VOICES FROM THE FIELD: SERVICE WITHOUT BORDERS

Every year, PiA provides 150 young people the opportunity to live and work in Asia—and every year, they inspire and amaze us with the way they go beyond the parameters of their jobs to connect with and contribute to their host communities. Below are dispatches from four such fellows who have volunteered their time and talents in ways that reflect their commitment to service.

My alarm went off at 4 a.m. and I woke right up, adrenaline already pumping. After 4 months of training, the day of the race had finally arrived. I was about to run my second marathon. I had been eyeing this race from the moment I arrived on the island a year before; the Singapore marathon is known as one of the biggest running events in Asia with over 50,000 participants.

I arrived at the starting line to a sea of runners—a variety of ages, races, and stages of fitness—and worked my way to the middle of the pack. I always say I am running “just for fun” but once I reach that starting line, my competitive juices always kick in. Unlike all the other races, I wasn’t running this one just for myself. I was running it for twelve little girls from an impoverished community in Manila, whom I had gotten to know during my PiA fellowship in the Philippines. I would see them every Saturday at the street children’s feeding program where I volunteered, and I grew very attached to them over my two years in Manila. When I moved to Singapore, I set up a fund called the NingNing Philippines Education Fund as a way to stay connected to the girls and help them go to college when they come of age—as well as to raise money for disaster relief and other daily necessities. Since the Singapore marathon fell just before Christmas, I created a “Running for Rice” fundraising drive—I asked friends and family to pledge a kilogram of rice for every kilometer I completed. If I finished all 42 kilometers, that would be 42 kilos of rice—more than a month’s worth for one person.

Finally, the gun sounded—still in the dark, just before sunrise—and my body kicked into gear. This was the moment I had been training for. My goal was really to just enjoy the race and finish strong. Perhaps it was redemption of sorts from my first marathon in Manila, when I became severely dehydrated and ended up in an ambulance! As I reached kilometers 31...32...33... I expected to hit the much-dreaded “wall,” or the point of complete and utter fatigue. It had happened to me in my first marathon with about 10 kilometers to go. But to my amazement, it didn’t come; my legs, though numb, held out! The last 5 kilometers I experienced a sudden burst of energy; I even picked up speed, weaving in and out of other runners—determined, fearless and focused on the beautiful little girls for whom I was......

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running. They became my motivation and strength as I pushed through the final stretch.

I was overjoyed at finishing the race, but even more inspired by the knowledge that more than $2,000 worth of food and gifts would be sent to the poor community of girls in the Philippines. The thought of them having an extra special Christmas this year made my heart smile.

For more on the impoverished community Ali supports in the Philippines, visit http://ningningpef.wordpress.com/

Ali Smith, PiA fellow from 2006–2008 at ABS-CBN in Manila, currently works as a news anchor/host for Channel NewsAsia in Singapore.

As PiA fellows, we join a community in Asia, and we often contribute to that community in surprising ways, far outside the realm of our posts. English teachers coach national sports teams and NGO workers star in soap operas. I arrived in Hanoi to work on business development for a social enterprise producing motorcycle helmets yet found I had another skill to contribute: emergency first aid.

I was trained as a first responder in the U.S., and I taught first aid for four years with Princeton's Outdoor Action program. When I arrived in Vietnam, I began carrying latex gloves with me, aware that I might be the most trained person available if I were to witness a traffic accident. In Hanoi, only 4% of people arriving in an emergency room have received first aid, and the average response time for the basic ambulance service is forty minutes. In a country where traffic accidents, asthma attacks, heart failure, and other time-sensitive emergencies are among the top ten causes of death, the lack of rapid emergency first aid is deadly. Rapid patient assessment and preliminary treatment would significantly improve patients' long-term outcomes in these cases.

Expanding the ambulance service would improve response times, but it wouldn't be a solution. Traffic gridlock extends onto sidewalks with no way for an ambulance to pass, and most people live on small alleys where ambulances won't fit. Motorbike-based first responders, however, would fit through these small alleys, maneuver through traffic, and arrive directly to a patient emergency. They also cost less to purchase and maintain than ambulances do.

