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Our 2013-14 Fellows at their Orientation weekend in June 2013.



PiAf's 2013-14 Southern African Fellows met up at Victoria Falls in Livingstone, Zambia. (left to right) Danielle Boyda, Lillian Jin, Sarah Rogers, Kwame Gayle, Sophia Robele, and Dana Nickson.



PiAf 2013-14 Fellow Ryan Kirlin gauging infant malnutrition levels as part of his work with WFP Senegal.

## Message From the Executive Director

Dear Princeton in Africa Friends,

We have another fantastic newsletter to share with you this year! I hope you enjoy reading stories from current Fellows, learning more about our partner organizations, and catching up with our alumni network.

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 Manager Liz Braden joined us in April. Liz will have a long handover with current Program Manager and former Fellow Agatha Oforjebe (PiAf 2009-10 with BIPAI 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 tenacity, hard work, and passion our Fellows have demonstrated 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,  
Katie Henneman  
*Executive Director*



Greetings from the Princeton in Africa staff! (left to right) Program Director Stephanie Hooper Leroy, Program Manager Agatha Oforjebe, Executive Director Katie Henneman, Program Manager Liz Braden, and Program & Administrative Assistant Cara Vu

## Message From the President

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 benefit from a Fellow's assistance. We received 464 fellowship applications this fall for approximately 45-50 posts for the upcoming 2014-15 fellowship year – a very competitive 10% acceptance rate.

Our Board is committed to growing our program further – creating more opportunities for recent graduates with an even greater number of outstanding partner organizations – but doing so in a strategic and thoughtful manner. We are approached by more qualified partner



PiAf Board President Jim Robinson (left) with PiAf Co-Founder Frank Strasburger and Carrie Strasburger at PiAf's annual benefit gala in November 2013.

organizations every year, and one of our biggest challenges is finding those that fit our model, and weeding out those that don't. Our major focuses are to continue to find new ways to support our Fellows, to strengthen the network linking our alumni, and to deepen our relationships with our partners across the African continent.

I had the pleasure of participating again in the Fellow selection process, reviewing applications and interviewing many of the candidates for Princeton in Africa's 2014-15 fellowship class. The interview process is always an energizing and stimulating one, and we are thrilled to have so many qualified candidates available to support our partner organizations. It's inspiring to witness the tremendous talent, drive and passion of so many young people eager to spend a year living and working in Africa.

Our mission to develop young leaders committed to the advancement of Africa remains as vital as ever. It has been my privilege to meet with many of our supporters to listen to why they believe our work is important, and to share our vision for the future of Princeton in Africa. We need your help to achieve our shared vision, and I offer my sincere thanks to all of you who have already assisted us through your support, advocacy and sharing information about our program.

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*

## 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 Youth 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 their 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 warrior-advocates for health equity. As Eliza went on to explain, she loves gossip because gossiping with the youth gives her a fuller, more personal picture of the challenges facing the group that her counselling and social work degrees cannot approximate.

"So, are you dating anyone?" a Wise Youth member asked me over lunch. I laughed at the prospect of dating within my small social circle in Maseru and returned his question. He smirked and shrugged, "It's hard. Forever alone, 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 stigma, limited social acceptance of discordant couples, and fear of transmission to partner or future children. For young women, being HIV positive is still synonymous with prostitution, and even now as I write this, I have to be careful not to use any of our Wise Youth or Teen

Club's names and images. At Teen Club and Wise Youth meetings, we tell the teens they are able to live a full life, regardless of their HIV status. However, after talking to the Wise Youth, I gained a greater appreciation of how difficult that task could be when the HIV epidemic had warped even the most intimate building blocks of society, personal relationships.

In public health, it's hard to separate the personal and the political.



Lillian (second from the right) attends a youth group workshop with Eliza (third from the left) and Baylor's Wise Youth and Teen Club staff.

National and international donor agendas can define both a person's survival and quality of life. During my fellowship, I have worked with our clinic's Teen Club to complement 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 illness. 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.

## 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:

- Contribute positively to 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. Last summer, Princeton in Africa launched its first Partner Organization/Supervisor Survey as well as our 2013 Alumni Survey to collect important information about our program. A big thank you to all of the alumni and partner organizations who took the time and effort to respond to these surveys.

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 effective" or "very effective."
- 94% of supervisors reported that their Fellows' skills, knowledge, and attitude met the needs of the position and organization.
- 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.

## The Fight for Social Justice Must Remain Familiar

By Dana Nickson  
PiAf 2013-14 Fellow with Equal Education, South Africa  
Sponsored by the EGG Foundation

At this point in my fellowship year, it is hard to really know what I initially expected when I left home for South Africa to work at Equal Education (EE), a citizen-driven movement working towards an equal and quality education system in South Africa. Over the past eight months, new routines have been learned and days blend together, signaling a level of familiarity. No longer am I completely lost when co-workers have lively debates about South Africa's vibrant political happenings. Surprisingly, some days I even forget to gaze at glorious Table Mountain and appreciate that I am living in a breathtakingly beautiful place. Most days, life moves along with everyday challenges and occurrences.

In my familiarity, I find it a bit more difficult to answer questions like "How have you been impacted by your time?" Put simply, my time here has been much more reflective than I am sometimes comfortable expressing. I have had time to listen, learn and really think about South African social dynamics. South Africa has undoubtedly provided a lens through which



Dana (far left) with post-school youth involved in Equal Education's Community Leadership Programme.

I am able to see the effects of structural inequality and racial oppression on young people and their educational experiences. Even greater than the contributions I have made in EE's youth department, what has been most meaningful is the opportunity to better understand the struggles many underserved communities face. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside Khayelitsha youth and witness their brazen voices demanding what we must surely provide all children: a quality education.

As I seek to define my personal and professional path, the Princeton in Africa fellowship has demonstrated that growth, understanding and the fight for social justice must remain familiar. This realization has moved whatever initial expectations I held to substantive realities and strengthened my commitment to the work of improving education for underserved children in our world.

## 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 every 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 the world's great pop divas 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.



Allyse (left) with ACA conference participants, geared up to walk around a cashew processing factory in Mim, Ghana.

**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 syncopated sway that makes me feel, even for just one second, like I can dance like a Ghanaian.

## PIAF 2013-2014 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

access:energy (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 (Rwanda)  
Imani Development (Malawi)  
Indego Africa (Rwanda)  
International Rescue Committee (Ethiopia, Kenya & Somalia [based in Nairobi])

## 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 have stretched 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 sunrise over Mount Kenya, to predict utility gains from mastering the national dish, or to capture in a statistical model the fulfillment that comes from learning a new language.

While these resist measurement, so too does the complex interaction of economic behavior, social networks, and cultural norms present in 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 two years of mentoring, BOMA aims to successfully graduate participants from extreme poverty.

What does success look like? Is food security priority number one, or do sustainable incomes and business growth take center stage? Can a household with



Alex with two BOMA mentors, Judy and Ali (to Alex's left), and a BOMA participant (to Alex's immediate right) in Kargi, Kenya, after conducting an assessment of program participants as they exit from two years in BOMA's program.

