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Newsletter of Princeton in Asia

Summer 2006

NEW DIRECTIONS: PiA FRONTIER POSTS

With the first departures of the 2006-2007 PiA fellows, we begin to reflect on a banner year for PiA. Our fellows continue to learn from their transformative experiences and to make a positive difference in a part of the world where needs are expanding. PiA is growing and seeking new opportunities for our talented young people to serve, explore, and learn from this incredible part of the world. A sampling of some of PiA's new "frontier" posts is enclosed in the pages to come as an indication of the kind of new fellowships and challenges that PiA Fellows have taken on this past year.

By Will MacNamara, PiA Roxe Journalism Fellow at the Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong



After many decades as Asia's premier English-language weekly, the Far Eastern Economic Review was restructured in 2004 into a monthly journal. I am now the third member of the new FEER's editorial staff. And like all mom-and-pop-size operations—even those with media-conglomerate parents—any extra help is welcome, and chores are laid on thickly. In the past half-year I have been editing, writing, researching, and translating for FEER, whose excellent 60th anniversary issue was published in March. (Subscribe at www.feer.com.)

I was given the opportunity early on to contribute an article about my area of amateur expertise—Chinese society. The editor-in-chief sent me on a two-week fact-finding assignment to the Chinese countryside around

southeastern Jiangxi province. I was supposed to get a sense of the exact complaints that the poorest of China's farmers are expressing; many observers see rural discontent as a potentially explosive issue in China. While this issue seems abstract on the 25th floor of a Hong Kong skyscraper, it is raw, engrossing, and unfathomably complicated on the ground. On the basis of interviews conducted in Mandarin with farmers and migrant workers over about a 200-square-mile region of hill country, I wrote an article in the November issue of the FEER about some trends in Chinese rural society. Seeing this article published—my first—was satisfying, but it also revealed the bittersweet lining of journalistic field research: you carry the finished product in your hands, but you are left remembering how much you saw that you were not able to tell.

Most of my work, though, involves research and editing. Sometimes the editing involves substantive rewriting, since we are never quite sure how compelling each essay will be (a risk every journal takes). In any case, the late nights that our familial editorial team is forced to pull during production week—along with the coffee and Chinese take-out associated—is a welcome reminder of college. My work hours may fluctuate toward the extreme sometimes, but I have plenty of time to explore this incredible city-state I live in.

Because I want to be a journalist and a writer, I can't imagine how lucky I have been to walk into this job straight out of college, a job whose responsibilities are as numerous as they are

unpredictable and stimulating. While PiA is indeed philosophically rooted in Asia's underdeveloped areas, its fringe of urban-professional fellowships testify to the fact that any Asian work and living environment requires different kinds of adaptations that challenge, educate, and expand in equal proportion.

By Caroline Carter, PiA Fellow at the National Democratic Institute, Dili, East Timor

When I applied to work as a PiA fellow for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in East Timor, I was drawn by an interest in development, particularly in post-conflict countries. My first ten months working for NDI in this small, seemingly laid back island nation were both fascinating and rewarding. I was fortunate to be placed in an office in which I worked almost exclusively with Timorese co-workers. My position as a PiA Fellow allowed me to play many roles in the office without being anyone's boss; I was a teacher, student, assistant, translator, confidant, and a friend to all my co-workers. The people with whom I interacted on a daily basis became my family. *(continued on page 4)*



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is the busiest and most inspiring time of the year for PiA as we prepare our new class of fellows, bask in the achievements of our current fellows, and gather the PiA family for the annual dinner.

Program Growth

Our program continues to thrive. We are growing to meet increased demand on the part of our Asian institutions and have witnessed a surge in applicants eager to learn from Asia. We are launching this year's class of fellows—107 inspiring young people bound for transformative experiences in 15 countries. A brief review of this year's fellows is enough to make many of us wonder how we ever got into PiA. This year's cohort includes two second generations PiAers whose fathers were PiAers in the '60s and '70s, one girl from a horse farm in Kentucky who has never left the States, a broomball champion from New Jersey, a senior who has already earned US state department security clearance because of her work in China, and a musician writing his senior thesis—a composition—using the ambient noise from developing countries. (Why didn't I think of a thesis topic that would fund my travels?) To know the fellows is to be inspired by their energy, talents and belief that improving our world is imperative and possible. For those who have not had the pleasure of meeting them at interviews, orientation, or the annual dinner, here's a brief snapshot of the PiA fellows of 2006-2007:

- 91 full-year fellows and 16 summer interns (nearly 20% growth)
- 57% women; 43% men
- 45% Princeton University
- 65% teaching, 18% NGO, 11% business, 6% media
- 250 applicants for 79 posts (1:3 acceptance rate full-year, 1:5 summer)
- 12 fellows staying on a second year

(More colorful information on our individual fellows is available on the website in the PiA facebook of fellows.)

PiA Field Report

Meanwhile, our current fellows in the field are slurping their last noodles, enjoying the final vestiges of their celebrity, trimming their pinky nails and preparing to pass the

baton to the incoming class. In their final months PiAers continue to notch impressive achievements and some typically unorthodox PiA resume-builders. Highlights from this year's fellows include:

Will McNamara (Roxe Journalism Fellow at *Far Eastern Economic Review* in Hong Kong) modestly mentioned in his piece that he has researched and published several feature length articles in the region's leading foreign affairs publication, but he did not mention that he was awarded a prestigious Society of Publishers in Asia award for his feature writing! He will move on from PiA to work for *Reuters* and then the *Financial Times* as a Bartley fellow—all at the ripe old age of 21.

Shandon Quinn and Amy Seng (Teaching Fellows at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore) have received one of the University's most prestigious teaching awards: the Academic Award. This is a highly sought after award that is rarely conferred on foreign teachers. It is a tremendous honor for our fellows who will be recognized in an official ceremony at the University.



Teaching Fellows Laura KO Smith and Dan Kopf make some new friends in Rach Gia, Vietnam.

Laura Smith (Teaching Fellow at Kien Giang Community College, Vietnam, pictured above) writes "I recorded my voice today for Vietnam Airlines. I will forever be "the voice" at the Rach Gia airport saying "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Vietnam Airlines flight VN 482 to Phu Quoc and Ho Chi Minh. Please go to the check-in counter to begin flight formalities."