My coworkers agreed that motorbike first responders could make a difference. One, Ngoc Suong (not her real name), told me the story of her mother, who had asthma she controlled with an inhaler. One afternoon, she was at home and began having trouble breathing. They called an ambulance; her mother struggled to breathe for forty minutes but was unconscious by the time the ambulance arrived an hour later. The ambulance had been stuck in traffic. She died later that day. Ngoc Suong's mother would have stood a much better chance of surviving if she'd had a trained, equipped person treat her within a few minutes. Someone with basic training and the kit I carried as an outdoor leader would have been enough to make a difference.

I began to read more about motorbike first responder systems, such as those in Sydney and Singapore. Emboldened by my network of contacts in the public health field in Hanoi, my experience writing business plans during my fellowship, and my first aid experience, I decided to spend a year promoting such a system.

The MotoMedic Vietnam project now has two directors (myself and another American, Aaron Pervin), one employee, and start-up funding from the Center for Social Initiatives Promotion. The goal is to create a micro-insurance model through which we fund 50–70% of costs with user fees for the first two years and raise the remainder. This project is the direct result of my fellowship with PiA, which brought me to Hanoi in the first place and helped me develop the network and business skills that will make this possible.

To learn more about MotoMedic Vietnam or to provide financial support, email Katy at Kathryn.Lankester@motomedicvn.com.

Katy Lankester was a PiA fellow at AIPF Hanoi in 2008–2009 and now works with MotoMedic Vietnam.

Two middle school students run through the open doors of the DEAR Burma school into the crowded streets of downtown Bangkok; one leaves for muay thai with his friends and the other goes to check on his ailing mother at home. The DEAR Burma school (Development of Education and Awareness for Refugees) was established in 1999 to provide education to Burmese migrants in Thailand under the direction of Mr. Myint

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VOICES FROM THE FIELD: SERVICE WITHOUT BORDERS (CONTINUED)

Wai. As a PiA fellow in Bangkok, ’08—’09, I began volunteering at the school in October of 2008 and quickly found that nearly half of my students were asking to leave class with the same excuse: “My parents are sick, and I need to go see them.”

Every year, thousands flee to Thailand to escape political, social, and economic oppression in Burma. Burmese migrants in Thailand are often forced to take low-paying jobs that pose health risks: chemical loaders for rubber plants, laborers in mechanical production facilities, or 16-hour daily workers on produce farms. Many leave after only a few years of work with irreparable damage to their health: blindness from chemical exposure, hourly coughing fits, and chronic untreated skin cancer. Over the next year, Myint and I worked to understand the extent of this problem in Bangkok and nine other communities in southern and central Thailand.

We founded the Mekong Environmental Poverty Partners Alliance (MEPPA) to document, treat, and prevent health abuses by employers toward these migrants. In 2009, our group surveyed nearly 1,100 Burmese migrants in south and central Thailand and identified the sources of the workers’ chronic health problems: prolonged exposure to nitric acid, carcinogenic fumes from rubber production, and particulate matter that produced long-term skin cancer, lung disease, and stomach disorders.

Meeting people like Kyinet, a teenager who has watched her father lose his eyesight and her mother cough up blood every day after working at a rubber plantation, I know my PiA fellowship would have not been the same without this experience. Speaking to Kyinet and countless others I realized, as a friend of mine put it, “I cannot imagine giving all of myself to anything other than serving people.”

MEPPA will be holding trainings throughout 2010, and would greatly appreciate your support and donations. Please see our website (www.meppa.org) or contact us directly at meppa.thailand@gmail.com.

Hy Martin, 2008–2009 PiA fellow at ICEBV, Bangkok, is now working to open their South Africa offices.

Many people refer to Singapore as “Asia Light.” True, Singapore is developed, clean, and has a California Pizza Kitchen. Almost everyone speaks fluent English. But when I start to think I have it easy in Singapore, I remember that the absence of a language barrier enables me to get involved in the community on a much deeper level than I might have initially been able to elsewhere.