## Expanding Education Beyond the Classroom

By Meghan Smith and James Henry  
PiAf 2013-14 Fellows with Project Mercy, Ethiopia  
Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

When we first arrived at Project Mercy, we were assigned the positions of science laboratory teachers, instructing regular weekly lab classes for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Grades 6-12. We spent the first two months working with these subject teachers in order to plan classes and create laboratory curriculum, as there was no previous documentation of laboratory activities.

As the year progressed, we took on various positions teaching Chemistry, Biology, and English courses according to the needs of the

diversified assets better withstand 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 chewing on 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.

school, which left little time for us to implement the curriculum we developed except for those classes directly related to our new teaching assignments. Nevertheless, we maintained a positive educational environment in the lab throughout the rest of the year, including activities such as a regular fifth grade reading program for students with reading difficulties, after school group and one-on-one tutoring, and biweekly English improvement classes for the teachers. The lab has also served as a space for self-initiated eye-screenings for over 350 students, inspired by the large number of students with vision difficulties, as well as a space for an occasional experiment or dissection for eager students after school or on the weekends. We have also started a library in the laboratory that includes phonics and learning-to-read books, fiction for middle and high school students, and subject material guides for students wanting to reinforce their studies in preparation for the national exams. In addition to facilitating these activities, we serve as the "school nurses," providing services for over 1000 students who seek treatment or advice for anything from minor cuts or wounds to severe infections or injuries.



Meghan and James teaching grade seven students about flammability and the process of burning magnesium.

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.

## PiAf 2014 Fellows' Retreat Reflections

By Ryan Kirlin

PiAf 2013-14 Fellow with UN World Food Programme, Senegal

From March 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 42 of the 2013-14 Princeton in Africa Fellows, PiAf staff, alumni and PiAf Co-Founder Frank Strasburger convened at the Nile River Explorers River Camp in Jinja, Uganda for the 2014 PiAf Mid-Year Retreat – five days of reflection, community, camaraderie and bilharzia\* jokes.

As the only opportunity for the whole Fellow cohort to unite while still on the continent, the retreat is an essential component of our fellowship year. The PiAf team organized a thought-provoking program of facilitated conversations, group activities and small discussions that allowed us to renew the connections we established at orientation and prompted us to continue to think critically about global development work, Africa and our time abroad. The trip to the source of the Nile, boat cruise to Samuka Island, two birthday celebrations and late-night limbo competition all certainly helped to solidify PiAf bonds.

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, 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 gratitude for the incredible chance to have crossed paths with some of the most amazing people I have ever met, my fellow Fellows” said Allyse McGrath, working with the African Cashew Alliance in Ghana. “While I wish I could have carried every Fellow back to Accra with me, the retreat reminded me of the importance of our distance to our shared learning.”

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!

\*A parasitic river disease



42 of PiAf's 2013-14 Fellows, along with a few staff, alumni, and PiAf Co-Founder Frank Strasburger, enjoyed their time together during this year's mid-year retreat in Jinja, Uganda.



Our 2013-14 Fellows (plus PiAf alum Mark Adams and PiAf Co-Founder Frank Strasburger) on a boat headed to Samuka Island in Jinja, Uganda, about twenty minutes from the source of the Nile.



Our 2013-14 Fellows had a blast rafting the Nile River.



Some of our 2013-14 Fellows enjoying a scenic view at the retreat.

## PIAF 2013-2014 FELLOWS

Alexandra Altfeld (Penn '11)  
eleQtra (InfraCo), Uganda

Elise Barry (Georgetown '13)  
International Rescue Committee, Ethiopia

Douglas Bove (New College of Florida '08)  
Village Enterprise, Kenya/Uganda

Danielle Boyda (Barnard '11)  
Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Botswana  
Sponsored by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Riley Brigham (Davidson '13)  
Maru-a-Pula, Botswana

Phoebe Carver (Middlebury '13)  
Maru-a-Pula, Botswana

Luke Connell (Yale '13)  
International Rescue Committee, Kenya

Kristen Conroy (Elon '13)  
Nyumbani Village, Kenya  
Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

Arien Cox (Princeton '13)  
Indego Africa, Rwanda  
Sponsored by Princeton Class of '72

Erik Dolson (University of Wisconsin-Madison '12)  
Imani Development, Malawi

Sarah Evans (Penn '13)  
Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Tanzania  
Sponsored by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

David Friedman (Duke '13)  
Save the Children, Ethiopia

Maya Gainer (Princeton '13)  
International Rescue Committee, Kenya

Kivame Gayle (Macalester '11)  
Maru-a-Pula, Botswana

Yash Gharat (Cornell '13)  
Olam International, Zambia

Alex Hellmuth (University of Notre Dame '10)  
Olam International, Ghana

James Henry (Bowdoin '13)  
Project Mercy, Ethiopia  
Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

Lillian Jin (Columbia '13)  
Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Lesotho  
Sponsored by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Katy Johnson (University of Wisconsin-Madison '13)  
International Rescue Committee, Somalia (Based in Nairobi, Kenya)

Jonathan Kesten (Georgetown '13)  
Olam International, Mozambique

Ryan Kirlin (Johns Hopkins '13)  
UN World Food Programme, Senegal

Kelly Jacob (Stanford '12)  
Clinton Health Access Initiative, Uganda

Lauren Manning (Northwestern '13)  
Invisible Children, Uganda

Beverley Mbu (Wellesley '10)  
Save the Children, Ethiopia

Flannery McArdle (Carleton '13)  
Plan International, Uganda

Allyse McGrath (University of Michigan '13)  
African Cashew Alliance, Ghana  
Sponsored by Princeton in Africa Alumni

Emily Moder (Princeton '13)  
access:energy, Kenya  
Sponsored by the Segal Family Foundation

Caitlin Monroe (Stanford '12)  
Lutheran World Federation, Burundi

Kaitlyn Neuberger (Georgetown '10)  
UN World Food Programme, Senegal

Dana Nickson (Northwestern '11)  
Equal Education, South Africa  
Sponsored by the EGG Foundation

Krishnan Raghavan (Haverford '11)  
International Rescue Committee, Somalia (Based in Nairobi, Kenya)

Sarah Rawson (George Washington '13)  
UN World Food Programme, Malawi

Christiana Renfro (Princeton '13)  
Gardens for Health International, Rwanda  
Sponsored by the Cronan Family in honor of Toni Morrison

Sophia Robele (Northwestern '13)  
UN World Food Programme, South Africa

Daniel Robinson (Georgetown '12)  
Olam International, Ghana

Sarah Rogers (Duke '13)  
African Impact, Zambia

Sarah Sagan (Vanderbilt '12)  
UN World Food Programme, Benin

Kristin Schmitz (Stanford '12)  
Save the Children, Ethiopia

Marielle Schweickart (Rice '12)  
Sanergy, Kenya

Fritz Siegert (Whitman '12)  
Maru-a-Pula, Botswana

Stefanie Siller (Princeton '13)  
Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation  
Sponsored by the Keller Family

Meghan Smith (Harvard '13)  
Project Mercy, Ethiopia  
Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

Gordon Taylor (Texas State '10)  
Kucetekela Foundation, Zambia

Alexander Villec (Georgetown '13)  
The BOMA Project, Kenya  
Sponsored by the Segal Family Foundation

Eliza Warren-Shriner (Bowdoin '13)  
UN World Food Programme, Senegal

Josh Wunderlich (Hope '11)  
UN World Food Programme, Malawi

## PiAf Partner Profile: Introducing eleQtra (InfraCo)

By Alie Altfeld

PiAf 2013-14 Fellow with eleQtra (InfraCo)

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 Alie Altfeld is based. Alie 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.

