



PACIFIC BRIDGES

194 Nassau Street
Suite 212
Princeton, NJ 08542
Phone: (609) 258 3657
pia@princeton.edu
www.princeton.edu/~pia

Newsletter of Princeton in Asia

Summer 2011

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND WORDS OF THANKS

This year PiA is providing 168 young people the opportunity to live and work in Asia, affording them a transformative perspective, an opportunity to contribute to a host community and a year's worth of great eats and great stories. With the first wave of summer interns and new full-year PiA fellows settling into their posts, we are riding their coattails and reveling in their first dispatches from the field. Meanwhile, our returning fellows are adjusting to life back in the USA, feasting on bagels, appreciating potable water and calling for rescues from Costco when the selection in the cereal aisle becomes overwhelming. The words of all the fellows, whether newly arrived in Asia or back home with a "new set of eyes", are the most eloquent reminders of the importance of PiA's mission of building bridges. They are also enough to make those of us left behind in the "Garden State" jealous. Not to be outdone, the PiA staff has hit the road this summer, investigating new sites in Tajikistan and overseeing the Summer of Service internship program in China. We're eager to share these dispatches from and about Asia with you.

From PiA Fellows in the Field:

While hiking in Burma, Matt and I ran into this village where a bunch of kids were playing. I went up to them and they immediately surrounded us. They ended up teaching me how to say colors in Burmese. Afterwards, they invited me to play with them, so I joined them sliding down their super rickety wooden slide, maybe a dozen times. It was awesome.

Andrew Usoro, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore



Andrew Usoro detours from hiking to play with children in a village in Burma.

Do we have an adventure story for you in Nan! There has been crazy flooding and the water around us reached about head-height. It has finally gone down, and we're hoping that we can make it onto solid ground tomorrow. Friends and the friendly police have been bringing us water, canned sardines, instant noodles, and chocolate cake on their boats for the past few days, and it's been pretty great

to see kayaks, rowing boats, motorboats, and large boats built for 25 passengers that can barely fit on our street float by. We've been living by candlelight because there hasn't been any electricity or internet. It's really taken us back to 1859 (or whenever the light bulb was invented) and actually, hasn't been too bad!

Stephanie Siaw, Bandon Srisermkasikorn School, Nan, Thailand

We are safely in Vientiane and currently crashing in the rooms of two former PiA-ers. The immigration process was easy and alarmingly uneventful. The rain is pounding indoors and out; I can hear weird frogs beeping and rattling in the thicket next to our living room. Yep, Southeast Asia.

Mike Dunford, Vientiane College, Vientiane, Laos

Kadod is supposed to be a "village," but its level of activity is near unbelievable – loud, boisterous, and polluted. Still, it is an anthill compared to nearby Surat

and its sulfur factories. And it is a pinprick next to Delhi or Mumbai. When I wander around by myself, just about every single man stops to say 'hallo,' shake my hand, and ask if I am British.

What surprises me is the low-level of conversational English in the village. I was

(continued on page 2)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND WORDS OF THANKS (CONTINUED)



PiA fellow and accordionist John Ellington expands his audience to Gujarat, India.

taking a bus back from Surat yesterday. The young man who sat next to me told me that he had just returned from taking his government exams for teaching English. He also told me that I was the first “English person” he had ever talked to. The government-sanctioned textbooks are the only English many Gujaratis ever encounter. We have our work cut out for us. I am enjoying myself immensely, and they say the monsoons will come in just two days.

John Ellington, Nanubhai Education Foundation: Kadod High School, Gujarat, India

I totally made a fool of myself the very first class when I managed to get blue dry erase marker all over my hands after writing on the board. I didn’t realize and touched my face, and then had blue all over my face. I mean, ALL over my face. No one told me for the entire hour, and then when I got to my next class some girl showed me my face in her mirror!

Michelle Gallagher, Deebuk Phang Nga Wittayayon School, Phang Nga, Thailand

I work closely with both the Burmese teachers and students hearing their stories and appreciating their strength. Most of the students have risked their lives to leave their family and walk across the Burmese/Thailand border. Entering a new country alone and unable to communicate, these

students have found their way to programs like BEAM that help them achieve their dream of continuing their education. By living in Thailand and working with Burmese, I can say without hesitation that we are all students here.

Rebecca Mason, BEAM School- Summer Intern, Chiang Mai, Thailand

I’m at the Annual Work Retreat right now outside of Kanchanaburi by the river Kwai, and there are lots of fresh ideas for expanding the work RECOFTC does in the following areas: community forestry expansion; people forests and climate change; conflict resolution; markets and livelihoods; and cross-cutting. The workplace is extremely friendly, and the team here is really diverse. There is a great community atmosphere that somehow transcends the strict boundaries around profession and friendship that are normally found in the workplace.

Xiang Ding, RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand

While on the plane, the male flight attendant came over to tell us all to stow our bags, gesturing at the one on my seat partner’s chest. The tiny Nepalese man next to me misinterpreted the young German’s gesture and stood up (while we are landing), grasped his hand, and gave him a firm handshake, thanking him heartily for the well-executed flight.

