Dear Friends of PiA:

Now in its eighth year, PiA’s Summer of Service (SOS) program is stronger than ever. As we prepare to send another batch of eleven Princeton students out to the city of Jishou for a life-changing summer in rural Hunan, it’s wonderful to hear back from the ever-growing group of SOS alumni about their memories of Jishou and how they stay connected to their former students and their adopted Chinese hometown.

SOS was conceived in 2005 as an idea scribbled down on a napkin. Ruminating on the plane on his way back from a PiA internship in China, Princeton undergraduate Rory Truex ’07 wanted to figure out how current Princeton students could better serve needy communities in China. Rory’s idea for a “summer of service” program took shape on that plane flight, and has changed little from the inaugural summer in 2006: take ten Princeton students and send them off to rural China with the mandate to provide an immersive English experience to a hundred Chinese students at Jishou Teachers’ College.

Over the past eight years, SOS has been made up of an incredibly diverse group of Princetonians: freshmen, sophomores, and juniors; hockey players, dancers, and photographers; English majors and engineers; Asia-philes and neophytes alike. Each group brings their own fresh perspectives to their classes, builds unique relationships with their students, and brings home their own feelings and reflections after the eight tiring weeks are up. But still, with every year, there’s a sense of continuation and picking up where the last group left off: old students return (now with much better English), old stories are shared over tea with administrators, and SOSers walk up the same old stone steps to classes every day.

It was my pleasure and privilege to join last year’s SOS trip while it was already underway, and see how the months of preparation and thought paid off every day in class. This year, as the SOSers complete their teacher training and start to write the textbook for the summer’s classes, I can’t wait to return to Jishou, see it through ten pairs of fresh eyes, and watch as ten more Princeton students make the transition from student to teacher, and finally, from teacher to friend.

We are very grateful for your support of PiA and Summer of Service. I look forward to keeping you posted as our Jishou adventures unfold in the months to come!

All the best from a springtime Princeton,

Alex Jones
Program Director and SOS Staff Leader
From Jishou, China: After seven years with SOS, I think: For me, I learned how to find the true meaning of my life; and I learned how to help people who need it. Every Jishou student, he learned how to talk his heart out; he learned how to demonstrate his best parts to let people enjoy and expose the worst parts to let people correct; and he learned how to enjoy every second in his life. SOSers, they learned what real Chinese people on the other side of the earth are like, beyond mass media in the States; they learned how precious their life in America is; and they discovered more meanings of life to ponder and more responsibilities to take on. Jishou Teachers’ College and the school administration have learned how to work on an international stage. The teachers have learned how to teach students in class to work together, and how to educate them on how to live in society. PiA, I think, has been rethinking its meaning. With its faith in helping people, new meaning and new form have three children out of college and a wife and children in Boston. Inspired by his PiA summer in India, Dana Dreibelbis (India ’76) has made a career in medical publishing, and is now creating a clinical medical program for the Rutgers University Press. Dana and his wife Leslie have three children out of college and a fourth with just one more year to go. Do we sense more adventures in the near future? Beth Haase (South Korea ’83) is teaching psychoanalytic theory to Chinese mental health professionals via ooVoo, as a part of the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance. Emily Hicks (Laos ’00) recently moved back to the US to join the State Department’s Japan team. As she wrote to us right after her move, “It’s hard to believe that all started with PiA sending me as its lone fellow to Laos 12 years ago!”
There’s no getting rid of the China bug! Jessica DeCarlo (China ’09) has returned to the PRC and is living in Shangri-la working as a Program Director for the Eastern Tibet Training Institute. She has recently developed a program for women interested in social entrepreneurship, and is consulting for a school in Yemen on the side. So glam.

After finishing up an internship with IIX in Singapore this past fall, Kenny Ewell (Philippines ’11) has moved to Jakarta with his fiancé Julia, where he is working for the private equity firm Quvat. He recently caught up with the PiA staff in Singapore over raw fish salad at Maxwell Food Centre, and promised many more return visits!

Anastasia Vrachnos (Indonesia ‘91 and former PiA Executive Director) has hit the ground running in Singapore in her new role as the Dean of International and Professional Experience at Yale-NUS College. She is thrilled to be back in the land of sweat stains and spicy food, and to still be in the business of sending young adults off for transformational experiences abroad – or, as she puts it, “screwing kids up!”

Jacob O’Quinn (Singapore ’09) has moved back to the city-state to take up a job as a Senior Executive at the National University of Singapore’s International Relations Office. After a brief sojourn in the States, he is thrilled to be back in his natural environment of international education and hawkers centres.

Julia Bakutis (Vietnam ’09) has started a new job in H&M’s Sustainability Department in Shanghai. As she recently wrote to us, “Thanks to PiA for getting me to Asia and all this fun stuff I’m doing now.”

Cool Enough for School

After a post-fellowship stint in Singapore, Luke Douglas (Indonesia ’10) will be starting a dual MBA/MPA program run by the Stern School of Business and the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU this fall. He misses Killiney Kopitiam like nobody’s business, but can’t wait to get back into academia.

We missed Megan Brandelindel (Thailand ’09) at PiA interviews in Chicago this year because she was out of town for a 3-week medical school rotation in Hawaii. Tough life!

Taylor Beck (Japan ’08) has moved from Boston to New York City, where he is living in Astoria, working at GQ Magazine and undertaking journalism school at NYU. His latest ploy is to fling a shout-out in GQ for Chris Yakitis (Japan ’02), his predecessor in Yakage and current TV writer. Yakage love!

Alexandra Ripp (Thailand ’08) has graduated from her MFA program in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at Yale University and will be sticking around New Haven to write her dissertation. It’s not over till it’s over.

Elliot Gee ‘13 SOS 2011 (participant) and 2012 (student leader) and PiA fellow ’13 heading out to try a guess ed its Jishou, China

"As of 2012, Jishou has been the site of many memories for seven years of Princeton students. Something about this tiny city at the crossroads of times and cultures captivated me from the moment I first walked down New Bridge Road, past the old man dozing next to the icecubes, past the Greasy Spoon restaurant, past the trash heap, past SevenCup. The students cannot be summarized easily, nor can the futures that stretch before each one of them.”

