Voices from the Field: 
First Impressions and Words of Thanks

This has been another banner year for PiA with continued program growth, an impressive number of applications, and the first year of our Carrie Bright fellows in action in Vietnam and Japan. PiA sent 108 talented young people to live and work in Asia this year, 91 of whom are full-year fellows and 17 summer interns including a new Summer of Service initiative in an underserved area of Hunan province in China. The enclosed descriptions and words of thanks from PiA fellows are the most compelling reminders of the importance of PiA’s mission.

I love the work. It is not traditional PiA at all – and for that I feel a little guilty – but I must say I really (REALLY) love what I am doing. The office is a bit of a catastrophe, and all of us have yet to work out firm job descriptions, but that just makes it all the more wild. So one more time I’d like to thank you with all my heart – because I am so incredibly happy right now with what I am doing – and cannot, for the life of me, stop pinching myself for fear of dreaming.

–Sally Torbert, Speechwriter and Aide de Camp for Timorese Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta, Dili, East Timor

I’m getting the type of immersion experience that PiAers dream about. I’ve been adopted by a loveable, wonderful, and generous Thai family. The grandmother is very spritely and she has my whole day planned out. There’s also a nice grandson, whom I’m currently sharing a bed with. This family loves “Brian” very much. Very very much. They keep feeding me, and feeding me, until I can barely move. I have no idea what I’m eating half the time, though it’s mostly good. Fried bug-things at one point. We communicate through sheer force of will and dramatic gestures. We have no idea what each other is talking about.

–Brian Cochran, Watkhnomnaneeyakhet School, Phang Nga, Thailand (area devastated by the tsunami)

I loved bumping into Jon Nuger at reunions, talking with Leslie about the Delta last spring, and meeting up with the two other fellows in Can Tho. While talking to the other English teachers here, I realized that all of the young teachers had been students of past PiA volunteers here in Rach Gia and in Can Tho. I’ve even been on my rickety old bike riding around town when a high school or even elementary school teacher will slow down his/her motorbike and tell me they teach English and studied with Dan or Jon or Laura or the names of fellows too far back for me to know. I’ve just been in Rach Gia for three weeks or so but I’ve already seen the good PiA has done here over the years.

–Jack Thirolf Kien Giang Community College, Rach Gia, Vietnam

I am flying sky high right now. Earlier tonight I gave a lecture to over 100 students who were part of a (continued on page 3)
Dear PiA Family,

For the past 108 years, Princeton in Asia has enabled more than 2800 fellows to live and work in our favorite part of the world. During that time, we have served the needs of more than 200 Asian partners, including educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and businesses of all kinds, each in its own way dedicated to promoting understanding between East and West. We have also helped create several generations of Americans whose understanding and affection for Asia – honed during their time in PiA – has led to their becoming leaders in Asian-American cultural, economic and social cooperation. And, most importantly, our own friendship, common interest and awe of the organization, we have created through our own way dedicated to promoting understanding between East and West.

We have also helped create several generations of Americans whose understanding and affection for Asia – honed during their time in PiA – has led to their becoming leaders in Asian-American cultural, economic and social cooperation. And, most importantly, through our own friendship, common interest and awe of the organization, we have created in PiA an institution that has withstood the test of time and has the ability to carry on its own way dedicated to promoting understanding between East and West.

I take on the task of leading Princeton in Asia, as we undertake the exciting challenge of growing and enhancing the program and creating the infrastructure required to support this growth. I look forward to accomplishing three things during my time as President:

First, to support and develop the current leadership of the organization so as to continue the extraordinary job currently being done by our Board, our Executive Director and our wonderful staff. Along these lines, I hope to:

- Establish continuing communication between our Board and our PiA fellows.
- Enhance Board relationships by enabling Board members to get to know one another better.
- Strengthen the ties between our Board and our Alumni with Asia and with each other.
- Find permanent office space on or near the Princeton University campus (“A Room of Our Own”) so that the organization is not compelled to move every couple of years.

Second, to establish the means to implement the programs outlined in our five-year plan, enabling us to grow beyond our current size and scope. Over the next twelve months, we will be establishing a highly structured marketing program that will draw on the expertise of our Development Committee and each of our Board members to achieve our financial objectives. We look forward to bringing this to PiA alums throughout the US and Asia for your input and support.