I have always had a strong interest in HIV and AIDS awareness. About a month after arriving in Singapore as a PiA teaching fellow, I found a great volunteer opportunity at an organization called Action for AIDS, an outreach program that focuses on HIV education and prevention in Singapore. At the cornerstone of A4A is its anonymous testing site in Little India; the anonymous part is crucial, as there is still a significant stigma attached to the disease across all cultures in Singapore.

As a counselor, I review each client’s history, assess his risk factors for contracting HIV, and try to correct any misinformation about the disease. A person cannot, for example, contract the virus from kissing, a misconception that is surprisingly common in certain communities in Singapore. After the initial consultation, I take the client to the testing room, where the rapid response test generates results in about fifteen minutes. I then review the test results with the client and advise him to return for a follow-
up visit if he has had risk of exposure within the previous three months.

About a month ago, a twenty-year-old Chinese man who had moved to Singapore to find work came to the clinic and tested positive. I'm not sure why this particular case affected me more than the others, but I burst into tears on the street the minute I left. I don't think you can do this kind of work if each positive test affects you to this extent, but I think the passion that causes you to break down also gives you the strength to pick yourself up and do what you can to help.

My experience is pretty unique. I see Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Western clients. I see hetero- and homosexuals. I am shown odd rashes and weird marks (even though I insist I am not a doctor). I see men who cheat on their wives women who cheat on their husbands. I hear all sorts of stories about the sex trade all over Asia. I am not here to judge; I am here to educate and counsel. But it can be frustrating to encounter so many people who continue to engage in extremely risky behavior and do not seem to understand how their actions affect their likelihood of contracting HIV. Singapore currently has a very low rate of infection and transmission. But until there is a cure, education and prevention are our only defense against the spread of this disease—the only way to keep that number low.

Working with AfA has given me a great opportunity to be of service in an educational and medical capacity, a path I might like to pursue after my PIA fellowship. It has also given me insight into the lives of a variety of Singaporeans and the chance to make meaningful friendships with my fellow volunteers.

Jenny Chihurco is currently an ITA (International Teaching Associate) in Singapore.

ASIA TRIP

The annual Asia trip provides an opportunity for the PIA leadership to assess sites, touch base with partner organizations, and see first hand the impact PIA fellows can make in their communities. During this year's trip, the PIA team visited 45 cities in 16 countries; touched base with 130 fellows and dozens of partners and safety advisors; and toasted PIA with over 200 friends and alumni who turned out for events in Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Hong Kong, New Delhi, and Singapore. I had the pleasure of two phenomenal traveling companions: Emilie Pooler, PIA's guru of English teaching, and PIA Trustee Elizabeth Chandler.

Emilie's experience on site—observing our teaching fellows, and providing them constructive feedback and one-on-one professional development—was invaluable. She also gleaned insights (and video footage) that will help PIA improve its teacher-training course for next year. We'll be long indebted to Emilie for taking all of her vacation days to join the trip, donating all of her time, and conquering her (understandably queasy) stomach to consume sketchy-looking squid balls when cultural decorum required it.

Elizabeth braved her second grueling trip with the PIA staff, hopping on a trans-continental flight on the heels of completing the NYC marathon and landing in Banda Aceh, Indonesia some 24 hours later! Without missing a beat, she joined us for meetings and for a traditional Acehnese meal with the host family of PIA fellow Annie Preis (see page 13). Elizabeth then accompanied me to Timor-Leste, Bangkok, and Singapore bringing a wealth of knowledge, contacts, and perspective in assessing sites.

Tremendous thanks to both Emilie and Elizabeth and to the many other Trustees we met along the way. We are indebted to Ginny and Alex Winkler who hosted a beautiful get-together in their home in Hong Kong overlooking the shipping lanes; to Steve Diamond who anchored the Singapore launch event connecting with key partners; to Meg Osthus for her generosity and adventuresome palate in treating all the PIA fellows in Yogyakarta to a delicious local meal.

It is an incredible asset to have such a dedicated group of people participate in the Asia trip. We are extremely fortunate to have leaders who are so passionate about PIA's mission and willing to give so generously to support us, our fellows, and our program.