For me, Summer of Service has extended far beyond one summer. The above quote comes from my recently completed senior thesis, in which I reflected on two summers teaching in Jishou. Many of the people I met have become friends with whom I maintain contact, and with their encouragement I have focused my independent work at Princeton towards deepening my understanding of the lives of the students, the city, and their place in a wider cultural and educational context. Through the perspectives of both anthropology and photography, I have tried to make sense of why these experiences have been so meaningful, and I have tried to share them with others.

Looking back, I recognize self-growth through teaching and travel, the pleasure of discovery and immersion, and the vulnerability of both students and teachers as they push themselves to do something totally different and new. There are teachers who have never taught or been to China before. There are students from poor farming villages who are suddenly speaking with foreigners about everything from The Wizard of Oz to the concept of a ‘stereotype.’ Somehow, what we learn goes beyond English.

A student of mine from 2011 and 2012 is currently teaching her own students in the remote countryside of Hunan. When I wonder if our meeting was worth it, she writes, “Both of us have learned a lot from each other, I am honored to call you friend.” I know I have much to be grateful for, and I look forward to even more to come.

Elliot Gee ‘13
SOS 2011 (participant) and 2012 (student leader)
and PiA fellow ’13 heading out to try a guess ed its Jishou, China

Cameron White ‘14 SOS 2011 (participant) and 2012 (student leader)

Cameron (center) and Elliot (right) hiking in Dehang with one of their students during their first SOS summer in 2011.
PiA Travellers Far and Wide

Rob Bernstein (Japan '08) finally has his J.D.! To celebrate his graduation from Columbia Law School, Rob recently spent two weeks hiking and traveling through Oman, where he promised to scope out new potential posts for PiA.

Nancy Gephart (Laos '09) will be spending her summer in Jakarta as an intern with the Global Entrepreneurship Program, a USAID spinoff that invests in Indonesian social entrepreneurs. She has already connected with the PiA alumni in Jakarta, and can’t wait to hit the ground running.

Dorian Needham (Laos '05) is settling into life in New York City, and has planned a series of adventures for this summer. Destinations include Munich, Toronto, Hokkaido, and the Hamptons. Send us postcards, Dorian!

Jeff Bond (Vietnam '10) is winding down his job working for the Southeast Asia-based online publisher Coconuts and hopes to head to China next year to study Mandarin in “off-the-beaten-path destinations.” Good luck, Jeff!

Heling Zhao (Japan Summer '12) will be back in Tokyo this summer, conducting academic research on security policy with the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies. She can’t wait to be back in Japan and has promised to show her successor in the Osawa internship the ropes!

Megan McGowan (Thailand '06) has finished up her Master’s degree at the University of Gastronomic Sciences and is still kicking it in Italy, doing her own food writing and teaching English on the side. It’s like PiA never ended – only this time there’s cheese!

Felicia Sommez (China '06) is heading back to China this summer to spend the upcoming year studying Chinese at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Beijing. While she’s there, she hopes to whip her Mandarin into shape and find a reporting job.

This past February, Laura Smith (Vietnam '05) and her husband sailed their boat Quijote down to Antarctica, where they partnered with Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation to collect penguin and whale data. Quijote is now taking a break in Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina. No big deal.

Keeping it in the Family

Kevin Staley (Japan '75) recently wrote us, “I remain grateful for Princeton in Asia’s impact on my life. My primary real estate investors came from Taiwan and Hong Kong, and my daughter Dara spent a great semester abroad studying in Hong Kong, which included a Thanksgiving visit from her parents and brother.”

Amanda McDonald (China '09) got engaged this past winter! We had hoped to see her at PiA interviews, but she was busy that weekend scouting out wedding venues. Okay, we get it.

We were hoping to see Karyn Johnson (South Korea '00) at our alumni reception in Seattle this past February, but she was too busy changing diapers. Karyn and her husband Chad Siegel welcomed Mark Siegel as the newest addition to their family this past December, and he is keeping them busy!

Amanda Henck Schmidt (China '02) and her husband Josh welcomed their son Colby on May 21, 2012. Amanda has been on leave from Oberlin College this past semester, and took advantage of her free time to kick-start Colby’s Asia travels with a trip to see her parents in Hong Kong. Way to start ‘em early!

David Edwards (Afghanistan '75) is living in Prague on a Fulbright fellowship, teaching at Charles University and doing research for a book that will compare Afghan and Czech societies and cultures. His daughter Melody is finishing up her sophomore year at Princeton, and his son Nick has just completed a tour with the Peace Corps. David and his wife Marketa recently welcomed their son Vilem – now 5 months old, and already indoctrinated.

Mira Manickam (Thailand '01 and former PiA program director) has launched her book “Just Enough” (Silkworm Books, 2013), which travels inside the conflict zone of Thailand’s southernmost provinces and gets under the surface of traditional Malay Muslim culture. In usual PiA family form, the current PiA fellows in Thailand came (continued on page 10)
Barry Metzger

The Princeton in Asia community lost a great friend and supporter with the passing of Barry Metzger. Barry served on the PiA Board of Trustees for many years, always looking at PiA’s opportunities and challenges with a fresh perspective. A member of the Princeton University Class of 1946, Barry graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969 and moved to Sri Lanka on a Ford Foundation fellowship, where he served as Assistant to the Principal at the Ceylon Law College. Barry’s professional career included private practice with Coudert Brothers and with Baker & McKenzie, as well as service as the General Counsel of the Asia Development Bank. To honor Barry’s memory, Barry’s friends and former colleagues have established the Barry Metzger Fellowship Fund to support PiA programs and fellows in Sri Lanka and other locations.