Third, to create the infrastructure to fund PiA’s future by growing our endowment and diversifying our funding sources. This is critical in ensuring the future of the organization for the next century. I look forward to getting your help in:

- Undertaking a capital campaign that will position PiA for leadership in the coming century and ensure our financial stability in the face of rising operating costs in Asia.
- Enhancing our good relationship with Princeton University.

I look forward to getting to know our fellows and our alumni in the upcoming year and to working closely with all of you to make these lofty goals possible.

Certainly, it is the job of each board member – and myself, as President – to ensure that Princeton in Asia meets its annual objectives as well as takes a long-term perspective that will allow us to flourish for the next 100 years. I am highly honored to be selected to work with my friends on this important goal.

Sincerely,
Margaret Cannella ’73
President
Princeton in Asia Board of Trustees

Margaret Cannella is Managing Director and Director of U.S. Corporate Research at JPMorgan. In this capacity, she manages Equity, Credit and Corporate Quantitative Research, a group numbering 400 research professionals located throughout the United States, and works closely with a related group in Mumbai, India.

Margaret is a winner of Institutional Investor’s Fixed Income All America Team award for fourteen consecutive years running in both retailing and consumer products. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Board of Trustees of Tricklup, a microfinance organization, and is on the Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. She is also member of the Democratic Roundtable, which works closely with candidates at the state and national level. In addition, she is a past president of the Fixed Income Analyst Society of New York and the Princeton Club of Northwestern New Jersey. Margaret was elected President of PiA’s Board of Trustees in May and will serve a three-year term.

Margaret holds a BA degree in East Asian studies from Princeton University and an MBA degree in finance and accounting from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. Of course all of these achievements pale in comparison to Margaret’s karaoke skills, well-honed during a PiA summer internship in Japan with Nishimachi Kokusai Gakko (1973).
The other fellows are great too, and amazing teaching. They let me design a Steinbeck course. I'd rather be at. Teaching is exciting and fascinating. I had never even considered Chiang Mai, but I can't imagine a post in China I would never in a million years have even de scribed the feeling. Before I came to China I would never in a million years have given a lecture to 100 people. I wouldn't have even talked to a class of 50 people. I can't even begin to put into words how big a difference the short time in China has made in my life. I never would have thought that I would have been able to speak to that large a group and have fun doing it at the same time. The lecture was so much fun and I am always fascinated by the questions that I get from the students.

-Dan Chaput
Dalian University of Technology, China

Just wanted to write and tell you what a perfect fit Chiang Mai is. I had never even considered Chiang Mai, but I can't imagine a post I'd rather be at. Teaching is exciting and fascinating. They let me design a Steinbeck course. The other fellows are great too, and an amazing resource on everything from vegetarian food to lesson planning to apartments and bikes. Thank you so much for an amazing placement.

–Teddy Moynihan
Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Returnees:

This year in Asia has been incredible. We left MFLU having achieved both bureaucratic-academic zen and wonderful relationships with students. Dan kills bugs like some kind of overgrown gecko and Kathryn can make curry paste from scratch. We’ve been to wonderful places and horrible pits and met fascinating people. It’s been good and bad and hilariously ugly, but always an adventure and an entirely unique experience.

–Dan Portman and Kathryn Querbin,
Mae Fah Leung University
Chiang Rai, Thailand

Yesterday I performed on SUPERGIRLS, which is the Chinese American idol. (There was a recent NYTimes article that called SUPERGIRLS the beginning of democratization in China because of the voting part.) By the way, I don’t sing, but that wasn’t important. Because we were foreigners and they wanted to make sure we were on the TV show, we were able to bypass all of the lines, and we automatically advanced to the second round so that we could sing for the Taiwanese Paula Abdul and other judges on a luxury boat (think Chinese Titanic) on the Xian River. We were being moved around by an assistant with a megaphone who kept saying, “beautiful girls, this way” in Chinese. My parents are so excited. They love American Idol. Check your TV’s!!!

–Amy Kohout,
The World Conservation Union
Vientiane, Laos

I'm back from Korea! Last week was hectic, emotional, bittersweet, but I'm back in one piece. It's strange to think that as I type this, the new teachers are settling down in our old classrooms...life rolls on! I had a wonderful year, and I want to thank you for it.

–Wendy Hsiao,
Kwangju Foreign School
Kwangju, Korea

Just thought I'd let you know that I'm in the States, safe and sound, etc. You can quote me on this if you want: “My time in Princeton in Asia was the best two years of my life.”