Anastasia Vrachnos, Executive Director

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From Emilie Pooler, PiA TEFL Course Instructor

I have been involved with Princeton in Asia (PiA) since the spring of 2002, when I received a phone call from Carrie Gordon asking if I was available to teach the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course for the PiA teaching fellows. Over lunch, Carrie filled me in on the mission and background of PiA, and she shared with me her vision of what the training for the teaching fellows should consist of. I facilitated a TEFL workshop at the May 2002 orientation, and I instantly fell in love with PiA. I have been a part of PiA since then, teaching the TEFL course each spring. I look forward not only to meeting each new group of future teachers but also to following some of their adventures via e-mail throughout the year.

This fall, I had the amazing opportunity to travel with Anastasia, Leslie, and Megan to various locations in Southeast Asia, where we visited and observed the classes of a number of PiA teaching fellows. I traveled to three countries, visited seven schools, and observed 14 fellows as they taught their classes. I was able to experience the local school environments, watch the teaching fellows in action, meet the local students, and witness firsthand the amazing learning that is going on thanks to PiA. After nine years of only experiencing vicariously what the fellows do once they get to their posts, it was an incredible experience for me to finally join them in their classrooms!

I am happy to report that I observed some amazingly skilled teachers—many were more skilled at teaching than I could have ever imagined! They not only facilitated interchange of ideas among their students just outside the classroom! The teachers often had to do more than teach. A first-grade teacher in Thailand, for example, included among her duties the dispensing of each student’s daily allotment of milk!

I was amazed to see the total transformation of fellows whom I had met only six months earlier, when they were still students finishing up their theses, studying for the last round of final exams, and packing their suitcases. They were tired, stressed, nervous, excited, and eager. And now they were confident young adults demonstrating leadership skills and problem-solving abilities. I was delighted to see how immersed the fellows had become in their communities—speaking the language, using local transportation, employing appropriate cultural gestures, and eating at corner street carts. I was impressed by how much they were contributing to their communities—volunteering at local institutions, holding extra office hours, and hosting English clubs. It was clear that they cared a great deal about their communities, and they were dedicated to promoting good will.

In addition to visiting schools, observing teachers, and giving them feedback, I was invited to prepare and deliver a workshop at Can Tho University. The workshop, titled “Learning, Teaching, and Assessment of Speaking,” was well received. I was very impressed by the level of engagement of the 30-some teachers who attended. The teachers ranged from novice (a week on the job) to experienced (teaching for more than 25 years). They shared their ideas, asked
ASIA TRIP (CONTINUED)

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questions, and hopefully got some new ideas for teaching speaking classes.

The countries I visited were extremely diverse, but there was one constant. In each country, at every school, I heard wonderful things about PiA. In Vietnam, one English department head shared a story with us. “Other organizations tell me that I put PiA up on a pedestal, and they want to know why I treat the PiA teachers differently,” she said. “I tell them, ‘Well PiA is different!’” Then she went on to enumerate the ways in which PiA fellows excel. In Chiang Mai, Thailand, a professor from a program that does not have PiA fellows approached our lunch table to make a request for PiA fellows.

In Nan, Thailand, the English department head stated categorically that all 4 teachers this year were “A” teachers.

Even though I am only a small part of PiA, I am very proud to be associated with such a great organization!

From Elizabeth Chandler, PiA Trustee and Vice-President

It was my good fortune in November to be the proverbial fly on the wall while Anastasia journeyed through Indonesia, East Timor, Thailand, and Singapore during her annual pilgrimage to Asia. This was my second time as a PiA wanna-be, never having had the opportunity to serve as a PiA fellow (when are we going to launch that Senior PiA fellowship?!) As with my previous trip, I was overwhelmed by the hospitality of our amazing fellows, the commitment of our partners, and the endless opportunities for east-west fusion that lie at the core of PiA’s mission. The capstone of my trip was attending the launch of PiA’s

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MOHON MAAAF LAHIR BATIN AND L’SHANAH TOVAH*

ROSH HASHANAH AND RAMADAN IN INDONESIA

Annie Preis is the 2009–2010 Carrie Gordon Fellow in Aceh, Indonesia

My first Rosh Hashanah in Aceh fell in September, as the month-long Ramadan fast was ending and preparations for the Eid ul-Fitri holiday were underway. Despite longing to share my personal ties to the season, fear kept me from discussing my Judaism. A traditional Muslim society following Sharia, Aceh looks very different from its Middle Eastern cousins, but Hitler posters are easy enough to find. I worried how I would be received as a Jew. So I celebrated the holiday quietly, observing the Ramadan fast and then breaking it at sundown with the traditional Rosh Hashanah apple dipped in honey. The next day, I joined my host family’s Eid celebrations and counted them as my own.

