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Dear Princeton in Africa Friends,

It’s been a remarkable year for Princeton in Africa. Enthusiasm for Princeton in Africa’s program is as high as ever – from well-qualified fellowship applicants as well as from high-impact organizations eager to complement our program. It’s inspiring to witness the tremendous talent, drive and passion our Fellows bring to their work and to witness the change they are helping to achieve around the continent.

Along with this growth, a few important changes have occurred in our office. In late March, I welcomed a beautiful baby girl to my family, and I am now on maternity leave until August. In my absence, Stephanie Hooper Leroy, our fantastic Program Director, is leading Princeton in Africa as Acting Executive Director. In addition, this year we hired two new full-time staff members to join the PiAf team. Program & Administrative Assistant Cara Vu joined us in January, and Program Managers Liz Braden and April Borden joined us in April. Liz will have a long handover with current Program Manager and former Fellow Agatha Ofireje (PiAf 2009-10 with RIPAi in Botswana), who will be heading off to medical school this summer (and who we will miss greatly!).

Despite all of these changes, some key things remain the same. As always, we are inspired by the impact of our Fellows and look forward to supporting them and all of our Fellows as they demonstrate throughout the year to make the most out of their fellowship experience. We are thrilled to see how our fellowship program impacts the lives of many of our alumni, launching their professional careers and instilling in their hearts a lifelong love for Africa. And, as always, we are here to cheer on our Fellows and alumni with their successes, support them with challenges, and live vicariously through their adventures.

From all of our Fellows, partners, and our 300+ alumni worldwide, I send heartfelt thanks to those of you who helped make this year possible! It is only through donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals like you that we are able to send our Fellows to Africa year after year to assist our partner organizations and to provide these truly life-changing opportunities.

Warm regards from Princeton,

Jim Robinson
Executive Director

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Message From the President

Dear Princeton in Africa Friends,

It’s a great pleasure to share with you the highlights from a record-breaking year for Princeton in Africa. We are now working towards a new phase of growth and development, and I would like to share with you some of the key achievements of the past year.

We are committed to expanding our program’s reach and impact, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We are working to develop ways of measuring whether we are achieving our objectives in order to improve our fellowship program and to be more accountable to supporters and friends of PiAf.

I look forward to the year ahead with much excitement and encourage you to join us on this journey.

Jim Robinson
President, PiAf Board of Directors

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Message From the Executive Director

Dear Princeton in Africa Friends,

This year, 46 2013-14 Fellows from 30 colleges and universities have been working with 25 partner organizations in 15 countries across Africa. Here in Princeton, we have been busy supporting our Fellows and alumni, but also improving our programming, working to add several fantastic new partner organizations for 2014-15, and developing new monitoring and evaluation initiatives to better measure and assess the impact of our fellowship program (more inside).

Along with this growth, a few important changes have occurred in our office. In late March, I welcomed a beautiful baby girl to my family, and I am now on maternity leave until August. In my absence, Stephanie Hooper Leroy, our fantastic Program Director, is leading Princeton in Africa as Acting Executive Director. In addition, this year we hired two new full-time staff members to join the PiAf team. Program & Administrative Assistant Cara Vu joined us in January, and Program Managers Liz Braden and April Borden joined us in April. Liz will have a long handover with current Program Manager and former Fellow Agatha Ofireje (PiAf 2009-10 with RIPAi in Botswana), who will be heading off to medical school this summer (and who we will miss greatly!).

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Love in the Time of HIV

By Lillian Jin
PiAf 2013-14 Fellow with Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Lesotho

Sponsored by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

“My name is Eliza, and I like to gossip.” The small conference room at Baylor’s clinic burst into laughter, as Eliza, a visiting youth group coordinator from Zimbabwe, introduced herself to the workshop of Wise Youths group members, aged 18-24 years old, and psychosocial support staff. Eliza had come to Maseru with a member of her youth group to share her work supporting adolescents with HIV. In international development speak, this was a “knowledge transfer” and “peer support” exchange, visit, but in reality, it was a weekend full of laughs and new friends, friends that just also happened to be HIV-positive youth advocates for health equity. As Eliza went on to explain, she loves gossip because gossiping with the youth gives her the ability to form new relationships with people. This is wonderful! Always, you know. Many of my conversations with the Wise Youth are exactly the same as the conversations I have with both expat and home friends. It seems most young people are anxious about their love lives. During the workshop, Eliza led a session on disclosure of HIV status to romantic partners. For the Wise Youth, dating someone carries all the normal baggage of a relationship plus the complications of HIV. They are forced to give the other person the hard truth, as well as to work through the complicated psychological empowerment, and I have gained a deep appreciation for the importance of translating clinical insights into structural change and of treating patients as people, not simply their illnesses. The lessons I have learned and the relationships I have formed this year will continue to define how I think about medicine, as well as personal character, far into the future.