Dora Huang, Naz Foundation, New Delhi, India

From Summer of Service in China:

Our thirty-plus hour train ride was a perfect way to kickstart a summer of belly laughs and deep friendships. We are all currently snuggled in a hostel in Xiahe where I am enjoying the top bunk and the left-overs of

my jet lag high. One of my favorite parts of the trip thus far has been the hours on our bus where I find it hard to pull my eyes away from the beautiful mountains surrounding us. I guess sometimes the journey can be just as great as the destination. Bring on the yaks!

Helen Reveley, Summer of Service, Jishou, China

My class is full of surprises: from shy Orange to perpetually merry Merry. My students are fantastic; they show me the best restaurants, ask me insightful questions, and aren’t afraid to tell me how to improve! I’m so excited to be working with them: I’ve already seen improvement in their confidence and fluency! I’ve been sharing stories about America and, in exchange, my students have shared their thoughts on America and growing up in China. I am beginning to realize that this is just as much a learning experience for me as it is for them!

Katelyn Scanlan, Summer of Service, Jishou, China

“Sunshine”, “Summer”, “Happy”... just a few of the linguistic delights selected as English names by the level four students. While I originally thought that these names were random choices made by students with English too poor to know better, I’ve been realizing that these “sunny” names reflect an important part of the Chinese culture; they point to a society that values happiness, cuteness, politeness, and wants to be seen as perky and upbeat. In the three weeks that we’ve been here, we’ve seen this again and again: in the energetic wake-up messages on the trains at 6 AM and in class when many students chose “You are my sunshine” as their favorite song. What a difference from American teenagers!

Caroline Kitchener, Summer of Service, Jishou, China

(continued on page 3)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND WORDS OF THANKS (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 2)

No one wants to hear the silly American teacher lecture about the present for very long, least of all me. Creativity is key and the most successful activities are the ones that secretly teach. When the students actually laugh during the lesson (or smile, or have any reaction really) it is an exhilarating feeling and reminds me why I wanted to participate in the SOS program.

*William Schleier, Summer of Service,
Jishou, China*

From Returning Fellows:

I want to thank PiA for giving me such an amazing opportunity. I can't imagine a better thing to do right after college - a job and an experience that can be both so rewarding and so challenging. I am in denial that it is the last week of class and already preparing ways to ensure that I don't start bawling in class! Facing two months of no class and travel ahead of me before heading home, I would much rather be in Chiang Mai with more classes - hands down. I have learned so much and grown so much and I have PiA to thank for giving me this absolutely wonderful adventure!

*Jess Lander, Chiang Mai University,
Chiang Mai, Thailand*



Keenan McCarthy with his student at Rajapranugroh School 35 in Bangsak, Thailand.

I am eternally grateful for my second-year which allowed me the chance to broaden my perspective in such meaningful ways. I truly believe that engendering cultural exchange is the single most valuable thing humans can do. This conclusion sounds cliché, but the cross-cultural dialogue that I have the good fortune to be a part of each and every day in the classroom is the type of learning that will enable America and Vietnam to engage in a productive and long-term partnership.

Elizabeth Hollingsworth, Can Tho University, Can Tho, Vietnam

The past two years have been, by far, the fastest years of my life, and in a really meaningful way. I've absolutely achieved my objectives to learn about international NGOs in China: I am more aware and sensitive about the limitations and role that foreign groups can play in social movements, and I have gained deep insight into the circumstances of grassroots Chinese NGOs. For both international and Chinese groups, activism in China remains difficult: no one seems to really know how hard to push - let alone where to push - to see an outcome or response. But among this uncertainty, there is also so much potential. And that's why China is so interesting to me.

Stephen Leonelli, National Resources Defense Council, Beijing, China

Greetings from Hong Kong! I am three weeks away from a tearful farewell with my new best friend, Asia. I can't believe how quickly the last two years have gone and I'm surprised and proud of how much I've grown to love this entire continent. As I head off to graduate school back in the US, I wanted to thank you for your amazing work, support and dedication over the last few years. I know it's a cliché, but this experience has been so transformative and I really feel like I have matured and become a different person. It's going to be hard describing this back home, but all that matters

is that through the good and the bad, I have loved every single moment in Asia. Thank you to this amazing organization!

*Taehoon Kim, The Kelly Yang Project,
Hong Kong*

I wrapped up my last class today! Hard to believe. All I can say is I'm happy the PiA staff talked me into doing a teaching fellowship. I've had experiences and learned things this year that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I've been receiving tons of thoughtful "thank you" emails from my students telling me how this year made them more excited than ever about English and the doors it can open for them. It's remarkable to consider how just one year of service can affect so many people. I was a bit nervous to teach for a year at a university I'd never heard of before, out in a far off corner of Hangzhou. But that's precisely what made my teaching experience so awesome. Almost none of my students had interacted with a foreigner before my coming here, and it was an incredible two-way learning experience; my students got a small window into western culture, and I, in return, got an incredibly authentic look at China's next generation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come here this year!