Juliana Bennison (Public Health Fellow at Save the Children in the Philippines)

whose dry cleaner asked for her autograph after pulling out the most recent issue of Manila's *People Magazine*—which prominently featured Juliana in a photo shoot.

Patrick Douglass (Teaching Fellow at China Foreign Affairs University) added to the PiA lexicon by coining the term 'chullet' to capture the resurgence of the mullet hairstyle in China.

Asia Trip

Seeing our fellows in action is an inspiring experience and a wonderful affirmation of our mission. I wish everyone could have the opportunity to see them on the ground. It is the highlight of the Executive Director's year to travel to Asia annually, riding the coattails of our fellows, imposing on their hospitality, and being feted by our partner institutions. (Some people actually claim that I enjoy these trips!)

This year's Asia trip spanned 13 countries. Thailand Program Director Stephanie Teachout and I connected with 70 of our fellows, 40 PiA host institutions, and 60 of our alumni in Asia. Three marriage proposals were deferred in Southeast Asia (all Stephanie's). Innumerable laughs and gambes were had. Thanks to the presence of PiA Trustee Richard Van Horne on the trip this year, the Executive Director reduced the number of massages in her schedule in favor of some actual work meetings. Richard's presence in Japan, Korea, China, and Mongolia was invaluable (enjoying fermented mare's milk without a Trustee at one's side is just not the same). Somewhere between the sand and snow of the stark Gobi desert, the late night fiddling sessions in rural Japan, and the 'Hot Pot and Hot Air' alumni gatherings in Shanghai, PiA managed to generate 16 new opportunities and make preparations to enter Mongolia as our 15th country.

La plus ça change, la plus c'est la même chose

The Asia trip was a wonderful kaleidoscope of PiA's inspiring work and an illuminating experience about the changing nature of operating in Asia. PiA continues to attract incredibly talented young people eager to immerse themselves in Asian cultures, to serve local communities, and to challenge

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Christmas in Hanoi: Vietnam News Roxe Journalism Fellow, Sara Shapiro, Child Fund Fellow and second year, Alisha Blechman, an avian flu-free chicken, IUCN Fellow and second year, Jessica Illaszewicz (Santa), and the ED on the last stop of the Asia trip.

themselves by having their own perspectives upended. Our core mission of cross-cultural bridge-building hasn't changed, yet the context in which we are fulfilling our mission has changed dramatically. The most noticeable and dramatic change, of course, is that much of Asia has "arrived" economically and geopolitically. Prosperous, bustling, recognized for its strategic importance, Asia is now on everyone's radar screen. PiA has a proven track record and expertise in a critical part of the world with which everyone from American universities to global businesses is looking to build ties. This increased prosperity and recognition of the importance of Asia has a few strategic implications for PiA that I am eager to share with our alumni.

Keeping our Edge

First and foremost, there is increased competition for a foot-hold in Asia among educational exchange and service programs such as PiA. Where once we were alone sending fellows to remote locations, I now often run across organizations with similar aims. PiA's century-old commitment to the region, our expertise, and our long-standing relationship, put us in a leadership position among institutions committed to providing young people cultural immersion experiences in Asia. A recent *New York Times* article about the importance of professional and cultural experience abroad after graduating named PiA as one of the leading programs providing these experiences. (A copy can be downloaded from our website.) It is

important for us to maintain this leadership by continuing to grow our program in the regions where it's needed (particularly in harder-to-reach locations where the presence of foreigners is still unusual) and to enhance our program for our fellows by bolstering their experiences with language study and travel grants supported by PiA. Increasing our support to our fellows in the field allows them to immerse themselves in the culture of their host countries and get to places where their presence is special. This is a worthwhile investment in carrying out our mission of grassroots diplomacy effectively and is critical in keeping PiA at the forefront of cross-cultural bridge building for the coming century.

The Grit Factor

Second, as Asia becomes more prosperous, the PiA experience is changing in locations such as China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In locations where our fellows used to enjoy eastern toilets and intimate relationships with dirt, now they can order cappuccinos at the local Starbucks and buy DVDs of *Friends*. While their presence continues to be appreciated in all locations, they are no longer the subject of curiosity and welcome parades in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Bangkok, Manila, Kuala Lumpur. It is, of course, important for PiA to maintain our long-term relationships with institutions in these locations and to be a part of the burgeoning Asian economies. However, our growth should also reflect the needs in less prosperous parts of Asia, where our fellows' talents can make a marked impact on their communities and where they can truly experience immersion far away from daily check-ins on nytimes.com. Our alumni are likely to notice that many of the new posts being created (in places like Indonesia, East Timor, the Philippines, Mongolia, China's Yunnan province) reflect PiA's grass-roots approach and tradition of community living in often gritty conditions. (Just ask the East Timor fellows who have lived with daily electricity outages and shared their homes with plenty of critters).

PiA: The Sequel

Third, the arrival of cellphones and email has changed the PiA experience immeasurably. Older alumni will fondly cite the proverbial two-hour trek in the rain (uphill both ways, of course) to call one's parents. This has turned into the push of a button to answer the cellphone or get the latest news on-line. The upside of this is that the office is able to be in better touch, support our fellows more, and assist in cases of emergency. The ease of communications also means that true immersion has become more difficult. Our fellows have access to their favorite publications online, to their families by phone, to their friends by email. The more connected they stay virtually, the less impetus they have to immerse themselves in their communities. One way that PiA is addressing this is by encouraging selected fellows to stay on a second year in their posts. The second year is a time when fellows reap the rewards of their hard work in learning language, making local friends, and exploring their host country. Additionally, second years, who have already adjusted and acquired cultural and linguistic fluency, tend to be more valuable to their host institutions.

In Closing...

PiA is moving in exciting new directions to continue to carry out our century-old mission of serving the needs of Asia. As always, I look forward to hearing our alumni's comments, thoughts, and suggestions on the program.



PiA bonding in Taiwan with fellows Pei Pei Ma and Keith Laskowski and their colleagues at Tunghai University, PiA's longest-standing relationship.

NEW POSTS



Caroline Carter with her English Class
in Dili, East Timor.

