From Maggie Dillon,
PiA Executive Director:

This past fall, I had the great fortune to visit with PiA fellows, alumni, partners and friends in eighteen cities across ten countries in Asia. This whirlwind journey, referred to nonchalantly as “The Asia Trip,” represented some of the most invigorating, inspiring, and utterly exhausting weeks of my life, and gave me an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the great work our fellows are doing on the ground and to see what a PiA fellowship looks like at its best, as well as to understand the challenges and areas for growth before us across the broad reach of our programs.

Thanks to the generosity of Peter Poullada (PiA Afghanistan and Iran ’75 and PiA Trustee), the champion of PiA’s Central Asia Initiative, I was able to spend eight days in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan with Vikki Chernova, Program Director for Central Asia. Vikki was born in Almaty and immigrated to the US in 1993 (incidentally, the year before PiA sent its first fellow to Kazakhstan). Unsurprisingly, Vikki made new friends wherever we went, as everyone we encountered was keen to hear the story of how, having left the ancestral home of apples, she ended up working near the Big Apple. She was an expert and insightful guide.

In Almaty, we visited KIMEP University, where in addition to teaching a full course load, PiA fellows Jon Jay, Saranna Soroka and Abram Conrad are also leading extracurricular activities, running the University Writing Center, and studying International Relations and Russian alongside some of the brightest minds in Central Asia. (This year we celebrate PiA’s 20th anniversary of sending fellows to Central Asia. The evolution of this partnership is featured in the following pages.) We visited Population Services International (PSI), where second-year fellow Julia Gall has so impressed the team with her original thinking, entrepreneurial spirit and aptitude for building relationships that PSI has proposed new fellowship placements with their offices in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. (The Gangnam Style cover Julia produced also had such a strong impact on her supervisors that they spent a good 20 minutes setting up a projector, just so we could see it on the big screen.) From Almaty, we traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where we observed fellow Evan

(continued on page 2)
Behind lead intensive English language lessons for young scholars at the Academy of Sciences, the country’s leading institution of higher learning. Our counterpart at the Academy of Sciences was so inspired by Evan’s work, and believes so much in the PIA model, that she had arranged several other meetings for us with new potential partners, including the Tajik National Conservatory and artist Olim Kamalov, who is singlehandedly preserving the Tajik miniaturist painting tradition.

Maggie and Vikki meet with Olim Kamalov, a renowned miniaturist painter in Tajikistan who runs an art center to teach Tajik children this traditional art form. In future summers, PIA hopes to send an undergraduate intern to work in Mr. Kamalov’s studio, teaching English and learning about the art of Tajik miniature painting.

Opportunities for unique, transformational fellowships with local and international partners abound in Central Asia.

But as we pursue these opportunities in our quest to promote mutual appreciation and cross-cultural understanding between our fellows and partners, the fellowship positions themselves are only one part of the equation. To witness firsthand the quality (and sheer quantity!) of work our fellows are doing in Central Asia, along with the fresh perspectives and positive attitudes they bring to their workplaces, was extraordinary — but beyond commitment to the job, I was just as interested in the commitment they have made to immerse themselves in their respective environments. Our fellows have immersed themselves in language, studying and practicing Russian, Kazakh, and Tajik; they have immersed themselves in nature, summiting and skiing peaks of the Tien Shan; they have immersed themselves in the lives of their communities, organizing social events, volunteering their time outside of work and exercising their personal interests in their extracurricular activities. One fellow with musical talents has joined a local band (Central Asian heavy metal, anyone?). Another fellow has quite literally immersed herself in water, after being recruited to play professional water polo for the Kazakh national team — but that’s another story!

We at PIA are fond of water metaphors across cultures for the past 115 years? What is immersion important? To what extent is immersion possible in the posts and locations to which we currently send PIA’s fellows? And in an increasingly interconnected world, how can PIA find, facilitate and foster the sort of immersive experiences that have made us so successful in fulfilling our mission of mutual appreciation and understanding across cultures for the past 115 years? Over the next several months, PIA will engage in a strategic planning process that will focus on these and larger questions. We will explore how PIA can adapt to the breakneck pace of change across Asia and the world, how we can leverage technology and communication tools to facilitate cross-cultural exchange, how we can work to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of our program. We will discuss where and how we grow, knowing that Central Asia occupies an important place in that discussion. And we’ll create a shared vision for how we can leverage the strengths of PIA’s tradition, history, networks and knowledge to best fulfill our mission.

I invite you to tackle these questions with us, and hope you will reach out to the team at PIA – over email, by phone, through Facebook, LinkedIn, or in person – to share your vision for PIA’s future and your ideas for how PIA can continue to foster the sort of immersion that has been our hallmark for over a century. On behalf of the PIA family, I thank you for your support and generosity, which make PIA what it is today. And for the time being, I hope you will enjoy this celebration of PIA’s rich and vibrant history of engagement in Central Asia, where some of our most immersive, transformational fellowships have taken root. Here’s to another 20 years!

PIA turned Justine Brennan (Cambodia ‘96) on to journalism, and she hasn’t looked back. Justine recently started a new job with The Nation in New York, and is looking forward to participating in more tri-state area PIA events!

Mathew O’Sullivan (Mongolia ‘12) went out on a high note, spending the end of his time in Asia riding the Trans-Siberian railway with fellow PIAers Asiah Usher (Mongolia ‘11) and Ned Bennett (Mongolia ‘11) from Ulanbaatar to Moscow. He is now working for Exclude Solutions in DC, where he is surely drinking less fermented mare’s milk, and also probably wearing fewer layers of wool.

Selamat tahnun baru! Brian Vogt (Indonesia ‘96) and family celebrated the New Year Indo-style with rendang, gado gado, and pisang goreng (fried banana) for dessert. Brian reports that his kids weren’t big fans of the rendang, but they did like the pisang goreng. Yum!

LeeAnn Mallorie (China ’04) recently visited Asia after 10 years away and discovered that she can still speak Mandarin. Tai Hao Le!

