Above and Beyond: PiA Class of 2016 Accomplishments

Fellows Collaborate to Produce “PiArts” Creative Arts Journal

Lena Sun (Singapore), Annamaria Andolino Watson (Malaysia), Sophia Rosenfeld (Nepal), and Christina Ayele Djossa (Nepal) have created a new vehicle for creative expression for all PiA fellows. The journal is meant as a way to “give each of us a glimpse of what we see, who we serve, how we feel, and everything in between.” The first issue, Directions, catalogued the poems, photography, essays, and how-to guides of 15 PiA fellows during their first months in Asia. The journal is edited by a core team of four and two rotating editors who devise a theme for each issue. The second issue, Crescendoes, was released in February 2017.

Jesse Brooks (University of Finance and Economics, Mongolia) Led Student Group to Receive Grant for Hepatitis C Awareness

UFE students received a $1000 grant from the US Embassy for a project to raise awareness and reduce stigmas around Hepatitis C in the Ger districts in Ulaanbaatar. The students had been working on a grant proposal under the leadership of Jesse Brooks, who is currently working as an English teacher at UFE. Jesse also serves as the faculty advisor to the Rotaract student club at UFE and helped the club pitch their project in front of several judges from the US government. The competition was open to students from all of Mongolia, and Jesse’s team was the only one to receive funding in all of Ulaanbaatar. The team members will be leading informative discussions and supplying free tests to Ger district residents throughout February and March. The aim is to Not only serve the communities in Ulaanbaatar, but also give the students an invaluable experience in community service.
Noah Lerner and Lili Pike (Natural Resources Defense Council, Beijing) Started Environment China, a Podcast on Environmental Issues in China

Noah and Lili partnered with the Beijing Energy Network (BEN) to launch BEN’s latest project, Environment China, the first sustained podcast on environmental issues in China. The podcast tells the stories of the people, organizations, and campaigns revolutionizing China’s environmental field. By amplifying the stories of China’s environmental “changemakers,” Environment China seeks to introduce the world to perspectives from the emergent center of climate action.

In the first series of podcasts from Environment China, the two fellows are having conversations with environmental advocates, entrepreneurs, and experts working in China. This series focuses on the solutions and strategies these environmentalists employ. In Western media particularly, these successes are often overlooked and coverage of Chinese environmental topics is generally scant. Yet beyond the dominant narratives of doom and gloom, Chinese environmentalists are serving up creative solutions to local and global environmental crises, catalyzed by the pressure of rapid environmental degradation. Listen to the first episode of the podcast in iTunes [here](https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/environment-china/id1189448379). PiA’s posts at NRDC are made possible by the Tiger Baron Foundation.

Brittney Woodrum (Dhamma Moli, Myanmar) Collaborates with Nuns on Burmese Children’s Book

Brittney Woodrum, the van Oss Frontier Fellow and her student Inzananyani produced a children’s book in English and Burmese, based off a story that they developed during their language exchanges. The story is a reflection of Brittney’s experience teaching at the Dhamma Moli International Buddhist Education Centre in Yangon, Myanmar, and being welcomed into a new community there. Brittney produced the illustrations and worked with her student to write the text, which follows a bear that is brought into the home of a group of loving mice. The whole story can be found online [here](https://dhammatrainingpark.org/en/).
Sam Bresnick (Lakehouse, Sri Lanka) Filmed “Detour” Travel Video Series for Daily News

In between his reporting and editing duties as the Roxe Media Fellow at Lakehouse, Sam Bresnick has channeled his inner Anthony Bourdain to film a travel series called Detour for the Sri Lanka Daily News. In each segment, Sam travels to a lesser-known destination around Colombo to showcase its local culture, customs, and history. The series already has seven episodes. We recommend Episode 6, Sam’s tour of Lakehouse’s printing press, as a good place to start.

**Episode 1: Pettah Explored**  
**Episode 2: Exploring Maharagama**  
**Episode 3: Exploring Matara**  
**Episode 4: Exploring Kelaniya**  
**Episode 5: Sam Goes on a Sri Lankan Date**  
**Episode 6: Exploring ANCL Lake House – Sri Lanka’s Oldest Newspaper**  
**Episode 7: Enjoying the Galle Face Green**

Simon Shieh (China Foreign Affairs University, China) Started New Literary Magazine “Spittoon”

Simon Shieh first organized meetings for Beijing’s poets and literary minds over a year ago, during his first year on PiA. The group met informally in hutong cafes as an avenue for sharing new work and encouraging critique. After a year, Simon and his friends have compiled their best work into a fully-formed literary magazine called Spittoon. The first issue was released in November 2016, and was quickly lauded as one of Asia’s best literary magazines by TimeOut Shanghai. Simon acts as Poetry Editor for Spittoon while working on his own poems.