



ORIENTATION WEEKEND- QATAB TOMBS

Hydertales Dancing in the Monsoons



4 September 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

When it rains, it pours.

by Marina Rojas

The months of July through September in India are known as "Monsoon Season". Having been born and bred in the Western part of Washington State, I am certainly no stranger to rainfall. Fortunately, I've also always really loved the rain. I find comfort in the cool wash of the sky's showers, and I'm fascinated by the idea that the water that melts on our bodies today is the same water that has been falling since the beginning of time. It connects us all, falling one day on the streets of Federal Way and later coming down in India, maybe. I love that the rain does not ask questions or have expectations. It comes and goes when it pleases, paying no heed to if or when it is needed.



Welcome Students!

Dear Friends,

Salaam – Namaste!

Welcome to the CIEE Hyderabad Arts and Science Program at the University of Hyderabad. On behalf of the CIEE Hyderabad Study Center, I am delighted to send you the first newsletter: The Hydertales from Fall 2016.

The newsletter is a compilation of various students' perspectives, experiences and photographs. Please take a moment to look around and read our student stories about life and learning during their time abroad. A big thank you to the students who contributed to the newsletter!



There are 8 students this semester representing 7 Universities who opted courses in Anthropology, Fine Arts, Hindi language, History, Political Science and Sociology departments.

Thank you from everyone at the CIEE Hyderabad Study Center for reading this edition of Hydertales.

Kavitha Venkata Gooty
Resident Director
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Golconda Fort

by Tate Maki-Waller

Several of us recently took a trip to tour Hyderabad's historic Golconda Fort, a site listed as one of the best places to visit in Hyderabad. The fort is surrounded by modern buildings and homes, but once inside the walls the atmosphere feels completely different. We explored around the ruins of

the fort before making the long climb to the top.

The view from the top was the most beautiful thing I have seen in Hyderabad so far. The height of the fort allowed us to see the city extending in all directions. From one wall we could see expanses of forest and from the other we could see the buildings of the city and point out other sites we had visited in Hyderabad. Our trip to this site was a wonderful way to celebrate a month in India.



The professional photo taken by the tour guide before he told us about his additional fee. Left to right: Jonah, Erich, Tate, Jessie, Marina, Hela, Carlo.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Tate Maki-Waller

Attends: Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota

Studying: Applied Math and Statistics

Favorite Yoga Pose: The Eagle

What brought her to India? The desire to do something different and adventurous and to push myself to try new things.

Study Abroad Goals: One of my biggest

goals is to gain confidence in trying new things and meeting new people.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Erich J. Kaletka

Attends: Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio

Studying: History and Asian Studies

Favorite Yoga Pose: The Lizard

What brought him to India? The focus of my history studies has been South and Southeast Asia and I didn't think I could complete my degree without living in the place that I am studying.

Study Abroad Goals: I have a few goals I would like to achieve while here, one is to maintain a solid tan for the whole semester.

Another is to learn to prepare one or two Indian dishes. One more is to garner a deeper understanding of the problems and dilemmas facing Indian society in the modern age.



The first thing you'll notice when walking through any Indian city in the burning sun at midday is this: why is everyone wearing long sleeves and pants? If looked at from a Western perspective it makes little sense, why cover oneself in more heat trapping fabric than necessary. However, when you consider the realities of what it has meant to live in India one can start to make sense of the differences in dress. India is often classified as a traditional society, and the Indian government even classifies up to 70% of its population as "backwards." It is this presumed traditionalism that is the main root of the differences in dress, women covering everything below the collarbone and men wearing pants and long sleeve shirts. In fact, in India it is taught that only children let their knees show. This difference in style can be uncomfortable for westerners who are used to wearing very little in the extreme heat, but in India it is normal, and widespread despite any trouble or discomfort it might cause. This being said-- Indian fashion is gorgeous and surprisingly adaptable to the heat. Most clothes are made of thin and fairly absorbent cotton. Additionally, most of these clothes are made locally and come in a stunning breadth of colors and patterns. At the same time the upper and middle class Indians are quick adapting a more western fashion sense, while at the same time keeping in touch with their cultural heritage.

Style

by Erich J. Kaletka

The group dressed traditionally at the Bonalu festival at the Peddamma Folk Goddess Temple in Hyderabad.