It is impossible to paraphrase a recent update from Dorian Rolston (SOS ’09): “I read and write a lot. I’m married. We treat our rabbits like kids. We’ll be very lucky if our kids eat so many vegetables. We’ll be very unlucky if our kids poop with so little regard for the potty.”

Willie Myers (Vietnam ’11) reports that he has recently been listening to Vietnamese pop music at work. He think he might miss Vietnam.

Have a life update to share, or just want to see your name in lights? Email us at piaalum@princeton.edu!
Laura Wolf Stein (Indonesia '97) is living in San Diego with her husband and two daughters, working as a marketing director for Sony Electronics (which has brought her to Tokyo on several occasions). She still keeps in touch with fellow PiAers Kristen Rainey (Indonesia '97), Nina Henning (Nepal '97), and Jeff Pinkkett (China '97).

Ed Lee (South Korea '02) recently completed his MBA at the University of Michigan and is working as an educational consultant back in NYC, where he hopes to develop the skills needed to impact education-minded organizations from a leadership perspective. Gone are the days of underwear-less jungle displays. Will Harvey (Singapore '09) is back in Vancouver, where he is applying to physiotherapy schools and living a (sort of) normal life. For now.

Kate Voss (Nepal '11) is finishing up her first year of her PhD program at UC Santa Barbara and is planning her next visit to Nepal – a short-term consultancy with World Wildlife Fund this fall. In the meantime, Kate gets her Asia fix at Ye Old Thai Food and Deli in Santa Barbara. A Medieval Thai deli? We’re all about it!

Hailey Flynn (Vietnam '12) has survived her first year as a law student at Fordham Law School in New York. On to 2L!

Shelya Medina (Laos '12) is wrapping up her time in Laos and preparing for her move to Baltimore, where she will begin her internship in medicine in Seattle, where she lives with her husband. Laura hopes to get back to Asia some day, but in the meantime she is a stalwart attendee of PiA's Pacific Northwest alumni gatherings.

After nearly 20 years in China, Seth Grossman (China '94) has relocated to Southern California. Seth, welcome back to the land of the Red, White and Blue.

Michael Parks (Taiwan '07) recently began a new job as the Executive Director of the Business Council on Climate Change, a nonprofit that brings together organizations from across San Francisco society to work on collaborative, local climate projects.

On the Job in the US of A

Trevor Hill (Japan '92) and his sons rock their PiA t-shirts at Lang Khai Dinh near Hue, Vietnam.

Stacey Tisbulsksy (Malaysia '06) spends her days working with refugees who have been resettled to the Chicago area. She credits her PiA experience with helping her handle the ups and downs of work that is both rewarding and challenging – and often hilarious.

After six and a half years in Korea, Hannah Bae (South Korea '07) recently returned to the US, where she is based in NYC working as a social media coordinator for Newsday – a career move no doubt influenced by her time spent in the most wired country in the world!

Kim Sine (China '10) is working as the Middlebury in China Programs Manager for CET Academic Programs, helping send students to study abroad in Kunming, Hangzhou and Beijing. She loves being based in DC and having strong ties to China – the best of both worlds!

From the tropics to the tundra! Katie Boyce (Singapore '11) has finally bid farewell to the Little Red Dot and has just begun a new job in Minneapolis. Talk about a quantum leap in average temperature.

Allison Behringer (Thailand '12) spent her Christmas holiday this year cooking Thai food for her family (or trying to) and stalking all her PiA friends who are still in Asia. Seasonings Greetings?

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deeply grateful to PiA for allowing me to veer (far, far) off the well-beaten path. I am excited to set out for Kazakhstan specifically because of the chance to apply the knowledge and language skills I picked up as a Slavic Studies major to a new adventure in this little-known yet vast corner of the former Soviet Union. I’m really keen on seeing PiA continue to build its bridges to Central Asia, which I think is an area of the world that will come to play a larger and larger role on the world stage in future years.

In a year, I hope to have ridden on horseback through the Kazakh steppe, couch-surfed on more than a few a PiA futons, and given my students at KIMEP a glimpse of the rich and dynamic world that knowledge of the English language can open for them.

Linnea Paseiro

I am looking forward to arriving at KIMEP! Teaching at a university in Almaty, the largest city in Central Asia, is something that I never imagined I would be able to do. To date, Central Asia remains a mystery for much of the Western world. For me, it is an object of fascination. It is a relatively liberal Muslim nation with an unofficially autocratic leader and a complex attachment to its Soviet past. I have traveled a fair amount in Asia, but I have never been in a country quite like Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a new frontier for me to explore, and I could not be more ready.

A year from now, I would like to say that I have built relationships within my community in Almaty. At the university level I not only seek to improve English fluency, but I aim to build an appreciation for Western literature and culture. My goal is to inspire my students to stretch beyond their comfort zones in academia and in life. I also hope to learn a great deal about Kazakhstan, foster a genuine empathy for the Kazakh people and acquire some basic Russian in the process!

I am appreciative of the freedom that I have to explore a foreign culture at my age. I have too many friends who are sitting at a fancy desk job but are wondering about the “what if’s.” I appreciate the fact that PiA makes my pursuits possible, and I am certain that the year to come will be eye opening and fulfilling in ways I have not yet begun to understand.

Vikram Paul

Congratulations to Boo, Linnea and Vikram. We can’t wait to see how this coming year in Kazakhstan unfolds!

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Leroy Terrelonge (Kazakhstan ’11) got married last October. He and his husband are living in Somerville, MA, where Leroy is finishing up his degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Congratulations to all!

Still Living the Dream in Asia

After 4 years in Egypt, Sean Callahan (Thailand ’91) and family have relocated to Phnom Penh, where Sean has taken up the post of Deputy Mission Director for USAID to Cambodia.

Austin Arensberg (Thailand ’06) recently completed his MBA at INSEAD in Singapore. After a brief visit to the US, he’s heading back to Asia to begin a job with Samsung in South Korea. Not done with Asia yet!

Ho-Ming So (Vietnam ’07) is currently based in Jakarta with his husband and dog, working for the UN’s Indonesia REDD+ agency.