–Farook Ahmed,
Kwangju Foreign School
Kwangju, Korea

One of the keys to our growth this year was the SOS program. Summer of Service is a student-initiated program that was created with several purposes in mind: to offer Princeton students an opportunity to understand another culture by living and working in China, to serve underprivileged Chinese university students and give them the opportunity to study English with foreign teachers (an opportunity usually extended only to students in China's more developed eastern cities) and to promote internationalism and cross-cultural understanding, strengthening ties between China and the U.S. at a grassroots level. The SOS program exemplifies what makes PiA so exceptional and is yet another reminder of the impact our PiAers can have in the field. We’d like to share some of the comments from the summer.

Thank you for taking a chance on this program. Thank you for giving 150 Chinese students and 11 undergraduates the summer of a lifetime. Thank you for all your time and effort making sure this thing is a success. And thank you for letting me realize a vision I've had for a long time… PiA has given me something to be proud of, and it has helped me find my cause to fight for. That is exactly what I needed out of my Princeton career.

–Rory Trues, Founder of SOS Program, Jishou, China

And then, I want to tell a awesome thing happened in our school (sic). That is there are 11 students from Princeton University. They are also college students. So, we have a lot to talk. Why are they here is because a program. That is called Princeton in Asia. They will stay here till the end of next month, meanwhile, they will teach more than 100 Chinese students English. That is cool, everyday I can talk with them for the friendship, and also my English. It is awesome. Peace!! (A new phrase they told me)

–From Tony, A student in the SOS Program in an email to a friend who knows PiA and sent it to us, Jishou, China

A lot of my old students have been writing to say they absolutely love the summer program in Jishou. More than one has said that the teachers are “charming” (must be a good-looking bunch). They’re all psyched about the language pledge and the rigor. The English in their e-mails has improved noticeably. I’m really jealous I’m not there, but have enjoyed keeping up vicariously through the blog and the student’s updates.

–Daniel Mattingly, former PiA Jishou Teaching Fellow ’04-’05

I went back to Jishou a few weeks ago. The English immersion program has left these students with a radiance and fulfillment that I have never before seen in them. Words cannot express what a blessing it was for our community. The program touched upon more than just their English skills. It lifted their spirits, something which I thought that due to their predicament (children of farmers, never enough money, families scattered wherever there is work), was never possible.

–Lisa Sangoi, former PiA Jishou Teaching Fellow ’05-’06
FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

PiA Program Director Leslie Medema was in China with the SOSers for the entire summer. Here are just a few of her stories and thoughts.

On the dusty, sun-soaked streets of Jishou, I experienced the depth of the PiA network and the dedication of Princeton in Asia’s Summer of Service (SOS) student-teachers, their families, and the alumni of Princeton University. The network stretched from the six generations of Princetonians who offered support to the mothers who communicated with the SOSers and each other on the weblog and sent BBQ sauce for an American-style cook-out.

There are few words that capture how much I respect the work of these eleven Princeton undergraduates. What did this “Dream Team” of Princeton undergrads do all summer besides, learn to use chopsticks, marvel at the wonders of eastern toilets, and get whipped on the basketball court (don’t let them try to tell you otherwise)? Here are a few highlights:

**They taught.**
The first day of class was tough. The teachers were nervous as the chairs filled with excited yet silent students. As the weeks passed, the Princeton SOSers grew to be confident, experienced educators. And students who had previously spoken only three words of English learned to convey their hopes for the future. Others were even willing to challenge notions that the SOSers had about the status of Taiwan, the war time actions of Japan, and the accuracy of American history textbooks. Few of the SOS teachers had ever taught before and fewer had ever considered teaching as a profession. By the end, teaching had gained a new lustre; even Francine “I will never become a teacher” Saunders said, “This is one of the best experiences of my life and it scares me a little. For a long time I have been trying to figure out if I want to become an attorney or if I should focus my time and energy elsewhere, and to be honest, I think that teaching could be it.”