Alie'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. Alie 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, Alie 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.



Alie (third from the right) meeting with Community Leadership in the Mweena Landing Site for the Kalangala Infrastructure Project.

## PiAf Alumni Profile: A Q&A Session with Jessie Cronan

Interview by Christiana Renfro

PiAf 2013-14 Fellow with Gardens for Health International

With Jessie Cronan

PiAf 2007-08 Fellow with Rift Valley Children's Village, Tanzania

Executive Director of Gardens for Health International

In 2013, Princeton in Africa announced a new fellowship post with Gardens for Health International, sponsored by the Cronan Family in honor of Toni Morrison. We were delighted to place Christiana Renfro at this post. Here, Christiana asks Jessie about her work, the PiAf fellowship program, and everything in between.

When Princeton in Africa began the process of placing me with Gardens for Health International (GHI), one of the first things I learned about the organization was that its Executive Director, Jessie Cronan, was a former Princeton in Africa Fellow. Since then, I've had the pleasure of working for and constantly learning from her as a Fellow myself. Following is my interview with Jessie.

**CR: What did your PiAf fellowship position entail?**

JC: My position evolved during my time there. It started with teaching English – I was teaching at the local primary school, something that a lot of Princeton in Africa Fellows were doing. I taught fourth and seventh grade, which was really interesting because I spoke no Swahili when I got there, and the kids spoke no English! So, we learned quickly. But about five months into my time there, TCF began a managed contract with the school itself.

So, my second six months were a little bit different. I was on the frontlines of figuring out what this new management structure would entail between the organization and the school. I continued teaching, but I also participated in teacher enrichment, curriculum development, and a whole variety of things related to the new structure. I had a lot of opportunities to try new things.

**CR: How did you come to the decision to continue working in and with Africa following your time at the Tanzanian Children's Fund?**

JC: I came out of my fellowship knowing that I wanted to work in international development, but I also knew that I didn't have that skill set. I decided to go to graduate school mostly because I knew that I needed to master those skills, especially around economics and statistics, in order to make a real impact on the field. I went to the Harvard Kennedy School, which really provided that crash course I needed to learn everything I use in my job now with Gardens for Health.

After the Kennedy School, I went to work for a bigger NGO, TechnoServe,



Christiana (center) with two colleagues at GHI Rwanda's community lunch program.



Jessie during one of her visits to Rwanda as Executive Director of Gardens for Health.

serve. I then got this job with Gardens for Health that not only lets me spend a third of my time on the African continent, but that lets me work for an organization that is deeply rooted in the communities we serve.

**CR: How did your fellowship experience affect the path you took to your current position? In other words, how does the work you did then influence the work you do now?**

JC: My fellowship experience has affected my path in a lot of ways. I actually found out about the job at Gardens for Health from the Princeton in Africa listserv, so I quite literally wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for PiAf.

But beyond that, the path I've taken has been very humbling. During my fellowship, I was so passionate about education, but I didn't fully understand all of the issues at play when you're running an organization. So it's been really interesting, managing donors and budgets and boards and human resources – all of the things that as a Fellow you might not be so aware of.

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.

It still helps me when I'm thinking about our entire team, to remember that everybody comes at issues through the lens of what they're most passionate about.

### Thoughts From a 2013-14 Fellow

*Princeton in Africa has allowed me to start my career in development in a position with an international organization that would have taken me at least three years and a master's degree to land on my own. I and the other Fellows are some of the youngest people I have met with full-time jobs in Nairobi and this really highlights how unique the Princeton in Africa program is in terms of giving young professionals a start in the field of international development. Apart from the placement itself, Princeton in Africa's emphasis on fostering a strong sense of community among each fellowship class gives each Fellow access to an unparalleled network of committed and passionate individuals for the rest of their personal and professional lives.*

Krishnan Raghavan, PiAf 2013-14 Fellow, IRC Somalia (based in Kenya)



Krishnan Raghavan (second from left) with former Fellow Jane Yang (2011-12, IRC, Kenya) and current Fellows Alex Villec (the BOMA Project) and Katy Johnson (IRC Somalia).

## Announcing New PiAf Partners for 2014-15

Princeton in Africa is excited to announce eight fantastic new partners for our upcoming 2014-15 fellowship year. We are honored to be working with such innovative, respected, dynamic organizations – and welcome all of them to the PiAf family! In addition, we are pleased to be working with African Leadership Academy and mothers2mothers again this year.

**African School of Economics** – The African School of Economics (located in Benin) partners with academic institutions to address the dearth of quality tertiary education, cutting-edge research, and innovative public policy in Africa by creating an incubator of business leaders and social scientists.

**Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania** – CCBRT is the largest indigenous provider of disability services in Tanzania. CCBRT aims to empower people with disabilities and their families, improve their quality of life, and ensure access to medical and rehabilitative treatment.

CCBRT is also engaged in extensive maternal and newborn healthcare activities.

**Global Shea Alliance** – Global Shea Alliance is a nonprofit industry association (based in Ghana) that aims to drive a competitive and sustainable shea industry worldwide, improving the livelihoods of rural African women and their communities.

**Hope Through Health** – Hope Through Health works to deliver efficient, effective, community-driven healthcare in Togo, a country often marginalized or ignored by the international community. HTH supports five health centers in the Kara Region of Togo.

**Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania** – IEFT provides quality, affordable secondary education and fosters educational opportunities to underserved children in rural Tanzania, aiming to provide youth with the knowledge and skills to create positive change within their own communities.

## Alumni Updates

**Mark Adams**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Kucetekela Foundation, Zambia**

After my fellowship, I stayed in Zambia to work with FINCA, a global microfinance institution. In my one and a half years with them, I have held a number of positions within the company as part of a management development program. I am currently the Credit Manager for our new Small Enterprise Lending product, catering to those Zambian entrepreneurs with businesses larger than those microlending has traditionally funded.

**Katherine Anderson**

**PiAf 2008-09 Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service, Tanzania**

**PiAf 2009-10 International Rescue Committee, South Sudan**

After completing my fellowship, I stayed in South Sudan for another 2 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 & 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 Segal Family Foundation, where I manage impact assessment and grantee reporting for our growing network of innovative grassroots partners throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Steven Andrews**

**PiAf 2005-06**

**International Rescue Committee, Sudan**

I am currently based in Beijing and work as a Foreign Counsel with a Chinese law firm. After completing my PiAf fellowship, I received a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. My current practice is focused on intellectual property and environmental law matters.

**Amaka Anku**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**International Rescue Committee, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

I'm still at Shearman & Sterling, LLP's DC office, working in the international arbitration group. In other news, I'm having a baby in July!