Jon Delikat, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, China

Just let go. Allow experiences and insights to happen to you rather than desperately going out of your way to find them. We have been trained to micro-manage every level of our present and future, allowing very little time or space for the unexpected. What I have learned, however, is that those little spontaneous moments of vulnerability and uncertainty impart the most wisdom. Simply put, you really can't plan the profound. Take the leap, go through with your ambitions, get on a plane and come to Asia. Once you get here, feel comfortable

(continued on page 4)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND WORDS OF THANKS (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 3)

knowing that you have done your part. The remainder of the journey will be largely out of your hands.

*John Hale, Kwangju Foreign School,
Gwangju, South Korea*

From PiA Staff:

We've been in Jishou for a week now, but already it feels like home. As I meet more and more people from the community, I've come to realize that the impact of the program reaches beyond what I had initially conceived. When we walk through town,

total strangers and storekeepers whisper in Chinese and smile as we pass - "Princeton" is one of the few words we can make out from their muffled conversation. Many local alumni have come up to me to talk about how encountering the wealth of perspectives offered by the SOSers has changed their outlook on life. Even then, I feel like I'm only beginning to scratch the surface... If I could create a chengyu (Chinese idiomatic expression), it would go like this: Where there is Hunanese spice, there is warmth.

*Tina Coll, PiA Program Director and
SOS Leader*

I'm traveling through Turkey to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to conduct site assessments in central Asia. From the rooftop of our hotel there's an incredible view of a huge mosque (the blue mosque) and I got to watch the sun set over it listening to the call to prayer. Cyrillic script, gorgeous turquoise-domed mosques, colorful headscarves, fat watermelons stacked 5 feet high on the side of the road and gold teeth everywhere. How did I get so lucky to explore this part of the world with such knowledgeable company for an organization I love? Amazing!

*Fiona Miller, PiA Director of
Communications and Media*

SENIOR FELLOWS PROGRAM

After 113 years, PiA is announcing the launch of its Senior Fellows program. Proving that it's never too late to go on PiA, the Senior Fellows Program aims to provide opportunities for those who may not qualify as "young alums." Why? PiA believes that sending seasoned Asiaphiles with experience and proven skills to serve a community in Asia can serve as a valuable complement to PiA's current programming, giving old Asia hands a chance to go back to the field and live the dream alongside current PiA fellows, while also providing a new dimension of service to our Asian partners.

PiA is very grateful to Senior Fellow Committee members: PiA trustees Margaret Cannella, Barry Metzger and Jon Wonnell for their leadership and vision in expanding this initiative. We are proud to launch the Senior Fellows Program with our first "Senior Fellowship" posting: an opportunity to work with the Burmese Migrants Education Project in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Burmese Migrants Education Project (BMEP), Chiang-Mai, Thailand:



Classroom at the BEAM school

Founded in 2005 by Executive Director Bill Harrison (Princeton '66), BMEP provides educational opportunities for adult Burmese migrants working in Chiang Mai. In January 2010, BMEP started the BEAM School, which offers to its students both a two-year academic program of high school level courses leading to University application as well as a 6-month vocational training in computer skills (desk top publishing and web page design) and tailoring (design, manufacture and sale).

In 2011, the BEAM Foundation will open a cultural center in Chiang Mai to bring together the historically isolated Burmese with a diverse group of individuals, ethnic groups, local organizations and Mekong Region partners. It will offer a broad range of cultural and educational programs and hopefully lead to a future cultural center inside Burma. The Senior Fellow will work with Bill Harrison and others at BEAM, as well as with local NGOs, cultural organizations, universities and potential Mekong Region partners. The cultural center is an ambitious project requiring planning, program development and networking with many organizations and potential partners. BEAM is a new, small Burmese organization and the Senior Fellow role will, by necessity, require a great deal of initiative, flexibility and determination. Additionally, the Senior Fellow could get involved with other BEAM activities such as teaching or counseling on the establishment of vocational businesses.

To apply for a Senior Fellowship or to learn more about the program, check out the website: <http://piaweb.princeton.edu/senior-fellows-program> or email pia@princeton.edu

THE LUCKY BENEFIT

The PiA Lucky Benefit was a spectacular evening at the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in New York's Chinatown. There were over 200 people in attendance enjoying the delicious Chinese fare, MOCA's unique galleries and exhibitions, Asian-inspired saketinis designed specially for PiA, and the warm company of the PiA network. The event energized PiA alumni and introduced our organization to many new friends, raising over \$178,000 for PiA. Proceeds from the Lucky Benefit will fund PiA fellowships and programs in Asia. We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support in helping to make the night a tremendous success:

EMERALD

Elizabeth and Jay Chandler
The Tiger Baron Foundation

SAPPHIRE

Schuyler and Jared Heuer
Isabella de la Houssaye and David Crane



Dennis Condon shaking up an Archipelago complete with a chili pepper garnish.