Emily Gorbaty (India ’09) has moved to Phnom Penh to begin a new job as a product design engineer for WaterSHED, where she is working on toilets, plumbing-free hand washing devices, and rainwater harvesting for communities in rural Cambodia and Vietnam. Go Emily!

Alex Long (Kazakhstan ’09) recently relocated to Singapore, where he is working for Google on South & Southeast Asia public policy. Perks of the job include: regional travel, free lunch. Thanks, Google.

Cool Enough for School

Thomas Talhelm (China ’07) recently completed a Fulbright research scholarship in Beijing, where he was studying the psychological and cultural differences between Northern and Southern China, and is now back at the University of Virginia to finish up his PhD. He also recently founded a start-up called Smart Air (smartairfilters.com) that demonstrates how to assemble a DIY air purifier to fight air pollution in China without spending thousands of dollars.

Tina Coll (China ’08 and former PiA Program Director) is finishing up her tenure at Columbia Business School. She plans to stay in NYC after she graduates, though will surely be back to Asia for a visit sometime soon. You can take the girl out of Asia, but …

Michael Portman (Indonesia ’08) is finishing up law school in San Francisco, where he is on track to become a public defender.

Ho-Ming So (Vietnam ’07) is still at MIT, working on his PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Perks of his research: occasional trips to Singapore!

Duncan DeArth (Taiwan ’09) recently completed his Master’s degree at the Academy of Korean Studies, and is applying to continue his studies in Taiwan this coming year. Should we have filed this under “Still living the dream in Asia?” It’s the best of both worlds!

After spending the past few years living and working in China, East Tibet and Nepal, Jessica DiCarlo (China ’09) is putting down roots. This summer she will be heading to UC Berkeley to begin her Master’s in Development Practice and, she hopes, to work on someday properly speaking Tibetan.

Shannon Hiller (Cambodia ’09) is holding down the fort in Princeton, NJ, where she is pursuing her MPA at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Winter break trips to Battambang and Ivy Inn karaoke dates with the PiA staff help break up the monotony.

Will West (Vietnam ’09) is finishing up his first year of medical school at UNC, and is loving it.

Jeff Bond (Vietnam ’10) is headed to Johns Hopkins SAIS for this coming year, then back to Asia for his MBA at INSEAD after that. Congrats, Jeff!

Richard Reddy (Cambodia ’10) sums it up: “Living in Boston, going to grad school, missing Asia.” Nuff said.

Andrew Usoro (Singapore ’10) is working on his MD at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. He spent last summer doing HIV research in India, and stopped over in Singapore on his way back for an aggressive 4-day eating tour through the city-state. Bring on the chicken rice!

Jack Ackerman (South Korea ’11) has bid farewell to Seoul (for now) and is resting up in the Garden State before beginning medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in August. But lest he stay away from Asia for too long, he is already planning a summer trip!

Jessica Knowles (Cambodia ’11) is currently pursuing two degrees - a JD at the University of Washington and a Master’s in Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford. Jessica hopes to someday reclaim her social life. In the meantime, she’s hitting the books!
Keeping it in the PiA Family

As if one big life development weren’t enough, last summer Kate Muessig (China ’02) married Justin Byron, and also began a full-time tenure track position as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at UNC Chapel Hill. As a part of her new position, Kate will continue to work on HIV research in China and expanding the school’s presence in Asia. Justin doesn’t work in China, but he does work in Indonesia – close enough!

When Erin (Harper) Mao (China ’04) got married last summer, “karaoke” took on a whole new meaning. Erin reports that her in-laws host karaoke potluck parties on a regular basis, and even held a karaoke party in lieu of a formal wedding banquet. Mics all around!

Six years after meeting as participants on PiA’s Summer of Service program in 2007, Anastasia (Oldham) Fitz and Duncan Fitz (both SOS ’07) were married last July. Who ever said PiA couldn’t snag you a life partner?

Dora Yue-Kie Lee (1954-2013) was a member of Princeton’s Class of 1976. Born in Hong Kong, she immigrated to the United States with her family as a teenager, graduating from New York’s Bronx High School of Science, where she was a national finalist in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. At Princeton, Dora majored in biology and ecology and studied Mandarin Chinese; she also sang in the Chapel Choir and was a member of Charter Club. After graduation, she continued her studies, obtaining a Master’s degree in forestry and environmental studies from Yale. She then began a 30-year career that spanned several continents, encompassed numerous industries and required the mastery of four languages.

Dora believed deeply in service and devoted much time and energy to several causes. She served as president of the Princeton Club of Hong Kong and helped found the Philadelphia Committee of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. She was also active in the Asian-American Alumni Association of Princeton and the Princeton Women’s Network, and she served as vice president of the Class of 1976. She took great pleasure in artistic and domestic pursuits and collected a vast number of books and samples of Southeast Asian textiles. She was also a serious knitter, an opera buff, an accomplished cook and an avid vegetable gardener. Dora met the love of her life, Barry Posner, late in life. Together they moved to the Princeton area where, having retired from the business world, Dora enjoyed tremendous personal satisfaction teaching Mandarin to high school students at The Hun School. Dora and Barry were married just over six months before she died of metastatic breast cancer at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dora Lee was a citizen of the world. She embraced life fully, with intellectual rigor, humanity and good humor. Indomitable and indefatigable, she approached her various jobs, interests and causes with boundless energy. Dora was much loved. Adept at cross-cultural communication, she collected friends everywhere she went, and held onto them forever. Throughout her all-too-short life, she made her mark as a trailblazer and a bridge-builder.

In Dora’s memory, and in keeping with her wishes, her family and friends have established the Dora Y. Lee Fund for Summer Service Opportunities at Princeton in Asia.

Perey Kerston Clegg: a PiA interviewer in the making.

Congratulations to Dan Korn (Singapore ’09 and Cambodia ’10) on his recent engagement! Dan and his fiancée Erika met in Phnom Penh while Dan was working for Digital Divide Data on his second-year PiA fellowship and Erika was working for the Cambodia Daily. The couple now lives in Melbourne, Australia, where Erika is pursuing a Master’s degree in Publishing and Dan is flying planes.

Fiona and Aaron enjoy each other’s company at Ta Prohm in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Was this staged?