In public health, it’s hard to separate the personal and the political. National and international donor agendas can both shape a person’s survival and quality of life. During my fellowship, I have worked with our clinic’s Teen Club to provide an alternative to the medical treatment provided by Baylor with social support and psychological empowerment, and I have gained a deep appreciation for the importance of translating clinical insights into structural change and of treating patients as people, not simply their illnesses. The lessons I have learned and the relationships I have formed this year will continue to define how I think about medicine, as well as personal character, far into the future.

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What’s the Impact of Princeton in Africa?

Princeton in Africa staff and board members have been working together to answer this very challenging question.

We believe that by fostering productive work-based fellowships for recent graduates from U.S. colleges and universities, we will develop a broad network of individuals who:

• Engage in the work being done in Africa by Princeton in Africa’s partner organizations.
• Better understand the opportunities that exist in Africa, the needs of African communities and the organizations working in Africa in a range of sectors.
• Are more likely to have careers focused on Africa, give money and time to organizations working in Africa, and find other ways to remain committed to the advancement of Africa beyond their fellowship year.

We are working to develop ways of measuring whether we are achieving these objectives in order to improve our fellowship program and to be more accountable to supporters and friends of PiAf.

While we still have work to do in developing our monitoring and evaluation plan more fully, PiAf took a few important steps over the past year to become a more results-oriented organization.

• 94% of supervisiors reported that Fellows were either “extremely satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their Fellows’ work.
• 94% of supervisors reported that Fellows were either “extremely satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the mentorship and coaching they received.
• 100% of supervisors would recommend partnering with PiAf to other organizations, 97% would want another Fellow in the future (if funding allowed) and 80% would hire their current Fellow as a permanent staff member if possible (e.g., if funding was available).

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All in all, we received responses from more than 160 alumni (from our very first Fellows in 1999-2000 all the way up to our 2012-13 Fellows) and more than 30 supervisors from 20 of our 2012-13 partner organizations.

Here are some highlights:

Partner Organization/Supervisor Survey 2013

• 93% of supervisor respondents were “extremely satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their Fellows’ work.
• 94% of supervisors reported that Fellows were either “extremely satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the mentorship and coaching they received.
• 100% of supervisors would recommend partnering with PiAf to other organizations, 97% would want another Fellow in the future (if funding allowed) and 80% would hire their current Fellow as a permanent staff member if possible (e.g., if funding was available).

Alumni Survey 2013

• 97% of alumni reported being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their experience as a Princeton in Africa Fellow.
• 77% of alumni “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that skills, awareness and experience gained during their fellowship year helped them acquire a job in their field of interest.
• 55% of alumni reported taking part in work or study related to Africa, nearly 60% of alumni have returned to Africa since their fellowship year, and nearly 60% of alumni reported volunteering or donating to organizations in Africa.
• 84% reported that they had an increased commitment to Africa’s advancement after their fellowship year.

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PiAf Board President Jim Robinson (left) with PiAf Co-Founder Frank Straburger and Carrie Straburger at PiAf’s annual benefit gala in November 2013
Measuring the Climb from Extreme Poverty in Kenya's Arid Lands

By Alex Villec
PIAf 2013-14 Fellow with the BOMA Project, Kenya
Sponsored by the Segal Family Foundation

Nine months in Kenya has taught me well beyond the bounds of my job description. Even though monitoring and evaluation constitutes the bulk of my work with the BOMA Project, the non-quantifiable aspects of life in Nanyuki have so far left the greatest impression. It’s impossible to put a dollar value on the sunshine over Mount Kenya, to predict utility gains from the national dish, or to capture in a statistical model the fulfillment that comes from learning a new language.

While these resist measurement, too does the complex interaction of economic behavior, social networks, and cultural norms present as communities where we work. The BOMA Project targets the poorest micro-entrepreneurs in pastoral communities where recurrent drought and conflict undermine a deep-seated tradition of livestock herding. With seed capital, training, and the years of mentoring, BOMA aims to successfully graduate participants from extreme poverty.