**John Arndt**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**Invisible Children, Uganda**

I'm currently living in Lancaster, PA. I sell raw milk at a farmer's market and work on a small organic produce farm.

**Michael Arnst**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Equal Education, South Africa**

Since my fellowship, I have come back to my adopted hometown of Baltimore to combine my previous work experience in philanthropy and, thanks to PiAf, education policy to assist a group of family foundations in the city primarily with their human rights, education and arts portfolios. Specifically, I work as a Program Associate at the Blaustein Philanthropic Group.

**Byron Austin**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

After the fellowship, I stayed on with mothers2mothers for another two years. I moved back from Cape Town to New York City, where I got married and started at Rabin Martin, a global health strategy consulting firm. After about a year and a half at the firm, I transitioned onto the Corporate Contributions team at Johnson & Johnson. Funnily enough, in this new role, I manage a mothers2mothers grant and work with Rabin Martin on communications strategies for our portfolios. Full circle!

**Jennifer Austin**

**PiAf 2005-06 The New Vision, Uganda**

**PiAf 2006-07 International Rescue Committee, Liberia**  
I am currently in my first year of the two-year Master's Degree in Public Administration in International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School, studying development economics and policy. I am interested in climate change policy and economics, currently hunting for an internship in that field for this summer.

After my fellowship in Liberia in 2006-2007, I stayed at the IRC for an additional 6 months as the Field Manager in the Lofa County Field office, where I managed logistics for IRC programs in the County. I moved home at the end of 2007 and joined President Obama's presidential campaign as a volunteer and then full-time Field Organizer. I worked in the

**The Kasiisi Project** – The Kasiisi Project supports education in and around Kibale National Park in rural western Uganda. They work with local schools and several research groups to target critical issues for the survival of the forest and support of the local population.

**Population Services International** – The mission of PSI is to measurably improve the health of poor and vulnerable people in the developing world, principally through social marketing of family planning and health products and services, and health communications. Our Fellow will be based in Kenya.

**Rwanda School Project** – The Rwanda School Project operates a high school in eastern Rwanda, believing that quality secondary education for Rwanda's youth is key to the country's recovery, growth, and continuing peace.

Communications Office at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC for two and a half years during President Obama's first Administration and was the Press Secretary for the State of Pennsylvania for his re-election campaign in 2012. I spent the time between the 2012 campaign and starting school catching up with family and friends and travelling to a few new countries!

**Desiree Bailey**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Equal Education, South Africa**

After my fellowship, I worked for Harlem Children's Zone in Harlem, NY. I was also a recipient of a writing fellowship from the Norman Mailer Center and the Poets' & Writers' Amy Award. I am currently in the MFA Literary Arts program at Brown University and I facilitate poetry workshops with undergraduates at Roger Williams University. I am also the fiction editor of Kinfolks Quarterly, a literary/art journal showcasing the work of black writers and artists. This summer I'll be participating in the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, hosted by Brown University.

**Becca Balis**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**International Rescue Committee, Liberia**

Since my fellowship, I've been bouncing around on contracts with the IRC in West Africa and Haiti. This year I made my Asia foray in Myanmar and am currently working for Save the Children International, rolling out an assessment for the Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group in Tacloban, the Philippines. I'll be working/playing in Asia until I start law school in the fall - location TBD, but definitely heading back stateside for the first time!

**Nate Barker**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**The BOMA Project, Kenya**

I'm currently living in New Haven, CT working for an NGO called Innovations for Poverty Action. I do data analysis for an economics professor named Dean Karlan, focusing primarily on the effectiveness of cash transfer programs. I spent two months in Mekelle, Ethiopia, managing a survey, and am also evaluating projects based in Uganda and Yemen.

**David H. Bartels**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Lesotho**  
I graduated from Harvard Medical School a year ago and am completing an internal medicine internship. Then, I will start my Anesthesiology, Critical Care, & Pain Medicine residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital. Devan Darby (also PiAf 2006-07) and I will be getting married in June in Virginia.

**Louise Lamphere Beryl**

**PiAf 2004-05**

**Tanzanian Children's Fund / Rift Valley Children's Village, Tanzania**

I live in Palo Alto, CA with my husband and 15 month old daughter, Ella. I just finished my PhD in Anthropology and Education from Columbia University, Teachers College and am now looking for jobs!

**Abhit Bhandari**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**UN World Food Programme, Senegal**

I'm currently a PhD student in political science at Columbia, where I study the political economy of development with a focus on Africa. I'm not sure where exactly I'll be this summer, but I'm hoping to be back in Africa.

**Shameika Black**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Olam International, Gabon**

After completing my PiAf fellowship, I took some time to travel in Ghana, Puerto Rico, and to my hometown of Seattle, WA. I'm currently living in Philadelphia and working at Philadelphia FIGHT, a comprehensive AIDS service organization, as their AIDS Education Month Coordinator ([www.aidseducationmonth.org](http://www.aidseducationmonth.org)). In this role, I organize and manage 10 city-wide events that take place throughout the month of June to promote AIDS education and awareness.

**Christine Bohne**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Lutheran World Federation, Burundi**

After my fellowship I moved to Rwanda to work with One Acre Fund, a social enterprise investing in subsistence farmers. Next year I will head back to the U.S. to start a Doctor of Public Health degree at the Harvard School of Public Health.

**Allie Bream**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**UN World Food Programme, Ethiopia**

Following my fellowship, I joined One Acre Fund, a social enterprise that helps farmers in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania increase their yields. I currently work in One Acre Fund's NYC office as a People Operations Manager, helping make the organization a great place to work.

**Tim Callahan**

**PiAf 2008-09**

**International Rescue Committee, Tanzania**

After my fellowship, I worked for an energy and agricultural start-up company in Kenya before transitioning to my current position with a boutique investment bank in Princeton, NJ.

**Stuart Campo**

**PiAf 2008-09**

**Straight Talk Foundation, Uganda**

After completing my fellowship, I stayed on with STF for another year before joining UNICEF in late 2010. I've worked with UNICEF since then, living and working in Madagascar, South Sudan, and now Nairobi, Kenya. I work as a member of the global Innovation Unit, supporting country-level design and rollout of innovative programs and products to support the work of UNICEF and partners.

**Dara Carroll**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**International Rescue Committee, Kenya**

I knew I wanted to stay on in Nairobi almost as soon as I landed, and luckily, I found a way! After my year with the IRC (and a quick break to climb Mt. Kenya), I started

working for The Dignitas Project, an organization that improves the educational opportunities in slums through intensive coaching on leadership, governance, and instruction in schools in informal settlements. At Dignitas, I manage all of our learning and evaluation initiatives, from documenting the innovative methods our coaches use in schools to randomized control trials to test our model. The months since I've started have been filled with rapid professional growth in this very new role, as well as plenty of time to explore Nairobi and Kenya.

**Aдриenne Clermont**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**UN World Food Programme, Benin**

I am currently pursuing my master's degree in nutrition and international health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and will graduate in May 2015. My interest in nutrition and related health issues was sparked by my time with the World Food Programme during my PiAf fellowship. Before returning to school, I worked for several years for the International Youth Foundation (an NGO based in Baltimore), managing youth education and employment projects in the Middle East and North Africa region.

