The students’ unconditional open-heartedness and acceptance of who I was allowed me to become truly comfortable with myself... Leading OA songs in a circle of more than 30 students, belting out-of-tune lyrics at KTV, or rallying people to dance at Prom—these were things I would’ve never even thought of doing back home or at Princeton, yet in Jishou, in the presence of my students, I couldn’t think of moments when I have felt more like myself or at ease with revealing these parts of my personality.

I keep calling them co-workers, but they have become friends more quickly than I imagined.

They’ve taught me that to receive happiness, I must trust that others will have open and accepting hearts. They’ve taught me that to provide happiness, I must first open up my own heart, so that others may in turn open theirs. They teased out of me a heartfelt smile...and reminded me that understanding, joy, love and compassion for others are what bring us true happiness.

Cindy Liu
Summer of Service
Jishou, China

I think I’ve been most surprised by how much I can relate to and connect with my Lao coworkers. They’ve grown up on literally the opposite side of the planet... but much of our core human experience is the same.

I’ve laughed with them about our love lives (or lack thereof), commiserated about family or friend troubles, watched as a coworker jumped over waves in the ocean with her daughter just like I always did with my mom...I keep calling them coworkers, but they have become friends more quickly than I imagined.

Anna Seeman
World Education Laos (WLE)
Vientiane, Laos

I couldn’t be happier with my experience or the relationships I’ve made! The initial welcome by my (almost) exclusively Filipino coworkers was akin to a full-on embrace. By my second week at Hinrich Foundation, I was already having lunch/Tagalog lessons with my coworkers on a daily basis, and even spent the night at a coworkers house (over two hours away) en route to my first out-of-town trip! From the wise and motherly Ate Agnes to my urban companion and fellow adventurer, Lorie, I’ve truly formed some strong relationships with my office mates here in Manila. Furthermore, my relationships outside of the office have been nothing short of
exceptional as well! Aided by miscellaneous connections from my friends in the States, I’ve happened to make friends with some incredibly interesting Filipinos, including the sons and daughters of some of the most prolific Filipino businessmen, the celebrity stylist for Manny Pacquio, the founder of TeamManila (popular Filipino design and fashion brand), among many others. Being invited to join in the frequent hangouts, weekend excursions, and constant social engagement with these individuals, I continue to be impressed by the extremely welcoming nature, sense of generosity, and overall friendliness of all of these people - a true testament to Filipino culture.

Alex Ward
Hinrich Foundation
Manila, Philippines

I live in Vị Thanh. It’s not much of a city but more so a town with 42,000 people. During the American War, soldiers were located north near Cán Thơ (Cun Tuh). Soldiers marched towards Vị Thanh in an effort to fight the Viet Cong. Vị Thanh’s gem lies in the outskirts of town. A ten minute bike ride will find you lost in the jungles of the Delta, waving at banana boats, aweing a blazing magenta sunset... I haven’t settled into a routine, but I don’t plan to. Every day is an adventure and every day is an experience... I’m having the time of my life.

Connie Friedman
Hau Giang Community College
Vi Thanh, Vietnam

Most of my local friends are teachers at Satree and Deebuk. There are some really wonderful teachers here who have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome in the school and town. My other friends are those that I interact with on a daily or weekly basis, whether that be at the market, a restaurant, or the park. There is the man at the nightly market who sells the most delicious ginger tea. And there are the folks who run at the park. They are great encouragement to run, though they are also much fitter than me. Making local friends is not easy, especially with the language barrier and the lack of people of a similar age. But it is something that I want to put more effort into doing over the course of the year.

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I am in China! I landed in Hong Kong on the 21st and then took a connecting flight to Chongqing...Here is a list of the things I’ve eaten in the last 3 days: congee, twice-cooked pork, frog legs, steamed buns, stewed eel, roasted duck, baked fish, medicinal mountain root covered in blueberry jam, four types of soup including chicken and mushroom, wonton and spicy sesame sauce, crunchy noodles in porridge with pickled vegetables, gelatinous rice balls filled with sweet sesame paste in a fermented rice broth, swan lao fe (sweet and sour noodles), dragonfruit, Chinese yogurt, barbecue pork buns, red bean cake, lotus stem soup, spicy pigs ear, chongqing ribs, tiny fried fish, HOT POT including: fresh cow stomach (still dark and spiky from the kill a few hours prior), duck intestines, cow liver, pig aorta, coagulated blood cubes in blood, quail eggs, baby eel, squid, beef, and pig brainz. I know, that escalated quickly! I think my stomach is ok?