STAR RUBY

Rick and Carla Berry
Robert Knapp
Vicki E. Noble
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Nozomi Terao and Joshua Levine
Lewis Rutherford
Tom and Mila Tuttle
Richard and Anne Van Horne

TOPAZ

Kevin and Stephanie Cuskley
Helen Meates and Simon Prisk
Margaret Osius
Susan Rodriguez and Charlie Lowrey
Jonathan and Frances Wonnell

MOONSTONE

Stephanie Anderson
Nancy and Dominic Casserley
Ken and Nancy Duffy
Elsevier
Joel and Arline Epstein
Stacey Friedman and Dawn Fischer
Susan Itzkowitz and Tom Turco
Karen Karp
Melanie Kirkpatrick and Jack David
Seth and Suzette Masters
David and Cecile Newberg
Michael Northrop and Kathy Regan
Peep Insights & Revelations
Ruth Stevens
Kiki and Themis Vrachnos



A PiA young alumni toast!

JADE

Artemis A. Anninos
Margaret Cannella
Rebecca and Joshua Cascade
Mary Wadsworth Darby
Jim Gordon
Hiroko and Calvin Kiiffner
Barry and Jackie Metzger
Owen and Amber Nee
Ramsey and Sabrina Smith
Thomas Talhelm
Rory Truex
Anna Verdi and John MacIntosh
Barney and Taeko Williamson
Ginny and Alex Wilmerding
David Wilson and Jane LaBonte
Meg Wilson
Christian Wright



Hiroko Kiiffner, PiA Trustee Nozomi Terao, Tomiko Yazawa, Nao Mizuno, Yasuko Yamaga, Satomi Tsumuraya, Aiko Masabuchi and Kazushi Udagawa enjoy the evening.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Maria Bisso, Naomi J. Miller

Tremendous thanks to our Benefit Committee and Young Alumni Committee:

Elizabeth Chandler, Kevin Cuskley, Chisato Fukuda, Karen Karp, Erica McGibbon, Bess Nuland, Jared Robbins, Ruth Stevens and Nozomi Terao.

Many thanks to Darren Wan and the Red Egg Restaurant for the delectable fare, and to Dennis Condon, whose smoking signature drink, the Archipelago, spiced up everyone's evening.

Located in the heart of Chinatown, MOCA is a wonderful museum designed by Maya Lin that presents the history of people of Chinese descent in America and promotes understanding among people of all cultural backgrounds.



ALUMNI NOTES

PiA on the Job

Nicole Washington (Thailand '08) graduated from Teachers College at Columbia this past May, and is currently interning in the Office of the Governor of Florida – soon to be an employee. In her words: “Life is good.”

While the days in Central Asia may be over for **Brian Santana da la Rosa** (Kazakhstan '10), the days living in – and working on – the rest of the world are not. Brian has started a new job at JP Morgan, where he'll be working on strategy for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa for the investment bank in London.

After more than four years as a program manager at NDI, **Brian Vogt** (Indonesia '96) has moved on. This past spring he began a job with USAID as a Senior Democracy and Governance Advisor for the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs. (Try saying that five times fast.) And all is well on the Vogt home front – Brian's daughter Maya attended her first PiA orientation at the age of two, and currently digs Elmo and puzzles.

Hy Martin (Thailand '08) launched his environmental and social enterprise group Ecological Restoration Capital (ERC) in South Africa this past spring, which focuses on providing local environmental entrepreneurs with the resources they need to generate new economic opportunities in areas of high unemployment throughout the country.

At his current job teaching science to at-risk youth in Baltimore, **James Marvel** (Thailand '09) is constantly amazed by some of the similarities between his current students and his students in Thailand, including the challenge of helping them to develop critical thinking skills.

Jonathan Li (Singapore '08) is applying to medical school, but in the mean time will

be moving to Accra, Ghana to teach and mentor aspiring entrepreneurs in Africa. He will be part of a non-profit whose mission is to bring successful businesses and jobs to Africa. The students he will be teaching will participate in a fully sponsored two year training program and the strongest students will be awarded seed funding for their ventures. Jonathan is very excited and thanks PiA for “the huge growing experience that led to these changes in my life.”

Collette Abbott (Thailand '10) is helping out the PiA home office this summer while she applies to medical school. She can't decide which is more riveting, med school applications or database updates.

Candace Jackson (Thailand '01) is working as an attorney with the Federal Defender Program in Chicago. She joined the PiA staff and other alumni for dinner when we went through Chicago to do applicant interviews in January, and wrote us later to thank us for the quality hours spent “wallowing in PiAness.” Right back atcha, Candace.



Scott McCord soaking up the sun on the beach in East Timor.

After returning from two years in East Timor, **Scott McCord** (East Timor '09) is packing his bags for Haiti. Scott has been hired fulltime by his host organization, Peace Dividend Trust, to continue his development work of helping build local business in post conflict areas.

Betty Cox (SoS '06, '07 and Vietnam '09) is in New York working for Edelman Pub-

lic Relations Agency, providing communications strategy and support to healthcare clients in emerging markets. She has also been tearing the city apart trying to find the best Vietnamese food around and is eager to travel back to Asia.