Bone Apple Tea

Telling someone you are studying abroad in India, it's to be expected that the first thing they will probably question you about is either the water, malaria, or the heat- quickly followed by an exclamation regarding Indian cuisine! So, now that we have been eating meals here every day for 8 weeks- where are our favorite places to eat?



The "South Shop Com" (a small shopping center located kiddy corner to the Tagore International Hostel) has proven to be maybe just a little too convenient. It is open until 10pm, and we regularly make late night trips to grab chocolate, ice cream, and cookies to snack

on while we study. Here is a photo of the lovely Hela munchin on an almond chocolate bar while she studies for a test!

Jonah Zimmerman: "Definitely DLF, it's this place that has some amazing street food."

Hela Watson: "Falafel and hummus night at Tagore has brought me tears of happiness."

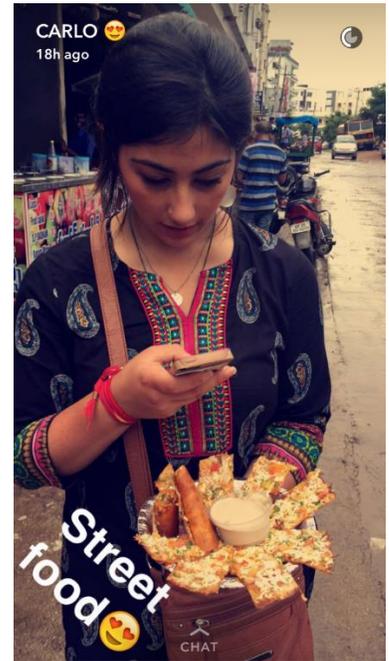
Erich Kaletka: "My favorite food experience has been staying with my host mother, Swarna Latha, while most of the meals have been extremely delicious there are some that have been absolutely amazing, particularly the prawn and onion curry with mushroom and capsicum omelet and the basmati rice with ginger curry, okra and eggplant."

Jessie Ackerman: "Street food at DLF, the cocktail dosas are crazy good! Also falafel and hummus night at Tagore always brightens my day."

Carlo Jerome Juntilla: "Street Food and visiting local homes for dinner!"

Marina Rojas: "I must say that I hold the dosas from DLF very near to my heart- they are absolutely delicious. However, I also really loved the experience of making chai and pagoda with my Hindi professor at her home."

Tate Maki-Waller: "I really enjoyed trying different types of street food at DLF."



DLF is actually a real estate company in India. There is a street food market just outside the building located in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The market gets especially lively as the evening goes on, and it's a great place to go and grab and cheap and delicious authentic Indian dish! The above snapchat features a cocktail dosa served with peanut chutney bought at DLF!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Hela Watson
Attends: Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana
Studying: Public Health
Favorite Yoga Pose: The Eagle
What brought her to India? A new experience!
Study Abroad Goals: Most importantly, I want to have fun! Also, I want improve my flexibility via yoga classes to the point of having the capability to slide into a left split. I would also like to become better at busses and not get sick on them.



Think this is an instrument? Nope- it's a fruit! Some of us got to taste it while in Hampi. The general consensus was that it was most similar to a radish.



A popular dish to buy, known as the "thali"!

Together, we've overcome.

Moving across the globe to an entirely different continent before you've even graduated college is far from an easy feat. When deciding whether or not to cross the ocean for a semester, there are a lot of things to consider. Everyone has their own expectations that influence their ultimate decision- here are a few of the things our group has discovered about the reality of living in Hyderabad!

Carlo Jerome Juntilla: "Though the sheer number of differences between Indian and American culture has surprised me, I think the most surprising thing I have seen is how diverse India actually is! With hundreds of different languages, every conceivable landscape, variety of religions, and cultures that you wouldn't believe you would find in the same country, it's hard to believe any stereotype about India."

Tate Maki-Waller: "The simple act of getting from place to place is definitely more difficult than I expected it to be. Each outing we take begins with a lengthy conversation on how exactly we are going to get there."

Jessie Ackerman: "I am surprised by how much Hyderabad differs from the other parts in India I have traveled to. Last time I spent my time in North India. In Hyderabad, the food, the temperature, and the way people dress are all so different from up north. I think the thing that surprised me the most is how large Hyderabad is. Up north I spent most of my time in small cities and towns. Living in Hyderabad is a completely different way of life, its loud, busy, and the roads are absolutely crazy."

Erich J Kaletka: "The thing that has surprised me the most is how safe and comfortable I feel here and among Indians. In the US it can feel dangerous to be lost in a new area or a new city but here I feel much safer."