## Reflections From a Former Fellow



Kelsey interviewing one of two women involved in the IRC's "water committee" – a community-based approach to managing water resources and hygiene.

"The opportunity that PiAf gives you – to be inserted into a successful organization working toward Africa's development – would take years to do on your own. The trust and opportunity you're given to jump directly into organizations doing important development work allows you to immerse yourself in a whole new environment. It's a whole new kind of educational experience: there are no reading assignments, no final exams, and definitely no grades. It's a time to open your eyes and ears and learn from the people around you, ask lots of questions, and be wrong every once in a while."

**Kelsey Lilley, 2012-13 Fellow with International Rescue Committee, Ethiopia**  
**Now working at the Atlantic Council's Africa Center in Washington, D.C.**

**Kate Collins**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Imani Development, Malawi**

I'm now living in Washington, DC, working at the Council on Foreign Relations as Associate Director of Studies and missing Malawi's sunsets.

**Devan Darby**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**Harvard University AIDS Institute, Botswana**

I graduated from Harvard Medical School last year, and I'm currently finishing my intern year at MGH. I'm looking forward to starting my Anesthesiology, Critical Care, and Pain Medicine residency in just a few months! I'm hoping to continue my research on global disparities in pediatric anesthesiology practices and expand education for anesthesiology providers around the globe.

**Cyndee DeToy**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

I stayed on with mothers2mothers for a year after my fellowship ended. I'm currently a first-year MBA Candidate at the NYU Stern School of Business, and I'm exploring the many ways to use business to create social impact. I'm also interning with the management consulting firm, Booz & Company, this summer.

**Thomas Dollar**

**PiAf 2008-09**

**Africare, Sierra Leone**

I'm currently in my second year at NYU Law School. Since my fellowship, I lived in Washington, DC for two years and then began law school in the fall of 2012.

**John Drollinger**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**International Rescue Committee, Kenya**

After my fellowship, I hopped up to Juba, South Sudan, for a full-time gig with the IRC. It's been a pretty rocky road here with the recent conflict, and the new 8pm curfew doesn't help much! But the work has been fascinating, and every few months I get to visit Nairobi and spend time with my pals (and former Fellows!) Dara, Jess and Marielle.

**Neal Emery**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Lesotho**

After my fellowship, I took a position working on the global health curriculum at Weill Cornell Medical College. In fall 2014, I will start medical school at Columbia.

**Mgbechi Erondu**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Botswana**

I'm currently a 3rd year medical student at the University of Iowa's Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine. Since my fellowship year, I've been working hard to finish medical school in hopes that I might return to the continent very soon! My first published short story titled "Rabid Morula Seed" was conceived during my time in Botswana and is one of the stories that gained me an acceptance to the Iowa Writer's Workshop for an MFA in fiction this fall.

**Vicki Esquivel-Korsiak**

**PiAf PiAf 2010-11**

**International Rescue Committee, Uganda**

After completing my fellowship, I attended the London School of Economics, where I received an MSc in Human Rights. I returned to Uganda in 2012 to join the Justice and Reconciliation Project, where I conducted research and advocacy on transitional justice issues for war-affected communities in northern Uganda. I returned to New York City in 2013 and currently work as a fundraising and grants consultant for various nonprofits.

**Katie Fackler**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**UN World Food Programme, Benin**

After my fellowship, I returned to West Africa to work as a consultant for the UN World Food Programme in Cote d'Ivoire and Mauritania. After a few months in Mauritania helping with the humanitarian response to assist refugees arriving from Mali after the coup in 2012, I returned to Cote d'Ivoire to take on the role of Head of Information and Communications for the European Union delegation based in Abidjan. I have now returned to the US and am starting a joint MA in International Affairs and MBA at Wharton. I plan to remain focused on Sub-Saharan Africa and hope to pursue a career in social enterprise in order to use business as a tool for development on the continent.

**Joe Falit**

**PiAf 2007-08**

**Jacana, Mozambique**

Immediately after my fellowship, I completed an MPP at Harvard, where I spent the summer working for Imani Development in Malawi. I have since worked

in government consulting in Washington, DC and Consumer Banking strategy in NYC. I am currently an SVP at Citi. I'm always looking to chat on all things Africa; please feel free to email me at: [jjfalit@gmail.com](mailto:jjfalit@gmail.com).

**Camille Fenton**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**UN World Food Programme, Senegal**

I am currently living and working in New York City. I moved here directly following the conclusion of my fellowship and began working as an investigator at Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS), a progressive, holistic public defender's office that defends low-income Brooklyn residents accused of crimes. Working as an investigator at BDS has opened my eyes to the serious defects of our criminal justice system, notably its cyclical nature. Public defense and prison reform here in the United States are two topics that will undoubtedly steer where I go in the next few years.

**Erin K. Ferencick**

**PiAf 2000-01**

**International Rescue Committee, Somaliland**

I'm currently based in Geneva, Switzerland, working as a consultant with the World Health Organization in the area of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

**Katie Camille Friedman**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**2iE/International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering, Burkina Faso**

I am currently in my 3rd year of a doctoral program in Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Health. My work is using copper and silver as agents to improve virus inactivation in point of use water treatment - specifically with ceramic water filters. I hope to have the opportunity to test these improved devices in a field study. Outside of my PhD life, I am still working to help turn my PiAf project into a business for the production and sale of ceramic water filters. Most recently, we have our first signed legal document between the collaborating NGO (The BARKA Foundation) and the Burkinabe ceramics company with whom I worked during my fellowship. We are ready to start looking for funding, so it's an exciting time!

**Allie Gips**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

I'm now living in NYC, about to finish my third year of medical school at Mount Sinai.

**Morgan Goheen**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

I'm currently in the middle of pursuing an MD/PhD at UNC Chapel Hill. I am doing my PhD in a malaria lab in the Microbiology and Immunology Department. My PhD research involves looking at the molecular mechanisms dictating the relationship between iron deficiency protection and iron supplementation risk associated with erythrocytic stage malaria infection. Ultimately we are trying to develop safe iron supplementation methods for people living in malaria endemic areas. Despite spending most of my time in the lab, I'm excited to have a very translational research project with direct public health relevance to many populations in Africa. In fact, this summer I'm off to The Gambia for several months of field research as part of an iron supplementation clinical trial.

**Jessica Grody**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**2iE/International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering, Burkina Faso**

I have been living in Nairobi for the past two years, working with the East African NGO Twaweza and studying citizen activism and education for PiAf board member Evan Lieberman. As the research winds down,

I'm preparing to return to the US for graduate school in the fall.

**Emily Rose Harris**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**Plan International, Uganda**

Following my PiAf fellowship and seven dynamic, challenging, and rewarding years back in Africa working on market-based solutions for improved health access for Population Services International (PSI) and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Kenya, DRC, Nigeria, Cambodia (oh yeah -- Asia too!) and Liberia, I am finally bringing my global health experience back to the classroom as an MBA candidate

## Reflections From a Current Partner Organization



Emma Impink (PiAf's 2011-12 Fellow with the BOMA Project) with women from one of BOMA's businesses.