Laura Sennett (Hong Kong '08) headed to West Africa last winter to work as a consultant for the Economic Community of West African States, studying the progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals in the 15 ECOWAS member countries. In addition to the international and travel components of her new gig, Laura was also excited to be doing work towards the greater good. Right on!



PiA staff pose with Bay Area alumni, Courtney Nielson '06, Michael Portman '05 and Teresa Velez '07 after applicant interviews in Berkeley.

Since leaving Bangkok last November, **Amelia Salyers** ('08 Thailand) has moved to San Francisco to work in marketing for a start-up called Inkling, which is re-inventing textbooks for the iPad. She enjoys hanging out with the PiA alumni and says, “San Francisco is the new Bangkok!”

Not Too Cool for School

After four years in China, **Nick Sramek** (China '09) is headed back to the States to begin his graduate studies at UCSD this fall. But don't expect him to stick around for long – he's already on the hunt for internships in Beijing and Shanghai for next summer.

ALUMNI NOTES (CONTINUED)

Libby Hadzima (Thailand '09) has been keeping busy in San Francisco, working at a venture capital fund and recruiting PiA alums to the Bay Area in her spare time. She'll be starting at Berkeley Law School this fall, and has offered to take the PiA staff out for celebratory drinks when we're in town. We're taking her up on it.

Since he returned from Korea, **Ed Lee** (Korea '02) has been teaching science at two small high schools in NYC. He is excited to be making the move to business school at the University of Michigan this fall, where he hopes to learn how to impact education from a "more systems perspective."

Heading back to China, **Chris Haagen** (China '07) will begin his graduate studies at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies (SAIS) this fall.

After finishing up her PiA fellowship in Japan, **Kate Hirschboeck** (Japan '08) worked on a farm in Hokkaido for a while, and now teaches at a charter school in Boston. Her 7th graders, she admits, are a far cry from the munchkins she babysat in Yakage, but they're great nonetheless. She recently received a visit from post-mate **Taylor Beck** (Japan '07), who is making the move from St. Louis to Boston to begin a graduate program in Science Writing at MIT this fall.

After finishing her PiA fellowship last December, **Jenny Chiurco** (Singapore '09) decided to skip the Asia postpartum and hit the road for Brazil, where she spent the spring working on her Portuguese, volunteering at an HIV clinic, and meeting Brazilian men. Trading Brazilians for books, she plans to begin a post-bac pre-med program this fall.

Manuela Zoninsein (China '07) is completing her masters degree at Oxford in Modern Chinese Studies, studying environmental policy with a focus on sustain-

able agriculture in China. She hopes to get back to China after the program ends this fall.

Benjamin Farkas (China '10) is amazed that he's already an alumnus and is currently brushing up on his Singlish in Singapore before returning to New Haven for law school. Congrats, Ben!

PiA Gets Hitched

With the engagement of **Duncan Fitz** (SOS '08) and **Anastasia Oldham** (SOS '07), PiA can now claim its first SOS marriage! SOS babies coming next?

PiA Rugsrats



Madeline Ara Richardson

Madeline Ara Richardson, daughter of **Michael Richardson** (Korea '04) and his wife Doyeon, joined her parents and sister Caroline on February 15th, 2011 (Korea time – it was still Valentine's Day in the US). In Michael's words: "For the foreseeable future, I'll be trying (failing?) to keep peace with the demands of three lovely women!" Mike – we wish you luck.

Eric Peng (China '94) and **Lucy Hornby** (China '95) hailed the arrival of Oliver Lucas Peng (Peng Yuguang) on April 9th, 2011.



Oliver Lucas Peng (Peng Yuguang)



Samwise Jonas Noles Rojany

Jeffrey Noles (China '92) and his wife Rachele welcomed Samwise Jonas Noles Rojany into the world on April 18th, 2011. At the time this picture was taken (after 48 hours of life) Samwise's parents had gathered that he enjoys sleeping very much – but only during the day.



Josephine Isabella with her older brother Cal.

Robert Knapp (Japan '89) and family welcomed Josephine Isabella born on April 6, 2011, weighing 7.2 lbs. Her parents are delighted to report she can now suck her thumb and sleep for 6 hours at a time!

(continued on page 8)

ALUMNI NOTES (CONTINUED)

Jingjing and **Steve Andrews** (China '06) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Meghan Zhang Andrews. Her Chinese name is 张嘉卉 (Zhāng Jiāhuì) and she was born on July 16, 2011 at 11:42 pm in Beijing.



Jingjing and Steve Andrews with their new daughter, Meghan Zhang Andrews.

Still Living the Dream in Asia

Alex Czarnecki (Vietnam '10 and Korea '09) and **Doorey Chung** (Korea '09) traveled back to their old post at Kwangju Foreign School to visit **John Hale** (Korea '10) and make a surprise appearance at KFS prom, where they were greeted with many squeals, hugs, pictures and peace signs – a warm welcome, Asia-style.