Barry and Jackie Metzger are among the people I have admired most in my life. I first met Barry through my late husband, Conor Reilly, who worked for him as a young lawyer. Conor always said that he learned so much working for Barry! As we got to know Jackie and Barry, we saw their family as a model for our younger family. The Metzgers saw the world together; the four of them were each other’s best friends. We miss Barry very much, but we remember him with love, admiration and appreciation of our great friendship with the Metzger family that continues.

Margaret Cannella ’73 (PiA Trustee) and Kate Reilly ’05

I knew Barry for 32 years as his associate, his partner, his external counsel and most recently as my special counsel. Barry was an extraordinary man. His legal abilities were without equal, but his real gift was mentoring. He believed law was a craft to be learned and perfected through hard work, practice and coaching. He did not bully or cajole; he led by consistent personal example. You wanted to be like him and could not countenance letting him down. He was the finest leader I have known.

Peter Cleary ’74

Barry Metzger’s career as a lawyer exemplifies Princeton’s motto of “in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.” Sri Lanka, the Ford Foundation and idealism brought Barry to Asia as a young lawyer where he exhibited the best of American human rights work that Tom helped inspire at Princeton in Asia.

This past March, the Princeton in Asia community lost a committed friend and supporter with the passing of Richard “Tom” Wharton, Princeton University Class of 1971. Tom was a dedicated member of the PiA family, and his passion for education and human rights was well known within both the Princeton and PiA communities. Tom embodied PiA’s mandate to serve those most in need, and his commitment to service was perhaps best captured in his efforts to heighten awareness of human trafficking. In 2011 he provided the vision and the means for Princeton in Asia’s first counter-trafficking fellowship, which was based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with an NGO that supports the prevention of human trafficking and the rehabilitation of its victims. We are very grateful for Tom’s commitment to supporting PiA’s service initiatives, which will be sustained through a generous legacy gift, and look forward to continuing the important human rights work that Tom helped inspire at Princeton in Asia.

Film poster for “The Day My God Died,” a documentary that presents the stories of young girls who have been forced into the child sex slave trade in India and Nepal. Tom Wharton was one of the film’s major underwriters.

Tom Wharton

A MESSAGE FROM PiA’S INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAGGIE DILLON

My path to Asia was circuitous. I graduated from Princeton with a degree in German and ambitions of becoming a professor of art history. After graduation, I went on to do research and teaching fellowships in Germany and Austria for three years. While in Austria, I traveled to Southeast Asia, and for three weeks I felt closer to life than I ever had before. When I returned to Austria, echoes of those feelings stayed with me – the exhilaration of riding on a motorbike through Cambodia (with a helmet) and the awe of walking through the big, green mountains of Laos. I couldn’t help but feel that part of me belonged back in Asia, so I moved home to Detroit to work for the family business and applied to PiA.

Nearly three years ago, I landed in Vientiane armed with the little bit of Lao I was able to grasp in the months before my departure and knowing next to nothing about the operating environment in Laos. I joined the Lao Rugby Federation (LRF), a dynamic national sports federation with limited financial resources and huge ambitions, as the Operations Manager. It was stressful and exhausting, but most of all, it was humbling. Everything I knew about how to get things done and how to work with people turned out to be largely irrelevant to my new environment. I was learning (or relearning) everything as I went along.

Realizing how little you know is a powerful occasion and opportunity; for me, it served as the catalyst for the transformative experience PiA promises in the brochures. It pushed me to remove my needs and my expectations from the center of my experience, replacing them with those of my host organization. When I directed my capacities and efforts away from that locus of “I”, I finally became useful to the organization. When I directed my capacities and efforts away from that locus of “I”, I finally became useful to the transformative experience for host organizations PiA promises in the partnership pitch.

When I reflect on the feelings and memories that stayed with me after my first trip to Asia, it is clear that they were all about me. Now, as I prepare to leave my life in Vientiane, I know the feelings and memories that will reverberate long after I’ve recovered from jet lag will have come from experiences with colleagues, teammates and friends. When I remember the warmth of celebrating the New Year with a colleague’s family in a small village in the north of Laos and the joy of watching teenage girls in rural H’mong and Khmu communities play sports for the first time, ‘I’ will not be at the center. There is no capital ‘I’ in PiA.

Indeed, as I take up PiA’s Executive Directorship, I am keenly aware that I am just a small part of the incredible constellation of trustees, staff, fellows, alumni, partners and supporters that make up PiA. I am indebted to them for their contributions to making PiA what it is today, and for the incredible opportunities PiA has given me and thousands of other fellows. I am especially grateful to Anastasia Vrackos, who has been an incredible source of insight, support and encouragement since the day I walked into PiA interviews three years ago, and to Mariessa Lea, whose passion and leadership will continue to serve as an inspiration and example.

And because no official communication from PiA would be complete without a proverb and a reference to sketchy food, I leave you with some Lao wisdom that I find particularly resonant in this time of transition:

Food not eaten becomes spoiled, old stories untold are forgotten.

The expertise and knowledge of the PiA network are as vast and deep as the Pacific. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months, to learning about your experiences with PiA, and to hearing your ideas about how PiA can continue to best fulfill its mission. And as we celebrate 115 years of service in Asia and embark on an exciting new chapter for PiA, it is my hope that you will share your wisdom and stories with us over email and the phone, and at tables from Princeton to San Francisco, from Dili to Dushanbe and beyond.

Maggie Dillon

PiA Laos ’10-’12 and incoming Executive Director

Margaret Cannella ’73 (PiA Trustee) and Kate Reilly ’05

Owen Nee ’65, PiA Trustee

[Image 450x58 to 566x229]

[Image 647x288 to 831x431]

[Image 882x175 to 1141x213]
Upon returning from Singapore, I was convinced that I was going about my life with a serious case of nostalgia. But I soon realized that it’s not really nostalgia when I surround myself with PiAers, segue conversations to the topic of Asia, use Singlish phrases like “ai-yo” and “squeezy,” and travel long distances to seek out the xiao long bao that reminds me of my favorite food stall, all on a regular basis – it’s the PiA way of life! When I became a fellow in 2010, I was not yet aware of the strength of this family and the glue of service and love for Asia that keeps it together. Then, as we say: I got indoctrinated!