The Princeton in Asia family has lost a dear friend, teacher, and "aunt" with the passing of Dora Lee. A bridge-builder and public servant with a wicked sense of humor and ability to laugh at herself, Dora epitomized what is important at PiA. Her dedication to teaching, service, and sending young people off into the unknown will be memorialized through the Dora Y. Lee Fund for Summer Service Opportunities at Princeton in Asia.

The Dora Y. Lee Fund for Summer Service Opportunities is dedicated to supporting short-term service opportunities for Princeton undergraduates in Asia, focused on language teaching in immersion environments in China. Recognizing the power of short-term, service-based experiences abroad to expand the horizons and inspire the futures of Princeton undergraduates, and the efficacy of student-centered teaching in an immersive environment to improve the spoken and written language skills of local students, the Dora Y. Lee Fund will initially support the Summer of Service, Princeton in Asia’s flagship summer program in Jishou, Hunan, China.

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Scott Seligman, PiA Taiwan ’73 and PiA Trustee

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HOW IT WORKS

The starting gun fired on April 7th, 2014. Beginning with the class of 2003 and ending with the class of 2013, each PiA class has one week to raise as much money as they can and involve the highest number of classmates. Over the course of each week, the young alumni hear from their classmates as they share their most memorable PiA moments, recount their most embarrassing stories from Asia, and express in their own words why giving to PiA matters. Every Monday, the proverbial torch is passed to the subsequent class, and the next round of young alums step up to “PiAy it forward” for the next generation of PiA fellows.

THE SCOREBOARD

As we go to print, over 100 young alums from the classes of 2003-2007 have raised over $11,000. We are halfway through the race, and three-quarters of the way to our goal! For live race updates (posted daily) and to read the hilarious and heart-warming reflections from our young alumni, please visit the PiA It Forward Relay Race Scoreboard at www.crowdrise.com/piayitforward.

GET INVOLVED

Are you inspired to PiAy it forward, but feel like “young alumni” isn’t your cohort? No problem! All the donations that come in before June 30th through the relay race portal will be matched dollar for dollar and counted towards the total amount raised, regardless of who the donor is. Your support will help PiA young alumni compete for the Stanley Khap and will support next year’s class of PiA fellows. Thank you for your generosity!

Go to www.crowdrise.com/piayitforward to PiAy It Forward!

Do you heart PiA?

Apparently they do in Japan. Photo courtesy of Aaron Ellerbee (Japan ’04).

Hey PiA alums, listen up!

We all wax nostalgic at times for the good old days of enjoying unearned celebrity status, discovering alternate meanings of words in tonal languages (the hard way), and riding public transportation with farm animals. If your nostalgia is becoming overwhelming, never fear! We are in the process of launching several new initiatives for our alumni that will make it easier for you to reconnect with your PiA pals, stay involved in the PiA community, and give back to the organization that taught you the fine art of riding a motorbike with a 50-pound backpack, two crates of dried fish, and a rooster.

• Join PiA's official Facebook Group for alumni at www.facebook.com/groups/piaalumni. The potential is endless. Official groups by geographical region to be launched soon!

• We will soon be reaching out by email to invite all interested alumni to sign up for PiA regional alumni clubs, through which alumni can organize their own “off-season” social gatherings, community events, service projects, you name it. PiA Happy Hour starts here.

• PiA’s Alumni Mentoring program is making a comeback! Keep an eye on your inbox to learn how you can serve as a resource for current PiA fellows and young alumni as they navigate their personal and professional paths post-Asia. (Wow, that was a lot of P’s.)

Stay tuned for details coming soon – and, as always, if you have any comments or suggestions for what we can do to better engage our alumni community, please reach out to us at piaalum@princeton.edu. We always love hearing from you!
Thanks to the generosity of the Tiger Baron Foundation, PiA has received a $15,000 matching grant targeted at young PiA alumni to inspire their investment in the next generation of PiA fellows. In the spirit of “PiAying it forward,” on April 7th we launched an intergenerational PiA relay race to see if the PiA classes of 2003-2013 could achieve 100% class participation and help raise $30,000 for the PiA class of 2014. So far, they’re killing it!

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The race ends on June 30th, 2014. At the finish line, we will tally both total dollar amounts raised and participation rates, class by class. And if you thought this experience could be complete without the ceremonial transfer of token commemorative objects, think again: the two classes that have raised the most money/achieved the highest participation rate will each be awarded the “PiA Stanley Khap” at PiA’s first-ever Alumni Day this fall. Stay tuned!

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We all wax nostalgic at times for the good old days of enjoying unearned celebrity status, discovering alternate meanings of words in tonal languages (the hard way), and riding public transportation with farm animals. If your nostalgia is becoming overwhelming, never fear! We are in the process of launching several new initiatives for our alumni that will make it easier for you to reconnect with your PiA pals, stay involved in the PiA community, and give back to the organization that taught you the fine art of riding a motorbike with a 50-pound backpack, two crates of dried fish, and a rooster.

• Join PiA’s official Facebook Group for alumni at www.facebook.com/groups/piaalumni. The potential is endless. Official groups by geographical region to be launched soon!

• We will soon be reaching out by email to invite all interested alumni to sign up for PiA regional alumni clubs, through which alumni can organize their own “off-season” social gatherings, community events, service projects, you name it. PiA Happy Hour starts here.

• PiA’s Alumni Mentoring program is making a comeback! Keep an eye on your inbox to learn how you can serve as a resource for current PiA fellows and young alumni as they navigate their personal and professional paths post-Asia. (Wow, that was a lot of P’s.)

Stay tuned for details coming soon – and, as always, if you have any comments or suggestions for what we can do to better engage our alumni community, please reach out to us at piaalum@princeton.edu. We always love hearing from you!

Do you heart PiA?

Apparently they do in Japan.

Photo courtesy of Aaron Ellerbee (Japan ‘04).

Thanks to the generosity of the Tiger Baron Foundation, PiA has received a $15,000 matching grant targeted at young PiA alumni to inspire their investment in the next generation of PiA fellows. In the spirit of “PiAying it forward,” on April 7th we launched an intergenerational PiA relay race to see if the PiA classes of 2003-2013 could achieve 100% class participation and help raise $30,000 for the PiA class of 2014. So far, they’re killing it!

