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Newsletter of Princeton-in-Asia

Fall 2004

Getting to Know Their Way Around... PiA Second Year Fellows Tell All

The 2004-2005 PiA fellows have arrived in Asia. While they walk wide-eyed through the streets of their new homes, figuring out how to order noodles or connect to the 'net', a cadre of seasoned PiA veterans is helping to show them the ropes. One of the great aspects of a PiA fellowship is the option to extend for a second year. This year five fellows have opted to extend their fellowships.

We've interviewed these 5 PiA fellows, teasing out the insider scoop on the local scene. So if you are wondering where you can get the best baked goods in Vientiane (at Lauren Beaty's house), how to be a fashion plate in Chiang Mai (talk to Jenny Hildebrand), or how to get into the hottest clubs in Singapore (go with Mark Zee), read on. And in case you're thinking of sending a care package (hint, hint), here are some details about the best gifts received from home.

Lauren Beaty is in her second year with Population Services International in Vientiane, Laos. PSI is a public health organization which emphasizes education about and the social marketing of health care products. In Lauren's words, "PSI is a great place to be a fellow. If you can get motivated about something creative and have the energy to go through with it, you will be supported. Even if you don't have much experience, you get a lot of responsibilities that you wouldn't get otherwise."

Lauren is leading an innovative study in Laos aimed at reducing the spread of STDs amongst men. She has developed the questionnaire and sampling strategy for the project and trained field workers to implement it. When asked if she had any previous technical training in sampling techniques, Lauren replied emphatically, "Heck no! I learned a lot about the research techniques on the job. I've done a lot of reading and asked a lot of questions."

What's changed for Lauren in her 2nd year? Self-confidence. Lauren explains, "I used to feel like my age and inexperience were a dirty little secret that I didn't want people to know. Now I can go into a room of almost anyone and feel really confident that there are things I can contribute and there are areas where I know my stuff."

2nd year highlights:

Favorite 2nd Year Discovery: "Well, because of my job, I know all the places where drag queens and katoey hang out. I can also name all the Starbucks in Bangkok. I go there a lot for work and also for the anonymity."

Favorite holiday: "The boat racing festival was great, especially when the PSI staff did a staged performance of 'I Will Survive' to educate people about malaria. 'Intellectual property rights day' was also a highlight. There was a big sign announcing this on the streets of Vientiane and you just know that that sign was made from bootleg software."

Favorite gift from home: "My mom sends me Bon Appetit magazines - I like to bake a lot."

Most surprising fact about your country: How people don't hold a grudge against us [Americans]. If someone bombed my country and never apologized or acknowledged it, I'd be pretty angry."

Favorite Asian smells: "Riding my bike around town after it rains. I love rainy season smells when the flowers are coming out."

Favorite fashion in

Laos: "4 inch stilettos on a motorbike. I also like the fact that if you put on a *sin* (traditional Lao skirt) and speak two words of Lao, people think you are the most beautiful girl in the world."

Favorite excursion: Our malaria research team stayed a couple of days in a very remote ethnic minority village in the south with no electricity and where no one spoke Lao. We slept 5 girls to a double bed, and people literally sat around and watched us sleep. It was fascinating to see a place so far removed - and to see what made it out there, like bed mattresses!

Dan Zook has been working for Plan International, an international development organization based in Hanoi, Vietnam. During his tenure, Dan has coordinated Plan's micro-finance pilot projects in rural areas and helped form a working group of all the

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Lauren Beaty and Ounnalom Sikeo (Lom), her co-worker, at the *boun*, or blessing of Lom's house by monks. They both are wearing *sins*, traditional Lao skirts, for the occasion.

From the Executive Director



If
you've
already
met me

(and some

300 of you already have in the last three months), then you know I get a lot of mileage out of saying that PiA changed my life and saved me from wearing pantyhose. I was a PiA fellow myself 13 years ago. I went to Indonesia to teach for one year and ended up living in SE Asia for 8 years. I worked as a teacher, an investment banker, a photojournalist and a polyester executive. If you're not impressed (most aren't), try wearing polyester the next time you're in the tropics.

If it wasn't my penchant for polyester that impressed the Board, it must have been the fact that my name rhymes with Asia. This being PiA, tradition is paramount. And, as in all things, I follow in the inspiring footsteps and name-rhyming tradition of Carrie Gordon, whose name rhymes with Jordan (a former PiA site and definitely on Bob Atmore's map of Asia!). I am looking forward to continuing Carrie's incredible legacy and I am thrilled to be able to contribute to others having as positive and transformative an experience as mine with PiA.