Upon finishing my TEFL and Orientation weekends as a newly minted PiA fellow, I fell in love, as so many fellows do, with this extraordinary organization. During my fellowship in Singapore, I was fortunate to be placed with incredibly fun, adventure-loving fellows who were also some of the most caring and dedicated teachers, and who I feel lucky to call some of my closest friends today.

The two and a half years I spent teaching in Singapore were the most formative of my life. Thanks to my students and colleagues, my school was the perfect milieu for trying on different lenses on various issues – from media censorship and democracy, to the question of balancing economic and social growth in Singapore. My favorite memories include the lunchtime chats I had with senior colleagues who experienced firsthand Singapore’s rapid changes (the country has gone from third to first world in a matter of a few decades!), to closely following the US presidential election and debating the media’s portrayal of these events (including the flux of parodies on YouTube). The exchanges I had with my students and colleagues were two-way roads; I left with a less cemented view of the world than I arrived with.

In true PiA alumni fashion, I couldn’t help but long for my teaching days at our most wonderful trustees, alumni, partners, and love, and to meet and work with our wonderful teachers, and who I feel lucky to call some of my closest friends today.

Needless to say, I am very excited to be joining the staff of an organization I know and love, and to meet and work with our wonderful trustees, alumni, partners, and friends of PiA!

Vikki Chernova
PiA Singapore ‘16-‘12 and new Program Director

When I joined the PiA staff almost 3 years ago, I wrote an introduction that appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of Pacific Bridges and was titled “Introducing PiA’s New Director of Communications.” I was to be the first PiA staff member dedicated to communications, and I couldn’t have been more thrilled to serve in a role that would allow me to support PiA’s program operations by tapping my passion for shaping stories through multimedia. I wrote about my encounter with PiA staffer Leslie Medema during the fall of my senior year at Princeton, and how she inspired me to throw my post-graduation plan out the window and drop everything for a job 10,000 miles away on an island that, before I landed there, I would not even have been able to point out on a map.

So I should not have been surprised when my plan went out the window for a second time – this was, after all, PiA. In my first two years on the job, as PiA’s continued growth pushed its immediate programmatic needs to the fore, my role increasingly involved program duties, including management of our fellowships in Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. This adjustment enabled me to develop a strong foundation in PiA’s day-to-day operations, and I now realize that it would have been impossible to craft a compelling communications strategy for PiA without a solid base of programmatic experience and the inspiration gleaned through interacting with PiA fellows and alumni every day. Because if you don’t know what it feels like to slip on the ice and faceplant in the middle of Ulaanbaatar’s Sukhbaatar Square, or to stay up until 3am with PiA alumni crowded in your living room debating the merits of PiA applicants (when you all have to get up at 7am the next morning for more interviews), you can’t really capture for other people what PiA is all about. You just can’t.

This past January, I relocated from Princeton to PiA’s Singapore field office and finally rolled up my sleeves to begin digging in to the adjustment enabled me to develop a strong foundation in PiA’s day-to-day operations, and I now realize that it would have been impossible to craft a compelling communications strategy for PiA without a solid base of programmatic experience and the inspiration gleaned through interacting with PiA fellows and alumni every day. Because if you don’t know what it feels like to slip on the ice and faceplant in the middle of Ulaanbaatar’s Sukhbaatar Square, or to stay up until 3am with PiA alumni crowded in your living room debating the merits of PiA applicants (when you all have to get up at 7am the next morning for more interviews), you can’t really capture for other people what PiA is all about. You just can’t.

Perhaps most excitingly, I have recently completed PiA’s new communications strategy – and as we get ready to roll out some new initiatives in the months ahead, stay tuned to learn more about a PiA YouTube channel, a revived alumni mentorship program, and a PiA staff Asia trip blog that will track our progress across the continent on our annual site visit trip.

What connects the thousands of people all over the world who count themselves members of the PiA family are our stories. We have ridden motorcycles across the Indonesian archipelago with just two changes of clothes in our packs, and have cut our teeth as young businesspeople in the conference rooms of corporate Japan. We have sent our children off to cities we’ve never heard of in countries we’ve never been to (instructor textbooks in hand), and have stood in the front of our very first classrooms, wondering how the heck we’ll pull this off.

PiA is built on these stories, and I have the privilege of finding ways to share more of them. I am looking forward to working with all of you – fellows, alumni, trustees and friends – to continue fine-tuning PiA’s strategic communications, and I am eager for your feedback. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or ideas, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at piaalum@princeton.edu. I would love to hear from you. And in the meantime, I encourage you to check out our website and “Like” us on Facebook. I hope you will be excited by what you find.

Fiona Miller
Communications Director (for real this time)
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This past January, I relocated from Princeton to PiA’s Singapore field office and finally rolled up my sleeves to begin digging in to the job that I was originally hired for. It has been both incredibly exciting, and moderately terrifying — as any new PiA experience ought to be. One of my priorities over the past few months has been to ramp up some of our existing communications initiatives, and I am excited to share with you a few highlights of what is already in the works:

• Our website now offers more resources for PiA fellows and alumni, including featured blogs from fellows in the field and a revived job listings page to connect community members to employment opportunities.

• We have finally made our debut in the world of social media with an invigorated presence on Facebook, where we post upcoming events, dispatches from the home office, and updates from fellows in the field on PiA’s Page.

• On the occasion of PiA’s 115th anniversary, we have commissioned a documentary film that will showcase the stories of PiA fellows and alumni across the generations, and will premiere at our gala celebration on September 10th, 2013 in New York City. Don’t miss it!

Perhaps most excitingly, I have recently completed PiA’s new communications strategy — and as we get ready to roll out some new initiatives in the months ahead, stay tuned to learn more about a PiA YouTube channel, a revived alumni mentorship program, and a PiA staff Asia trip blog that will track our progress across the continent on our annual site visit trip.