Caroline Carter

(Continued from the front page)

One of my primary activities at NDI was teaching English to the staff. It was extremely rewarding watching their English develop, particularly the beginners. There have been many exciting moments working for NDI in East Timor—from helping someone read her name for the first time to watching everybody speak in English with Anastasia when she came to visit. Also memorable are the many hilarious comments that people come up with every day, such as when one of my students told me after reading a book that I brought from the US that she was going to name her next child Amelia Bedelia. There was also my month-long, somewhat successful effort to convince everyone that the name of the upcoming holiday was not ‘Merry Christmas,’ but just Christmas. Even after I thought that I had made the point well, I still had someone come up to me and ask what my plans were for Merry Christmas.

However, in the last two months, the country has experienced a surge of violence, and our happy little NDI family has certainly felt the effects. When the violence first broke out at the end of April, I was in Dili and was able to evacuate several co-workers from their homes. There were about 25-30 people living in our office. I enjoyed being able to help out at this difficult time, and I felt that the relationships that I had established and the language skills that I had gained afforded me a unique position to provide assistance.

When the second wave of violence broke out, I was on a 14-hour boat ride headed toward the small enclave of Oecusse. What was intended to be a four-day trip turned into a two-week trip, as transportation out of the enclave was cut off. My three co-workers and I spent most of the time either contacting family and friends or trying to enjoy the friends and relaxed atmosphere available in Oecusse. It was very difficult for all of us to

be so removed from Dili when the people that we cared about were facing violence and fear on a daily basis. It was also completely surreal to be sitting at an afternoon soccer game with the rest of the town, or at a traditional party with people dancing and laughing, while receiving phone calls and messages about evacuations and violence. Many phone calls and funny “rescue” schemes later (one had me “marrying an Indonesian man” to get over the border!), PiA and NDI arranged for me to fly by UN helicopter from Oecusse to Dili and then out of the country to Bali, where the other PiA Fellows had already been evacuated to.

While I am now safely out of East Timor, my heart is still there. Fortunately, none of my co-workers were hurt, although several did lose most of their belongings. And while some people might think that I would be relieved to be out of such an unstable situation, I could not feel more the opposite. I am grateful for the opportunity that PiA gave me to form such strong connections to such wonderful people, and I am anxiously anticipating the day when I am allowed to return, to continue my work there and to be reunited with the people who have meant so much to me throughout the year.

Editor’s note: PiA’s program in Timor is currently on hold pending a review of the US State Department’s current “ordered departure” status. Our Timor Fellows are eager to return. Angela Sherwood, who has recently finished her PiA year, has returned to Timor as the Public Information Officer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental organization for humanitarian assistance. Angela writes, “Our work here now is more important than ever and there are even fewer people to help these days.” PiA is monitoring the situation in East Timor and hopes to continue the program once the security situation has improved.

By Ian Hanks, PiA Fellow at Tractus, Shanghai, China

Ian’s story and his resilience is inspirational. To use his own words, “I’m 24, living with my girlfriend in fantastic Shanghai, working a sweet business job, and taking chemo for brain cancer.” He is sharing his story and stories of his life in Shanghai on his blog at www.ian-in-shanghai.com. Ian’s blog was also featured in USA Today on May 1st. Check out this article on the PiA website.

I like Shanghai for its contrasts. It’s a place where I can start my day eating chicken feet

and pork buns and finish it in the middle of a mosh pit listening to Chinese punk; or go straight from traditional Chinese flute class to hot room yoga.

And then I go to work, an experience just as weird and interesting and full of contrasts as everything else in Shanghai. The PiA business position at Tractus has turned out really well, thanks to all the people that put so much time, energy, and thought into making it happen! Tractus assists companies to establish a presence or improve their business in Asia’s developing economies.

For me personally that’s meant everything from typical intern tasks like deciding on a new printer for the office—which is not as boring as it sounds because I got to do so much of it in Chinese—up to real businessman stuff like team leading research for a presentation one of our Directors gave on the climate for investment in China’s industrial minerals sector. I also wrote a related paper that was published in *Industrial Minerals Magazine* and am now working on updating the content for our website. I actually get to spend a lot of time writing, which is an unexpected perk, especially because I get fantastic feedback from our senior management. Unlike college where you simply get comments on what you could have done



Ian Hanks on a trip to Suzhou, a city
outside of Shanghai two hours by train and
famous for its gardens.

NEW POSTS / NEW PROJECTS

better, I get to watch all of my writing get polished into “A” quality work. It makes sense—the final product is a reflection of the company as a whole so of course it has to go out looking perfect.

Don’t get me wrong, it’s still eight hours holed up in an office, wearing uncomfortable clothes, but the wide range of skills I’m learning and the experiences I’m collecting make it all worth it. Plus, I should be traveling a lot more during the next six months doing field work, which I think will be really interesting!

By David Boyd, PiA Fellow at Ekoin Buddhist Temple, Tokyo, Japan

I live and work at Ryogoku Kindergarten in downtown Tokyo. It’s a great job. Since September, I’ve taught a few parents, a handful of first graders, and roughly 80 five-year-olds.



Teaching Fellow David Boyd says, “Hi Mom!”

At first, quite a few of my five-year-old students were uncomfortable in English class. When one brave kid mustered up the courage to say hello, the other children would laugh hysterically. English was new to them, and it just sounded funny.

Three of the five-year-olds in particular (a triple-threat of class clowns) found English to be hilarious. For a few weeks, they lined up in the back row, making noises and mocking English. It was definitely cute, but a nuisance nonetheless.

A few of the children shed their inhibitions in a frenzied game of “Duck, Duck, Goose.” But for most of the kids, the turning point was probably “how do you say such-and-such?” I think that little phrase really empowered them (and tapped into their boundless curiosity). From that lesson on, the class was riddled with a series of questions (even from the back row triplets, who began vying for seats in the front of the class).

They thrust their hands up high. “How do you say *kabutomushi*?” “Helmut Beetle.”

(This was followed by a chorus of kindergarteners chanting, “Helmut Beetle, Helmut Beetle.”)

“How do you say *kamakiri*?” “Praying Mantis.” And so on. (They *really* love insects.)

I’m delighted that the kids mastered a few English phrases and even insect names. (I’ve heard that they have also corrected the English pronunciation of their parents and teachers.) But more importantly, they’re *excited* about English. They have turned English into something personal, when it had seemed so absurd just a month or two before. English isn’t that funny to them these days; now it’s just fun.