HOW IT WORKS

The starting gun fired on April 7th, 2014. Beginning with the class of 2003 and ending with the class of 2013, each PiA class has one week to raise as much money as they can and involve the highest number of classmates. Over the course of each week, the young alumni hear from their classmates as they share their most memorable PiA moments, recount their most embarrassing stories from Asia, and express in their own words why giving to PiA matters. Every Monday, the proverbial torch is passed to the subsequent class, and the next round of young alums step up to “PiAy it forward” for the next generation of PiA fellows.

The race ends on June 30th, 2014. At the finish line, we will tally both total dollar amounts raised and participation rates, class by class. And if you thought this experience could be complete without the ceremonial transfer of token commemorative objects, think again: the two classes that have raised the most money/achieved the highest participation rate will each be awarded the “PiA Stanley Khap” at PiA’s first-ever Alumni Day this fall. Stay tuned!

THE SCOREBOARD

As we go to print, over 100 young alums from the classes of 2003-2007 have raised over $11,000. We are halfway through the race, and three-quarters of the way to our goal! For live race updates (posted daily) and to read the hilarious and heart-warming reflections from our young alumni, please visit the PiA It Forward Relay Race Scoreboard at www.crowdrise.com/piayitforward.

GET INVOLVED

Are you inspired to PiAy it forward, but feel like “young alumni” isn’t your cohort? No problem! All the donations that come in before June 30th through the relay race portal will be matched dollar for dollar and counted towards the total amount raised, regardless of who the donor is. Your support will help PiA young alumni compete for the Stanley Khap and will support next year’s class of PiA fellows. Thank you for your generosity!

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Do you heart PiA?

Apparently they do in Japan.

Photo courtesy of Aaron Ellerbee (Japan ‘04).
Dora Yuen-Kie Lee (1954-2013) was a member of Princeton’s Class of 1976. Born in Hong Kong, she immigrated to the United States with her family as a teenager, graduating from New York’s Bronx High School of Science, where she was a national finalist in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. At Princeton, Dora majored in biology and ecology and studied Mandarin Chinese; she also sang in the Chapel Choir and was a member of Charter Club. After graduation, she continued her studies, obtaining a Master’s degree in forestry and environmental studies from Yale. She then began a 30-year career that spanned several continents, encompassed numerous industries and required the mastery of four languages.

Dora believed deeply in service and devoted much time and energy to several causes. She served as president of the Princeton Club of Hong Kong and helped found the Philadelphia Committee of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. She was also active in the Asian-American Alumni Association of Princeton and the Princeton Women’s Network, and she served as vice president of the Class of 1976. She took great pleasure in artistic and domestic pursuits and collected a vast number of books and samples of Southeast Asian textiles. She was also a serious knitter, an opera buff, an accomplished cook and an avid vegetable gardener. Dora met the love of her life, Barry Posner, late in life. Together they moved to the Princeton area where, having retired from the business world, Dora enjoyed tremendous personal satisfaction teaching Mandarin to high school students at The Hun School. Dora and Barry were married just over six months before she died of metastatic breast cancer at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dora Lee was a citizen of the world. She embraced life fully, with intellectual rigor, humanity and good humor. Indomitable and indefatigable, she approached her various jobs, interests and causes with boundless energy. Dora was much loved. Adept at cross-cultural communication, she collected friends everywhere she went, and held onto them forever. Throughout her all-too-short life, she made her mark as a trailblazer and a bridge-builder.

Scott Seligman, PiA Taiwan ’73 and PiA Trustee

The Princeton in Asia family has lost a dear friend, teacher, and “aunt” with the passing of Dora Lee. A bridge-builder and public servant with a wicked sense of humor and ability to laugh at herself, Dora epitomized what is important at PiA. Her dedication to teaching, service, and sending young people off into the unknown will be memorialized through the Dora Y. Lee Fund for Summer Service Opportunities at Princeton in Asia.

Dora and Barry host PiA staff and Summer of Service interns for a dumpling-making party in fall 2013.

Scott Seligman, PiA Taiwan ’73 and PiA Trustee

The Dora Y. Lee Fund for Summer Service Opportunities is dedicated to supporting short-term service opportunities for Princeton undergraduates in Asia, focused on language teaching in immersion environments in China. Recognizing the power of short-term, service-based experiences abroad to expand the horizons and inspire the futures of Princeton undergraduates, and the efficacy of student-centered teaching in an immersive environment to improve the spoken and written language skills of local students, the Dora Y. Lee Fund will initially support the Summer of Service: Princeton in Asia’s flagship summer program in Jishou, Hunan, China.

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The halls of KIMEP University in Almaty, where PiA has been sending fellows for 20 years.

The Central Asian region is absolutely fascinating to me. The blend of post-Soviet society, Islam, a meshing of ethnicities, beautiful geography, and isolation is extremely intriguing. I don’t have hardly any expectations, but I am excited to see a part of the world that is commonly not experienced by many Americans. In the past, I have learned a lot from going abroad and I believe PiA will be the same. I am extremely excited to go to Kazakhstan and just explore. I really feel there will be totally unexpected situations and experiences along the way and I cannot wait to take full advantage of those.

Paul “Boo” Dodson

At PiA’s annual TEFL training in April, my already sky-high expectations for next year have somehow been ratcheted up even more. PiA attracts such clear-eyed, quirky, passionate fellows, and I count myself very fortunate to be among them. Many of my fellow Princeton seniors will soon be heading out to Wall Street, and I am so deeply grateful to PiA for allowing me to veer (far, far) off the well-beaten path. I am excited to set out for Kazakhstan specifically because of the chance to apply the knowledge and language skills I picked up as a Slavic Studies major to a new adventure in this little-known yet vast corner of the former Soviet Union. I’m really keen on seeing PiA continue to build its bridges to Central Asia, which I think is an area of the world that will come to play a larger and larger role on the world stage in future years.