I feel tremendous gratitude for the warm welcome I've received. It has been a wonderful experience to be embraced by and to embrace the 'PiA family.' (Honeymoon periods can nev-

er be over-rated or too long...). I have had the pleasure of connecting with many of you and I thank you for your generosity, your willingness to help, and your insights and ideas for PiA.

In all the feedback I've heard over the last few months, two things were mentioned repeatedly by PiA alums. The first is the oft-heard refrain that PiA changed our lives. The second is that PiA has not asked enough of its alums. One young alumna told me recently that she was 'angry' that she hasn't been asked to do more. (Famous last words!)



So at the risk of having you screen my calls from now on, I am going to ask more of all of you. We are 1500 strong. We are attorneys, rock-climbers, entrepreneurs, financiers, environmentalists, teachers, doctors, diplomats, journalists. We are Princeton, Duke, Williams, Stanford, University of

Michigan, U. of Washington-St Louis, Cornell, Yale and more. (Okay, maybe a couple of Harvard folks slipped through when Carrie wasn't looking). We are successful, knowledgeable, dedicated and service-oriented. Heck, some of us even found jobs after PiA and made money (or convinced PiA to hire us).

One of the best parts about being in Asia was being able to test one's own cultural boundaries in the process of assimilating. In Indonesia, if we needed to ask for a favor or support from someone Javanese, we would bring a gift and enjoy hours and hours of tea and circuitous conversation before finally bringing the topic around to asking our host to ask something of someone who might sometime be willing to help us. For all of my cultural assimilation in Asia, I believe in asking for your support the American way.

For most of us, PiA is one of our most meaningful experiences and what we give of our resources and time should reflect that. I am committed to strengthening what PiA does for our alumni network and what you do for PiA. Please peruse the Program Notes in the following pages to find out more about ways the PiA network can be more useful to you and please look through the leaflet attached to see how you can best support PiA.

Many thanks. I look forward to meeting each of you over the next few months.

Best regards,

Anastasia Vrachnos
pia@princeton.edu

Program Notes

PiA Fellows 2004-2005

This year's class of PiA fellows are settling into their new lives in Asia. **66 Fellows** are working in the fields of education, development, journalism, and business in 10 Asian countries: China (20), Japan (3), Kazakhstan (2), Korea (5), Laos (4), Malaysia (2), Singapore (5), Taiwan (2), Thailand (16), Vietnam (7).

Recruiting efforts on campus are in full swing with an innovative outreach campaign which delivered fortune cookies with PiA fortunes to every senior's door. From the looks of the impressive turnout at the PiA information session, this has the makings of a banner recruiting year. Indications from other universities are strong as well. PiA will be represented at career fairs at Yale, NYU and Brown.

President Tilghman To Visit Asia: Princeton University President Shirley Tilghman will be traveling to Asia at the end of October. She will be visiting Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong. Princeton University will be hosting events for Tigers in each city and all members of the PiA family are encouraged to attend.

Website Upgrades: Thanks for all of your feedback on our website. Initial upgrades have been made and more are on the way. The PiA website will soon be sponsoring homepages for current PiA fellows, allowing for blogging, and providing country specific travel and contact information. Oh, and did we mention the opportunity to donate by credit card on the web?

New Trustee: Sarah Van Boven

Hanoi's cafe society hits Princeton with the addition of Sarah Van Boven to PiA's Board of Directors. Sarah comes to us by way of Newsweek magazine in New York, where she pulled up stakes from her career to become PiA's first journalism fellow at the Vietnam News in Hanoi in 1999. She stayed on a second year, traveling and writing a documentary about post-war Vietnam for PBS. She now splits her time between New York City and rural Maine (stand in line if you're jockeying for an invite) and works as a freelance editor and writer. As a new board member, she is particularly excited about helping strengthen the network of recent PiA alumni.

Young Alumni Initiative

Since 1990, PiA has sent over 900 young Americans to Asia. As far as we see it, that's more than 900 alumni who have an especially keen memory of just how much PiA changed their lives.

Here's how you can get involved: PiA is

building a stronger, more far-reaching network of young alumni. Ideas include: A mentoring program to pair each current fellow with an alum who works in his or her desired field. Opportunities to conduct interviews or recruiting in your area. Speaking on career panels for PiA alums. Alumni gatherings and targeted fundraising for specific PiA projects. If you'd like to host a get-together, volunteer in some capacity, or become a mentor, please sign-up on the enclosed leaflet and return in the envelope provided.

PiA Young Alumni Parties:

PiA Young Alumni Gatherings kick-off in Boston on October 17th with a potluck dinner at the home of PiA Trustee Ginny Wilmerding (China '91). Libations will flow and curry puffs will be consumed. For more information, contact Eric (Alex) Wood (Vietnam '04) ericwood@alumni.Princeton.EDU. Thanks to the Wilmerdings for hosting and to Alex, Meghan Crouch (Vietnam '04), Kate Thirolf (Malaysia '02) and Becca Coughlin (Vietnam '01) for organizing.