Mikey DiRosa
Jishou Normal College

Last night, I taught my first classes: JE4B (7-10 years) and GE3F (high school students and working adults). I did some “getting to know you” activities in both and went over rules and study skills. The kids were so fun and the TAs were incredibly helpful -- very nice to have them. My adult class felt way more familiar to me, as most of the teaching I’ve done in the past has been with students around my age. We were able to have a really interesting discussion about why they want to learn English.

I’m opening all of my classes with funny/wacky YouTube videos -- this time around, cats getting into vases. I’m ending every class by having the students teach me two Lao words that they think I’ll find useful. Yesterday, I got “can you give me a discount?” “beautiful,” “what is that?” and “sit down.”

Joanna Kahmi
Vientiane College
Vientiane, Laos

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Maddie Bavley
Satree Phang Nga School
Phang Nga, Thailand

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Dear Friends,

Nothing says “fall” like the crunch of leaves and the clap of shoulder pads. This time of year, these sounds fill the crisp air across most of the US, and, it turns out, across the Pacific in Kazakhstan, where PiA fellow Nick Conlon is playing and coaching football on the Almaty Titans. Nick is just one of hundreds of PiA Fellows, who over the years have made friends, built communities, and facilitated cultural exchange through sport.

Sport is a strong and consistent thread in the fabric in PiA’s history; for proof, one need look no further than Princeton in Asia: A Century of Service, the definitive history of PiA, penned by PiA alumna and Trustee Melanie Kirkpatrick on the occasion of our centennial in 1998. Its pages are filled with pictures of Fellows playing, coaching, or celebrating sport. One of our founders, Robert “Pop” Gailey ’96, was a football All-American who famously led the Princeton Tigers to victory over Yale in 1895. Amos Hoagland ’06 (yes, that’s 1906) organized the physical education department of the new YMCA in Peking and organized China’s first national athletics meets, which led to China’s first participation in the Olympics. In 1964, PiA sponsored Senator, Olympian, and basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Bradley (Princeton ’65) to tour Asia following his gold medal win at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Fast-forward fifty years, and Sarah Ziker (Taiwan ’14) is organizing the first-ever running club for girls at Tunghai Experimental High School; Greyson Mann (China ’14) is coaching basketball at Y.K. Pao School; Haley Read and Clare Gallagher (Thailand ’14) are using the Carriebright Fellowship to teach water safety and swimming skills to schoolchildren in coastal communities in southern Thailand; and Stephanie Kim (Laos ’15) is supporting the Lao Rugby Federation as it employs rugby to teach life skills and healthy living to vulnerable youth in ethnic minority communities in Laos and Vietnam. They join the hundreds of other Fellows and alumni who, by playing badminton in the Vietnam Delta, racing dragon boats in Hong Kong, competing in volleyball matches against other teachers in Xinjiang Province, and countless other sports in other communities, carry out the time-tested mission of PiA: to foster goodwill and understanding and to facilitate in every way the free interchange of the best ideals of the civilizations of East and West.

Sport is a powerful medium. It cuts across language, cultural, socio-economic and gender barriers; it brings people from diverse backgrounds together to rally around a common goal; it reinforces the ideals of humility and teamwork so present, practiced and revered in the communities and cultures PiAers have the privilege of joining, and which we hope they bring back to their own homes. (We like to say at PiA that just as there is no “I” in team, there is no capital “I” in PiA!)

But perhaps most importantly, sport has the power to highlight our human interdependency. When we play on teams, we recognize both our responsibility to others, how much we rely on others, and how our actions affect others. PiA believes that it is critical for Fellows to experience this greater degree of interdependency in all aspects of life – along with having a positive personal transformation and contributing to challenges in the workplace – if we are to achieve our goal of building a community of people who engage in and contribute to local and global communities throughout their lifetimes.

This issue of Pacific Bridges celebrates the power of sport to transform perspectives, build long-lasting relationships, and benefit communities; in short, to carry out the mission of PiA. We hope you enjoy it. And because it wouldn’t be a Pacific Bridges article without a proverb, I leave you with this:

If you want one year of prosperity, grow grain
If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees
If you want one hundred years of prosperity, grow people
-Chinese proverb

To this beautiful piece of wisdom, I would add:
If you want one thousand years of prosperity, grow teams

This is the important work we do every day at PiA, and this is the work that you, our PiA team, make possible. We are grateful for your generous support.