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In true PiA alumni fashion, I couldn’t help but long for my teaching days at our most recent TEFL weekend. I found myself starting sentences with “during my TEFL weekend we…” and doling out advice I wish I had followed (avoid smiling your first few weeks of teaching – be strict!). During my TEFL weekend, I remember doing a mental victory dance for being accepted into such a high caliber, service-focused, people-oriented organization. I remember feeling afraid of being a horrible teacher, and having my fears assuaged by peers who shared the sentiment. I remember seeing those same peers in their elements in Asia: confident and competent, working late into the night fine-tuning that perfect lesson plan or bravely facing that mountainous stack of essays. These tableaus from my PiA years now inform and animate my role behind the scenes.

Needless to say, I am very excited to be joining the staff of an organization I know and love, and to meet and work with our wonderful trustees, alumni, partners, fellows and friends of PiA!

Vikki Chernova
PiA Singapore ’10-’12 and new Program Director

PIA in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on her way to visit the temples at Angkor Wat.

Vikki Chernova
Barry Metzger

The Princeton in Asia community lost a great friend and supporter with the passing of Barry Metzger. Barry served on the PiA Board of Trustees for many years, always looking at PiA’s opportunities and challenges with a fresh perspective. A member of the Princeton University Class of 1966, Barry graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969 and moved to Sri Lanka on a Ford Foundation fellowship, where he served as Assistant to the Principal at the Ceylon Law College. Barry’s professional career included private practice with Coudert Brothers and with Baker & McKenzie, as well as service as the General Counsel of the Asia Development Bank. To honor Barry’s memory, Barry’s friends and former colleagues have established the Barry Metzger Fellowship Fund to support PiA programs and fellows in Sri Lanka and other locations.

Barry and Jackie Metzger are among the people I have admired most in my life. I first met Barry through my late husband, Conor Reilly, who worked for him as a young lawyer. Conor always said that he learned so much working for Barry! As we got to know Jackie and Barry, we saw their family as a model for our younger family. The Metzgers saw the world together; the four of them were each other’s best friends. We miss Barry very much, but we remember him with love, admiration and appreciation of our great friendship with the Metzger family that continues.

Margaret Cannella ’73 (PiA Trustee) and Kate Reilly ’05

I knew Barry for 32 years as his associate, his partner, his external counsel and most recently as my special counsel. Barry was an extraordinary man. His legal abilities were without equal, but his real gift was mentoring. He believed law was a craft to be learned and perfected through hard work, practice and coaching. He did not bully or cajole; he led by consistent personal example. You wanted to be like him and could not countenance letting him down. He was the finest leader I have known.

Peter Cleary ’74

Barry Metzger’s career as a lawyer exemplifies Princeton’s motto of “in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.” Sri Lanka, the Ford Foundation and idealism brought Barry to Asia as a young lawyer where he exhibited the best of American trains – the willingness to make a difference by doing good. The Barry Metzger Fellowship Fund at PiA draws the circle back to Barry Metzger’s career as a lawyer exemplifies Princeton’s motto of “in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.”

Tom Wharton

This past March, the Princeton in Asia community lost a committed friend and supporter with the passing of Richard “Tom” Wharton, Princeton University Class of 1971. Tom was a dedicated member of the PiA family, and his passion for education and human rights was well known within both the Princeton and PiA communities. Tom embodied PiA’s mandate to serve those most in need, and his commitment to service was perhaps best captured in his efforts to heighten awareness of human trafficking. In 2011 he provided the vision and the means for Princeton in Asia’s first counter-trafficking fellowship, which was based in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia with an NGO that supports the prevention of human trafficking and the rehabilitation of its victims. We are very grateful for Tom’s commitment to supporting PiA’s service initiatives, which will be sustained through a generous legacy gift, and look forward to continuing the important human rights work that Tom helped inspire at Princeton in Asia.

Film poster for “The Day My God Died,” a documentary that presents the stories of young girls who have been forced into the child sex slave trade in India and Nepal. Tom Wharton was one of the film’s major underwriters.

Owen Nee ’65, PiA Trustee

When I reflect on the feelings and memories that stayed with me after my first trip to Asia, it is clear that they were all about me. Now, as I prepare to leave my life in Vientiane, I know the feelings and memories that will reverberate long after I’ve recovered from jet lag will have come from experiences with colleagues, teammates and friends. When I remember the warmth of celebrating the New Year with a colleague’s family in a small village in the north of Laos and the joy of watching teenage girls in rural H’mong and Khmu communities play sports for the first time, ‘I’ will not be at the center. There is no capital ‘I’ in PiA.

Indeed, as I take up PiA’s Executive Directorship, I am keenly aware that I am just a small part of the incredible constellation of trustees, staff, fellows, alumni, partners and supporters that make up PiA. I am indebted to them for their contributions to making PiA what it is today, and for the incredible opportunities PiA has given me and thousands of other fellows. I am especially grateful to Anastasia Vrachnos, who has been an incredible source of insight, support and encouragement since the day I walked into PiA interviews three years ago, and to Mariesa Lea, whose passion and leadership will continue to serve as an inspiration and example.

And because no official communication from PiA would be complete without a proverb and a reference to sketchy food, I leave you with some Lao wisdom that I find particularly resonant in this time of transition:

Food not eaten becomes spoiled, old stories untold are forgotten.

Maggie with Rugby Development Intern Lao Kang and Joua Ha at a sport tournament in Xieng Khouang province, Laos. Lao Kang, together with more than twenty youth leaders from neighboring villages, organized the tournament to celebrate H’mong New Year.

The expertise and knowledge of the PiA network are as vast and deep as the Pacific. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months, to learning about your experiences with PiA, and to hearing your ideas about how PiA can continue to best fulfill its mission. And as we celebrate 115 years of service in Asia and embark on an exciting new chapter for PiA, it is my hope that you will share your wisdom and stories with us over email and the phone, and at tables from Princeton to San Francisco, from Dili to Dushanbe and beyond.