Not to be outdone, **PiA Young Alumni in NYC** will be joining in pre-Halloween festivities and karaoke (yes, on a school night) on **October 28th at the Rice Republic in Williamsburg, Brooklyn**. Start practicing your John Denver before it's too late. Many thanks to Sarah Van Boven (Vietnam '99), Schuyler Roach (Vietnam '96) and Robert Knapp (Japan '89) for generously offering to sponsor this event. For further information, please contact Mira

Manickam at mira@princeton.edu.

PiA Young Alumni events are coming soon to a city near you. Thanks to Scott Seligman (Taiwan '73) for agreeing to host in Washington DC, Bruce Comer (Japan '86) for offering hospitality in Los Angeles, and Emily Grande (Korea '03) for organizational efforts in Chicago. Tallahassee, anyone? Missoula, are you out there? If you'd like to organize or host an event, please let us know by completing the enclosed leaflet.

Need Help with Your Job Search?

Career Services: Did you know that all Princeton alumni can use Princeton's Career Services? Use it! Office of Career Services, 201 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542. Phone: (609) 258-6351 and website: www.princeton.edu/career

The Alumni Careers Network (ACN) is an online, searchable database on Career Services' web site of over 4,000 Princeton alumni who have volunteered to provide career-related advice to Princeton students and fellow alumni. If you want to connect with Princetonians, share your experience, or help mentor other Princetonians, check the Career Services website for ways to participate: www.princeton.edu/sites/career/alumni/partner.html.

PiA is working to create our own such mentoring program and database (accessible to Princeton and non-Princeton alums alike), so stay tuned and please indicate your interest in helping.

Picture of the Month



Astro-boy - Animated Superhero of Japan



Chris Yakaitis '02 - Animated Super-teacher of Yakage, Japan comes to school as Astro-boy to introduce Halloween to his classes.

PiA 2nd Years, Cont'd from Pg 1

organizations involved in micro-finance work in Vietnam. This working group, which Dan currently chairs, has grown to over 70 people from Vietnam and elsewhere. It has given feedback on a government draft decree to legalize and regulate microfinance, much of which has been incorporated into the latest version of the decree.

Dan contrasted the opportunities he's had in Asia to those he might have had in America. "In America, the systems are so evolved. There are so many variables involved and it's hard to understand. There are experts who have dedicated their lives to just understanding some of these variables. But here, it's so raw. Since I have been here I've been able to get involved in such diverse things – WTO issues, the agricultural sector, the informal sector. With something like microfinance, I'm in contact with some of the key people in the country working on it."

2nd year highlights:

Favorite 2nd year discovery:

"My new favorite dish is called My Kuang. It's made from noodles cut in shapes from fresh dough. They only make it in one province in Vietnam and I pass through there on my way to a microfinance project site. The first time we had it, it was 4:00 pm. It seemed odd to have such an early dinner but my co-workers explained that it didn't matter what time of day it was, we had to have that dish if we were in that province."

Favorite holiday:

"There's a mid-autumn festival celebrated in central and south Vietnam. Last year I was down in the south a week before. I was walking down an alleyway, when suddenly I saw a bunch of kids coming towards me practicing the dragon dance. Seeing all the kids learning how to do the dance was pretty cool."

Best gift received from home: "Chocolate is good. My mom also sends me the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*."

Favorite Asian smell: "Probably the flowers. The hua sua, a white flower that flowers in March, smells really good and there is a big tree right around the corner from where I live."

Most surprising fact about the country: "The size of Vietnam is pretty remarkable. There are 80 million people in a country smaller than California."

Favorite Excursion: "A friend and I were in the countryside on Christmas of last year in a small town where foreigners never go. There was a chapel there with a nativity set. When we went in, everyone was just so amazed to see these two huge

white guys. Mothers just started handing us their babies and taking pictures of us next to the nativity."

Special category- Weirdest thing that happened to me.

"We were visiting a project site in the north, and one of our project partners in the village bit my ear as we were leaving. This is by far the weirdest thing that's happened to me here, and even my co-workers didn't know what to make of it. One of my friends from the north said he'd heard that people sometimes do this as a sign of respect. Or maybe this guy was just drunk, since a lot of rice liquor had been consumed that day."

Perhaps **Mark Zee** has had the biggest roller coaster ride of a year. Mark went to Singapore to teach economics and business skills at Ngee Ann Polytechnic Institute. His background in economics prepared him well for the classes and his

him to soften his Midwestern accent.