Happy reading,
Maggie Dillon
Right after introductions, they added: “Maggie, you have such a kind heart!” and “Alex, your smile is so peaceful!” These little compliments from our new friends somehow stuck with me. My personal hope, and the foundation of PiA’s mission, is that these little instances of gratitude and goodwill will rub off on all PiA fellows, and be paid forward long after the fellowship ends.

Later this summer, I visited our new fellows in Tokyo. Joe Jung, a 2015-16 PiA Fellow at Ashinaga, took me to a mid-summer street festival. We slowly navigated through the crowds of kimono-clad Tokyokku to the catch-a-goldfish booth. With his newfound Japanese language skills, Joe chatted with the goldfish wranglers and bought a small fishing net. Despite a quick hand, his three attempts were unsuccessful.

After a few more exchanges and a sincere arigatou gozaimasu, the young ladies decided that Joe deserved a fish after all. He accepted the little goldfish, and as we walked away, passed it on to a little girl who was watching the older kids with concentration. Clearly, the small acts of kindness had already rubbed off on Joe.

If you would like to connect with our Fellows and hear more stories like these, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at piasing@princeton.edu. I would be happy to connect you with this year’s exemplary class!

Alex Jones
Director of Asia Operations

THE LATEST FROM THE LITTLE RED DOT!

Big hearty hellos from the Little Red Dot!

This is Alex Jones, PiA’s new Director of Asia Operations, checking in from the city-state of Singapore. Part of my unofficial job description (or is it life mission?) is to share the best stories from this side of the world with the PiA family, and I could not be happier to spill the soya beans on what our fellows, interns, and staff have been up to this summer.

In June, I traveled with 11 Princeton students as they made the journey from Shanghai to Jishou for a Summer of Service, a program that I’ve always considered to be “PiA concentrate”. Many of our finest fellows are alumni of this summer program. This particular trip held special significance for two reasons. We were there to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Summer of Service, but more personally, I relished the opportunity to share this special corner of China with PiA’s Executive Director, Maggie Dillon, for the first time.

We observed the Princeton undergraduates shaking off the first-day nerves while launching into icebreakers. Many of us remember, perhaps painfully, our own first day of teaching, but the undergrads transitioned seamlessly to their new identity as teachers. After classes, a few students bravely approached me and Maggie to introduce themselves in English.

My personal hope, and the foundation of PiA’s mission, is that these little instances of gratitude and goodwill will rub off on all PiA fellows...

Alex Coulston (S’pore ’10), Anh-Thu Nguyen (Vietnam ’15) and cousin, Natalia Rodrigues (HK ’13), Hannah D’Apice (S’pore ’14), Alex Jones (China ’10), Khoi Le (S’pore ’12) enjoy an inter-generational PiA meal together in the Singapore night air.

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I am 23 years old and know almost nothing. There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t learn something new. But if there is one thing I know, it is that people first. In short, they showed me true community simply by welcoming me so wholeheartedly into their lives. I definitely did not make it to this side of my PiA fellowships due to my own resilience and cunning. American society uses self-sufficiency as a measure of success, but PiA fellows learn quickly that it is simply not possible to thrive with this attitude. One must be open to, and eventually reliant on, the kindness of others. I think many Fellows will find that people are generally good, even in a society like Hong Kong, which is often pegged as cutthroat and capitalist. That’s a comforting feeling to carry with you wherever you find yourself in the world. It also helps to put things in perspective when you do come across a bad apple.

I think all of you can predict the twist in my PiA fairytale: the transition was not that easy! Yet, I found encouragement was abundant. My lovely neighbor who told me incredible stories about growing up in rural China. The thoughtful notes my students wrote me when I asked for feedback on my class. The university’s vice president who treated the PiA fellows to Thanksgiving dinner. And not to mention my fellow PiAers who welcomed me into their adopted homes all over region.

All that I hear from PiA’s wonderful alumni reinforces my hypothesis that PiA fellowships are some of the best classrooms to learn these lessons. That is why I am so incredibly excited to be PiA’s first-ever Director of Alumni Relations – because the PiA community is brimming with the fruits of our experiences. Its members are relentlessly curious and enthusiastic about the endless possibilities the world has to offer (especially the culinary ones). I look forward to having the pleasure of meeting as many of you as I can, and, more importantly, giving you more opportunities to meet each other! Until then, never hesitate to drop me a line at piaalum@princeton.edu.

From the desk of Audrey Jenkins, Program Director:

Two fun things that may have befallen you if you grew up as the eldest daughter of a conservative preacher in rural Iowa:

1. You, honest to Yahweh, spent a good fourth of your life in a church setting. Like, you kept a toothbrush in the church bathroom.
2. You found yourself an enthusiastic participant in the cutthroat sport known as THE BIBLE BOWL.