**They exchanged perspectives.**
Before they left for Jishou, the SOSers wrote an English textbook entitled A Worldly Perspective. The lessons ranged from environmentalism to adoption, engaging the students both linguistically and intellectually. The SOSers also translated the textbook into Chinese and left copies for future generations at Jishou Normal College. Beyond textbooks and curriculum, the SOSers brought their own unique backgrounds and teaching styles into the classrooms in Jishou. Their diversity brought a unique energy and a broader definition of “American” to an underdeveloped area of western China. “You, all the teachers, have lent us the international eyes to observe the whole world. Gradually and surprisingly, we adopted a worldly perspective. We carried empty bags into this program, and it’s all because of you that are bags have been packed full of knowledge and different ways of thinking. How can we thank you enough and literary pieces, they started a “School of Rock” singing group and formed a rap group where they donned baseball caps and basketball jerseys and rapped about their experiences that summer, they performed scenes from great American plays, they held basketball and badminton tournaments, they took the students on an all-day field trip to the countryside, and more. Imagine Hey Jude, Brown Eyed Girl, and Irish ballads echoing from the florescent-lit halls of one of the oldest school buildings in Hunan Province.

They served.
The majority of the 140 Chinese students in the immersion program came from poor, rural backgrounds. Many of them were English majors who had studied the language for ten years, but had never had the opportunity to practice English with native speakers. The program encouraged the students to speak only English for the entire summer. They signed a language pledge and took an “English only” oath. The Princeton teachers also conducted additional classes for English teachers from the Hunan countryside, teaching classroom techniques that emphasized pronunciation and spoken English.

As my first year anniversary as Program Director comes around, I find it rewarding to have played a part in providing eleven young people the chance to learn from this incredible part of the world, and to also provide a program and environment where they can make a significant impact, change their perspective and leave a part of themselves behind. They taught, They exchanged perspectives. They inspired. They served.

Now that the Princeton in Asia Summer of Service participants have quietly folded back into the Princeton crowd after a summer of celebrity, they continue to meet together and find comfort in the fact that they have a strong shared experience. They have gathered their parents together for a banquet with other supporters. In the near term, PiA, the SOSers, and their supporters are focused on turning the momentum of this first incredibly summer into a sustainable, on-going program in China.
While living in Jishou I’d wake by light. In the morning around 7:30 a strand of it could work its way through the curtains, over the headboard. I’d feel it on my face or on the palm of my hand, my eyes (heavy with dust and the cold of the air conditioner) would open a crack, I’d see the poster of Mao Zedong on the wall. Then I’d rise to shut off the vulgar cell phone alarm we kept as backup. We never needed the thing. The whole process of trusting the light emboldened me. I fancied myself at once reptilian and highly-evolved, attuned in my own special way to the biorhythm of Chinese dawn.

In those thirty minutes between reveille and class I was a Romantic. Insects accompanied my toothbrushing, and after I’d towel off, the thwack of the bathroom door seemed decisive and meaningful. Even the somnolent clacks of the laptop computer, annoying an hour later, had purpose. This was a life unavailable in Princeton, where everything is certifiably old but a little too planned. I found Hunan’s bus routes—engineered by someone familiar with Chaos Theory, no doubt—plan enough.

We lived at the foot of the Normal College. There a mass of buildings danced a dilapidated jig around a quad, overgrown, but probably once suitable for football and lounging. The school was alive with construction and destruction: the dining hall I’d used two weeks back was unceremoniously closed for reflooring; other edifices were chipped away by men with sledgehammers. Everything swayed in the heat of the afternoons. A large statue near the hall was thick with the steel smell of the construction. Everything sweet, nothing derogatory, the kind of release I expected of the night before. On a whim I had scripted an opening sequence: a song, a quotation. The hall was thick with the steel smell of the city, thick with the musk of the male students, cut by the American deodorant we six guys seemed to share. Water coated the projector screen. I sweated two exclamation marks on my legs, shafts on the thighs and dots on the patellas. Below Betty and Ashley on the windowsill, townspeople were closing up their shops, rolling watermelons down to tractors. The A/V equipment was only partially functional, so Forrest and Jenny and everything around them were a yellow-green. Probably nervous, most of my class laughed at all the wrong times: Bubba’s death, Jenny’s death, Lieutenant Dan’s hospital monologue. In my excitement I had forgotten how much the film affects me and, by the closing sequence, I was out the door, taking the steps two at a time.

The quad was like a summer bed on a summer night, trimmed back by the dark and rimmed by the track’s black earth. It was stupid, that feeling I had, staring at the strange constellations. I knew I was thousands of miles from my first nineteen years.

After I’d sat for a bit, the screening ended; Larsy was first out of the building, and she spotted me. ‘How are you?’ she asked smilingly. Her teeth were purple in the night. ‘Oh, doing well,’ I replied. ‘Have you started the homework for Monday?’