What does success look like? Is food security permanent or no, or do sustainable incomes and business growth take center stage? Is a household with diversified assets better off than the dry season, or does the financial investment in a young girl’s education actually tell us more about a household’s resilience in the long run? Armed with relevant indicators, how do we analyze, weigh, and interpret them to tell a story about what’s happening in Kenya’s arid lands? BOMA has afforded me the privilege of couching these questions around the clock.

Working at a small NGO means that each staff member has a seat at the decision-making table. Within days I had thrown myself into a wholesale revision of our approach to savings group data collection; last month I concluded a baseline assessment of BOMA’s savings program, from questionnaire design and training of field staff to analysis and reporting.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity that has truly opened the rare and elusive door to meaningful, relevant work as a recent graduate and aspiring development practitioner. Here on the equator, I continue to navigate previously unexplored avenues of project management, technical analysis, and leadership in a context where the potential to have a lasting impact is palpable.

Beats and Cashew Butts – A Soundtrack of Life in Accra

By Allyse McGrath
PIAf 2013-14 Fellow with African Cashew Alliance, Ghana
Sponsored by Princeton in Africa Alumni

During my fellowship, Accra, Ghana has become a warm (literally and figuratively) home away from home. I think that each stage in my life has had a different soundtrack, so I thought I would share with you my favorite soundtrack yet—the sounds and songs that make up my life in Accra.

1. Diva Hits: My neighbors (and many Ghanaians) share my appreciation for Beyoncé and her eclectic pop albums, and often blast my girls Whitney and Celine. “I Want To Dance with Somebody” playing on my block always makes me feel like I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

2. Nutty Conversation: I have learned more than I could have hoped about global supply chains, economic, development, and agricultural policy during my first six months at the African Cashew Alliance. I have also learned, as you might expect, a weird amount of information about the best nut out there. Step into the ACA office for a day and you will hear the word cashew in four different languages, terms like “Splits,” “Butts,” and “CNSL” (Cashew Nut Shell Liquid), which are all types of outputs from the cashew tree, and discussion of cashew prices at the “farmgate,” “FOB,” and “ex-warehouse.” As the Communications Officer at ACA, I work on reporting to donors, distributing market information to ACA members, and creating newsletters and web content.

3. Mediocre Covers of a Variety of Motown and Rock songs: Every Thursday and Sunday night, I live out my high school dreams of “jamming” with friends. I never would have expected that it would take me moving to Ghana to join a band, but I am loving every second of it.

4. Akayida: Referred to by many as the “new Azonto,” Akayida is taking over the popular music scene in Ghana. The Akayida dance is a simple and syncopated beat that makes me feel, even for just one second, like I can dance like a Ghanaian.

PIAf 2013-2014 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

accessenergy (Kenya)
African Cashew Alliance (Ghana)
African Impact (Zambia)
Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (Botswana, Lesotho & Tanzania)
The BOMA Project (Kenya)
Clinton Health Access Initiative (Uganda)
eleQtra (Infraco) (Uganda)
Equal Education (South Africa)
Gardens for Health International (Kenya)
Imani Development (Malawi)
Indolego Africa (Zambia)
International Rescue Committee (Ethiopia, Kenya & Somalia [based in Nairobi])
 Invisible Children (Uganda)
 Kireketela Foundation (Zambia)
 Lutheran World Federation (Burundi)
 Maru-a-Pula (Botswana)
 Mpala Research Centre & Wildlife Foundation (Kenya)
 Nyumbani Village (Kenya)
 Okami International (Ghana, Mozambique & Zambia)
 Plan International (Uganda)
 Project Mercy (Ethiopia)
 Sanergy (Kenya)
 Save the Children (Ethiopia)
 UN World Food Programme (Benin, Malawi, Senegal & South Africa)
 Village Enterprise (Kenya/Uganda)

Overall, our regular presence in the lab after school and on weekends has created a nurturing environment where students are encouraged and inspired to learn more outside of their regular class times in a way that had not previously existed.
Our 2013-14 Fellows (plus PIAf alums Mark Adrieu and PIAf Co-Founder Frank Strausburger) counted their time together during this year’s mid-year retreat in Jinja, Uganda. Arien Cox, working in Rwanda with Indego Africa. Sharing elations and frustrations of life and work with a group of individuals who could relate, understand, and offer a poignant perspective was extremely validating; the retreat environment successfully fostered vulnerability and open discussions.

Listening to the stories and experiences of the current Fellow cohort highlighted the diversity and reach of this ever-expanding PIAf family. “The retreat left me with an overwhelming sense of solidarity as a member of the Princeton in Africa community… sans bilharzia!”