In the following months, I adjusted to the heat, the call to prayer, the jarring absence of women in many public spaces, and the cool shock of my morning bucket bath. I learned the Indonesian language and spent nights chatting over coffee with new friends. I began trusting the community that was welcoming me into its daily life. A wave of anti-Semitic vitriol in January—inspired by fighting in Gaza—kept me cautious, but when Passover arrived, I hosted an interfaith Seder for my friends.

My second Acehnese Rosh Hashanah and Eid ul-Fitri lined up again this year. But this time my trip to my host-family’s village was filled with conversations about Islam, Judaism, and their commonalities and differences. I forgot to dip apples in honey, but as my own perceptions shifted in turn with those of my family, I looked forward to a sweet new year.

*“L’shanah tovah” means “For a good year” in Hebrew and is a traditional greeting on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. “Mohon maaf lahir batin” means “Forgive me from the bottom of my heart for my wrongdoings of last year” in Indonesian and is a common greeting during the Eid holiday.
Dear PiA,
I’m sure your inbox is filled with epiphanies from the field, so it probably won’t surprise you to hear the words “you’ve changed my life.” Still, everyone gets here in a different way, so let me tell you my story.

You could say that my first PiA application was focused—it read something like “Japan or bust.” Looking back, clueless seems like a better word to describe my goals. I’m not sure what the office reaction is to “Help! Seeking Lost Heritage!” essays, but after five months in the land of my ancestors, I’m inclined to laugh. I recall, with no slight embarrassment, implying to Kai during my interview that I might find some hidden part of myself in the Land of the Rising Sun. Not only does that now seem self-centered, it also seems patent impossible: Erica Reder was not turning Japanese.

Nevertheless, you gave me a chance to pursue my roots, and though I came up (predictably) empty-handed, I found something much more valuable: the desire and courage to immerse myself in cultures other than my own. It is the differences, not the similarities, that have made the past five months such a rich experience. I’ve gained new perspectives on American and Japanese cultures, and the broader Western/Eastern traditions that inform them. I have so many more questions than when I came—questions about cross-cultural concepts of the individual, the group, and ethics, for example. These are more than just passing thoughts. I can see a life devoted to them through a combination of further study and subsequent teaching. These questions have made me want to spend another year teaching in North Asia, especially at the secondary or post-secondary level. When I say you’ve changed my life, I mean this year in Japan has opened my eyes to a fascinatingly different world—one I suspect I won’t be ready to leave for a while yet.

Erica Reder (Chiba Buddhist Temple, Tokyo, Japan ’09)

On September 26, Typhoon Ketsana hit Metro Manila. Hundreds of people died, and hundreds of thousands more—including several of my coworkers—lost everything. Save the Children staff stayed up all night packing emergency kits and distributed them each day to displaced families. We organized mobile medical teams to diagnose and treat those who were ill and built hundreds of emergency latrines. Then we launched a cash-for-work program, constructing and cleaning classrooms, and holding disaster risk reduction sessions for children so they can be better prepared for the next emergency.

My role has changed a lot since the storm. As a native English speaker who could communicate with Western audiences, I was made a full-time Communications Officer. During the day, I interviewed families in the evacuation camps and flooded communities about what happened to them and what they needed. At night, I wrote press releases, photo essays, and blog posts from my field experience. These were used by SC headquarters to brief donors and raise additional money for emergency relief. Lately, as we’ve transitioned to implementing our long-term programs, I have helped develop materials on life-saving practices like breastfeeding, hand-washing, human waste disposal, and reporting child abuse.