She was taken aback by my question, which was innocuous. Inadvertently disparaging my student’s work ethic. What a wonderful teacher I was. I recovered with a ‘Hum’ then an ‘Of course you haven’t, it’s Saturday. Any plans? For tonight?’

‘We will go to bed. It’s late. Then tomorrow maybe we will have a party.’

I nodded, said goodbye, headed to our apartment. Inside a body moved to silent music. Nothing was out of place—the river reflecting the moonlight, the locusts’ bray—and I saw that the lone light of the living room was around them were a yellow-green. Probably nervous, most of my class laughed at all the wrong times: Bubba’s death, Jenny’s death, Lieutenant Dan’s hospital monologue. In my excitement I had forgotten how much the film affects me and, by the closing sequence, I was out the door, taking the steps two at a time. The quad was like a summer bed on a summer night, trimmed back by the dark and rimmed by the track’s black earth. It was stupid, that feeling I had, staring at the strange constellations. I knew I was thousands of miles from my first nineteen years.

A Literary Voyage to the Classroom

Christian Schlegel preparing for class in Jishou.
Congratulations!
Kevin Cuskley (Japan ’80 and PiA Trustee) and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their fourth child, future PiAer Parks Patrick Cuskley! And congratulations are in order for Omri Beer (Singapore ’96) and Manami Kamikawa (China ’99), who are engaged and have recently moved back to Asia. Give them a shout out if you are swinging through Tokyo!

The Post-PiA Grindstone
After two years in Thailand, Ted James (Thailand ’04) came back to help out at the PiA office for several months before finding his true calling at a small research and consulting firm in DC (either that or he could no longer believe that he was the 5th returned PiAer to find himself crashing at the Chez Anastasia in as many months!). His work now focuses on trade policy and corporate social responsibility links to poverty and environmental issues in developing countries.

Dwight Crabtree (Thailand ’02) works for an independent research and consulting firm which specializes in sustainable project design, finance, and implementation of various development sectors. He enjoys frequent business travel in Southeast Asia, and has helped PiA source new fellowships!

Jessica Illaszewicz (Thailand summer ’02, Thailand ’04, Vietnam ’05) is working for an environmental consulting firm in New Jersey. Virtually next door to PiA headquarters, she has become a regular visitor and a self-proclaimed nuisance.

Following her PiA stint, Clancy Broxton (Guangzhou ’99) worked on HIV/AIDS issues in China, followed by MSF and is now the Program Manager for Asia Regional Division of PSI in DC where she will work on adding more acronyms to her resume. A-OK, CB!

Alison Yewdell (Thailand ’05) has traded the jungles of Southeast Asia for the concrete jungle of Manhattan. Though ‘Ajarn’ Ali misses the kids at Bandon Sriserm School in Nan, she enjoys working as a paralegal in a bureau that focuses on financial crimes in the Manhattan DA’s office.

David Willard (China ’04) is officially “on hiatus from…Asia exploring days” and has planted roots in London. David was working in the White House until September when he began work in the real estate private equity division of Goldman Sachs.

Erin Chung (South Korea/Daegu ’95) left Asia for grad school “up at Harvard” (it all depends on your point of reference!). She’s been in DC for the last seven years working for the government on China foreign policy issues. She would love to reconnect with other PiA alumni in DC.

Ginny Parker Woods (Japan ’96) has decided to focus her energies on the Yankees and Mets instead of the Tokyo area’s six baseball teams. A former reporter for the Wall Street Journal Asia, Ginny recently moved from Tokyo to Brooklyn and now works at a hedge fund.

Edgar Chen (Kazakhstan ’97) is headed to the US Dept. of Justice Office of Special Investigations. Last August, Edgar returned from The Hague where he was the legal liaison to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for the Coalition for International Justice (CIJ). Edgar returned to CIJ’s Washington office to work on a Sudan war crimes related project. CIJ shut its doors this past March. There were three Princeton alumni present at its close: Edgar; the Executive Director Nina Bang-Jensen PU’77; and program associate Shaoli Sarkar PU’04.

Ulla Rickert (China ’99) and Adam Murray (China ’02) are embarking on their first tour with the State Department--Ulla in Guangzhou and Adam in Hong Kong.

Laura K.O. Smith (Vietnam ’05) is in New Orleans for underwater helicopter escape and fire fighting training getting ready for her first post-pia geology assignment off the coast of India.