Maya Gainer (Princeton ‘13) shared, “I felt like, the retreat reminded me of the importance of our distance to our shared learning.”

The retreat afforded us valuable time to reflect upon and internalize the past couple months in our respective communities. Despite living in different countries and working with various organizations, we all quickly began to realize that many aspects of our lives are much more similar than not. “The retreat was so refreshing for me because it gave me a safe space to talk about my struggles and triumphs with people who genuinely want me to succeed,” remarked Arien Cox.

Rejuvenated by thoughtful conversation and lush greenery, I left the retreat feeling an indescribable sense of solidarity as a member of the Princeton in Africa community… sans bilharzia!

PIAf Partner Profile: Introducing eleQtra (InfraCo)

By Ali Altfeld

Infrastructure development in developing countries is a complex, multi-stage process that requires specific technical, financial, and legal expertise. While there is no shortage of infrastructure opportunities in Africa, few projects attract private sector capital due to the lack of well-developed and investment-worthy projects.

Operating since 2005, eleQtra has worked to fill this void by committing the time, expertise, and capital necessary to develop bankable infrastructure projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. eleQtra has successfully delivered projects in various sectors across the continent, including a wind farm in Cape Verde, a multisector project on the Kalangala Islands in Uganda, a gas power plant in Ghana, and an irrigation project in Zambia.

Specifically, eleQtra partners with host governments, local organizations, and private sector firms to turn African countries’ development goals into reality, by:

• Identifying and prioritizing infrastructure project options;
• Developing projects that can attract private sector investors;
• Attracting investors and mobilizing local and international financing for the projects; and
• Bringing the projects to financial close and overseeing their construction and operations.

Headquartered in London and New York, eleQtra also has regional offices in Ghana, Zambia, and Uganda, where PIAf Fellow Ali Altfeld is based. Ali has been working with eleQtra as a financial analyst since August 2013. She joined the company after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and working for two years in Goldman Sachs’ Power Infrastructure group.

Ali’s role with eleQtra includes building cash flow models to analyze profitability of potential new projects, maintaining relationships with local partners and government officials to facilitate new and existing projects, and preparing various applications for permits and bids. Ali also works with eleQtra’s Kalangala Infrastructure Project, a project that serves Kalangala Island residents with improved access to transportation, electricity, and water, by supporting their ongoing financial operations. Living in Kampala, Ali has witnessed firsthand the dire need for infrastructure that many African governments cannot afford on their own.

Princeton in Africa has been pleased to partner with eleQtra since 2011, and looks forward to having additional PIAf Fellows support eleQtra’s efforts to develop infrastructure across Sub-Saharan Africa in the future.
In 2013, Princeton in Africa announced a new fellowship program for students with Gardens for Health International, sponsored by the Cronan Family in honor of Tom Cronan. We were delighted to place Christiana Raghavan in this role. Here, Christiana asks about her work, the PiAf fellowship program, and everything in between.

Princeton in Africa in 2013 announced a new fellowship program for students with Gardens for Health International (GHI). One of the first things I learned about the organization was that it is designed to present opportunities to students with a wide variety of backgrounds to work in an area of international development. I went to the Harvard Kennedy School, master those skills, especially around economics and statistics, in order to pursue my career in international development, but I also knew that I didn’t have that skill set.

CR: How did you come to the decision to continue working in and with organizations that are traditionally funded? And how did your fellowship year with us inform your thinking about this?

Christian Raghavan: Thinking about my fellowship year all of the time. It was incredibly formative, and it was also the time when I was most idealistic. To put it simply, I think about my fellowship year all of the time. It was incredibly formative, and it was also the time when I was most idealistic. To put it simply, I think about my fellowship year all of the time. It was incredibly formative, and it was also the time when I was most idealistic.

After my fellowship, I stayed in Zambia to work with FINCA, a global microfinance institution. In my one-and-a-half year with them, I have held a number of different positions within the company as part of a management development program. I am currently the Credit Manager for our new Small Enterprise Lending program, working to bring the organization’s services to the smallest entrepreneurs with businesses that have less than 10 employees. I’m really passionate about the role that the microfinance sector can play in poverty alleviation.