The Bible Bowl is quick recall, Bible style. Kids memorize Scriptures and then compete in competitions. Besides providing a foolproof way to raise social status amongst peers, Bible Bowl competitions are also a great way to meet all the hotties. Try to contain your jealousy, y’all. While you were dancing about to Britney Spears, I was on the fast track to becoming a walking, talking, Biblical encyclopedia.

Back in the Bible Bowl days, I memorized a chunk of Acts. The passage that stuck with me was about the early church, and how everyone ‘shared everything in common...sold all their worldly goods to give to anyone who had need...and ate together with glad hearts.’ That was the most beautiful thing I’d ever read. Those people truly cared about other people. Though I was just a kid, I decided that living in a truly interdependent community like this would be my end goal. And not just the end goal, but also the only mode of existence that made sense. Unlike some childhood dreams (like my dream of becoming a dictator), I have never wavered on this conviction.

I originally wanted to join the PiA family because I loved PiA’s core values of service and humility. Little did I know embarking on a fellowship to Soc Trang, Vietnam in August 2014 would immerse me in one of the most beautiful communities I have ever been a part of: it was a year of service, humility, challenges, and so much more. In Soc Trang, everything is shared (joys, sorrows, secrets, house keys, children, gossip, etc.) and relationships are of primary importance. I have always loved communities and I have lived in many wonderful communities before, but this time it was special: I have never before seen a group of people more invested in their friends and neighbors, more aware of their interdependency and the power that our deep human connections have to breed joy and produce positive change. My Vietnamese friends taught me a thousand lessons about generosity and kindness, and what it really means to put people first. In short, they showed me true community simply by welcoming me so wholeheartedly into their lives.

I am 23 years old and know almost nothing. There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t learn something new. But if there is one thing I am pretty sure of, it’s that our world is improving as we seek understanding and build bridges from one person to another. We all crave relationships—to know and be known—and PiA fellowships facilitate this because the cumulative effect of these relationships is making our interdependent world a better place. I feel so honored to be part of this mission as a Program Director at PiA. I look forward to seeing you all soon and Singha-pouring one out for 117 years of turning strangers into friends, and friends into family.
1. What is your PiA post? What is your position/what do you do?

I’m a fellow at the Lao Rugby Federation, which is based in Vientiane, Laos but also does work in Xieng Khouang and Champasack. When the office isn’t doing trainings or traveling for work, I do comms work and write press releases for major events and projects. I also support the staff with their daily tasks and help develop their English language and IT skills. The office is quite small, so I help out wherever I’m needed. Sometimes that means going to Nonghet for a week to lead rugby activities while the staff conducts interviews with newly registered players. Other times it means completing visa applications for 10 junior players who just received their first passports for a trip to the UK during the Rugby World Cup.

2. Can you tell us a little (or a lot) more about Lao Rugby? What is their mission?

The Lao Rugby Federation, or LRF, focuses on developing rugby throughout the country at the school, club, and elite levels. We recently started a new regional sports for development program called Pass It Back that aims to increase youth participation in local communities and provide a safe space for young coaches and players to engage in sports. One of the main goals of the program is to ensure that there are an equal number of females and males who coach and play. We are in the process of developing the sport throughout the country and are focusing on the school level. I’m hoping that in 5-10 years we’ll see more provincial and national tournaments on both the school and club level. Maybe we’ll even see Laos compete in the Summer Olympics one of these years. Now wouldn’t that be something?

3. What drew you to this post?

Maggie Dillon. I remember sitting in her office during my first PiA interview. I had spent a good majority of the hour talking to her about why I wanted to work at a public health post. I was going on and on and on, and then Maggie said, “Well, Steph.” (From my previous conversations with her, I’ve taken this to be a cue that she’s about to transition into the topic of conversation that she wanted to have with me from the very start). She told me about the LRF post and about what a fellow would do at the organization.

Before I sat down in that office, I didn’t think I’d be sending her an email the following afternoon telling her that I
had spent the entire night watching, reading, and thinking about the LRF and that I wanted this post to be my top choice. I was especially taken with what I had discovered about the ‘sports for development’ aspect of the federation’s work. Though I had never heard the phrase before, I believed in what the LRF was trying to do with its youth programs because I had personally seen the benefits of what playing a team sport can do.

It probably wasn’t the most well planned decision (this all happened within 36 hours), but I went with my gut feeling. Now, I’m in Laos and still amazed at how lucky I am to be here.