"BOMA has had three Princeton in Africa Fellows in a row. We send our criteria to PiAf and they do the hard work of finding us the best match for our grants-based microfinance program. Our PiAf Fellows have contributed greatly to our Monitoring & Evaluation program and bring a valued skill set to our work. BOMA's PiAf Fellows have all been eager, bright, flexible recent graduates who have both a willingness to learn as well as a desire to apply their learning in a real world context."

**Meg Harris, Executive Director, The BOMA Project, Kenya**

at the Yale School of Management. PiAf was an integral launching pad for my young career in health and development innovation, and while I miss meeting up with new Fellows across the continent, I look forward to re-engaging with the PiAf alumni community back in the USA.

**Sandra Uwantege Hart**

**PiAf 2007-08**

**UN World Food Programme, Mauritania**

After my fellowship, I went on to get an MA at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, followed by work in Haiti post-earthquake for the UN World Food Programme and Fonkoze, Haiti's largest microfinance institution. All this was followed by a great wedding celebration in Dominican Republic in early 2013, and departure on a round-the-world honeymoon trip, before being called in by WFP to work in the Philippines in my current position as Regional Coordinator for the UN Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Typhoon Haiyan Emergency Response.

All this will end in May, with a great opportunity on May 24th at the Latin American Studies International Congress in Chicago, where I will be sitting on a panel entitled "Women, Gender and Feminism in Contemporary Haiti: History, Paradigms and Perspectives" to present on my MA thesis work, a critical perspective on issues that arose around women-only food distributions following the 2010 earthquake, the gendering of food assistance and social fragility of the post-disaster context, and other issues between the humanitarian community and women's associations in Haiti that surfaced as a result.

And after all that, I'll be unemployed again and looking for another job, hopefully in development or humanitarian work.

**Nabil Hashmi**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Olam International, Gabon**

In the year since my fellowship, I have been working in Washington, DC as a research assistant at the Center for Global Development, an independent think tank that focuses on issues in international development. My work at CGD is concentrated on migration, aid effectiveness, and international financial institutions.

**Jessica Hickok**

**PiAf 2002-03**

**Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation, Kenya**

I have been living in San Francisco since returning from Kenya in 2003, working in the field of philanthropy. I spent six years with the Koret Foundation, which funds in the Bay Area and Israel, and now I am the Grants Manager at The James Irvine Foundation, a private foundation that funds across the state of California. I am a leader in the all-volunteer arts collective the Flaming Lotus Girls ([www.flaminglotus.com](http://www.flaminglotus.com)), with whom I make large, interactive, metal sculptures that shoot fire (in 2014 one of our sculptures will be installed on the San Francisco waterfront for a year). I am also a member of the Leadership San Francisco class of 2013.

**Emma Impink**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**The BOMA Project, Kenya**

I started working for One Acre Fund in Tanzania a few months after I finished my fellowship. I now focus on Monitoring and Evaluation and Innovations for our Tanzania operations.

**Meg Itoh**

**PiAf 2005-06**

**Harvard University AIDS Institute, Botswana**

I'm currently a Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellow at Stanford University, doing pediatric HIV immunology research. I went back to work at the Baylor clinic as a clinician during residency, and I hope to go back after my fellowship and continue working to care for children with HIV/AIDS as well as TB.

**Alec Jahncke**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Generation Rwanda**

I am currently living in Boston, where I am finishing up my postbaccalaureate pre-med program at Tufts University in Boston and working as a clinical research assistant in orthopedic surgery. I am hoping to start medical school in the fall of 2014.

**Ritu Kamal**

**PiAf 2007-08**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

Since the fellowship, I have gotten a Master's Degree in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania, worked in India on a medical device startup and worked as a scientist at Roche developing new medical diagnostics. I currently work at Stanford University, managing global projects for a medical technology entrepreneurship program. I work with student teams who are developing new medical technology products appropriate for use in the Global South (think low-cost jaundice diagnostic or limb prosthetic). I also conduct and publish research on medical technology innovation for emerging markets in Asia and Africa.

**Julie Kornfeld**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Lutheran World Federation, Uganda**

After my fellowship, I worked at a Jewish humanitarian aid organization in New York City as their Resource Development Associate for a year. Now, I am at University of Michigan Law School, focusing on International Refugee Law. This summer, I will be living in Phnom Penh doing legal research on the

Cambodia Tribunal. I hope to work in East Africa my next summer of law school and after graduation.

**Theresa Laverty**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation, Kenya**

After leaving Kenya, I worked on a variety of field jobs for two years – everything from beach nesting birds in New Jersey to a lodgepole pine tree study in Yellowstone to rangeland restoration back at Mpala and mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Currently, I am wrapping up my first year of a PhD program in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana. As a member of Joel Berger’s lab, I have been considering studies that focus on desert food web ecology. Thanks to the help of a National Geographic grant, I am excited to be piloting my research at a site in northwestern Namibia, while also testing out some areas in the western US.

**Yuting Beverly Lien**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**African Leadership Academy, South Africa**

I am a Senior Consultant at Dalberg Global Development Advisors, a consulting firm that focuses on international development and poverty alleviation issues. At Dalberg, I have helped a major US foundation shape its investment strategy with regards to women’s property rights in developing countries. I have also worked on a project to improve market dynamics around HIV diagnostics devices. Prior to Dalberg, I worked at Endeavor, an organization that supports entrepreneurs in emerging markets. I also received my MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business (Class of 2013). I am currently based in NYC, but I’m about to make the cross-country move (yet again) to the Bay Area, where I will join Dalberg’s SF office.

**Kelsey Lilley**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**International Rescue Committee, Ethiopia**

Since moving back from Ethiopia, I’ve settled in Washington, D.C., where I am fortunately close to plenty of great Ethiopian restaurants. I’m working at the Atlantic Council’s Africa Center and enjoying running into the PiAf alumni network in the city.

**Lindsey Locks**

**PiAf 2007-08**

**UN World Food Programme, Uganda**

After my fellowship, I stayed in Africa and worked for the Clinton Foundation in Tanzania, and later worked for Helen Keller International in Nepal. In September 2012, I started my doctorate at the Harvard School of Public Health in Nutritional Epidemiology. My research is on under-nutrition in infants and young children, and I am hoping to go back to Uganda or Tanzania at some point in the near future!

**Case Martin**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**International Rescue Committee, South Sudan**

Following my fellowship, I completed a master’s degree at the University of Oxford, where I focused on healthcare development in South Sudan. I then returned home to Texas to start medical school at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, from which I expect to graduate in 2016.

**Taylor Mayol**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Blue Ventures, Madagascar**

After my fellowship I began a graduate program at Stanford University, where I am pursuing my MA in African Studies, with a focus on the Great Lakes region and Rwanda in particular. I graduate in June of this year and am hoping to relocate to Kigali and write on elections, politics, and identity in the country.