By Megan Cox, PiA Fellow at Jishou Teacher’s College, Hunan, China

Jishou Teacher’s College is located in Jishou, a small town in the northwest of Hunan province. This college is not just a place for education; it stands as a symbol of hope for our students, nearly all of whom come from poor families in the countryside of Hunan. Most of the students’ parents are farmers or laborers who have worked very hard to earn the funds for tuition. But, because a large portion of their earnings are used to pay for tuition, there is usually nothing left for other important expenses. Many of the students can’t afford the basics that we all take for granted. Nevertheless, they are radiant in spirit and are inspiring, hardworking, and dedicated individuals. This, in large part, is why I am so proud to tell you about a program recently enacted at our college to help cover at least one of these expenses: eye care.

The new eye care program at Jishou Teacher’s College assists those in need and who were unable to pay. Dan Mattingly, a PiA fellow in 2004-2005, worked on this program last year, setting a great example (and raising some start-up funds) for this year. With the financial help of donors in the U.S. and China, Lisa (Jishou College’s other PiA fellow) and I are able to take students to a local eye

care facility where they can get a free eye exam and, if necessary, new eyeglasses. (40 RMB (\$5) gets one student an exam and set of glasses with a case.)

Needless to say, the students are elated about this opportunity. So am I. First I have to assess who needs care and who cannot afford to get it. And in simply doing so I get to learn about the kids’ families and histories; I relate to the individuals on more than a teacher-student level. Next, I take them in to get them examined, which for some is the first specialized and individualized eye care they have ever received. Finally, I watch them pick out and put on their very own first pair of eyeglasses, which is the cherry on top.

Nearly all of those in need from this year’s freshman class have received eyeglasses, and we continue to make rounds to the eye care facility—each time coming away with a greater sense of satisfaction. I am currently doing fundraising for the rest of the students in need this year, as well as raising a sum for next year’s program.

I thank those involved for the opportunity with PiA and also for the support we have received for this program. The students have written numerous “Thank You” letters explaining that otherwise this opportunity would not be available to them. It is very clear that they appreciate what is being done for them, but I would also like to state my thanks for the students and for the opportunity to be involved in this program. I have found it so heartwarming and fulfilling.



Students from Jishou Normal College with their new eyeglasses.

A NEW ROLE FOR A PiA ALUM

Leslie Ann Medema, PiA Vietnam '05, (the new) PiA Program Director

PiA alumna Leslie Medema has found a new role for herself in PiA stateside where she has been working for PiA as the new program director since November. She came on board just in time to recruit, interview, select, and orient the newest batch of PiAers, and now she is hooked.



Leslie Medema with two of her students, Ha and Duong, in Can Tho, Vietnam.

I remember my PiA interview very well. I walked into the PiA office in the only power suit I owned—pants were too big, jacket was too small, but I looked good. Then I interviewed, and it was casual, personal, charming, and I felt overdressed. I wasn't sure if I wanted the fellowship, yet I was dying for it—now that I am the Program Director, I see that this is typical.

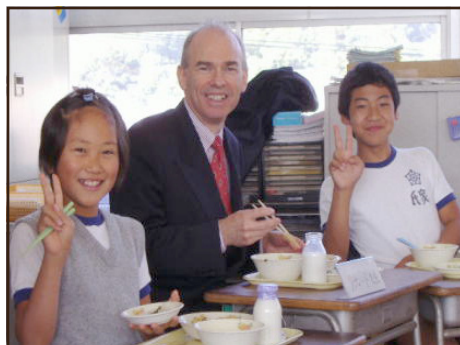
Landing in Vietnam was a long-held dream. In 1992 at the one used book store in downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota, my home, a Vietnamese phrase book fell off the shelf in front of me. For no reason other than that I thought that the cover was well-designed, I decided to buy it. I took the book to my Dad, and said, "I think I want to go to Vietnam one day—meet the people who licked us."

It goes without saying that a man of his generation was as likely to understand that naïve sentiment as I was to understand his powerful reaction. I ended up majoring in US history, focusing on Vietnam-era politics, and my interest in the country grew to an obsession. It would be four years out of college before I was ready to make the leap and go there.

I joined PiA in that in-between year—not fortunate enough to have known Carrie and getting to know Anastasia through email. At first PiA was entirely about the country and the personal experiences I was having, not necessarily about being a part of something bigger or part of a program with a strong history. But I remember exactly when and how that changed.

I was at a festival dancing with my students when I looked around, and I saw people I had known in the past. There was the tall, athletic football captain. The four-eyed, buck toothed grinning geek surrounded by a pod of equally scientific know-it-alls. There were the shy girls with terrible acne and the tall models with perfect white skin. There was the deliberate, gentle philosopher and the "wild and crazy guy" who drank too much and tried to show off with terrible break dance moves. We were all excited and having so much fun. It was in that moment that I didn't see the people around me as different anymore, and the emotions of our shared history and the importance of my new friendships gave me an overwhelming sense of euphoria and sadness.

I began to think about how I got to that point—from the book falling off the shelf, to discussions with family, to my education. But in reality, the intensity of my experiences was given to me by a very unique program and the relationships established through it. When Anastasia invited me to work at PiA after I returned to the US, I was nervous. Nervous of retelling my story over and over because it was emotional and personal. But now I am excited to hear about those 'auh huh' moments for others and honored to be in the presence of such amazing fellows and alumni. I look forward to getting to know all of you over the course of the next year.



Richard Van Horne, PiA Japan '78, Joins the Executive Director's Annual Trip

Along with his position as the PiA Board finance chairman and distinguished alumnus, Richard Van Horne added a new role this year—the self-proclaimed courier of long underwear for our Mongolian-bound Executive Director. Here are some excerpts from his trip report to PiA's Board of Trustees.

When Anastasia asked me to accompany her on the Asia trip, I had visions of a comfortable sojourn to picturesque locales. What she really meant was: let's go to Ulaan Baatar!! But I am glad we did. I participated in part of the Executive Director's annual trip to Asia. I visited our fellows, host organizations, and friends of PiA with Anastasia in Japan, China, Mongolia, and Korea. Asia is where the action is—still. Economic growth, political change, dynamism. I saw the variety and movement of Asia. It was an amazing mix: meeting terrific, new people; seeing old friends in Japan; connecting the past with the present; and opening up a new frontier for PiA in Mongolia.