Maggie Dillon

PiA Laos ’10-’12 and incoming Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM PIA’S INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAGGIE DILLON

My path to Asia was circuitous. I graduated from Princeton with a degree in German and ambitions of becoming a professor of art history. After graduation, I went on to do research and teaching fellowships in Germany and Austria for three years. While in Austria, I traveled to Southeast Asia, and for three weeks I felt closer to life than I ever had before. When I returned to Austria, echoes of those feelings stayed with me - the exhilaration of riding on a motorbike through Cambodia (with a helmet) and the awe of walking through the big, green mountains of Laos. I couldn’t help but feel that part of me belonged back in Asia, so I moved home to Detroit to work for the family business and applied to PiA.

Nearly three years ago, I landed in Vientiane armed with the little bit of Lao I was able to grasp in the months before my departure and knowing next to nothing about the operating environment in Laos. I joined the Lao Rugby Federation (LRF), a dynamic national sports federation with limited financial resources and huge ambitions, as the Operations Manager. It was stressful and exhausting, but most of all, it was humbling. Everything I knew about how to get things done and how to work with people turned out to be largely irrelevant to my new environment. I was learning (or relearning) everything I was going along.

Realizing how little you know is a powerful occasion and opportunity; for me, it served as the catalyst for the transformative experience PiA promises in the brochures. It pushed me to remove my needs and my expectations from the center of my experience, replacing them with those of my host organization. When I directed my capacities and efforts away from that locus of ‘I’, I finally became useful to the transformative experience for host organizations PiA promises in the partnership pitch.

When I reflect on the feelings and memories that stayed with me after my first trip to Asia, it is clear that they were all about me. Now, as I prepare to leave my life in Vientiane, I know the feelings and memories that will reverberate long after I’ve recovered from jet lag will have come from experiences with colleagues, teammates and friends. When I remember the warmth of celebrating the New Year with a colleague’s family in a small village in the north of Laos and the joy of watching teenage girls in rural H’mong and Khmu communities play sports for the first time, ‘I’ will not be at the center. There is no capital ‘I’ in PiA.

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PiA Laos ’10-’12 and incoming Executive Director
PiA doesn’t print yearbooks, but this is the next best thing. A trip down SOS memory lane:

**PiA Travelers Far and Wide**

Rob Bernstein (Japan '08) finally has his J.D.! To celebrate his graduation from Columbia Law School, Rob recently spent two weeks hiking and traveling through Oman, where he promised to scope out new potential posts for PiA.

Nancy Gephart (Laos '09) will be spending her summer in Jakarta as an intern with the Global Entrepreneurship Program, a USAID spinoff that invests in Indonesian social entrepreneurs. She has already connected with the PiA alumni in Jakarta, and can’t wait to hit the ground running.

Dorian Needham (Laos '05) is settling into life in New York City, and has planned a series of adventures for this summer. Destinations include Munich, Toronto, Hokkaido, and the Hamptons. Send us postcards, Dorian!

Jeff Bond (Vietnam '10) is winding down his job working for the Southeast Asia-based online publisher Coconuts and hopes to head to China next year to study Mandarin in “off-the-beaten-path destinations.” Good luck, Jeff!

Heling Zhao (Japan Summer '12) will be back in Tokyo this summer, conducting academic research on security policy with the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies. She can’t wait to be back in Japan and has promised to show her successor in the Osaka internships the ropes!

Megan McGowan (Thailand '06) has finished up her Master’s degree at the University of Gastronomic Sciences and is still kicking it in Italy, doing her own food writing and teaching English on the side. It’s like PiA never ended – only this time there’s cheese!

Felícia Somnez (China '06) is heading back to China this summer to spend the upcoming year studying Chinese at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Beijing. While she’s there, she hopes to whip her Mandarin into shape and find a reporting job.

This past February, Laura Smith (Vietnam '05) and her husband sailed their boat Quijote down to Antarctica, where they partnered with Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation to collect penguin and whale data. Quijote is now taking a break in Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina. No big deal.

**Keeping it in the Family**

Kevin Staley (Japan '75) recently wrote us, “I remain grateful for Princeton in Asia’s impact on my life. My primary real estate investors came from Taiwan and Hong Kong, and my daughter Dara spent a great semester abroad studying in Hong Kong, which included a Thanksgiving visit from her parents and brother.”

Amanda McDonald (China '09) got engaged this past winter! We had hoped to see her at PiA interviews, but she was busy that weekend scouting out wedding venues. Okay, we get it.

We were hoping to see Karyn Johnson (South Korea '90) at our alumni reception in Seattle this past February, but she was too busy changing diapers. Karyn and her husband Chad Siegel welcomed Mark Siegel as the newest addition to their family this past December, and he is keeping them busy!

**Alumni Notes**

Amanda Henck Schmidt (China '02) and her husband Josh welcomed their son Colby on May 21, 2012. Amanda has been on leave from Oberlin College this past semester, and took advantage of her free time to kick-start Colby’s Asia travels with a trip to see her parents in Hong Kong. Way to start ‘em early!

David Edwards (Afghanistan ’75) is living in Prague on a Fulbright fellowship, teaching at Charles University and doing research for a book that will compare Afghan and Czech societies and cultures. His daughter Melody is finishing up her sophomore year at Princeton, and his son Nick has just completed a tour with the Peace Corps. David and his wife Marketa recently welcomed their son Vilem – now 5 months old, and already indoctrinated.

Mira Manickam (Thailand '01 and former PiA program director) has launched her book “Just Enough” (Silkworm Books, 2013), which travels inside the conflict zone of Thailand’s southernmost provinces and gets under the surface of traditional Malay Muslim culture. In usual PiA family form, the current PiA fellows in Thailand came...
out to support Mira and “Just Enough” at a recent book launch event in Bangkok. “Just Enough” is already available in Thailand, and will be available worldwide in August via Amazon and the University of Washington Press. To learn more, check out www.facebook.com/justenoughbook.