In a year, I hope to have ridden on horseback through the Kazakh steppe, couch-surfed on more than a few PiA futons, and given my students at KIMEP a glimpse of the rich and dynamic world that knowledge of the English language can open for them.

Linnea Paseiro

I am looking forward to arriving at KIMEP! Teaching at a university in Almaty, the largest city in Central Asia, is something that I never imagined I would be able to do. To date, Central Asia remains a mystery for much of the Western world. For me, it is an object of fascination. It is a relatively liberal Muslim nation with an unofficially autocratic leader and a complex attachment to its Soviet past. I have traveled a fair amount in Asia, but I have never been in a country quite like Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a new frontier for me to explore, and I could not be more ready.

A year from now, I would like to say that I have built relationships within my community in Almaty. At the university level I not only seek to improve English fluency, but I aim to build an appreciation for Western literature and culture. My goal is to inspire my students to stretch beyond their comfort zones in academia and in life. I also hope to learn a great deal about Kazakhstan, foster a genuine empathy for the Kazakh people and acquire some basic Russian in the process!

I am appreciative of the freedom that I have to explore a foreign culture at my age. I have too many friends who are sitting at a fancy desk job but are wondering about the “what if’s.” I appreciate the fact that PiA makes my pursuits possible, and I am certain that the year to come will be eye opening and fulfilling in ways I have not yet begun to understand.

Vikram Paul

Congratulations to Boo, Linnea and Vikram. We can’t wait to see how this coming year in Kazakhstan unfolds!

(continued from page 8)

Leroy Terrelonge (Kazakhstan ‘11) got married last October. He and his husband are living in Somerville, MA, where Leroy is finishing up his degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Congratulations to all!

Still Living the Dream in Asia

After 4 years in Egypt, Sean Callahan (Thailand ‘91) and family have relocated to Phnom Penh, where Sean has taken up the post of Deputy Mission Director for USAID to Cambodia.

Austin Arensberg (Thailand ‘06) recently completed his MBA at INSEAD in Singapore. After a brief visit to the US, he’s heading back to Asia to begin a job with Samsung in South Korea. Not done with Asia yet!

Ho-Ming So (Vietnam ’07) is currently based in Jakarta with his husband and their dog, working for the UN’s Indonesia REDD+ agency.

Emily Gorbaty (India ’09) has moved to Phnom Penh to begin a new job as a product design engineer for WaterSHED, where she is working on toilets, plumbing-free hand washing devices, and rainwater harvesting for communities in rural Cambodia and Vietnam. Go Emily!

Alex Long (Kazakhstan ’09) recently relocated to Singapore, where he is working for Google on South & Southeast Asia public policy. Perks of the job include: regional travel, free lunch. Thanks, Google.

Vikram Paul

(continued on page 10)

Cool Enough for School

Thomas Talhelm (China ’07) recently completed a Fulbright research scholarship in Beijing, where he was studying the psychological and cultural differences between Northern and Southern China, and is now back at the University of Virginia to finish up his PhD. He also recently founded a start-up called Smart Air (smartairfilters.com) that demonstrates how to assemble a DIY air purifier to fight air pollution in China without spending thousands of dollars.

Tina Coll (China ‘08 and former PiA Program Director) is finishing up her tenure at Columbia Business School. She plans to stay in NYC after she graduates, though will surely be back to Asia for a visit sometime soon. You can take the girl out of Asia, but …

Michael Portman (Indonesia ‘08) is finishing up law school in San Francisco, where he is on track to become a public defender.

James Schulmeister (Singapore ‘08) is still at MIT, working on his PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Perks of his research: occasional trips to Singapore!

Duncan DeAeth (Taiwan ‘09) recently completed his Master’s degree at the Academy of Korean Studies, and is applying to continue his studies in Taiwan this coming year. Should we have filed this under “Still living the dream in Asia?” It’s the best of both worlds!

After spending the past few years living and working in China, East Tibet and Nepal, Jessica DiCarlo (China ’09) is putting down roots. This summer she will be heading to UC Berkeley to begin her Master’s in Development Practice and, she hopes, to work on something properly speaking Tibetan.

Shannon Hiller (Cambodia ‘09) is holding down the fort in Princeton, NJ, where she is pursuing her MBA at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Winter break trips to Battambang and Ivy Inn karaoke dates with the PiA staff help break up the monotony.

Will West (Vietnam ’09) is finishing up his first year of medical school at UNC, and is loving it.

Jeff Bond (Vietnam ’10) is headed to Johns Hopkins SAIS for this coming year, then back to Asia for his MBA at INSEAD after that. Congrats, Jeff!

Rishi Reddy (Cambodia ‘10) sums it up: “Living in Boston, going to grad school, missing Asia.” Nothing said.

Andrew Usoro (Singapore ‘10) is working on his MD at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. He spent last summer doing HIV research in India, and stopped over in Singapore on his way back for an aggressive 4-day eating tour through the city-state. Bring on the chicken rice!

Jack Ackerman (South Korea ‘11) has bid farewell to Seoul (for now) and is resting up in the Garden State before beginning medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in August. But lest he stay away from Asia for too long, he is already planning a summer trip!

Jessica Knowles (Cambodia ‘11) is currently pursuing two degrees - a JD at the University of Washington and a Master’s in Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford. Jessica hopes to someday reclaim her social life. In the meantime, she’s hitting the books!
Jenny Moyer (Thailand '11) has set up shop in Boston, where she is pursuing her MD/MPH at Tufts University School of Medicine. She is hoping to return to Thailand this summer to conduct public health fieldwork in her old stomping grounds of Chiang Mai.

Kate Voss (Nepal '11) is finishing up the first year of her PhD program at UC Santa Barbara and is planning her next visit to Nepal – a short-term consultancy with World Wildlife Fund this fall. In the meantime, Kate gets her Asia fix at Ye Old Thai Food and Deli in Santa Barbara. A Medieval Thai deli? We’re all about it!

Hailey Flynn (Vietnam ‘12) has survived her first year as a law student at Fordham Law School in New York. On to 2L!

Sheyla Medina (Laos ‘12) is wrapping up her time in Laos and preparing for her move to Baltimore, where she will be beginning a pre-med post-baccalaureate program. Another PiA doctor (to-be) in the house!