Greer Meisels (China '07) is spending the summer in Taipei, where she is doing a two-month language program at National Taiwan University and serving as a research fellow at Academia Sinica on the side, looking at the future of cross-Strait relations.

Keely Robinson (Thailand '05) just finished up her masters as a World Peace Fellow in Argentina, and is back in Asia this summer working for the Global Health Action Program in Mae Sot, Thailand – the same organization on the Thai-Burma border that **Brent Scharschmidt** (Thailand '05) worked with during his Carrie Gordon

Fellowship in 2008. It's a small PiA world out there.

After completing her PiA fellowship with WildChina, **Sarah Lau** (China '08) stayed on to work in product and client development, and is now working on various Asia-focused corporate communications projects and exploring opportunities in Greater China. Can anyone say Sinophile?

Dorian Needham (Laos '05) is back in Asia, working with the UN Refugee Agency in the Legal Protection Unit of their Tokyo office. Though the learning curve was steep and the hours are long, Dorian has been having a great time – though, he admits, it's hard not to in Tokyo.

Julia McWilliams (Laos '08) is spending the summer in rural India, living without electricity and 5 hours by motorbike from the nearest city. We got this update from her during one of the only times she's checked her email all summer.

After a great year in Hangzhou, **Jonathan Delikat** (China '10) is back home in the US enjoying one last summer of freedom before starting a new job in the Fall. Jon will be returning to China to work for FTI Consulting's Global Risk and Investigations practice in Shanghai. He says, "It's great to be back home for now, but I definitely miss my students, West Lake, and good mapo dofu. Can't wait to get back out there!"

Dylan Alban (Indonesia '09) is in Jakarta, Indonesia, working for ACCESS Education, a higher education initiative that is looking to connect Indonesian higher education with the rest of the world. As part of his job each week, he gets to work with students who are looking to go to college in the States and help them with their applications. Go Dylan!

Jeff Bond (Vietnam '10) is "something like Business Development Manager or Integrated Communications Manager or Chief Frank and Fearless Reminder of Reality" for a décor designer in Bangkok. Although he may not know his exact title, Jeff is loving Bangkok but missing the wild West that is Vietnam.

Jamie Sturm (Taiwan '10) will stay firmly rooted in Asia for the next two years as the Assistant Director for the C.V. Starr Middlebury School in China. He'll be sure to keep up his Mandarin as all his interactions with the students and staff must be in Chinese!

Napatra Charassuvichakanich (China '10) is excited to join the enthusiastic PiA alumni force in Beijing and Bangkok. Now having completed her post at the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center, she will be working with a boutique consulting firm starting this September.

Owen Nee joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP's New York and Shanghai offices this month and will serve as senior counsel in the firm's Global Practice. Owen will continue his past practice of working in both cities helping clients with projects in China, as well as teaching at NYU and Columbia Law. Congrats, Owen!

42 Miles and Counting...

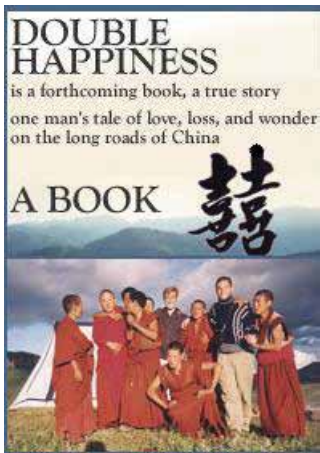
After surviving a half-marathon last year, **Ari Wolfe** (China '05) has decided to tackle the 2011 New York City Marathon this fall. He is hoping to raise \$3500 for UNICEF as a part of the Team UNICEF challenge, and has promised that in return for donations on his behalf, he'll break the world record for marathons (or give it his best shot). To help Ari out, visit http://inside.unicefusa.org/site/TR?pg=fund&fr_id=1290&pxfid=21771.

BOOKS WRITTEN BY PRINCETON IN ASIA ALUMNI

In over a century of service, Princeton in Asia has turned out scores of alumni who have gone on to do incredible things in their careers. We are proud to announce three books that were recently written by PiA alumni: Tony Brasunas' *Double Happiness*, Ted Fishman's *Shock of Gray* and Michael Cusumano's *Staying Power*.

Double Happiness: One Man's Tale of Love, Loss, and Wonder on the Long Roads of China, by Tony Brasunas (China '96)

When PiA sent Tony Brasunas to teach English in Guangzhou, China, he had never left the United States, nor taught before. His ensuing year involved teaching and backpacking alone across the Middle Kingdom,

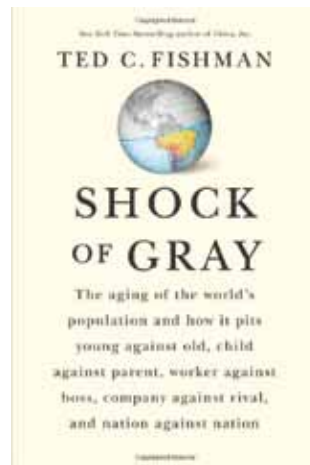


and the time broke him open as a person and planted a China seed deep inside him. "Somewhere between thinking I was going to die

when I was nearly unconscious in a hospital basement and thinking I was going to die when I was hitchhiking in a Tibetan monsoon, my heart opened, and my inner caterpillar sprouted wings and fluttered like a butterfly." His forthcoming book, *Double Happiness: One Man's Tale of Love, Loss, and Wonder on the Long Roads of China*, recounts how teaching and traveling changed him. He credits the PiA spirit, as well as the vast land of China itself, for the discoveries, connections, and insights, which "inspire every word and letter of the book." He's now finalizing this work and fantasizing about another return to China, "For the food, the beauty of the hinterlands, the openness of the people..."