Still Living the Dream in Asia

Tyler Brown (Thailand ’06) is living in Tajikistan and working with Medecins Sans Frontieres to administer HIV trainings for nurses and counselors in MSF’s tuberculosis program. He is soaking up Central Asia and heartily enjoying the kebabs and vodka.

After 30 years in Geneva, Switzerland, David Johnson (Princeton University ’78) has moved to Singapore. Though David wasn’t an “official” PiA fellow, he studied Near Eastern Studies at Princeton and was good friends with PiA’s legendary Executive Director, Bob Atmore, who helped him get to Turkey to do research and teach in between his junior and senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Amazing, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years. David’s first impressions of Southeast Asia were: “Awesome, intimidating, senior years.

Ellen Adams (Thailand ’10) has won a Fulbright research fellowship and will be returning to her old stomping grounds in Chiang Mai to study political messaging in Thai contemporary art. Congrats, Ellen!

There’s no getting rid of the China bug! Jessica DeCarlo (China ’09) has returned to the PRC and is living in Shanghai working as a Program Director for the Eastern Tibet Training Institute. She has recently developed a program for women interested in social entrepreneurship, and is consulting for a school in Yemen on the side. So glamorous.

After finishing up an internship with IIX in Singapore this past fall, Kenny Ewell (Philippines ’11) has moved to Jakarta with his fiancé Julia, where he is working for the private equity firm Quvat. He recently caught up with the PiA staff in Singapore over raw fish salad at Maxwell Food Centre, and promised many more return visits!

Anastasia Vrachnos (Indonesia ’91 and former PiA Executive Director) has hit the ground running in Singapore in her new role as the Dean of International and Professional Experience at Yale-NUS College. She is thrilled to be back in the land of sweat stains and spicy food, and to still be in the business of sending young adults off for transformative experiences abroad – or, as she puts it, “screwing kids up!”

Jacob O’Quinn (Singapore ’09) has moved back to the city-state to take up a job as a Senior Executive at the National University of Singapore’s International Relations Office. After a brief sojourn in the States, he is thrilled to be back in his natural environment of international education and hawkers centres.

Julia Bukatis (Vietnam ’09) has started a new job in H&M’s Sustainability Department in Shanghai. As she recently wrote to us, “Thanks to PiA for getting me to Asia and all this fun stuff I’m doing now.”

Cool Enough for School

After a post-fellowship stint in Singapore, Luke Douglas (Indonesia ’10) will be starting a dual MBA/MPA program run by the Stern School of Business and the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU this fall. He misses Killiney Kopitiam like nobody’s business, but can’t wait to get back into academia.

We missed Megan Brandeiland (Thailand ’09) at PiA interviews in Chicago this year because she was out of town for a 3-week medical school rotation in Hawaii. Tough life!

Taylor Beck (Japan ’08) has moved from Boston to New York City, where he is living in Astoria, working at GQ Magazine and undertaking journalism school at NYU. His latest project is to film a shout-out in GQ for Chris Yakaitis (Japan ’02), his predecessor in Yakage and current TV writer. Yakage love!

Alexandra Ripp (Thailand ’08) has graduated from her MFA program in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at Yale University and will be sticking around New Haven to write her dissertation. It’s not over till it’s over.

As of 2012, Jishou has been the site of many memories for seven years of Princeton students. Something about this tiny city at the crossroads of times and cultures captivated me from the moment I first walked down New Bridge Road, past the old man dozing next to the iceboxes, past the Greasy Spoon restaurant, past the trash heap, past Seven Cup. The students cannot be summarized easily, nor can the futures that stretch before each one of them.

For me, Summer of Service has extended far beyond one summer. The above quote comes from my recently completed senior thesis, in which I reflected on two summers teaching in Jishou. Many of the people I met have become friends with whom I maintain contact, and with their encouragement I have focused my independent work at Princeton towards deepening my understanding of the lives of the students, the city, and their place in a wider cultural and educational context. Through the perspectives of both anthropology and photography, I have tried to make sense of why these experiences have been so meaningful, and I have tried to share them with others.

Looking back, I recognize self-growth through teaching and travel, the pleasure of discovery and immersion, and the vulnerability of both students and teachers as they push themselves to do something totally different and new. There are teachers who have never taught or been to China before. There are students from poor farming villages who are suddenly speaking with foreigners about everything from The Wizard of Oz to the concept of ‘a stereotype.’ Somehow, what we learn goes beyond English. A student of mine from 2011 and 2012 is currently teaching her own students in the remote countryside of Hunan. When I wonder if our meeting was worth it, she writes, “Both of us have learned a lot from each other, I am honored to call you friend.” I know I have much to be grateful for, and I look forward to even more to come.

Eliot Gee ’13 SOS 2011 (participant) and 2012 (student leader) and PiA fellow ’13 heading out to Tyne guessed its Jishou, China

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Jennifer Chew  
Princeton '15. A sophomore from outside Boston majoring in History, Jen loves to dance with Triple 8 Dance Company and FUSE Dance Collective, and is starting a dance-theater community service project with Trenton elementary school students. She eats ethnic food whenever she can, and loves the outdoors, especially the White Mountains of NH.

Madeline Cohen  
Princeton '16. Maddy is a rising sophomore from Charlottesville, VA hoping to study either English or Comparative Literature. She is an actor with the Princeton Triangle Club, a group that produces two hilarious student-written musicals each year. She loves reading Vonnegut, eating muffins, and learning Chinese!

Monica Gonzalez  
Princeton '16. Monica loves Alexander Hamilton and intends to be a History concentrator. She is particularly fond of working with children and is currently an officer on the board of the Pride Alliance, one of the LGBT student organizations at Princeton. She likes discussing films and prefers a runny yolk in her egg.