4. What is the best part about your involvement with the LRF?

During one of my conversations with Maggie, she mentioned that work and personal life might not be separate once I started at Lao Rugby. That may seem like a nightmare for some people, but it’s been one of the reasons why I love working with the LRF so much. I interact with the coaches and players that our federation supports and trains almost on a daily basis. Though many hours are spent in the office in front of a computer screen, a large amount of my days are dedicated to talking to and spending time with the people who participate in our programs.

It probably wasn’t the most well planned decision (this all happened within 36 hours), but I went with my gut feeling. Now, I’m in Laos and still amazed at how lucky I am to be here.

5. What is the most challenging part?

The language. It’s been the most challenging but also the most valuable aspect of this fellowship so far. It’s been necessary to learn how to communicate in Lao with my coworkers. So far, I’ve been learning through verbal conversations with my coworkers and players. I’ve been coaching the Vientiane Lions, the only local women’s club team, which has been challenging but also a serious blessing. It’s challenging because most of the players only speak Lao, and trying to explain strategies on the pitch in Laonglish (my roommate and fellow PiAer Kathy Rivera and I made up with this word last night because we didn’t know the common term for this...) can only get me so far. I probably speak Lao slower than a kindergartener, but I’ve also had those moments of clarity with my coworkers and players. It’s become a source of motivation for me to formally learn the language, so I’m hoping that I can start now that the office is back to a regular schedule (of sorts).

I just want to give a huge shoutout to the LRF staff, Meg, Pisa, Tom, Lao, Pern, Gao, and Mei, who made my transition from life in the States to Laos much smoother than I could have imagined. Khop jai lai lai der!

A new rugby player enjoys himself during one of the team activities at LRF.

Kim and Mei Lum (Thailand ’12, China ’13) lead a dance circle at an LRF event.
In addition to Steph Kim and the LRF, PiA would like to celebrate four more sport-sational fellows and their communities: Sarah Ziker (Taiwan ‘14) and the Tunghai Running Club for girls in Taichung; Greyson Mann (China ‘14) and the basketball team at YK Pao School in Songjiang; and Haley Read (Thailand ‘14) and Clare Gallagher (Thailand ‘14) with their Carriebright project ‘Earthraging with English’ in Bangsak.

**The Tunghai Running Club**
*Sarah Ziker, PiA 2014, Affiliated Experimental High School of Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan*

On my regular walks to the Tunghai campus Family Mart in search of caffeine, I would often see my students on the basketball courts having gym class. Nearly every time I went by, I saw the same thing: all the boys playing and running around together, while the majority of the girls sat on the ground in the shade. When I asked them why they weren’t playing like the boys, they would just laugh and shrug their shoulders.

As a girl who grew up on soccer fields, balance beams, and crew teams, I knew from experience just how empowering athletics could be for a young woman. I found it incredibly frustrating that my female students were on the sidelines, unaware of the opportunity to become faster, stronger, and achieve their goals that they were missing. So, I decided to do something about it. With the help of another teacher, I started an after school exercise club that would be solely available to females at school. I thought that perhaps if the boys were not around, the girls would not be afraid to sweat a little.

Our club ended up running (pun intended) every Monday and Wednesday for the rest of the year. We ran laps and stadium stairs. We did squats, sit-ups, and pushups. We did yoga, played soccer, and hung upside-down from the pull-up bars. I loved the club, not only because my girls and I became physically stronger, but also because our relationships with each other grew with every lap we raced each other to finish.

**For the Love of Basketball**
*Greyson Mann, PiA 2014, YK Pao School, Songjiang, China*

Over this past year, I had the pleasure of serving as a PiA Teaching Fellow at YK Pao School in Shanghai, China. While my main job was to assist in the instruction of English, I was also able to coach basketball.

I began my coaching career with an egotistical confidence: I told our head of sports, “I promise you a championship!” But by the end of the year, I learned that the key to success as a basketball coach is humility. Humility teaches a coach to care for his players, to adapt to changes, and to use restraint when necessary.

I grew to really care for my players on and off the court. I taught some of them in class and also served as their dorm parent. This constant interaction created a special bond. Even though some players have gone to Switzerland, America, Britain, and Canada to study, we still keep in touch. I have used Weixin (Wechat) to send advice to our “Center”, who tore his ACL in his first practice at his new high school in Switzerland. He sent me a message back saying, “Mr. Mann, they don't stretch here like you taught us!” Another one of my players is studying in Washington D.C., where I currently reside. We meet about once every few months to chat.