Michael Parke (Taiwan ‘07) recently began a new job as the Executive Director of the Business Council on Climate Change, a nonprofit that brings together organizations from across San Francisco society to work on collaborative, local climate projects.

Laura Wolf Stein (Indonesia ‘97) is living in San Diego with her husband and two daughters, working as a marketing director for Sony Electronics (which has brought her to Tokyo on several occasions). She still keeps in touch with fellow PiAers Kristen Rainey (Indonesia ‘97), Nina Henning (Nepal ‘97), and Jeff Plunkett (China ‘97).

Ed Lee (South Korea ‘02) recently completed his MBA at the University of Michigan and is working as an educational consultant back in NYC, where he hopes to develop the skills needed to impact education-minded organizations from a leadership perspective.

Kate Voss (Indonesia ‘97), and Sina (Taiwan ‘07) recently began a company to move cross-country and crash on her couch, figuring that if the two of them could live, work, teach, travel, survive floods and endure many bouts of Asian food poisoning for a year together, they could certainly become America-style roommates for a while. Katie recently secured a job in Oakland, so Team Nan lives on!

Kim Sine (China ‘10) is working as the Middlebury in China Programs Manager for CET Academic Programs, helping send students to study abroad in Kunming, Hangzhou and Beijing. She loves being based in DC and having strong ties to China – the best of both worlds!

Stacey Tisbulsksy (Malaysia ‘06) spends her days working with refugees who have been resettled to the Chicago area. She credits her PiA experience with helping her handle the ups and downs of work that is both rewarding and challenging – and often hilarious.

After six and a half years in Korea, Hannah Bae (South Korea ‘07) recently returned to the US, where she is based in NYC working as a social media coordinator for Newsday – a career move no doubt influenced by her time spent in the most wired country in the world!

It’s hard to overstate how remote, exotic and enigmatic Kazakhstan seemed in 1992. In size, it was larger than all of Western Europe, but many were still just a bit unsure where its boundaries lay. The climate was extreme. Unthinkably hot summers, winters of interminable ice and snow. The country had declared independence a year earlier, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Nursultan Nazarbayev was the newly elected leader. The Russians had been asked to leave. (Though later they were invited back to rescue infrastructure that languished in their absence). Traditional Islamic celebrations had been discouraged during 40 years of USSR dominance – now the call to prayer was audible, but Muslim displays of faith quieted when missionaries dangled scholarships to Christian colleges. The Kazakhs were nothing if not adaptable.

PiA’s involvement in Kazakhstan began with alumns Steve Robb (South Korea ‘90) whose extraordinary early experiences I was able to build upon. While in Korea, Steve had met the charismatic Korean-American economist Dr. Chan Young Bang. Rumored to hold strong and mysterious sway over the new Kazakh President, Dr. Bang was charting out a Korean-style market-based development plan for the country. When Steve accompanied Dr. Bang to Kazakhstan’s capital city of Almaty, it was to form the first “Western style” business school, to be called KIMEP (the Kazakh Institute of Management, Economics and Prognosis). Curiously, plans for a “Dr. Bang Café and Night Club” were afoot as well!

Returning from this fascinating and confusing country, Steve suggested to Carrie Gordon, PiA’s then-Executive Director, that she consider sending PiA fellows to KIMEP. Ever an adventurer, Carrie recalled that I had begun working frequently in Almaty and asked if I’d begin a conversation with the institution. The school’s three-person management team was extremely keen. “We’ll take as many as PiA can possibly supply,” they told me. “Maybe 20 interns would be a good start?” Twenty? Of course, there was no budget to pay for even one position. KIMEP could, however, offer bed and board to any number of volunteers. Initially skeptical, I was surprised to find that the proposed living quarters were located behind the grandest (and only) hotel in the most happening part of Almaty – that is, when it wasn’t impassable because of winter snows. Most importantly, the rooms were wonderfully warm. Satisfied that PiA fellows would at least survive a Kazakh winter, I began to investigate travel funding and stipend possibilities. One of my clients ultimately provided funding for an initial three-year period, and the partnership was sealed.

Although they had no job descriptions, the earliest group of fellows (whittled down to 3 from the initial KIMEP wish list) easily obtained visas. They were a memorable trio. A glamorous blonde, former Princeton cheerleader, cut a swathe through the school teaching English language skills. A Turkish grad student found himself delivering economics courses partly in Kazakh, which he declared was ‘sort of’ like Turkish. The last of the pioneering band, a polished, blazer-wearing charmer, became the special assistant to KIMEP’s first President. The program has continued splendidly since. Today, 20 years on, almost 40 PiA fellows have found their way to Kazakhstan in a durable pact with KIMEP. Indeed, PiA’s tenure has been nearly as continuous as Mr. Nazarbayev’s presidency. He’s still in that job too.

By Meg Osins, PiA Japan ‘77
The Central Asia Issue (Continued)

(continued from page 1)

Welber lead intensive English language lessons for young scholars at the Academy of Sciences, the country’s leading institution of higher learning. Our counterpart at the Academy of Sciences was so inspired by Evan’s work, and believes so much in the PiA model, that she had arranged several other meetings for us with new potential partners, including the Tajik National Conservatory and artist Olim Kamalov, who is singlehandedly preserving the Tajik miniaturist painting tradition.

Maggie and Vikki meet with Olim Kamalov, a renowned miniaturist painter in Tajikistan who runs an art center to teach Tajik children this traditional art form. In future summers, PiA hopes to send an undergraduate intern to work in Mr. Kamalov’s studio, teaching English and learning about the art of Tajik miniature painting.

Opportunities for unique, transformational fellowships with local and international partners abound in Central Asia.