The emergency has taught me so much. There are the specific skills, like writing press releases and grant proposals. Then there are the more intangible things. In the

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Challenge Grant 2010:
65% Complete and Still Running!

This year, PiA received a generous challenge grant from the Tiger Baron Foundation.

Our goal: to double the number of donors who give to PiA

Our sincerest THANK YOU for the overwhelming support that has poured in from all corners of our network.

Behind the pack? You haven’t missed the boat!

We need everyone’s help to reach our goal and make the Year of the Tiger our best year yet!

For more information, contact us at:
www.princeton.edu/~pia or (609) 258-1283

‘Xie Xie Nimen’ and Warmest Wishes from all of us at PiA for a Happy and Prosperous

Year of the Tiger

新年快樂

Aron Bothman, China ’08
PiAers back in School

Jeff Meyer (China ’01) is in his last semester of a two-year M.A. program at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC. Though his PiA fellowship was in China, he has opted for the tropics, concentrating in Southeast Asia Studies and International Economics, and studying Indonesian along with Mandarin.

Several recent alums are hanging with the Bulldogs these days: Rory Truex (SOS China ’06) has begun his Ph.D. in political science at Yale, where Melissa Ivins (India ’08) is pursuing her masters in education. Joining them next fall is Alex Ripp (Thailand ’08) who was recently accepted into the M.F.A. program for dramaturgy and dramatic criticism. Alex has been interning at McCarter Theater in Princeton since returning from Thailand last spring.

Nienke Boer (India ’08), is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at NYU, focusing on South African and South Asian literatures—and still taking Hindi classes!

Following his year as a Carrie Gordon fellow working at a malnutrition clinic on the Burma border, Brent Scharschmidt (Thailand ’05) is pursuing his passion for medicine as a medical student at UC Berkeley, where he joins fellow first year Anne Kern (China ’05).

Brent and Anne joined a spirited gathering of PiA San Francisco alumni at the Fort Mason Center, organized by Peter Poullada (PU ’75, Afghanistan) and Michelle Capobres (China ’97) when the PiA staff hit the west coast in February.

Also in attendance was Brian Cochran (Thailand ’06). Unable to stay away from the land of smiles for too long, Brian is completing his first year in law school at UC Berkeley and intends to spend the summer working on Thai legal issues in Bangkok.

Alexa Steinberg (Mongolia ’06) is currently pursuing a master’s in social anthropology at Cambridge. While she may have traded Gobi dust storms for a perpetual rainy season, she continues to draw from her PiA experience, researching development projects in Mongolia.

Any Chernenkoff (Malaysia ’05) is in the process of finishing her M.A. at the University of Denver in human rights, with concentrations in gender and international development. Afterward she hopes to move to Europe, where she intends to launch a renewable energy and women’s empowerment NGO project.

Congratulations to Chris Heinrich (Thailand ’07), who will start a social work program at Smith in September, and to Jon Nuger (Vietnam ’04), who is headed up to Beantown with fiancée Ali Levine, where the two will start at Harvard Business School in the fall.

PiA in the Working World

After completing his masters in Asian Studies at UC Berkeley, Steven Dale (China ’05), is now working as the Coordinator of International Projects (Asia-Pacific) in the Study Abroad Office of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He looks forward to returning to China as often as possible and encouraging unwitting undergrads to do the same!

Heather Jackson (Thailand ’06) recently moved from San Francisco to LA and continues to tear up the pool/track/road as a professional triathlete. Track her moves online at www.heatherjacksonracing.com.

Audrey Ellerbee (Singapore ’01) attended her last PiA Boston alumni gathering this fall—she’s off to Palo Alto to take a professorship at Stanford in electrical engineering beginning in September.

Trading Kathmandu for the Big Apple, Katherine Ensler (Nepal ’08) has started a new job with the International Rescue Council in NYC. Also making the move to the big city is Erica McGibbon (Thailand ’07), who recently accepted a position as Assistant Director of Professional Development at the College Board. Erica is hoping to sneak in some Asia trips as the College Board prepares to administer the SAT in Asian languages. If only she could remember how to ask, “Is that a number 2 pencil?” in Thai...