If not for basketball, I may not have learned the same lessons on humility, or fostered close, genuine relationships with my students. I am thankful to PiA, YK Pao School, Coach Gibbs, Coach Quade, and Coach Javier who served as my mentors and friends.
Earthraging with English
Haley Read, PiA 2014, Deebuk and Satree Elementary Schools, Phang Nga, Thailand & Clare Gallagher, PiA 2014, Rajaprajanugroh School 35, Bangsak, Thailand

This November, Carriebright Fellows Clare Gallagher and Haley Read are returning to southern Thailand to continue their earthraging journey that began last year, with enormous support from former PiA Fellow Brady Valashinas.

Earthraging with English began last year at the Bangsak School on the coast of the Andaman Sea (arguably the most beautiful PiA post). But that beauty has been subject to unimaginable horror and devastation. The whole region was ravaged by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which left many students orphaned and their school destroyed. The Thai government has since rebuilt the school, which teaches and boards over 700 students from severely disadvantaged backgrounds. It’s set atop a hill, about 800 meters from the beach.

Our Fellows soon noticed that most of Bangsak’s students lacked an education about their marine backyard, especially about the SCUBA industry that dominates their region’s economy, and didn’t even know how to swim. Clare and Haley realized the paralyzing disadvantage that the belief that swimming was a privilege reserved for wealthy foreigners was imposing on this conservative Buddhist village. Thus, the Earthraging program was born. Among many other marine-focused activities, Earthraging’s over 250 students were taken to the beach (many tasting salt water for the first time), taught how to float on their backs, and participated in beach sweeps that easily collected over a ton of trash.

With support from the Carriebright grant and a local dive shop, Wicked Diving, Clare and Haley are returning to teach watersafe skills and environmental stewardship with English lessons thrown into the mix. They cannot wait to earthrage with their students once again. Check out the website where a blog will be kept during November: earthraging.org.

150 FOR 150: A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE CLASS OF 2015

During the month of June, the incredibly generous PiA community donated over $200,000 to support the PiA class of 2015 and PiA’s 117th year of facilitating cultural exchange and building relationships between East and West.

On June 1, PiA launched a 30-day fundraising campaign that shared stories, quotes and images from PiA alumni and introduced members of the PiA Class of 2015. The campaign was anchored by $100,000 in pledges from PiA’s Board of Trustees which provided a 2-to-1 match for community donations, up to $50,000. Our goal was to raise $150,000 for the 150 new fellows that PiA sends to Asia each year – 150 for 150 – by June 30. By June 24, thanks to the incredible generosity of the PiA community, we had reached our $50,000 goal. Yet, the outpouring of support did not end there. Building on this extraordinary momentum, the PiA community more than doubled that amount over the following six days!

Between matching funds, online and offline donations, the PiA community raised over $200,000 for the PiA class of 2015 in just 30 days. We received donations from PiA alumni living all over the world who were PiA fellows in 25 different host countries from 1962 until 2015, as well as PiA Trustees, parents, partners, staff, current fellows, and friends. Many of these gifts were accompanied with heartfelt dedications, memories of time spent in Asia, and warm wishes to the new class of fellows.

We are extraordinarily grateful to the members of our community for their enthusiasm and support, as is the PiA class of 2015, whose upcoming year of service, adventure, and transformation your generosity has made possible. Thank you to all!

MESSAGES FROM THE CAMPAIGN PAGE
“Indonesia, 1968. An indelible experience; it still comes back to me almost every day.” - Paul Minault (Indonesia ’68)

“Because life is incomplete without Korean fried chicken, 2am Al-Azhar runs, and tuk tuks going full speed on the wrong side of the highway, lah.” - Rena Chen (Singapore ’11)

“So others may taste boiled goat meat and fermented milk.” - Paul ‘Boo’ Dodson (Kazakhstan ’14)

(To see more messages from our donors, visit www.crowdrise.com/150for150)
Keeping it in the PiA Family

Fiona Miller (Indonesia ’09), Anastasia Vrachnos (Indonesia ’91), Kiki (PiA ’33) and Zoe (PiA ’35) welcomed Baumer Miller Vrachnos on August 5th, 2015. Baumie (as he is affectionately known) is the fourth Leo in the Miller-Vrachnos pride (can you guess who is the balancing Libra?) and a proud prospective member of the PiA Class of 2037!

After meeting during their PiA fellowships, Dylan Fagan (Mongolia ’06) and Jenny Zhang (China ’06) tied the knot on June 20th in Landgrove, VT in the presence of family, friends and a big group of PiA alums: Lola Adekunle (SOS ’07), Amy Sennett (China ’06), Jenn Brown (China ’06), Jon Li (Singapore ’08), and Jenny Xie (SOS ’07, Hong Kong ’08).