Our PiA kids are great!! The fellows I met on this trip are an inspiring lot. Accomplished, poised, interested, hard-working. We need good ambassadors, and we have them. Whether they are assigned as teachers, paralegals, reporters, marketing reps—you name it—they are making the most of their opportunities to work and live in Asia.

In one sense, the PiA experience is different today than it was 25 years ago. Our fellows today have cell phones and email, whereas we had no phones and airmail. But in another way, the experience is not really much different at all. Our teachers in Japan today go into battle with chalk, strong vocal chords, a few low-tech teaching props, and plenty of enthusiasm. The grass-roots connection that our fellows make with everybody they come into contact with during their year or two in Asia is still the crux of the experience. For me, the trip was a journey back in time.

Left: Richard Van Horne eating lunch with students in Yakage, Japan.

PIA NAMES FIRST ANNUAL CARRIE GORDON FELLOWSHIP WINNERS

Innovative projects in Japan and Vietnam's Mekong Delta selected to honor the memory of PiA's dynamic Executive Director, Carrie Gordon

In April, Princeton in Asia's Board of Trustees announced the winners of the first annual Carrie Gordon Fellowships. Created to honor the memory and spirit of the organization's beloved late executive director, the awards for 2006 are being given to Daniel White (Can Tho, Vietnam) and Aaron Ellerbee (Yakage, Japan). "These are remarkable young people with tremendous, caring ideas to whom I am honored to lend PiA's support, especially in Carrie's name," said PiA's President of the Board of Trustees, David Newberg.

Carrie Gordon, who died of breast cancer in 2004, received great joy from following the adventures of the fellows she hand selected to take part in PiA's yearlong work experiences in Asian countries. Her pride in the accomplishments of "her kids" and her unwavering belief in the importance of young people following their passions were defining traits of Carrie's life. To carry on this legacy, the Carrie Gordon Fellowship



Danny White with a young man from the orphanage where he volunteers in Can Tho, Vietnam.

has been created to provide up to \$10,000 in funding to the current PiA fellow or recent alum who best embodies her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service. In honor of the inaugural year of the fellowship, the Board of Trustees has decided to award grants for two outstanding Asia projects in 2006.

Daniel White, who has spent the last academic year teaching English at Can Tho University through PiA, is being awarded his fellowship for a project to improve living conditions at two orphanages in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. White, a 2004 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Tennessee, will provide the children with regular instruction in English language and computer skills through an innovative program that will also provide work-study scholarships to local university students. "There is something about working with these children that deeply affects everyone who comes in contact with them," says White. "The children are wonderful, loving, and infinitely inspiring."

Aaron Ellerbee, a PiA fellow who has worked for two years teaching English to kindergarteners in Yakage, Japan, has been chosen as the second Carrie Gordon Fellow for his project to write and illustrate a bilingual children's book on the theme of international understanding and friendship. A 2004 Princeton graduate who intends to pursue graduate studies in art when he returns to the United States, Ellerbee says, "My students love it when I draw for them. Somewhere between pterodactyl and pretty princesses, it just seemed like a good idea to write a children's book and turn my drawings into something they could learn from."



Aaron Ellerbee with his kindergarden students in Yakage, Japan.

The Princeton in Asia Board of Trustees is pleased to be able honor Carrie's memory through the inspiring example of these two young fellows.

(Contributed by Sarah Van Boven, PiA Vietnam '95, PiA Board Member, and Member of the Carrie Gordon Tribute Committee.)



Aaron Ellerbee: sample drawings for his children's book.

The Carrie Gordon Fellowship will provide up to \$10,000 in funding to a Princeton in Asia Fellow or a recent alumnus/a (within five years of his/her PiA year) to work in Asia beyond the end of his/her fellowship. The funding will be used to support a public service project of his/her choice that best embodies Carrie's spirit, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service. The projects may be personal or wider-ranging. Criteria for selection will include the project's impact, feasibility and sustainability as well as the qualifications of the applicant. Please visit our website at www.princeton.edu/~pia for more information.

A PiA LEGEND: JACK HUDDLESTON

Jack Huddleston (Class of '58) was one of our touchstone PiA alumni—one of the first fellows into post-war Japan and a loyal alumnus who was incredibly generous to our organization. His dedication to PiA was equalled only by his passion for rugby, strong opinions, and off-color humor. His tradition of helping others and his ability to make people laugh at any time (even in his most difficult hours) will be remembered very fondly.

Jack left very clear instructions that there was to be no memorial service and “NO DARN SPEECHES”, but he would be the first to appreciate a good roast. It's not often we laugh out loud when writing of someone's passing. However, Jack's irreverent humor and inveterate ribbing deserve nothing less. If any of us can leave such a legacy of generosity and inspire people to laugh even once we've moved on—we will have left a meaningful legacy indeed.

Anastasia Vrachnos on meeting Jack and Keiko:

“Jack and Keiko strolled into PiA's perch on Prospect Ave one fine morning in March a little over one year ago. Keiko was elegant, regal, subtle. Jack was a lion: irrepressible, outspoken, incorrigible, no-nonsense. Jack lost no time in bemoaning the fact that 30 Princeton football players spent their summer practicing in Princeton rather than having a meaningful experience in another culture somewhere. Football stood no chance in the face of Jack's beloved rugby.

We shared a love of rugby and the kind of jokes that corporate email servers tend to censor. Jack, whose progressive political leanings and opinions were never subtle, found it in his heart to be close friends with some Republicans and considered this an example of his great maturity, open-mindedness and wisdom. In the short time I knew him, Jack made an indelible impression on me. Our correspondence over the last year brimmed with his charm, wit, and unorthodox opinions. I can think of no better tribute to him than to let Jack speak for himself through snippets of his emails—which had our office in stitches on a regular basis. Here are some of the snippets we can publish:

Jack Huddleston on...

On Ruth Stevens: “Ruth asked me if you and I were plotting something for PiA. I said nothing and ignored her for the first time in my life, which is not easy to do. I suggest you ignore her too.”

On Hospitality: “Anastasia, tell us when you are visiting, I want to be sure there are no stray cats or stray men in the alley.”

On PiA: “My tennis game is going well but the hard courts definitely give me a P.I.A.”