Marina Rojas: "I do not know if I will ever be able to put into words the impact this experience has had on me. I did not expect to fall so in love with India and the friends and memories I have made here. I love the way people find calm and order in what I perceive as chaos!"

Jonah Zimmerman: "The ebb and flow of the traffic here never ceases to amaze me. When I first arrived here, there were definitely points where I was certain we were going to get into some crazy car accident, but situations that would cause a 20-car pileup in the U.S. is just stuff that happens daily here and is no big deal."

Hela Watson: "I actually came to India with very little expectations simply because I did not know what to expect and could not visualize what my life would be like for these five months. I suppose I expected a huge city, and Hyderabad has fully lived up to that and redefined what I know as a big city in a geographical sense."

AROUND TOWN



Riding in a rickshaw after haggling with the driver for a reasonable price. We were headed to the Inorbit Mall, hoping to buy some more kurtas and maybe an iced cup of coffee!

STUDY in India Program

By Carlo Jerome Juntilla

With nearly a month of classes over, I feel like I can speak on behalf of everyone on this trip with CIEE that the education system in India is NOTHING like ours in the United States. Punctuality, certainty, and the structure that we take for granted in the United States cannot be found in our experience so far at the University of Hyderabad. Take for example course scheduling. In the United States, we would register for our courses 6 months in advance and know exactly who is teaching the course, where it will be taught, and even when it will be taught during the day. The first day of classes here at UoH there was a sticky note pressed neatly under the master schedule that read, "Tentative. Expect changes." Blasphemy. Not knowing whether or not the classes we so badly wanted to take were being offered, or if there would be a class conflict, or if the teacher would even show up to the first day of classes all threw the American's into a whirlwind. But what had shocked me the most was that not a single native student was phased. They would look into an empty classroom where they had expected to take a class, shrug their shoulders, turn around and try again in the morning. All of us stunned by the carefree atmosphere in the air thought we were missing something. Was there an academic orientation we had not attended with important information? Have all the professors emailed the Indian students and have just neglected to email us? Are we just

plain dumb? Endless questions with no answers drove us all mad. We were all put on the edge after hearing, "don't worry about it. This is completely normal, everything will resolve itself with time. We promise" nearly every day. Nonsense! How can this be normal? But in due time, two weeks of uncertainty and a few developed gray hairs later, everything worked out. Classes fell into place, teachers began showing up, homework began to be passed out, fellow students exchanged numbers and created Facebook groups dedicated to the sharing notes, and test dates were arranged on the calendar. I think our experience with class registration can serve as a metaphor for many things in India. Somebody had told me during my struggle to simply, "go with the flow, that's how we do it in India." I went with the flow, stopped asking answerless questions, and life worked itself out. I think in the United States, we are too consumed with the desire for definiteness and completion that we often forget to take time to observe the process of how we get to the finish line which can be even more beautiful than the prize itself. Although my classroom experience here in India is completely different from what it is like back home, I don't necessary think it's a bad thing. If anything, becoming an individual who has a goes-with-the-flow may get me places I've never even thought of venturing to before.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Carlo Jerome Juntilla

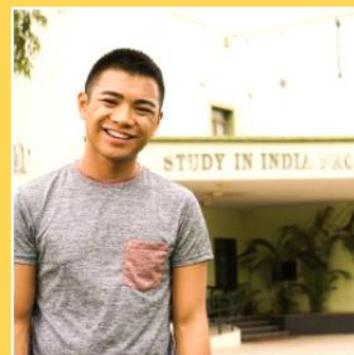
Attends: Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington

Studying: Political Science and International Relations

Favorite Yoga Pose: The Tree Pose

What brought him to India? Besides wanting to push myself out of my comfort zone by immersing myself into a culture that was completely different from my own in the United States, I wanted learn more about myself. To work with NGO's internationally has been a dream of mine, and in India I could have the chance to see that dream actualized. Having first hand experience appealed to me because I would have the chance to learn how NGO's function, what purpose they actually serve, and whether or not this dream of mine actually is something I want to pursue.

Study Abroad Goals: To challenge myself consistently so I can make the most of my experience here. Whether it be trying different foods, travelling to unconventional places, speaking Hindi to locals, or even pushing myself to better my yoga.



Thank you for reading!

CIEE Hyderabad Fall 2016