Mark finds that some of his classes are more interested in celebrity gossip than learning the "ins and outs" of giving a business presentation. But somehow, he's managed to juggle all of the hype with, as he puts it, "being first and foremost a teacher."

2nd year highlights:

Favorite 2nd year discovery: "I love Milo. This is the thing I would import to the U.S. It's so good!! I also really love roti prata. The roti prata shop has replaced the Wawa I went to in college."

Favorite holiday: "Thaipusam, a Hindu festival. A procession starts in Little India and goes all around town. People go into trances and put steel hooks and rods into their skin and carry heavy objects, seeming not to feel pain."

Favorite gift received from home:

"My Dad made me a DVD slideshow of our family. I definitely miss my family a lot. It's nice to have pictures and family stuff."

Favorite Asian smell:

"I really love the incense at temples. I love walking in barefoot, inhaling the incense, and just sitting there for a while."

Most surprising fact about the country:

"It's amazing how successful Singapore has been considering its size and resources. The efficiency is amazing, like the



Dan Zook at the wedding of his colleague, Mr. Trung. (Second from left.)

fact that I can pay all my bills at a little atm-like machine."

Favorite fashion: "I love the sarong/longi. It's so versatile! If I were a girl I would wear skirts all the time."

Favorite excursion: "Definitely Myanmar. The country was different than anything I'd ever seen before. I loved Pagan. The temples and landscape are amazing."

Kelsey Jack is working for IUCN, the World Conservation Union, in its Lao country office. She's worn a variety of hats in the small but growing office, working on everything from proposal writing, to IT, to managing the library. In her second year, her role has become more focused, and she's taken on the management of a one year climate change project to help the Lao government implement its

skills as a swimmer made him and fellow water-worthy PiA'er Shandon Quinn stars of the Ngee Ann faculty swim team. Then things really started to heat up when a Singaporean TV exec "discovered" Mark on a city bus and suggested he try some modeling on the side. Before he knew it, Mark was appearing on the cover of one of Singapore's major women's magazines as the winner of Singapore's most eligible bachelor competition. From there his fame only grew as he appeared in Singapore's reality TV show, "The Bachelorette," in which a young Singaporean lass takes her pick of competing suitors. Several TV shows and commercial gigs have followed. In the whirlwind of his newfound celebrity status, Mark's grateful to have the PiA crew at Ngee Ann, with whom he's still just a regular guy from Minnesota, even if the folks at the TV station are coaching

fact that I can pay all my bills at a little atm-like machine."

Favorite fashion:

"I love the sarong/longi. It's so versatile! If I were a girl I would wear skirts all the time."

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commitment under the Kyoto protocol. After working at IUCN a year, Kelsey says, "I've built up relationships with people in the government. There's a very steep learning curve. Once you meet people and get to know who's who, you can get a good handle on what's going on. In other countries it would be a lot harder."

Kelsey came to PiA with a clear goals and a strong background in environmental conservation. "A big goal was to learn what kind of obstacles face conservation in a developing country, and how conservation is played out under different political regimes. I've learned for example, how the conservation agenda can be driven by outside sources - with donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and the larger development community swamping local considerations. In Laos there is also a lack of grassroots NGO's, due to regulations about assembly. When you work in a province, there are few local organized entities to work with besides the government."

2nd year highlights:

Favorite 2nd year discovery: "There's a new bar in town. It's not really a discovery since it's hard to hide a bar in Vientiane. A big sign was advertising a new place called "Snow White and the One Dwarf." Vientiane has a few very well-known dwarves, and I suspected they might be involved. I went to check it out, and sure enough, one of the town's dwarves opened the door and everything inside was totally white."

Favorite holiday: "The Boat racing festival is pretty fun. It's just insanity, and the office is right on the river. Last year a whiskey stall was set up right in front of the office and we had to slide behind the crates of whiskey to get in. There's been talk of having an expat racing team this year, and I might be in it."

Favorite gift received from home: "I like herbal tea and deodorant."

Favorite excursion: "I spent Lao New Year's Day diving in the Philippines. It was 100% perfect."

Favorite Asian smell: "Lao coffee. It's fantastic, but not that different from coffee elsewhere. I also like the smell of lemon grass and frangipanni."

Favorite fashion: "The general rule is that the more colors you can pile onto the outfit, the more beautiful you are. I got so used to it that when I went home to the U.S. for the summer, I had to consult with friends before I went out."

Besides being a one woman welcoming and orientation committee for new PiA fellows arriving in Chiang Mai, **Jenny Hildebrand** is hard at work teaching English writing and conversation at Chiang Mai University. She says she's learned a lot. "This year I actually know what I am doing. I know what works and what doesn't." Jenny's been spending her

spare time studying Thai, kick-boxing, and hiking in Chiang Mai. When asked why she chose to stay a second year, she pointed out the obvious. "The question is, why would you want to leave? It's just so beautiful. I went back to the States this summer and everyone was just so stressed out." Apparently, Jenny is not the only person who feels this way; Chiang Mai boasts more PiA fellows who "never went home" than any other city in Asia.