On the ED's Marriage Prospects: “Anastasia, see what you missed by not meeting me in my younger days and getting older with me.”

On Gifts: “The only gift you can accept is what you can drink.”

On Politics: “Think of all the money and time it turns out the administration wasted monitoring me.”

On Illness: “I have the doctors truly confounded. They do not know what they did that almost took me out before nor why, after they pulled the plug on everything, I am better every day.”

On Life: “I am truly happy and we are having our share of laughs.”

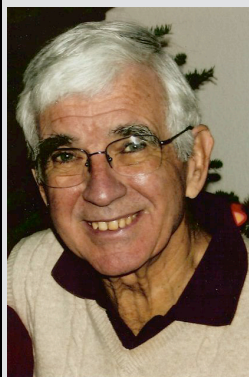
Fellow PiA Trustee, Ruth Stevens, on Jack:

“I have enjoyed decades of friendship with Jack and Keiko. One of my fondest memories was an incident when we all found ourselves staying at the Okura hotel in the early 1990s. The three of us moseyed across the street to a well-known embassy watering hole and settled in for the evening. At one point in our conversation, Jack made some curmudgeonly comment about women. Keiko and I jumped all over him. Roundly out-gunned, Jack backed off, and I am happy to say, he brings up the lesson he learned just about every time we get together.”

Fellow Japan PiAer and close friend, Ham Meserve, on Jack:

“Jack and I shadowed each other in our younger days. We both attended St. George's in the early 1950s, followed by English Speaking Union scholarships (I at Tonbridge in 1954 and Jack at Sherburne in 1955). In 1958 we signed up as the two charter enrollees in Princeton's budding Asian History Department, then that summer became PiA's first to return to Japan after World War II as Osawa Fellows in Tokyo. As roommates senior year in 1959-60, Jack wet-nursed me through a traumatic senior thesis. We drove across America that summer to attend Japanese language school at Stanford. We both took MAs in Japanese history in the early 1960s (Jack at Washington and I at Harvard), then each opted for international banking (Jack at Chemical and I at Citibank). In the ensuing 40 years we kept in touch through letters, phone calls, mutual friends and the odd, too infrequent visit. Yet, that sweltering Tokyo summer of 1958 seems only yesterday—we were struggling to teach English to bemused senior Japanese executives thrice our age, chasing down tennis balls in Karuizawa, haunting Roppongi soba shops, or simply seeking out the coolest corner in that tiny upstairs back dorm of pre-air-conditioned I-House. As one ages, early memories crystallize. Jack was one of a kind....sharp wit, engaging self-deprecation, that wry smile, a true friend.”

Jackson Noyes Huddleston, Jr. of Seattle, born in Huntington, West Virginia in 1938, passed away of pancreatic cancer on March 11, 2006. Jack spent his life as a student, businessman, teacher and author culminating in the book, “Gaijin Kaisha—Running a Foreign Business in Japan.” He is survived by his wife, Keiko; his daughters, Shannon Lea Lucansky of Leawood, Kansas and Sayako Huddleston of Paris, France; his sister, Rita Huddleston Liles of Richmond, Virginia; and three grandchildren.



In lieu of flowers, Jack and his family have requested that remembrances may be made to Princeton in Asia or to University of Washington Jackson N. Huddleston, Jr. Men's Rugby Endowment www.uwfoundation.org/huddleston (University of Washington Foundation, Box 358240, Seattle, WA 98195).

FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

PiA "On the Road"

PiA has been hitting the road. If you have escaped our alumni outreach so far, we can assure you that it is only a matter of time before we come stay on your couch. PiA has held alumni events in New York, DC, San Francisco, and Los Angeles and is planning a Boston gathering in the fall. Thus far we have connected with over 600 PiA alumni.

On the fundraising front, we have surpassed our ambitious annual giving goal of \$125,000, raising over \$138,000 this year thanks to the generosity of our Board of Trustees and many of our alumni and friends. In addition to our annual campaign, we are very pleased to report that we have added \$73,000 to the Carrie Tribute Fund, which now totals \$130,000. None of this could have been achieved without the generosity of the PiA family. Thank you.

Be a Mentor!

Become a mentor in the PiA Alumni network. Help returning PiA fellows prepare for their destination and the magic of Asia and re-adjust to life in the States. Mentorships can be as simple as sharing tips and tales, providing directions to the best noodle stall in town, or suggesting a list of things not to miss, and many become long-lasting relationships. PiA mentors will be matched with PiA fellows from the same country or with similar career interests. Please email us at piaalum@princeton.edu if you would like to be matched with an outgoing fellow.

PiA Reunions

On Saturday, June 3rd, after Princeton's P-rade we met 70 of you for some Asian food, Asian drinks, and stories that begin with "when I was in Asia" at the PiA office in Princeton. Thank you all for coming, and if you didn't get a chance to update us on your whereabouts, travel plans, adventures, etc., please drop us a line at piaalum@princeton.edu.



Don George (Japan '75) signing books for the hosts of the San Francisco Alumni Gathering, Naomi and Peter Hand (Kazakhstan '96).



Sawasdee! PiAers spanning a Thai decade: Jeff Cranmer (Thailand '91), Stephanie Teachout (Thailand '01), Amanda Dennis (Thailand '03), Tom Klein (Thailand '04), Michael Carpenter (Thailand '91), and Lauren Karp (Thailand '04).

PiA Alum in Print and on the Screen

Don George (Japan '75) joined a group of alumni in San Francisco and read from several of his anthologies of travel writing including *The Kindness of Strangers* and *By the Seat of My Pants*. Don is the Global Travel Editor for *Lonely Planet* and is the main author of five anthologies and a book on travel writing. His next book, *Tales from Nowhere*, will be published by *Lonely Planet* in September.

Ted Fishman (Indonesia '80) published the critically acclaimed book, *China Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World*, last year. For more information about Ted's book, please visit www.chinainc-book.com.

Terry Wrong (Lebanon '80) has received numerous awards including three Emmys, the Alfred I. DuPont Silver Baton award, and seven CINE Golden Eagle awards for his work as a producer with ABC News. Some of his work in Asia includes his instant news specials: 'Tsunami: Wave of Destruction' (2005) and 'Where is Osama Bin Laden' (2002) and a special documentary 'They Were Young & Brave' marking the return of American veterans to the Vietnam War's bloodiest battlefield. Terry was the keynote speaker at our annual dinner this year in Princeton on May 15, 2006.