Shock of Gray: The Aging of the World's Population and How it Pits Young Against Old, Child Against Parent, Worker Against Boss, Company Against Rival, and Nation Against Nation, by Ted C. Fishman (Indonesia '80)

Ted C. Fishman, (PiA fellow in Japan in 1978), who wrote the international bestseller *China, Inc.*, has a new book out called *Shock of Gray*. The world's population is rapidly aging, yet few of us understand

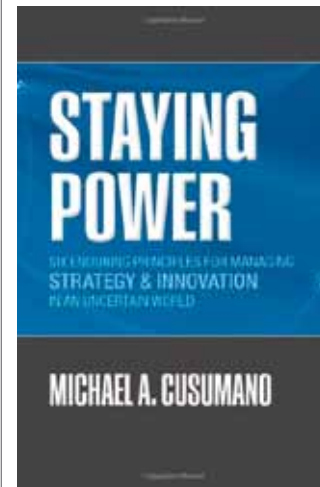


the resulting massive effects on economies, jobs, and families. With vivid reporting and compelling interviews from American cities and around the world,

veteran journalist and PiA alumus Ted C. Fishman reveals the astonishing and interconnected effects of global aging, and why nations, cultures, and crucial human relationships are changing, in *Shock of Gray*.

In July and August 2011, Ted returned to Indonesia, where he also served as a PiA fellow in Yogyakarta from 1980 to 1982, to research the country's economy and society for an upcoming work. In Jakarta, he also connected with Nathan Johnson (PiA fellow in Yogya from 1981 to 1983) who now lives with his family in the Indonesian capital.

Staying Power: Six Enduring Principles for Managing Strategy and Innovation in an Uncertain World, by Michael Cusumano (Japan '75)



After teaching in Japan as a PiA fellow, bestselling business author and leading scholar, Cusumano spent a quarter of a century studying

the world's most successful companies and serving as an advisor to more than one hundred firms. Cusumano is the Sloan Management Review Distinguished Professor of Management and Engineering Systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, with a joint appointment in MIT's Engineering Systems Division.

In *Staying Power*, Michael A. Cusumano identifies six critical principles that have driven the success of today's foremost companies. Drawing on real-life examples, he illustrates how the best companies put these principles into practice, identifying precisely how these ideas have led to concrete success time after time.

CARRIE GORDON FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Newly Selected Carrie Gordon Fellows 2011-2012: Glenn Brown & Lizzie Presser

The Carrie Gordon Fellowship Committee met on May 9, 2011 to select the Fellowship recipient for 2011-2012, and voted to award the grant this year to a team of two former PiA fellows: Glenn Brown (SOS '08 and Khon Kaen '09), and Lizzie Presser (Khon Kaen '10). Glenn and Lizzie, who both served as PiA fellows in the Isaan region of Northeastern Thailand, are now working to launch Isaan's first online news journal, *The Isaan Record* (<http://isaanrecord.com>).

Through the platform of *The Isaan Record* (which they will publish in English and have translated into Thai), Glenn and Lizzie aim to report on four under-covered Northeastern provinces, focusing on grassroots movements surrounding land rights, dams, mines, and agriculture, and providing Thai villagers the skills associated with independent journalism. To that end, they plan to cover breaking news stories in connection with Isaan's social movements, as well as produce long form community profiles to better describe the place in which those news stories unfold. Over the course of the coming year, they hope to raise awareness in the media of this dramatically under-covered Northeastern region and give voice to its residents. We congratulate Glenn and Lizzie and wish them all the best as they launch *The Isaan Record*!



Lizzie Presser and Glenn Brown with the *Isaan Record*

With their Carrie Gordon Tribute project one month underway, Glenn and Lizzie sent the following update:

"Things at the Isaan Record are going well. Since June 1, we've published 7 stories. Our focus shifted largely towards politics because of all the election buzz (as might have been expected). But now that the election is over, we're beginning to focus on local communities. Our first community profile (video and article) based on our work in Nong Waeng slum will be up by early August. We are also working hard to hire a full-time Thai employee who is interested in Isaan social movements. Our goal is to have at least 5 stories translated into Thai and to have our Thai sister-site launched by August first."

Current Carrie Gordon Fellow 2010-2011: Wes Hedden



Wes Hedden first went to Southeast Asia in 2006 as a PiA fellow in rural Vietnam, and has spent the last five years working in a variety of rural development and education contexts in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar/Burma. As the 2010-2011 recipient of the Carrie Gordon Fellowship, Wes is running a cultural exchange program called the Sarus Exchange Program that has brought young people from Cambodia and Vietnam into cultural dialogue with each other.