2nd year highlights:

Favorite 2nd year discovery: "There's a lake nearby that I've recently discovered. It's a national park; there are houseboats and you can go there for the day or night or the weekend. It's very serene and it's my favorite place to go. I've been there 4 times in the last month!"

Favorite Holiday: "Loy krathong, the full moon festival in November where everyone places krathongs (small floats with flowers, a candle and incense) in the river for good luck. I went to the river and it was total chaos. It was literally like a warzone with fire crackers going off at my feet - but I loved it."

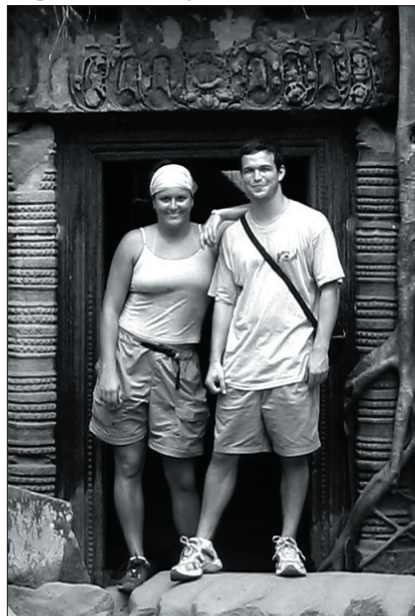
Favorite Asian smell: "Roti. I love roti. It's that frying butter smell that you can smell from intersections away."

Favorite excursion: "Definitely Angkor Wat. I was obsessed. There was just something absolutely enchanting and magical. I went early in the morning and stayed until sunset all three days I was there. I climbed every inch of space."

Favorite fashion: "All the dangly pink earrings, bracelets, and cell phone accessories that my students have. I also like the little cell phone pouches."

Most surprising fact about your country: "I didn't know it was so mountainous. I thought there would be more bicycles, but only about 2 people who ride them here."

Jenny Hildebrand (Thailand '03) and Josh Humphries (Thailand '03) at Jenny's favorite spot in Asia, Angkor Wat in Cambodia.



Our New Mascot!



At long last, PiA has found a mascot! Manoi, a Thai by birth, has spent most of her life playing with the other dogs in Emily Hicks's (Laos '00) front yard in Vientiane. Emily worked for the UN World Food Program in Laos after her fellowship with PiA. When she came back home to attend the Yale School of Forestry, it was Manoi's chance to add another country to her passport. After a lengthy visa application process, some immunizations, and what could not have been a pleasant flight, she is now a proud resident of the U.S. She's experiencing some cultural adjustment - northeastern weather is a bit more harsh than her tropical upbringing. But like a true PiA'er, she's coping with aplomb - and with a little help from a small heating mat which Emily has purchased. We feel that she perfectly epitomizes PiA's mission - cross-cultural understanding, a sense of adventure, and a willingness to get your feet dirty! Welcome to America, Manoi, we're proud to have you as part of the family!

Asian Happenings Around Town

Prize-winning Play Kicks Off the Season at Trenton's Mill Hill Playhouse
Passage Theatre begins its 2004-05 year with the world premiere of *Willie B. Came Into the Sun* by Jean Sterrett. Robert Kalfin will direct. This new play with music follows the relationship between an American soldier and his Vietnamese captor during and after the Vietnam War. The play runs from Oct. 14 -Nov 7. Performances take place at the historic Mill Hill Playhouse (Front & Montgomery Streets in Trenton) on Th., Fri, and Sat. at 8pm and Sundays at 5pm. For tickets, call 609-392-0766, or visit the theatre's website at www.passagetheatre.org.

Asian Film Premieres and Q&A with Directors at the 42nd New York Film Festival: Oct 1-17. For complete Festival schedule and information, visit: <http://www.filmlinc.com/nyff/nyff.htm>

Remembering Carrie Gordon

The Carrie Gordon Tribute Fund

Kevin Cuskley (Japan '80) is a PiA Trustee who is chairing the Carrie Gordon Tribute Committee.

Twenty-five years ago I sat in the legendary Robert Atmore's office and asked him what skills were required to be a PiA intern. His response: "just one, a sense of humor." When the legendary Carrie Gordon came along, she swept the organization into the modern age on the back of that Atmore adage. Choose to remember what you want about Carrie: her accomplishments and love for PiA, her brilliantly written board memos, her refusal to accept a higher salary. I choose to remember her sense of humor.