Interviews and Orientation

Huge thank you to all the alums and friends who helped with interviews and orientation: Anna Evans, Jim Gordan, Jon Nuger, Cady Carlson, Jenaro Cardona-Fox, Brett Dakin, Emily Hicks, Cindy Ray, Alexa Knoop, Darren Joe, Vinod Aravind, Jon Wonnell, Kishori Kedlaya, Brian Vogt, Aimee Feeley, David Newhouse, Brandon Hall, Graeme Christianson, Sun Jung Kim, Lizzy Hallihan, Jim Secreto, Elise Van Oss, Will Leahy, Vince Faherty, Marc Fogel, Mark Dunn, Sue Fou, Sue Sytko, Jonathan Goldman, Jim Secreto, Mira Manickam, Jonathan Haagan, John Muse, Bina Venkataraman, Ted James, Shannon Roe, Adam Murray, Nancy Sun, Dan Grabon, Shin Lui, Ben Shell, Le Quang Binh, Benny Tran, Kate Thirolf, Lawrence Darby, Daria Hrabrov, Felicia Sonmez, Rory Truex, Nikola Z Guscic, Brian Cochran, and Professors Gregory Chow, Paula Chow, Lynn White, David Howell, and Christophe Robert.

ASIAN ART EVENT

On April 26, 2006, our 'little engine that could' hosted its first ever art benefit in New York City. The Asian Art Exhibit and Cocktail Party evening featured the work of Maria Lobo from Hong Kong, Kiyoshi Ike from Japan, and Amy Cheng from Taiwan, along with a unique collection of hand-drawn Asian maps from the Argosy Gallery. The event also featured Thai and Burmese dancers in a downtown venue, tres chic by PiA standards.

Over \$50,000 was raised and, most importantly, the evening energized many PiA alumni and introduced our organization to many new friends. The overwhelming success and spirit of the event, with 340 people enjoying Asian art, fare, and fun, would not have been possible without our indefatigable committee members: Elizabeth Chandler (chair), Jenaro Cardona-Fox ('00), Anna Evans ('03), Aimee Feeley ('92), Sue Fou ('94), and Katy Niner ('03).

We are grateful to the following partners whose services made the evening possible:

Argosy Gallery
Calligraving Designs
David Ziff Catering
Lotus Music and Dance
Nakamura Graphics
Niner Wine Estates
Pearl River Mart
Singha Beer

Thai Music and Dance Society of America
Web Design by Sorat Tungkasiri



Outgoing PiA Fellows introduce PiA to Art Benefit attendees. Megan McGowan (Thailand), Lily Samet (Hong Kong), Jing Jin (Hong Kong), Frances Symes (Thailand).

Many special thanks to the following sponsors for their generous support:

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Maria Vrachnos and Andrew Patrick
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Paula and Gregory Chow
Aimee and John Feeley
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Standard & Poor's Vista Research
Charles Stevens
Lesley "Hands" Williams
Ginny and Alex Wilmerding
Margaret Wilson

And many thanks to our featured artists:



Amy Cheng
A Prayer of Desire #1



Kiyoshi Ike
Three Views of Water Shadows



Maria Lobo
Four, 30 x 15

ALUMNI NOTES

Nuptials

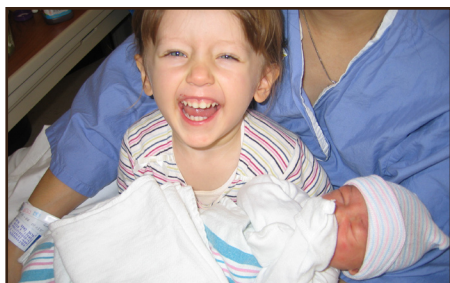
Another PiA couple has tied the knot! **Damon Toth** (Singapore '97) and **Sarah Albano** (Singapore '98) were married on April 8, 2006 in Princeton with a table full of Ngee Ann Polytechnic buddies as witnesses. **Brett Dakin** (Laos '98) was married to Abby Durden in the mountains of North Carolina on October 1, 2005. PiA alum **Trinh Huynh** (Vietnam '98) was there to share the special day.



Three decades of fellows to China and Thailand: Stephanie Teachout (Thailand '01), Michi Abe (Thailand '06), Steve Perksy (China '80), Andrew Miller (China '91), Anastasia Vrachnos (Indonesia '91), Ryan Finstad (China '06), and Lesley Williams (Thailand '91).

Second Gen PiAers?

Sauna Rienks (Korea '96) met her husband, Sangman, while teaching in Korea, and the happy couple recently welcomed their first child into their home, Sunnah Grace Yoon. (Sunnah means "grow to be your best, brightest self".) **Peter Mattersdorff** (Japan '85) and his wife, now living in Yokohama, had their first child "Sho" in September '05. **Peter Hand** (Kazakhstan '96) and his wife, Naomi, welcomed Aspen, a beautiful baby girl, in the spring of '05. PiA alum and Trustee, **Schuyler Roach Heuer** (Vietnam '02) and her husband, Jared, welcomed baby boy Robert Schuyler Heuer, their first, on May 5th. PiA alum and Trustee **Sharon Volckhausen** (Korea '91) and husband welcomed their second daughter, Emma, this spring (pictured below). And across the Pacific, **Trevor Hill** (Japan '92) and his wife, Mamiko, welcomed Aki Sideny Hill to the family in March '06, joining brother Kio.



PiA: The Next Generation. Anna Volckhausen holds newborn sister Emma, whose grandfather Bill (Taiwan '59), mom Sharon (Korea '91) and uncle Alex (Singapore '93) are all PiA alumni. With a family legacy like that, it looks like Anna and Emma's fates are sealed!

The Post-PiA Grindstone

Debbie Kuan (Japan '97) has returned to the foreign land of Princeton to work with ETS, where she creates and develops items

for the bane of all foreign students' existence—the TOEFL. **Adam Murray** (China '02) will be working with the US State Department in Hong Kong, and has qualified for "incentive pay" due to his high scores on the Chinese Language Exam. Drinks on Adam, everybody!