**Mary Reid Munford**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**African Impact, Zambia**

I’m currently working at Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, a school for disengaged high school students, in Estes Park, CO. I’m doing this one-year fellowship as part of a Public Allies / AmeriCorps program. Since leaving Zambia

in 2011, I have worked in Mississippi, Louisiana, and North Carolina for different schools and camps. After this fellowship ends in August, I will continue my work in experiential education by doing a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) semester course for outdoor educators in the Rocky Mountains. I’m also looking forward to next year’s rafting trip in the Grand Canyon with some of the “river boys” I met in Zambia!

**Jamie Nadeau**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**Kucetekela Foundation, Zambia**

I am currently working for The Opportunity Network, a six-year career development and college preparation program that works with underrepresented NYC public high school and college students.

**Agatha Offorjebe**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Botswana**

I just returned from the PiAf retreat in Uganda and site visits in East and West Africa. I really enjoyed spending quality time with our Fellows and partners! Unfortunately, my days as the Program Manager with PiAf are numbered as I will start medical school this summer. Although I’m sad to leave, I’m looking forward to being an active PiAf alum!

**Kim Ostrum**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**International Rescue Committee, Liberia**

I split my time between Kigali, Rwanda and Bujumbura, Burundi as the Grants Manager for the IRC Rwanda-Burundi. I began this post in November 2013. I have also been elected as one of two ambassadors representing the IRC Rwanda-Burundi office as part of the IRC’s global Strategy Assembly. Prior to resuming work with the IRC, I began part-time work immediately following my fellowship in the billing department of a dental office in New Jersey, while I simultaneously looked for full-time jobs in international development/humanitarian aid.

**Julia Peppiatt**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**International Rescue Committee, Uganda**

Since my fellowship, I’ve been living in San Francisco working for Google and YouTube.

**Niklas Peters**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Olam International, Ghana**

I’m currently living in Brooklyn, NY and working at Acumen, a nonprofit that makes long-term debt or equity investments in early-stage companies providing critical goods and services to low-income customers. I’ve been working on Acumen’s Business Development and Portfolio Teams since my fellowship ended in 2012.

**Etzerson Philitas**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**African Leadership Academy, South Africa**

Since the fellowship, I have completed the MBA program at Wharton and am now working in Credit Suisse’s Leveraged Finance Origination & Restructuring group. I have also remained involved in several African education and social entrepreneurship projects since the fellowship.

**Isabel Pike**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**UN World Food Programme, Senegal**

After close to three years with World Food Programme in West Africa, I am planning (visa permitting!) to return to the States in the fall to start a PhD in Sociology. The past three years have been quite the journey, starting with my fellowship year in the communications unit of WFP’s West Africa Regional Bureau in Senegal, followed by a 1.5 year period as Reports/Donor Relations Officer in Burkina Faso. It has been a formative experience to say the least - filled with French, mangos, dust, learning how to drive, two seasons of annual reports, and several cycles of expat friends. Within Sociology, I plan to focus on Demography with a regional focus on Africa so even if not physically on the continent, I will remain so in spirit. Wishing you all the best from Ouagadougou!

**Rachel Quint**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**International Rescue Committee, Ethiopia**

I just started a two-year fellowship with the Global Development and Population Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, CA. I will be coordinating the foundation’s post-2015 work, as well as doing some grant-making in the foundation’s strategic areas. Before I moved back to the Bay Area, I was in Addis Ababa working for the UN World Food Programme’s Africa Office on an African Union project called the Cost of Hunger in Africa (costofhungerafrica.com).

**Meredith Ragno**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**African Cashew Alliance, Ghana**

After completing my fellowship, I returned to the US from Accra in June of last year. I spent the summer catching up with friends and family while studying architecture at a UC Berkeley summer institute. In October I moved to New York City, where I’m combining my interests in design and development at Soko, a social enterprise startup using technology to connect artisans in the developing world with international consumers.

**Jing Ren**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**International Rescue Committee, Sierra Leone**

I’m currently living in western Kenya, where I am doing a year-long clinical research fellowship. My work is based around looking for ways to improve malaria diagnosis and treatment at rural government health facilities. This has been my first time back to Africa since my PiAf fellowship. After this, I will be returning to Philadelphia for my final year of medical school.

**Bridget Rhinehart**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**UN World Food Programme, Malawi**

After finishing my fellowship with WFP Malawi, I took a position back in the US with Save the Children as a Program Coordinator in the Department of Child Protection and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC. It’s been interesting going from the WFP-UN culture to the INGO world, but in a refreshing and exciting way. My experience in Malawi has been invaluable to my work with Save because I am able to approach my work with the context of program implementation on the ground. While it’s nice to have hot showers again and steady electricity, I’m eager to find my way back to Africa.

**Sarah Richards**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Olam International, Ghana**

I’m currently working for the Global Impact Investing Network in New York, helping to develop standard metrics for impact investors to track the social and environmental performance of their investees. I find that I often draw on my experiences in Ghana with Olam.

**Jill Ross**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Kucetekela Foundation, Zambia**

I am currently working at Hanover Research in their education research department. Though I have only been here for a short time, I am already excited by the exposure I am getting to the most pressing challenges facing higher and K12 educators. I won’t lie and say that I never think about returning to Africa-focused development work, but right now I am having a great time exploring education from a slightly different vantage point.

**Michael Scharff**

**PiAf 2008-09**

**International Rescue Committee, Uganda**

I am currently pursuing a master’s degree in African Studies at Oxford and writing my thesis on the history of aviation in East Africa. Prior to arriving in Oxford in the fall of 2013, I spent three years as a senior researcher at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School, where I studied institution building in fragile states,

and had the chance to make a few work-related trips back to Africa.

**Molly Schmalzbach**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**mothers2mothers, South Africa**

I’m now living in Washington, D.C. and working as a Public Affairs Advisor in USAID’s Office of HIV/AIDS, as part of the Global Health Fellows Program. Since my fellowship, I have made sure to travel back to Africa as often as I can, and have been looking for new ways to challenge myself, including training for an upcoming Ironman triathlon this summer!

**Marielle Schweickart**

**PiAf 2012-13, 2013-14**

**Sanergy, Kenya**

I was a 2012-2013 Fellow with Sanergy in Nairobi, Kenya, and have since stayed on in Nairobi to work for Sanergy for a second year (and be a 2013-2014 Fellow!). During the first year of my fellowship I transitioned onto the newly formed Insights and Innovations team, and have since been doing project-based, operations- and business-efficiency consulting. I will be leaving Kenya in June and am looking forward to the next adventure.

**Aliya Shariff**

**PiAf 2003-04**

**Care International, Rwanda**

I currently live in Johannesburg. I work as a Director of Investments at Kagiso Tiso Holdings, an investment holding company, and am responsible for the firm’s private equity investments outside South Africa. I moved to Joburg in 2013, after 5 years in Lagos, Nigeria with Africa Finance Corporation, where I also focused on private equity investing across Africa. I’ve been lucky enough to make it back to Rwanda a few times since my fellowship and have seen Kigali change a lot in the last 10+ years.