But as we pursue these opportunities in our quest to promote mutual appreciation and cross-cultural understanding between our fellows and partners, the fellowship positions themselves are only one part of the equation. To witness firsthand the quality (and sheer quantity!) of work our fellows are doing in Central Asia, along with the fresh perspectives and positive attitudes they bring to their workplaces, was extraordinary — but beyond commitment to the job, I was just as interested in the commitment they have made to immerse themselves in their respective environments. Our fellows have immersed themselves in language, studying and practicing Russian, Kazakh, and Tajik; they have immersed themselves in nature, summiting and skiing peaks of the Tien Shan; they have immersed themselves in the lives of their communities, organizing social events, volunteering their time outside of work and exercising their personal interests in their extracurricular activities. One fellow with musical talents has joined a local band (Central Asian heavy metal, anyone?). Another fellow has quite literally immersed herself in water, after being recruited to play professional water polo for the Kazakh national team — but that’s another story! We at PiA are fond of water metaphors — we talk about ripple effects, building bridges, being thrown into the deep end.

This was certainly my PiA experience, which brought me to Laos to lead a local, grassroots organization where no one expected my presence. I’ll spare you my application of Archimedes’ principle to PiA fellowships, I have found that in my first year as Executive Director, questions around immersion have occupied the most space in my mind — and I believe that they occupy a central place in the conversation about PiA’s future. What do we mean by “immersion”? Why is immersion important? To what extent is immersion possible in the posts and locations to which we currently send PiA fellows? And in an increasingly interconnected world, how can PiA find, facilitate and foster the sort of immersive experiences that have made us so successful in fulfilling our mission of mutual appreciation and understanding across cultures for the past 115 years?

Over the next several months, PiA will engage in a strategic planning process that will focus on these and larger questions. We will explore how PiA can adapt to the breakneck pace of change across Asia and the world, how we can leverage technology and communication tools to facilitate cross-cultural exchange, how we can work to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of our program. We will discuss where and how we grow, knowing that Central Asia occupies an important place in that discussion. And we’ll create a shared vision for how we can leverage the strengths of PiA’s tradition, history, networks and knowledge to best fulfill our mission.

I invite you to tackle these questions with us, and hope you will reach out to the team at PiA — over email, by phone, through Facebook, LinkedIn, or in person — to share your vision for PiA’s future and your ideas for how PiA can continue to foster the sort of immersion that has been our hallmark for over a century. On behalf of the PiA family, I thank you for your support and generosity, which make PiA what it is today. And for the time being, I hope you will enjoy this celebration of PiA’s rich and vibrant history of engagement in Central Asia, where some of our most immersive, transformational fellowships have taken root. Here’s to another 20 years!

(continued from page 10)

PiA: It’s for Life

Selamat tahun baru! Brian Vogt (Indonesia ’96) and family celebrated the New Year Indo-style with rendang, gado gado, and pisang goreng (fried banana) for dessert. Brian reports that his kids weren’t big fans of the rendang, but they did like the pisang goreng. Yum!

Maya and Ian Vogt dig the fried banana.

Driving Backwards

Driving Backwards is a creative nonfiction portrait of the vividity of the everyday, set in the central New Hampshire town of Gilmanton. Once the most notorious town in America as the inspiration for the scandalous novel Peyton Place, Gilmanton today is a microcosm of the changing ways and enduring values of rural life in the twenty-first century.

After spending childhood summers in Gilmanton, Jessica has devoted the past 5 years researching and writing about the town, and can’t wait to share her project of love with the PiA family. Driving Backwards will be released this month, available in Cambridge bookstores or online at Tide Pool Press and Amazon. Add it to your summer reading list!

Driving Backwards

By Jessica Lander (PiA Thailand ’10)

Driving Backwards

LeeAnn Mallorie (China ’04) recently visited Asia after 10 years away and discovered that she can still speak Mandarin. Tai Hao Le!

It is impossible to paraphrase a recent update from Dorian Rolston (SOS ’09): “I read and write a lot. I’m married. We treat our rabbits like kids. We’ll be very lucky if our kids eat so many vegetables. We’ll be very unlucky if our kids poop with so little regard for the potty.”

Willie Myers (Vietnam ’11) reports that he has recently been listening to Vietnamese pop music at work. We think he might miss Vietnam.

Have a life update to share, or just want to see your name in lights? Email us at pialum@princeton.edu!

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From Maggie Dillon,
PiA Executive Director:

This past fall, I had the great fortune to visit with PiA fellows, alumni, partners and friends in eighteen cities across ten countries in Asia. This whirlwind journey, referred to nonchalantly as “The Asia Trip,” represented some of the most invigorating, inspiring, and utterly exhausting weeks of my life, and gave me an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the great work our fellows are doing on the ground and to see what a PiA fellowship looks like at its best, as well as to understand the challenges and areas for growth before us across the broad reach of our programs.

Thanks to the generosity of Peter Poullada (PiA Afghanistan and Iran ’75 and PiA Trustee), the champion of PiA’s Central Asia Initiative, I was able to spend eight days in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan with Vikki Chernova, Program Director for Central Asia. Vikki was born in Almaty and immigrated to the US in 1993 (incidentally, WKH\HDUEHIRUH3L$VHQWLWV¿UVWIHOORZWR Kazakhstan). Unsurprisingly, Vikki made new friends wherever we went, as everyone we encountered was keen to hear the story of how, having left the ancestral home of apples, she ended up working near the Big Apple. She was an expert and insightful guide.

Executive Director Maggie Dillon and Central Asia Program Director Vikki Chernova enjoy a Kazakh meal with current PiA fellows Jon Jay, Saranna Soroka and Abram Conrad during their visit to Almaty last fall.

In Almaty, we visited KIMEP University, where in addition to teaching a full course load, PiA fellows Jon Jay, Saranna Soroka and Abram Conrad are also leading extracurricular activities, running the University Writing Center, and studying International Relations and Russian alongside some of the brightest minds in Central Asia. (This year we celebrate PiA’s 20th anniversary of sending fellows to Central Asia, and evolution of this partnership is featured in the following pages.) We visited Population Services International (PSI), where second-year fellow Julia Gall has so impressed the team with her original thinking, entrepreneurial spirit and aptitude for building relationships that PSI has proposed new fellowship placements with their offices in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. (The Gangnam Style cover Julia produced also had such a strong impact on her supervisors that they spent a good 20 minutes setting up a projector, just so we could see it on the big screen.)

From Almaty, we traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where we observed fellow Evan...