Named after the endangered Sarus Crane which migrates annually between the wetlands of Cambodia and Vietnam, the Sarus Exchange Program is the first volunteer exchange program for university students in Cambodia and Vietnam. The mission of the program is to increase mutual understanding and friendship between young Cambodians and Vietnamese through group living, travel, and service learning. In July, a group of twelve students from each country will volunteer together for two weeks in a village in Kampong Chnang, Cambodia, followed by two weeks in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. There are six monthly field trips between January and June to help the students learn about the other country and prepare them for the program. To learn more about Sarus, visit <http://sarusprogram.wordpress.com>.

After a year in the making, the Sarus program is flourishing in the field. Wes sent the following update.

"The Cambodia portion of the month-long exchange program started yesterday, and so far it has been AWESOME! Kagna and the Cambodian students put on a highly professional and meticulously organized orientation. A student, Soksan, gave a presentation that went through the details of the Cambodia program and even included a digital map that they created of the orphanage that we'll be working at and professional blueprints for the latrines we'll be constructing."

The Vietnamese students love Phnom Penh and have been really enjoying the food, which says a lot considering how much pride Vietnamese people (rightly) take in their food. We visited some of the major sites in Phnom Penh this morning as a big group, and this afternoon and evening the students paired off so the Cambodian students could show the Vietnamese students their favorite spots around town and then take them back to their houses for a home-cooked Cambodian dinner. So far it's going even better than I imagined."

PRINCETON IN ASIA WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

PiA is very pleased to introduce two new Trustees who are joining the Board of Princeton in Asia, Inc. for three year terms: Youngsuck (YS) Chi '83 and Isabella de la Houssaye '86. We are grateful for their tremendous help to date and for their willingness to serve in our organization's leadership for the coming three years. We look forward to working with them and thank them for lending their talents to us.



YS Chi '83

YS Chi: Youngsuk “YS” Chi '83 serves as the Chairman of the Elsevier Management Committee and Head of Elsevier's Global Academic & Customer Relations. He also oversees Global Government Affairs and Global Corporate Responsibility efforts as well as Asia Strategy for Elsevier's parent company, Reed Elsevier. YS was recently elected to serve as the President of the International Publishers Association and he is also a member of the Executive Committees of the boards of both the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers and the Association of American Publishers. He has earned widespread respect for his ability to work across cultures. As founding Chairman of Random House Asia, he led efforts to make Random House the first foreign trade book publisher with local language publishing in Japan and Korea. YS has also been a leader in the Princeton University community, serving as a University Trustee, a Trustee of Princeton University Press, a McCarter Theater Trustee, as well as on the Aspire Campaign Executive Committee, East Asian Studies Advisory Council, Princeton Varsity Club Board, and leading the push towards internationalization at Princeton. He has been a friend and supporter of PiA's for

more than six years, providing us counsel on strategic issues, helping to build bridges on-campus and helping source fellowships and post-fellowship opportunities for PiA fellows.

Isabella de la Houssaye '86: Isabella is a former attorney (White & Case) and banker (Lehman Brothers) with deep ties to Asia.

She lived in Hong Kong for several years while working on infrastructure projects in Thailand, the Philippines, China, India and Indonesia. Through her work in the region and as a result of extensive travel subsequently throughout Asia and the Middle East, she has maintained a network of friendships and other contacts. Her passion is the study of Asian and Middle Eastern cultures through their arts, crafts and textile traditions. She has collected an extensive range of “material culture” from around the world and has arranged a series of exhibits to teach children and adults in the United States about these different cultures. Isabella has lived in the Princeton area since she returned from Asia and has been involved as a project volunteer and as a fundraiser for Isles, Worldwide Orphans Foundation, Sri Lankan Wildlife Conservation Society and a number of local schools, charities and non-governmental organizations. She lives in Princeton, is a mother of five and is an avid ultramarathoner, distance cyclist and ironman triathlete. Isabella has served on PiA's Bridges to the Muslim World Committee, accompanied the Director on her site visits to Asia, mentored PiA Fellows, and assisted with PiA orientations and gala fundraisers.



PiA Trustee Isabella de la Houssaye '86 poses with Timorese children and PiA Executive Director Anastasia Vrachnos following an evening swim in Dili, Timor-Leste.



Princeton in Asia
194 Nassau St.
Suite 212
Princeton, NJ 08542

www.princeton.edu/~pia

2011 – 2012 PiA Calendar

December 1, 2011

PiA application due

January 7-8, 14-15, 2012

Interviews held at Princeton University

January 21-22, 2012

Midwest interviews and alumni event

February 1-4, 2012

West Coast interviews and alumni event

April 20-22, 2012

TEFL training at Princeton University

May 18-21, 2012

PiA Orientation at Princeton University

May 21, 2012

PiA Annual Dinner at Princeton University