Fresh off the boat from Bangkok, Phil Williams (Thailand ’07) has moved to San Francisco to open the first US office of the Nollen Group (formerly ICEBV), the environmental consulting firm where he spent a year with PiA.

Fiona Havers (China ’09) has moved from the Pacific Northwest to Baltimore, where she is a senior resident at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Jamie Hood Shea (Japan ’96) lives in Belmont, MA, with her husband, Matt, and children Katie, Ellie, and Charlie; she has been teaching history and ESL at a private (continued on page 10)
Congrats, Tom!  
After a twenty-year hiatus in Japan, **David Galef** (Japan ’81) has recently returned from a Fulbright in Tokyo. He still loves it and hopes to go back, preferably before another twenty years elapse!  
Soon after helping interview the next class of PiA fellows, **Lizzie Hallinan** (China ’05) also headed off to Asia. Lizzie moved to Kabul in February to work for Mercy Corps’ Afghanistan operations, where she has already celebrated Burns Night (complete with Haggis and whisky) with her Scottish boss.  
**Paul Mozur** (Hong Kong ’07) has been living in Taiwan for the past year studying Mandarin at ICLP (the International Chinese Language Program) at National Taiwan University. He is working as a freelance journalist and doing his share of muckraking; following an eventful trip to Xinjiang, Paul wrote an article for the Asia Sentinel that was translated into Uighur and broadcast out across Xinjiang. When he isn’t busy working on his Mandarin, Paul is planning his next investigative journey to Myanmar. 
Also studying at ICLP is **Manuela Zoninseim** (China ’07), who is headed to the UK next year to pursue a master’s degree in China studies with a focus on the environment. 
**PiAers Tie the Knot!** 
**Nikola Guscic** (Indonesia ’07) married Maria Mariyana on December 29, 2009 in Central Borneo. Those of us buried under snow in Princeton this year send our congratulations and seething jealousy.  
**Holly Hetherington** (China ’02) was married to Ben Collier in September 2009 in Watch Hill, RI. Both are Sinophiles (having spent a year living in Beijing) currently living in New York City, where Holly is finishing her MBA at NYU Stern and Ben works for American Express.  
It was a PiA delta reunion when **Meg Crouch** squeezed in some photo booth time. 

**Emily Crozier, Alex Wood, Lynne Rosen, and Meg Crouch squeeze in some photo booth time.**

Crouch, Alex Wood, and Lynne Rosen (all Vietnam ’02) attended **Emily Crozier**’s wedding in October. Emily married Jonathan Ret on Saturday, October 10th at Camp Mystic in Hunt, TX. It was the first time the ’02 delta crew had been together since Meg and Alex’s wedding in 2005.  
**And among the first members of the PiA class of 2032…**  
**Leif Wellington Haase** (China ’88) and his wife, Leslie welcomed a new daughter, Elizabeth Claire, on October 17, 2009!  

**Updates from PiA’s Board of Trustees…**  
Since moving to Hong Kong last year, **Ginny Wilmerding** (Japan ’90) has joined the Brunswick Group, a financial communications firm specializing in investor, media, and government relations for large Chinese and multinational companies. She hopes to see some PiA fellows around her office in the future…  

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Warmest congratulations to former Board president Margaret Cannella (Japan ’73) and Ron Brown, who tied the knot in January! Both Princeton alumni, the two were married at the University chapel. Ron is the director of gift planning at Princeton; since retiring from JP Morgan last winter, Margaret is an adjunct professor in the finance department at Columbia Business School in Manhattan and volunteers her time to PiA as well as several other non-profit boards.

Ruth Stevens (Japan ’74) has kept us all jealous with teaching stints in various international teaching engagements include courses at SMU (Singapore Management University) in October 2010 and HSEE (Helsinki School of Economic Executive Education) in Beijing in November 2010. Ruth, any room in your suitcases??

Michael Northrop (Indonesia ’82) is teaching a graduate course in environmental campaigns at Yale’s Forestry and Environmental Studies School.