Sohee Hyung  
Princeton '16. Sohee loves Alexander Hamilton and intends to be a History concentrator. She is particularly fond of working with children and is currently an officer on the board of the Pride Alliance, one of the LGBT student organizations at Princeton. She likes discussing films and prefers a runny yolk in her egg.

Kelsey Henderson  
Student leader; Princeton '15. Kelsey is an East Asian Studies major from northern Virginia. Her afternoons and weekends are devoted to playing with the Princeton women’s rugby team. After her trip to Jishou last summer, she developed a strong love/hate relationship with extremely spicy food.

From Jishou, China:  
After seven years with SOS, I think:  
For me, I learned how to find the real person in the bottom of my heart; I learned how to find the true meaning of my life; and I learned how to help people who need it. Every Jishou student, he learned how to talk his heart out; he learned how to demonstrate his best parts to let people enjoy and expose the worst parts to let people correct; and he learned how to enjoy every second in his life.

Nicholas Pang  
Princeton '15. Nick is a rising junior and a Sociology concentrator from the sunny state of Hawaii. While he cannot surf, he can canoe (badly). When he’s not floundering in the ocean, he volunteers with Queerbridge, a non-profit that encourages low-income youth to apply to top-tier colleges.

Richard Polo  
Princeton '16. Richard grew up on the sunny beaches of California while learning how to navigate the constantly congested freeways of LA. The Orange and Black of Princeton were enough to lure him away to the East Coast – a place with these mythical “seasons.” A pre-med student majoring in Chemical and Biological Engineering, he can often be found working on problem sets or enjoying the pool as a member of Club Swimming.

Frank Woo  
Princeton '15. Born out of the Great Lakes of Michigan, Frank is an active member of the Korean American Students Association as well as Bodyhype, a dance company that fuses hip-hop with contemporary dance. He is excited to travel to China and learn from the locals in Jishou!

Peggy Williams  
Vietnam '98 is living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, doing her intern year of her medical residency. Though she gets no weekends off, she still offered to help interview PiA applicants in the Ann Arbor or Detroit areas. Now that’s dedication!

Michael Portmann  
Indonesia '08 couldn’t help us out with interviews or attend our alumni reception in the Bay Area this year, because he was in the thick of his first year of law school. But he promised us that “it will all be worth it when I donate to PiA as a rich lawyer.” Okay, deal.

Representing in the US of A  
Margaret Hazlett  
Thailand and Japan '88 and former PiA Executive Director will be stepping down as Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Bowdoin College this summer to take up a position as Dean of the College at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Congrats, Margaret!

After his PiA fellowship at the Natural Resources Defense Council, Steven Andrews  
China ’06 received his J.D. from UCLA and has been working for the Beijing-based Chinese law firm Chang Tsi & Partners. He is currently living with his wife and children in Boston.

Josh Morris  
Thailand ’09, Kendyl Salcito  
Thailand ’04, Denali Barron  
Thailand ’09, TaReva Warrick-Stone  
Thailand ’10 and Katie Proudman  
Thailand ’11 staged a reunion in Boulder, CO this past winter, where they braved a blizzard to trade stories and catch up. The crew represented all the PiA fellows who have ever worked for Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures except for Ted Conbeer  
Thailand ’08, whose absence the friends lamented at their reunion.

Inspired by his PiA summer in India, Dana Dreibelbis  
India ’76 has made a career in medical publishing, and is now creating a clinical medical program for the Rutgers University Press. Dana and his wife Leslie have three children out of college and a fourth with just one more year to go. Do we sense more adventures in the near future?

Beth Haase  
South Korea ’83 is teaching psychoanalytic theory to Chinese mental health professionals via ooVoo, as a part of the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance.

Emily Hicks  
Laos ’00 recently moved back to the US to join the State Department’s Japan team. As she wrote to us right after her move, “It’s hard to believe that it all started with PiA sending me as its lone fellow to Laos 12 years ago!”
Dear Friends of PiA:

Now in its eighth year, PiA’s Summer of Service (SOS) program is stronger than ever. As we prepare to send another batch of eleven Princeton students out to the city of Jishou for a life-changing summer in rural Hunan, it’s wonderful to hear back from the ever-growing group of SOS alumni about their memories of Jishou and how they stay connected to their former students and their adopted Chinese hometown.

SOS was conceived in 2005 as an idea scribbled down on a napkin. Ruminating on the plane on his way back from a PiA internship in China, Princeton undergraduate Rory Truex ’07 wanted to figure out how current Princeton students could better serve needy communities in China. Rory’s idea for a “summer of service” program took shape on that plane flight, and has changed little from the inaugural summer in 2006: take ten Princeton students and send them off to rural China with the mandate to provide an immersive English experience to a hundred Chinese students at Jishou Teachers’ College.

Over the past eight years, SOS has been made up of an incredibly diverse group of Princetonians: freshmen, sophomores, and juniors; hockey players, dancers, and photographers; English majors and engineers; Asia-philes and neophytes alike. Each group brings their own fresh perspectives to their classes, builds unique relationships with their students, and brings home their own feelings and reflections after the eight tiring weeks are up. But still, with every year, there’s a sense of continuation and picking up where the last group left off: old students return (now with much better English), old stories are shared over tea with administrators, and SOSers walk up the same old stone steps to classes every day.

It was my pleasure and privilege to join last year’s SOS trip while it was already underway, and see how the months of preparation and thought paid off every day in class. This year, as the SOSers complete their teacher training and start to write the textbook for the summer’s classes, I can’t wait to return to Jishou, see it through ten pairs of fresh eyes, and watch as ten more Princeton students make the transition from student to teacher, and finally, from teacher to friend.

We are very grateful for your support of PiA and Summer of Service. I look forward to keeping you posted as our Jishou adventures unfold in the months to come! All the best from a springtime Princeton,

Alex chaperones his students at the Jishou Teachers’ College prom, summer 2012.

Alex Jones
Program Director and SOS Staff Leader

(continued on page 2)