Asher, the 1-year-old grandson of Melanie Kirkpatrick (Japan ’74) and cousin of Seth Green (Thailand ’11), is already prepared to join the PiA Class of 2035!

Nina Henning (Nepal ’01) and her husband Lobsang, who met while Nina was on her PiA fellowship in Kathmandu, welcomed their daughter Tenzin Namsel Henning on June 28th in Nairobi, Kenya. Her first two names reflect her Tibetan heritage from her father’s side (Tenzin means “protector of peace” and Namsel means “to brighten”). Dalrymple honors her Scottish heritage from her maternal grandmother’s side of the family. East meets West indeed!

Congratulations to all!

Still Living the Dream in Asia

After postings in Sri Lanka, Poland, and Washington D.C., Emily Hicks (Laos ’00) started as the Deputy Chief of the Energy, Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Between language training and packing up herself and her dog, Bryce, for a trans-Pacific move, she graciously represented PiA at Princeton in Washington’s Careers in Service Panel. Here she spoke to Princeton undergrads completing summer internships in D.C., as well as College Bound participants, alongside Ambassador Michael Klosson (PU ’74), Ambassador David Aaron (PU ’62), and Georgetown Law Professor David Super (PU ’80).

Josh Morris (Thailand ’99) was recognized by the Thai Consulate General for his contributions to tourism development in northern Thailand and strengthening the Thai-American friendship. Josh founded the Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Association, where PiA sends a fellow every year to work alongside Josh’s Thai staff. Katie Proudman (Thailand ’11) is still working for CMRCA, four years later!

Earlier this year, Ryan Brooks (South Korea ’12, Hong Kong ’13) started as a producer for Thomson Reuters in Hong Kong. He reports, “A few weeks back we had a story out of Myanmar and I was talking on the phone to a Reuters reporter in Yangon. I realized at the end of our conversation it was Tim McLaughlin (Mongolia ’11, Myanmar ’12), now Myanmar Correspondent. We’re everywhere!”

Five years after PiA dropped him in Bangkok, Peter Higgins (Thailand ’10) is moving to Hong Kong to continue his work on sustainable operations for VF Corporation. That got us wondering: where will the PiA Class of 2015 be five years from now?

Matt Shofnos (Singapore ’10) reports: “Mini life update: I just finished my first year of business school, and my summer internship (through late August) is in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. I’m managing an ice cream factory. Can’t make this kind of stuff up.” No, no you can’t. Also new to Cambodia is Jessica Scalzo (Thailand ’12) who is moving to Phnom Penh to work for 17Triggers (17triggers.com), a social innovation agency that works on design thinking, research, and marketing for good causes.

Caroline Kitchener (SOS ’11) has found her way back to China and will be teaching at a university in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. In true PiA spirit, she has already offered to let PiAers crash in her spare apartment! We’ve heard Nanchang is beautiful this time of year.

10
After finishing up his Masters in Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, Michael DiStefano (Thailand ’11) is moving to Busan, South Korea to teach ethics.

Katie MacDonald (Tajikistan ’14) and Sohrab Aslamy (Sri Lanka ’14) continue to pursue their love for Central Asia while working on monitoring and evaluation at the International Water Management Institute’s office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

After a whirlwind year of reporting for the JoongAng Daily, blogging, appearing on a Korean comedy show, and learning how to strut down a catwalk (don’t ask), Josh Schenkkan (South Korea ’14) has been promoted to Editor of the Culture Desk for the Daily. Go Josh!

**On the Job in the US of A**

Recently relocated from San Francisco, Luke Davis (Hong Kong ’95) was appointed an Associate Professor at the Yale School of Public Health where he will continue his research on diagnostic tests for tuberculosis.

Thomas Talhelm (China ’07) finished his PhD at the University of Virginia and was quickly appointed as an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He is planning to create his own course after teaching negotiation in the spring. Sign us up!

Liz Kernion (Singapore ’09) and a “significant portion” of her family have launched STEM Prep (stem-prep.com), a website which offers curriculum-based online AP courses in the STEM disciplines. Congrats Family Kernion!

Reporting Live from New York City: for the next 14 months, Christine Wang (Hong Kong ’14) will be rotating through the departments of CNBC. Her thoughts on landing this sweet gig: “I’m basically excited to live in mashup of 30 Rock and The Newsroom.” Tao Tao Holmes (China ’14) started writing for a startup called Atlas Obscura (atlasobscura.com), which she describes as similar to NatGeo, and where she writes about cool (and perhaps obscure) places.

