; his fortuitous encounters with Chinese culture; his embrace of sexuality; life in Beijing, London, Hong Kong, and Tokyo; dreams of fatherhood; and much more. He ultimately finds his future husband—a distinguished English composer—and, together with their two adopted daughters, a sense of belonging. Host of Memories is available on Amazon.com and on Book Depository.com for international orders.
Announcing PiA’s $300k for 3000
Fundraising Challenge

Last year at this time, the PiA community came together to work towards raising “150 for 150,” or $150,000 for the ~150 Fellows in the Class of 2015. As usual, the PiA community went above and beyond the call of duty, raising over $200,000 to support this awesome class of Fellows and PiA’s urgent and important mission. This year, we’ve decided to up the ante and work to raise $300,000 in celebration of our 3000 awesome alumni, or “$300k for 3000.” One PiA alumnus, who wished to share only that he is a Yalie, was so moved by the generosity of the PiA community in last year’s campaign that he pledged $100,000 towards this effort. The Tiger Baron Foundation followed suit, pledging an additional $50,000, and several PiA Trustees rallied together to commit an additional $50,000 to the effort, to be able to offer a 2-1 match up to $100,000 on all donations received before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Great things happen – and are made possible – in threes. And with this match, the value of your donation will be tripled: your $33.33 will become $100; your $333 will become $1000; your $3333 will become $10,000. Now that this generous group of supporters has gotten us 2/3 of the way there, will you help us raise the final 1/3? Use the enclosed envelope, or visit PiA’s crowdrise page, to donate!

Sneak Peak: The PiA Alumni Network!

Do you love PiA parties and want to see them happen more often? (Duh.) Do you wish there were an easy way to connect with other PiA alumni near where you live or in the cities you travel to? (Def.) Are you interested in mentoring recent PiA alums trying to reenter a world where no one laughs at their jokes and they can’t buy a fresh, 10-cent mango juice from the corner stall on their way into the office -- or are you looking for a mentor who can help you navigate this transition? (Without a doubt.) Do you just want to feel more of the PiA LOVE? (OBVIOUSLY.)

If your answer to any of these questions was yes-- LISTEN UP! This summer, PiA will formally be launching the PiA Alumni Network, an alumni association inclusive of all former PiA participants and friends, organized into regional chapters led by volunteer alumni. Along with the Alumni Network, we will also be unveiling a brand-new alumni website with incredible features to support ongoing connections within our community, including individual profiles, an interactive map, groups, discussion threads, and more. Please email Director of Alumni Relations Natalia Rodrigues (piaalum@princeton.edu) for more information, and stay tuned for the official announcement and details coming later this summer!