Russell DaSilva spent the holidays at the heart of the Ganges, on a vacation through India with his wife, Peggy, and three daughters. Who needs the windows at Macy’s when you can, as Russell writes, see “families dressed in saris and wearing Santa Claus hats wishing you ‘Happy Christmas’ on the grounds of Hindu temples”?

Alison Laporte-Oshiro (Save the Children, Manila, Philippines, ’09) transitioned back to policy work with Save the Children this spring. I continue to work on the emergency, but also help push for new laws so that the Philippines is better prepared for the next disaster. I am thrilled to be here and fired up at the idea of spending another year in Asia!

Evacuation camps, I had to re-learn how to talk to people, given the refugees’ mental and physical stress and our deep cultural differences when it comes to loss. (Do: laugh and make jokes. Don’t: look sad, cry.) I also learned a lot about myself, that there are real limits to what I can do, but that I am stronger than I think.

The disaster also reinforced for me how important the issues I studied at Princeton and care most about—democracy and development—really are. Corruption and political violence conspire against proper investments in basic infrastructure, education, and health care. Because of poor economic policy and the growth of a mega-city, millions live in shantytowns along the rivers. So it was a disaster, but also a disaster in the making, and as critical as our aid has been, lasting change requires fundamental democratic and economic restructuring.

For this reason, I am really excited to have
PiA spices up the Midwest at the Chicago area alumni reception in February. From left (standing): staff members Leslie Medema and Kai Evenson, Jason Bremen (China ’06), (seated): Max Jacobson (China ’07), Aaron Zdawczyk (China ’97), and PiA intern Chris Schiegel (China SOS ’06)

In February the PiA staff hit the Midwest for a long-overdue PiA Chicago Alumni Reunion! Some updates from the heartland:

Ted Fishman (Indonesia ’80) author of the bestseller China, Inc., lives in Chicago. His new book Shock of Grey, a look at the implications of an aging global population, is scheduled to hit shelves in October of this year. Not to be confused with Anastasia’s personal memoir by the same name, about what happens when you’re in charge of 150 twenty-one year olds in Asia…

Max Winston (Korea ’08) has been in Chicago at an NGO called CNT Energy through Princeton Project 55. Max is an analyst working on CNT Energy’s program to improve building efficiency throughout the city, helping affordable multifamily buildings lower their energy costs, enabling them to provide better service to their tenants at a lower price. And in other Max news from the Windy City, Max Jacobson (China ’07) is now consulting with BCG in Chicago.

Joining the ever-growing legion of future PiA lawyers are Nick Alexsovich (Guangzhou ’06), who is finishing his first year at the University of Chicago Law School, and Alice Chen (Hong Kong ’08), a first year at the University of Michigan.

ENORMOUS thanks to the legions of alumni across the country (and around the world) who helped us interview PiA’s largest applicant class to date! We couldn’t have done it without all 87 of “youze.” Drumroll please…

Princeton
Southeast Asia: Brandon Hall (Laos ’02), Alisha Blechman (Vietnam ’04–’05), Ruth Stevens (Japan), Ben Shell (Thailand ’05, Mongolia ’06), Lindsay Matovich (Singapore ’06), Alice Garabrant (Vietnam ’08), Katy Lankester (Vietnam ’08), Juliana Bennison (Philippines ’05–’06), Frances Symes (Thailand ’06), Ari Wolfe (China ’05–’06), Dave Faherty (Malaysia ’07), Erica McGibbon (Thailand ’07), Dylana Alban (Indonesia ’09), Keely Robinson (Thailand ’05), Matt Losch (Thailand ’05), Alexis

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Pieces of China, by Peter Lighte

Longtime China scholar and banker Peter Lighte’s collection of memoirs, Pieces of China, hit bookshelves in October. His stories recall the China and Taiwan of the 1970s and ’80s, the end of the Cultural Revolution and a time of significant social and economic change in the region. All profits from Pieces of China will be donated to Half the Sky, a foundation which seeks to bring a caring adult into the life of each orphan in China: www.halfthesky.org. Peter received his Ph.D. in East Asian studies from Princeton in 1981 and currently lives in Beijing.