She knows PiAers have a lot of these hidden gems up their sleeves and welcomes any suggestions for writing topics: give her a shout at taotao.holmes@gmail.com! Meanwhile, Allison Behringer (Thailand ’12) is the newest communications intern at betaworks (betaworks.com), an internet startup studio.

**What’s new on the PiA bookshelf?**

*Kanji Poems* (Word Tech) is a book of poems that take their cues from the oddly conjoined definitions in *Nelson’s Japanese-English Character Dictionary*—like entry 4105: “tiger, drunkard.” *Kanji Poems* is the latest from David Galef (Japan ’81), who is the director of the creative writing program at Montclair State University and the author of over a dozen books. His previous work includes *Turning Japanese*, a novel, and *Japanese Proverbs: Wit and Wisdom* (Tuttle), an illustrated and illustrative guide to what sayings like Hiza tomo dango mean: “Consult anyone, even your knees” (for the Western equivalent, consult the book). To learn more, please visit davidgalef.com or purchase your own copies at Amazon.com.

In our nation’s capital, Dan Healy (Singapore ’13) has begun working as a public sector consultant for IBM. He hopes to get more involved in PiA activities and the alumni community there. Also new to D.C. is Coco Lammers (India ’09, Nepal ’10) who has rejoined Save the Children—the same organization that hosted her in Kathmandu during her second year of PiA—and is hard at work studying security and language training next summer. What’s Persian for “good luck”?

Krishnan Raghavan (Singapore ’11) is moving to Bologna, Italy as he begins his degree in international development from Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies. He’ll be back on the East side (Get ready DC!) for year two. Phew.

After working for Vriens & Partners and The Asia Group in Singapore and D.C., Madeleine Brunl (Singapore ’11) will be starting at Berkeley Law School where she will take full advantage of the school’s ‘excellent Southeast Asia resources.’

We are thrilled to welcome Christian Rivera (Thailand ’14) back to Tigertown, where he will be working for the PU Office of Sustainability. As the Office’s newest “Campus as Lab Fellow”, Christian will identify how the University campus can be used as a living laboratory to identify and explore sustainability issues across disciplines.

**Not Too Cool For School**

Let the PiA takeover of New Haven begin! Tory Grieves (Nepal ’14) is pursuing a double degree: an MBA at Yale School of Management and an MEM at Yale School of Forestry, focusing on sustainable economic development in developing countries. Meghan Byrne (SOS ’07) and Caroline Loevner (Singapore ’08, Thailand ’09) are also MBA students at the Yale School of Management. Paul Rink (Singapore ’12, Sri Lanka ’14), Jack Whiteley (Cambodia ’14), and Evan Welber (Tajikistan ’13) have all started at the Yale School of Law.

Patricia Yeh (Singapore ’14) is pursuing her interest in health and fitness by studying health behavior and health education at the University of Michigan. We’re wishing Patricia a mild Michigan winter after a year living on the equator!

John Ellington (India ’11, Singapore ’13) is hard at work studying security and Persian at Georgetown. He is hoping to find his way back to India for research or language training next summer. What’s Persian for “good luck”?

PiA Trustee Richard Van Horne takes the new Arigatou, Richard!
Learn to make home-cooked Asian food in NYC!

Miss the dosas, dumplings, and curries of the old country? We've got your fix. The League of Kitchens (www.leagueofkitchens.com) is an innovative culinary immersion in NYC where immigrants who are amazing home cooks teach intimate cooking workshops in their own homes.

You and a small group of fellow students will be welcomed into the kitchen of an inspiring chef-instructor who will share her story, family recipes, and mind-blowing meals. If you've been kicking yourself for not perfecting your culinary skills in the field, this is your chance to redeem yourself…or, to just eat more great food.

The League of Kitchens team includes amazing women from North, Central and South Asia (and a bunch of non-Asian countries as well). Which is probably why Condé Nast Traveler called it “quite possibly the coolest foodie thing to do in New York, whether you're a visitor or local.”

League of Kitchens Program Manager (and former PiA Program Manager!) Megan McGowan (Thailand '06) is hooking the PiA family up with a discount of $20 off an immersion workshop. Go to www.leagueofkitchens.com to register, and use promo code LKPIA at checkout. Or email Megan at megan@leagueofkitchens.com to find out how to set up your own private workshop (for no extra cost!).

McGowan (Thailand ’06, third from left) with the fabulous cooking instructors of League of Kitchens!