So I can't help but wonder what Carrie would think of the Carrie Gordon Tribute Fund. I can hear her saying: "I can't believe PiA didn't raise more money." Or "That's all he sent? Does he know what I know about him?" These thoughts, of course, would be expressed in her colorful style.

PiA has raised nearly \$30,000 for the Carrie Gordon Tribute Fund to date – a terrific start. We ask now that you consider a contribution as PiA officially begins the effort to decide how best to move forward in honoring Carrie.

Walking from Vietnam for Carrie

Lynne Rosen (Vietnam '03) is now attending Stanford Medical School, and Alex Wood (Vietnam '03) lives in Boston.

It's difficult to put into words just how meaningful our PiA experience in Rach Gia, Vietnam was to Alex and me. From sharing glasses of rice wine with Vietnamese soldiers to exploring the countryside by bicycle, every day was filled with adventure.

As we prepared to return to America early this summer, we found our thoughts turning back to our initial days with PiA. We feel one big reason our PiA experiences were so special was the wonderful enthusiasm that Carrie Gordon instilled in us. Carrie never shied away from adventure, and she always encouraged us to live each day to its fullest. Carrie was a friend and role-model, and we both wanted to do something to honor her.

We decided to do a Race for the Cure 3-

The goal is to establish a permanent memorial that keeps Carrie's spirit alive for PiA on an ongoing basis. A number of great ideas have already been suggested, but the committee welcomes further suggestions. We would like to pursue a project in one of the countries that was particularly close to Carrie's heart. Much groundwork and discussion remain before funding decisions are made. Rest assured the decisions will be handled thoughtfully and completely by the Tribute committee and the PiA board. We are pleased that Jim Gordon and Meg Wilson (Carrie's mom) have joined the Tribute Committee. Their presence will go a long way to making sure contributions are well spent in Carrie's name.

In the last few months I have heard Anastasia refer to the PiA experience as "transformative." That is a good word to describe Carrie as well - she transformed PiA in breadth and scope, she transformed the lives of the PiA family –fellows especially, but also board members, and contacts at host institutions. The Carrie Tribute will keep Carrie's "transformative" power alive. She would love that.

Please consider a contribution in the form of a separate check to "Princeton in Asia -- Carrie Tribute" or call or email Anastasia with your ideas about how to honor Carrie. -Kevin Cuskley



Alex and Lynne, with friends they made on the 60-mile walk.

day 60-mile walk in order to raise funds for cancer research and treatment. We felt a 3-day 60-mile walk would certainly befit Carrie's sense of adventure!

At the end of July with 1200 fellow walkers from all over the East Coast, we walked 60 miles from Topsfield MA, to Boston.

Mr. Cardona Fox Runs a Marathon to Honor Mrs. Gordon

Jenaro-Cardona Fox lives in New York City and works for AIG Finance, with whom he started as a PiA fellow in Bangkok in 2000.

I usually hear her voice when I am struggling on the last mile of a long run or when I can't get myself going early on in a run. Her voice has not changed much and the punch is definitely still there. "Go Mr. Cardona-Fox, you can do it!" she yells as if yelling to one of her Tour-de-France heroes.

Carrie called me Mr. Cardona-Fox as a light punishment for calling her Mrs. Gordon for the first few months of our friendship and I guess it just stuck. This October I am running my first marathon in honor of Mrs. Gordon and raising money for the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown. This is my first marathon and my first fund raising effort, and so far it has been a wonderful experience. I am mostly using a webpage to raise the funds, which has allowed me to contact my old friends in Thailand via email. And even though the concept of willingly running 26 miles seems as completely BAA (crazy) to Thais as it does to many of my friends in the States, I have already received some increasingly valuable Baht. The best offer so far, however, is from John Evans (Thailand '92) who has offered to give me \$26 for every beer I have in the first 24 hours following the race.

If you would like to join John and others in contributing to this cause in the honor of our superior superior please visit www.justgiving.com/pfp/jenaro

The event raised over three million dollars for breast cancer research, treatment and education. Thanks largely to the generous support of the PiA community, we contributed over \$6000 to that total amount!

One of the highlights of the walk was talking with the other participants; we got lots of questions about Carrie and PiA due to our "Walking from Vietnam for Carrie" shirts. It was great to be able to tell others about Carrie and all that she has done for us and so many others.

It was very exciting to play even a small part in the ongoing fight against breast cancer, and we thank the PiA community for your support!

Summer Internships - The Results are In

For some Princeton University students, the most productive time for learning was after the school year ended. This summer, a handful of Princeton undergraduates left the beach behind to do PiA summer internships in China, Japan, and Thailand. We've asked them to share a few of the highlights of their experiences.