Somebody call a doctor? **Brian Ristow** (China '95) and **Luke Davis** (Hong Kong '95) are both serving in the medical community in San Francisco. **Candace Jackson** (Thailand '01) will begin clerking for a federal judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA this fall. And **Jennifer Romero** (Japan '97) is currently practicing federal Indian law in Washington, DC.

Peter Poullada (Afghanistan '75) is living in the Bay Area and continues to be very involved with ASC and Princeton's Near East Studies Department helping expand coverage to Central Asia. He's also working part-time with the DeYoung Museum to catalogue their incomparable collection of Central Asian carpets with an exhibit scheduled for 2007, and generously (read: bravely) offered to organize PiA Alumni events in San Francisco. **Katy Niner** (Vietnam '03) recently began working for the Asia Society in the Communications Department. Finally, after his AIG post in Bangkok, **Jenaro Cardona-Fox** (Thailand '00) continued his career with AIG state-side. Next, he heads to the University of Virginia to study in the MBA program.

Back to School

While a student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, **Kristen Rainey** (Indonesia '97) has been pursuing a year of

adventures in Asia working for the US Embassy in Sri Lanka, on an agricultural project in Indonesia, and with the UN Food Programme in Bhutan.

Tracy Johnson Messinger (Thailand '94) received her doctorate in Anthropology from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2005 after finishing her thesis, "The (Im)Possibilities of Becoming: Hmong youth and the politics of schooling and development in Thailand." **Darren Joe** (Singapore '02) recently accepted the prestigious Blakemore Fellowship for advanced study of Chinese language for the coming year in Taiwan. And **Sun Jung Kim** (Korea '04) will be attending Harvard Law School in the fall.

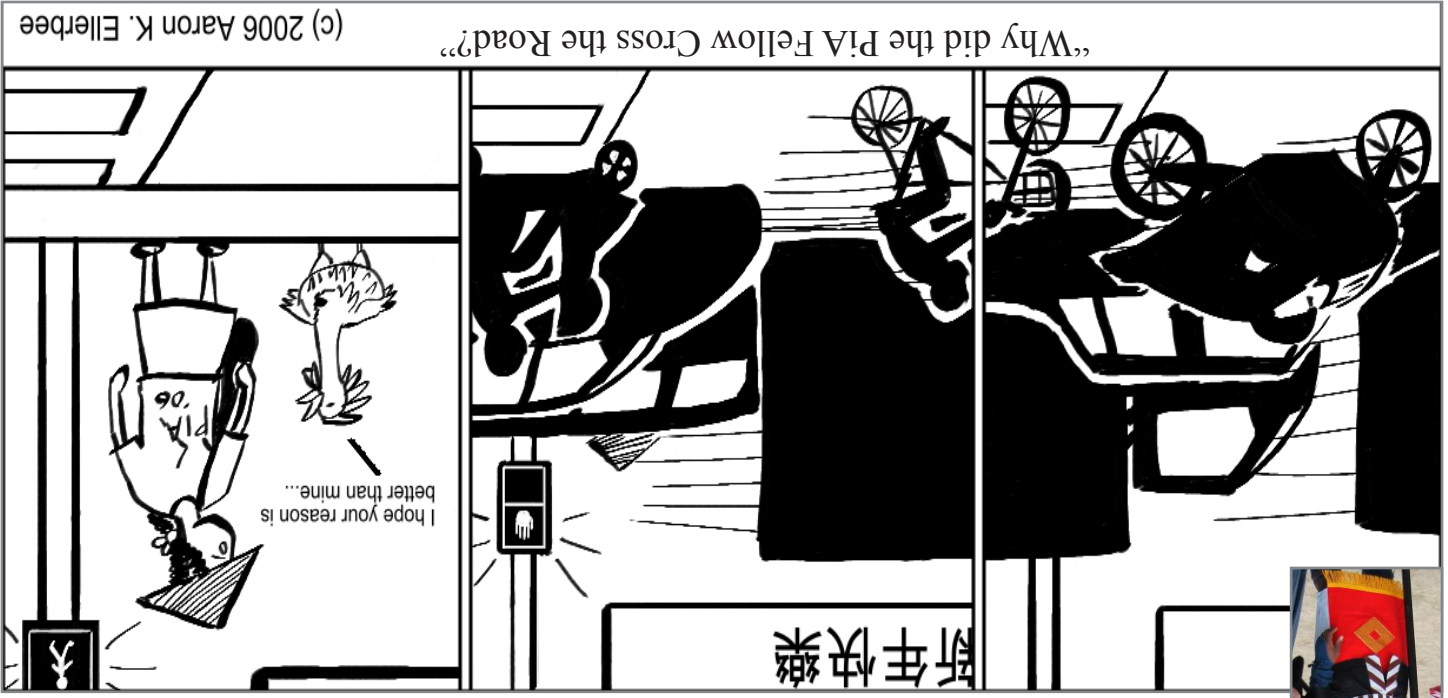
The Adventure Continues

Amy Wong (China '96) finds herself calling Shanghai "home" with her recent move back to Asia working with the Kenan Institute's Global Suppliers Institute. She writes, "Chinese traffic is still scary, whether you're riding in a cab or walking/crossing the street... I still cannot cross the street without flinching or seeing my life flash before my eyes—I guess I haven't gotten my 'Chinese legs' back yet."

After returning from two years in South Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer in education, **Matthew Caretti** (Korea '95) set off across America by bicycle. The 3200 miles of hills, headwinds, and flats served as training for the Tour d'Afrique, a bicycle race from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa which ended in mid-May.

Reunions

Laura Strausfeld (China '86) is heading back to Dalian this summer to join in her students' 20th reunion, and **Richard Pierson** ('57) will head to Taiwan in the fall to renew many of his old Tunghai connections. He and his wife Kitty were recently awarded PiA MVP awards for attending the most PiA events! **Lis Grinspoon** (China '91) finished her Masters at Yale's School of Forestry and her doctorate at UC Berkeley and has been working for the US Forest Service. This March, five years after finishing her dissertation, Lis went back to the village in Sichuan province where she did her research.



“Why did the PIA Fellow Cross the Road?”
 (c) 2006 Aaron K. Ellerbe

Aaron Ellerbe is a second year PIA fellow in Yakage, Japan. He is also a talented artist and looks great in a Kimono.



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