Back to School
Farook Ahmed (Korea ’04) has given up towering over his students for the towers of the Georgetown campus. He has just begun his Masters at Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service.

Dan Honig (Thailand ’04) moved to East Timor in 2005, where he spent over a year establishing an NGO called TYEI which encourages people to see how their own
abilities generate money while simultaneously benefiting their community. TYEI is now a locally sustained NGO. This fall, Dan began a Masters in Public Administration at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School.

Ellen Rubenstein (Japan ’04) started a masters in anthropology at Yale this fall. And Evan Lestelle (China ’04, Hong Kong ’05) is a 1L at his hometown law school, Tulane. Daniel Lee (Korea ’05) has decided to head east and return to school after his contract with the Office of the President expires at the end of the year.

Vandna Mittal (Singapore ’04) has started a masters program in Public Health at Boston University. She joins fellow Boston-based, recent PiA returnees Alex Wood (Vietnam ’02), Megan Crouch (Vietnam ’03), Laura Pop (Kazakhstan ’04), Matt Kawecki (China ’04), Jon Nuger (Vietnam ’04), Emily Stecker (Malaysia ’04), Kelsey Jack (Laos ’04), Bina Venkataraman (Vietnam ’05), Hoa Tu Duong (Thailand ’03) and veteran PiA alumna, Sue Sypko (Kazakhstan ’02). They are trying wicked hard to retain the ability to pronounce the letter “R.”

The Adventure Continues
Pham Thai Binh (Vietnam ’04) emails from Hanoi that he is a “legitimate, card-carrying NGO worker.” Binh is an Information and Documentation Officer at Save the Children USA. Illustrious alumnus Bryan Walsh (Hong Kong ’01) is now the Tokyo Bureau Chief. Pat Dwyer (Japan ’98) jump-started his career as a video game producer and developer and met his wife, Sumika while on his PiA year at Tokyo Medical University Hospital. Sumika came to his welcome party at the Hospital and the rest is PiA history.

In Print and Award-Winning
PiA alumna Kathy Canning (Singapore ’97) received the Horizon Award from the Town of Westport, CT and its Arts Advisory Committee at a celebration at Town Hall on Sunday, October 15. She was recognized because of her involvement with Education Through Music, Inc., in New York City, bringing music education to future generations. Kathy also used her many talents in her teaching and life at Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Singapore, where she also played viola in the National University of Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Jonathan Haagen (China ’03) returned to North Carolina after a stint in Dong Bei Da Xue, Shenyang, where he taught English, history, and film, edited university publications, and gave papers at international conferences. He also added resume-builders like lounge singer, actor, fashion model, and semi-professional basketball player to his CV in Shenyang. We are eagerly awaiting publication of Jonathan’s book about his time in China.

Ginny Davis Wilmerding (PU’91, PiA summer ’90, Princeton Club of Japan) has written a book that will be published this October by John Wiley & Sons: Smart Women and Small Business: How to Make the Leap from Corporate Careers to the Right Small Enterprise. The book is a resource for mid-career women looking to do something entrepreneurial and emphasizes the many alternatives to starting a business from scratch. Not only that, she and her husband just took their two children, Nicholas, age 9, and Mimi, age 3, to China for their first trip to Asia.
The PiA 2006-2007 Calendar of Alumni Events

As we kick the last PiAers out the door, we begin recruiting and selection of the next lucky crew. As always, we could never do this without the support of alumni every year, so please save the following dates. Come January, we will once again plead for help and entice you with promises of bagels, coffee, and perhaps even an interesting conversation or two.

**October 19, 2006** – Boston Alumni Event: First Annual Head of the Mekong/Head of the Yangtze celebrations.

**October 25, 2006** – Washington DC Alumni Event at the home of PiA Trustee Scott Seligman (China ‘73). Please check in with the PiA office if you can attend.

**December 4, 2006** – PiA 2007-08 applications due.

**January 13-14 & 21-22, 2007** – Interviews held on Princeton campus. Interviews for Southeast Asia and Kazakhstan are generally held on the first weekend. All others held on the second weekend.

**May 18-21, 2006** – PiA Orientation at Princeton.

**May 21, 2006** – PiA Annual Dinner for Alumni.

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**Reasons to Love Japan ... #127 (based on a true story)**

I'm sorry sir, but that bagel doesn't come with cream cheese.

But it's right there... can't you just put it on?

(c)Aaron Ellerbee 2006

Really folks, stick it out; you can do it!