Jessica Aisenbrey

Position: Osawa Fellowship, Tokyo, Japan. Jessica lived with the Nakajima family and taught English at three corporations in Tokyo.

Favorite proverb in your host country: When you're about to begin a risky endeavor, you say "I'm jumping off the veranda of Kiyomizu Temple." (It's a pretty high veranda).

Favorite food in your host country: Sushi & sashimi, heavy on the wasabi and ginger.

Best thing about your job: I was the "native speaker" at Mastercard, so people made appointments to come in and talk to me for an hour or two. Sometimes they had specific questions, but most of the time we'd just chat about stuff. I learned a lot about Japan and just people in general by talking to my students.

Favorite part of your experience: I really liked jogging to the Tama River with my host dad and our dog and meeting my mom and little host sister there. We played with the dog in the river and it was nice to see some nature alongside the river and not just buildings and concrete.

Kyle Jaros

Position: China Development Brief, Beijing. The China Development Brief reports on the activities of China's growing NGO community.

Favorite proverb in your host country: "Ta du zi hen you neirong." Literally, "His stomach has a lot of content," which means that someone is very knowledgeable.

Funniest thing someone said to you: When Chinese friends I made at different points of the same trip to Shanxi Province told me their names were "Rock" and "Candy," respectively.

Favorite food in your host country: Lychee nuts, hot pot, jiachang tofu.

Best thing about your job: Great, homemade Chinese lunches and a long, slow lunch hour during which to enjoy them.

Favorite part of your experience: (1) Working in a traditional courtyard building in the middle of an old, sleepy, humble neighborhood right smack in the middle of Beijing. (2) Having such varied opportunities in my work, from traveling all over Beijing to interview civil society activists, to helping my colleagues translate the mission statements of Christian social groups, to recording my own voice on China Development Brief's answering machine

message, to writing articles on different groups and civil society trends, to becoming part of the tiny, tight-knit office community in which I worked.

Xuihui Lim

Position: Computer skills teacher, Huangdu, China

Funniest thing someone said to you: A man in the street read out the inscription on my Mao bag ("Serve the people") and said something to the effect of "Little girl, your thinking is very good!"

Favorite food in your host country: I like xiao long bao a lot: little steamed dumplings with meat and piping hot soup inside. It was so good but I burnt my tongue so many times eating them.

Best thing about your job: At work I ate at a park everyday, where the food was cooked by the park's maintenance staff. It was actually some of the best food I had in Shanghai. On the last day of my internship they cooked a huge feast to send me off. We each got one personal bowl for food AND drink; to my amazement they alternately poured me beer and put food into the same bowl.

Favorite part of your experience: I took a rickety non-airconditioned bus to work everyday through the most industrial, dusty parts of Shanghai. The aisle would often be crowded with farmers' produce. I also loved walking around Old Town in Shanghai. It was amazing just being in place that was so run down and yet full of life.

Andrea Wang

Position: English teacher, Huangdu, China

Favorite proverb in your host country:



Kyle Jaros, looking dangerous in Beijing



Jessica Aisenbrey and some of her students in Tokyo

Our hosts referred to all children (including us!) as little rascals...even in our presence.

Favorite food in your host country: Xiao long bao!

Best thing about your job: I liked how incredibly small the town was. We worked in multiple locations (the park, the hospital, students homes), and with various people. The proximity of these places and the fact that everyone knew each other made for a really intimate experience.

Favorite part of your experience: The unusual casualness of the local people. One morning the driver brought a bowl of rice and chopsticks onto the bus for those brief moments when not too much steering was required.

Alyson Zureick

Position: *The Nation* Newspaper, Bangkok, Thailand.

Funniest thing someone said to you: The people at the reception desk of the hotel got so used to me asking for taxis that they started laughing whenever I came downstairs. I know it was friendly laughing but it still prompted me to walk all the way down to the bus station to avoid asking for another taxi!

Favorite food in your host country: Very spicy red curry with chicken, spicy papaya salad, and amazing shrimp cakes with sweet sauce.

Best thing about your job: Getting to cover the International AIDS Conference with the rest of *The Nation's* team. It was a great learning experience and awesome to hear people like Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan speak. I also got to interview Noeleen Heyzer, the executive director of UNIFEM and one of my personal role models.

Favorite part of your experience: Everyone at *The Nation* was incredibly nice and I got to do a lot of fun pieces. I wrote about an Ethiopian coffee shop, an English language library, a huge luxury gym and all kinds of other random stuff!

Alumni Notes

Trustee Ruth Stevens (Japan '74), has expanded her horizons beyond teaching MBA's at Columbia University. Ruth has taken her business-to-business consultancy global and is now conducting b2b marketing seminars in Asia and Africa (South Africa, Sudan)--where she garnered rave reviews and marriage proposals but only accepted the Henna-painting sessions.