Katherine Anderson

PiAf 2008-09 Tanzanila Christian Refugee Service, Tanzania

PiAf 2009-10 International Rescue Committee, South Sudan

After completing my fellowship, I stayed in South Sudan for two years, working as the Program Manager for the IRC’s child survival program. I then relocated to the UK to pursue an MA in Conflict, Security and Development from King’s College London. More recently, I’ve had the unexpected pleasure of returning to the New Jersey area to work with the Segel Family Foundation, where I manage impact investments. I now work in a growth capital investing network of innovative grassroots entrepreneurs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Steven Andrea

PiAf 2005-06 International Rescue Committee, Sudan

I am currently based in Beijing and work for an American NGO. After completing my fellowship, I received a JD from the UCLA School of Law. My current practice is focused on intellectual property and environmental law matters.

Amuka Anku

PiAf 2006-07 International Rescue Committee, Democratic Republic of the Congo

I am currently working for the UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa. My role is to assist my team and partners in the region with the global, regional, and country level什么是解决饥饿、教育、和营养等挑战。我的工作重点是协调区域和国家水平的资源。我的任务是帮助推动当地和区域政策的变革，以便更好地满足儿童的需要。我与合作伙伴紧密合作，包括政府、非政府组织和民间社会，以确保我们的工作能够产生积极的影响。我的目标是确保我们的工作能够产生长期的、可持续的改变，以便更好地满足儿童的需要。我的工作重点是协调区域和国家水平的资源。我的任务是帮助推动当地和区域政策的变革，以便更好地满足儿童的需要。我的目标是确保我们的工作能够产生长期的、可持续的改变。我的目标是确保我们的工作能够产生长期的、可持续的改变。
Working for The Dignitas Project, an organization that empowers individuals to leave high-risk environments through intense coaching on leadership, governance, and accountability. During my fellowship, we focused on improving pediatric anesthesiology practices and expand education and awareness. The opportunity that PAI gives you to be a part of something bigger than yourself, while making a difference in Africa's development – would take years to do on your own. The trust and opportunity to work in different countries and zones of conflict and in regions where just a few years ago the chance was to return to the continent very soon! My first published work, “Anesthesia and Analgesia for Children,” was just accepted for publication during my time in Botswana and is one of the stories that gained me an acceptance to the Iowa Writer’s Workshop in 2013.

Kaleo Keily, 2012-13 Fellow with International Rescue Committee, Uganda

I am currently working at the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, working as an investigator at BDS has opened my eyes and ears and learn from the people around me. I am currently living and working in New York City. The opportunity that PAI gives you to be a part of something bigger than yourself, while making a difference in Africa’s development – would take years to do on your own. The trust and opportunity to work in different countries and zones of conflict and in regions where just a few years ago the chance was to return to the continent very soon! My first published work, “Anesthesia and Analgesia for Children,” was just accepted for publication during my time in Botswana and is one of the stories that gained me an acceptance to the Iowa Writer’s Workshop in 2013.

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Reflections From a Former Fellow

Kelsey Lilley

I am currently working at Eagle Rock School & College, a K-12 public high school and college students.

Rachel Quint

I'm currently working at University of Cape Town Quantitative Literacy Project, South Africa.

Meredith Ragno

I'm currently working for the Global Impact Investing Network in New York, helping to develop standard frameworks for impact measurement.

Jing Ren

I'm currently working for the Global Impact Investing Network in New York, helping to develop standard frameworks for impact measurement.

Kellie Kelly

I am currently working at the Stanford Memorial Church in Menlo Park, CA.

Rachel Quint

I'm currently working for the Global Impact Investing Network in New York, helping to develop standard frameworks for impact measurement.

Kellie Kelly

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Reflections From a Former Fellow

“Princeton in Africa made it possible for me, just after graduating from college, to be connected with one of the most prominent humanitarian organizations in the world and begin a career dedicated to serving refugees and displaced persons in Africa. I am frequently reminded about how rare an opportunity this is and how lucky I am to have been given it. From submitting reports to foreign governments to touring the main hospital in Kakuma with the IRC’s head nurse to meeting with partner organizations, I have amassed a wealth of experiences I never thought possible. PiAf has allowed me to build my skill base and enhance my ability to continue working in the development field in Africa.

Without this fellowship opportunity, I would not have been connected with so many inspiring and passionate professionals and mentors in this field who have offered me advice and encouraged me to stay in the region and gain some more practical experience before heading back to school. I am committed to contributing to the development of this region, and I am so grateful that PiAf recognized that in me and decided to give me the chance to make an impact.”

John Drollinger (back right in the photo)
PiAf 2012-13 Fellow with International Rescue Committee, Kenya
Now working full-time with the IRC in South Sudan

Since 1999, PiAf has sent more than 330 Fellows to work in 34 countries across Africa.