**Tisamarie Sherry**

**PiAf 2005-06**

**Centers for Disease Control/The AIDS Support Organisation, Uganda**

Since my fellowship, I have been enrolled in a joint MD-PhD program at Harvard Medical School in Boston. In 2012 I completed my PhD in Health Policy, and this summer I will graduate from medical school and begin my residency training in Internal Medicine and Primary Care at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston!

**Shelly Slemp**

**PiAf 2007-08**

**Tanganyika Christian Refugee Services, Tanzania**

Since the completion of my fellowship, I’ve continued to work in NGOs in East Africa, first in Sudan and now in South Sudan. Currently I am working for a humanitarian relief organization called Medair (<http://relief.medair.org/>) and am based in Juba. In August I will leave my current position to get married and study theology in graduate school. Once my degree is complete, we plan to again move overseas and continue working in relief and development.

**Molly Slotnick**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**UN World Food Programme, Senegal**

After my fellowship I moved to WFP’s Communications Division in Rome, Italy, where I managed the external communications for WFP’s public-private partnerships. After three years with WFP, I moved to New York to start an MPA in Development Practice at Columbia University’s School of Public and International Affairs.

**Abigail Smith**

**PiAf 2009-10**

**Plan International, Uganda**

I’m currently living in Dallas, TX, finishing my final year of medical school. I’ll be moving this summer to begin my Ob/Gyn residency at Wash U in St. Louis. I haven’t been able to go back to Africa since my fellowship, but I’ve been on a few trips to Haiti and just returned from 5 weeks in Peru. Hopefully I’ll be able to organize something in Africa during my residency!

**Keir Soderberg**

**PiAf 2001-02**

**University of Cape Town Quantitative Literacy Project, South Africa**

I am living in Maryland and working at the environmental consulting firm SSPA ([www.sspa.com](http://www.sspa.com)). Prior to this I was a Princeton postdoc at Mpala Research Center for two years. And before that I did my PhD research in Namibia at Gobabeb Training and Research Centre. My wife Natasha and I just had another little girl, Cora Ann, who joins her 4 year old sister Emma.

**Kelly Souls**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Indego Africa, Rwanda**

After finishing my fellowship in Rwanda, I stayed on for 6 months working with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Rwanda on their Human Resources for Health Program. I am currently working with CHAI in Malawi on a Severe Malaria project, which seeks to introduce and roll out a new, more efficacious drug to treat severe malaria in the country.

## Reflections From a Former Fellow



Bridget co-conducting an M&E-based School Meals Program teachers training in the Kasungu district.

“I would recommend PiAf for any graduate who is independent, creative, a self-starter, and most importantly passionate about Africa and about making a difference in the world. I would expect to come out of this experience knowing myself in new and empowering ways. I know I have a lot more to learn, but the foundation I have for my career and personal life, as a result of this fellowship experience, is more than I could have hoped for myself.”

**Bridget Rhinehart, 2012-13 Fellow with UN World Food Programme, Malawi**

**Now working for Save the Children in Washington, D.C.**

**Helaina Stein**

**PiAf 2010-11**

**Generation Rwanda, Rwanda**

After my fellowship ended, I spent one more year in Rwanda working for Eos Visions, an educational travel and capacity building company. In May 2012 I joined the U.S. Foreign Service as a Political Officer, and in August 2012 I moved to Abuja, Nigeria for my first assignment at the U.S. Embassy Abuja.

**Anne Stotler**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Save the Children, Ethiopia**

After my fellowship ended, I worked on a human rights education program with Human Rights Watch and worked at a nonprofit that provides services for survivors of domestic violence. I also spent some time traveling in Ecuador and studying Portuguese at Middlebury. I am currently in my first year of the Masters of Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School. After graduation, I hope to work on child welfare issues in a human rights or international development organization or possibly the US government.

**Chris Suzdak**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Olam International, Gabon**

After leaving Gabon, I spent a few months visiting friends and family around the U.S. before joining One Acre Fund and training at their headquarters in Kenya. I’m launching a pilot program in Zomba, Malawi as a New Country Scout for One Acre Fund.

**Yassi Tamdji**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**Student Sponsorship Programme, South Africa**

Since returning from Johannesburg, I’ve tried my best to maintain connections with my colleagues and friends that I made during my fellowship year; I’ve returned to Johannesburg once following my fellowship and hope to return again long-term in the future. My fellowship experience crystallized my commitment to Africa, but also to the nonprofit sector. I’m currently working at Community Resource Exchange, a nonprofit management consulting firm that assists NYC nonprofits to become stronger and more effective in fighting poverty and advancing social justice. I remain active in the Georgetown Alumni Admissions Program and Global Kids, and I was one of 25 alumni out of thousands honored in a book unveiled at Global Kids’ 25th Anniversary Gala at the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Molly Fay Urquhart**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**Mpala Research Centre & Wildlife Foundation, Kenya**

I’m currently in NYC, finishing medical school at Mount Sinai – I will be starting residency at Cornell in NYC for pediatrics this summer. After my time in Kenya, I decided I wanted to become a doctor. I spent a few years working/post bac before I entered medical school, and now I can say I’m almost finished! In the meantime, I have also gotten married and had two beautiful sons - Jack who is almost 19 months and Charlie who was just born two weeks ago! So overall, busy but great times! Still so happy for my fellowship to have given me the direction to go to medical school and find my passion!

**Marilyn Waite**

**PiAf 2006-07**

**UN World Food Programme, Madagascar**

I’m currently living and working in Paris, France. I just released an app on sustainable travel called “Quadruple Sustainability Learning + Travel!” which you can check out in the Apple Store and Google Play.

**Frances Kim Walters**

**PiAf 2002-03**

**University of Cape Town Quantitative Literacy Project, South Africa**

After my fellowship, I traveled around the globe. On my return to the US, I took an AmeriCorps position in an inner-city high school in Boston, then taught for 2 years in a San Diego middle school. I then returned home to Ann Arbor, MI to attend law school. I moved to Washington after graduation and worked for a law firm for 3 years before landing my dream job with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, where I investigate claims of innocence and litigate them if we find them credible and legally viable.

**Bjorn Whitmore**

**PiAf 2012-13**

**Lutheran World Federation, Burundi**

I’ve recently returned to Burundi, and am now working with Spark MicroGrants to lead the new Burundi country program. I have also been doing some research on women’s rights and access to justice for the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School.

**Jane Yang**

**PiAf 2011-12**

**International Rescue Committee, Kenya**

After completing my PiAf fellowship, I went to the Wild Wild West (a.k.a. Washington, DC) to work in Deloitte’s Emerging Markets practice, focusing on energy, water, and sanitation projects.

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## PRINCETON IN AFRICA'S 2013-14 FELLOWS



Current Fellows Jon Kesten (left) and Yash Gharat in Dar es Salaam for an Olam International conference.



PiAf Program Director Stephanie Hooper Leroy (center) with 2013-14 Fellows Kwame Gayle (left) and Dana Nickson (right).



Stefanie Siller (right), current Fellow at Mpala Research Centre & Wildlife Foundation, Kenya, with MRC Director Margaret Kinnaird and fellow researchers during a Grevy's zebra collaring.



PiAf's West African Fellows spelling out "PiAf."

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

## 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**