Mark Slidell (Indonesia '94) is finishing his residency in General Surgery at Georgetown University. He still keeps in close touch with **Eric Westendorf** (Indonesia, '94) and **Steve Manning** (Indonesia '94) and occasionally sees **David Newhouse** (Indonesia '95) and **Brian Voigt** (Indonesia '96).

Building karmic credit for PiA, **Nina Henning** (Nepal '01) was recently featured in the Princeton Alumni Weekly for her good works in Nepal. Nina stayed in Nepal beyond her PiA fellowship and now runs the day-to-day operations of Wild Earth, a small company that markets handcrafted Himalayan herbed products and focuses on improving the life of the Nepalese women who produce them.

Delta Diva **Peggy Williams** (Vietnam '96, '97, '98...) recently completed her second (count 'em) bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering and is starting a job at an engineering company that will help communities in developing countries keep their air and water clean. On top of that, Peggy runs a camp for 8th grade girls to encourage them to study math and science and introduce them to engineering.

Jorge Robert (China '97) is moving from SFO to Illinois, heading to Northwestern's Kellogg School to get his MBA. He and **Sarah Stein** (China '97) recently met up and reminisced about Guangzhou.

Lia Gustafson Crompton (Singapore '98) just moved back to the mainland after a year in Hawaii with her husband Peter and daughter Eve. Island life reminded her of her year in sunny Singapore, but she's also happy with the four seasons the DC area now offers. Her penchant for neon-colored drinks with ice shavings remains intact.

Hot off the presses: Congrats to **Lucy Hornby** (China '95) who has recently been appointed the Reuters Mining and Agriculture correspondent in Shanghai, China. Talk to her if your soybean shipment is stuck at port in the South China Sea.

Meanwhile **Hilary Roxe** (Hong Kong '97) is in Florida covering the presidential elections for the Associated Press while brother **Jay Roxe** (Singapore '95), lives in Seattle and works for Microsoft. On a recent company-sponsored jaunt to Singapore Jay promised to look up PiA-ers and bring back durian...What's that smell?

A peripatetic **Jeff Noles** (China '92) has yet to shake PiA We've followed him from China to Taiwan and now back to China, where he is now based in Shanghai for eBay. He was recently back in touch with **Brad Lindebaum** (China '92) who is still in NYC at Alliance Capital Management.

Kate Linebaugh (Indonesia '94) reports that she has ended her months of wandering and has landed in Hong Kong as a banking reporter for the Asian Wall Street Journal.

PiA Rocket Scientists on Both Coasts! Congratulations to **Ben Weiss** (Singapore '95) on being named Assistant Professor at MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. Meanwhile, **Eric Peng** (China '94), after moving from Guangzhou, China to Baltimore to New Brunswick New Jersey, now finds himself at "The Centre of the Universe," which is the alternate moniker of the Dominion Observatory in Victoria, Canada. He has received a fellowship from the National Research Council of Canada to conduct research there on groups of stars in nearby galaxies. Congratulations to our own stars Ben and Eric!

Not to be outdone in the realm of legal affairs, PiA's **Clark Lombardi** (Indonesia '91) was recently appointed Assistant Professor of law at the University of Washington School of Law. Clark brings with him an expertise in Islamic and Constitutional law and legendary party motifs like "Durian and Epic Poetry Night." Selamat!

Josh Morris (Thailand '99) regaled outgoing PiA fellows at orientation with tales and pics of rock-climbing in Thailand. Josh's company, Chang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures, now in its second year, is sponsoring PiA fellow, **Kendyl Salcito** (Thailand '04) this year. Check out the website: www.thailandclimbing.com.

Jake Redway (Taiwan '74), is a partner at Latham & Watkins in the Singapore office. He has promised not to dig up dirt on the new ED despite his frequent travels to her old haunts in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Rick Johnston (Taiwan '64) lives in Alexandria, VA running a DC-based global consultancy. When he's not in China consulting on telecommunications companies, he drops by NYC to enjoy improvisational theater and performances by daughter "Di" and the Suitcase Players.

Rock stars **Chris Yakaitis** (Japan '04) and **Jeremy Harley** (Japan '04) recently returned to the States fresh from the success of their "farewell concert tour" in Japan where they played to a sold-out audience. Over 650 people in Yakage bought tickets to hear PiA's own modern-day Hall & Oates and to bid them goodbye. The soon-to-be released DVD will be available from the PiA office. (We're not kidding; people paid good Yen to see them).

Jeremy Harley, in a stirring rendition of Jay-Z's "Encore," rocks the crowd at his farewell concert.



Contact us with your news!
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