

Final Report

My summer experience teaching in India was extraordinary. I gained a great deal from the summer and am very thankful for the Committee's generosity in funding me. I grew in several ways throughout the summer, most importantly by interacting intimately with another culture, learning about the values of hard work and structure, and learning concrete teaching and writing skills.

It is hard to articulate the value of spending an extended amount of time immersed in another culture. For three months I was surrounded by people who, for the most part, were raised entirely differently than I was. Our upbringings were not at all similar, and that allowed a cultural exchange to take place. Being with people who think differently than me broadened my perspective and changed the way I think about interactions with people every day. I learned to appreciate people in a more holistic way. I think that has improved the way I interact with friends, strangers, and brothers of Chi Psi. I gained an appreciation for the small, good things that surround us every day.

My days were very structured and I was surrounded by people who were constantly working hard. While people in college are always working, days often are not very structured. Being on a tight schedule was a great learning experience for me. I tend to be a very flexible person who does not pay much attention to schedules, but this summer I was forced to add structure into my days. Teaching classes requires specific planning and organization to ensure that your lessons are completed in the time allotted. I had hard deadlines that I needed to meet because if I didn't then the students would not be able to learn anything. This was a great thing for me and I have taken many of those skills home with me. I now find myself more capable to be proactive in my studies and interactions with others.

Finally, I gained concrete teaching and writing skills. Teaching and writing are things that I would like to pursue after graduation, and it was exciting to be a part of that. I think that my ability to teach others grew in a massive way. I was responsible for classes of students, and I needed to perform well in order for them to succeed. I learned different techniques that assisted the learning process. Additionally, I was blessed to be able to help work on the publication of a book. During the second half of my stay, I helped edit a memoir written by a graduate of the school where I was teaching. This experience gave me a firsthand look at the inner workings of book writing, editing, and publishing. The book, called *An Elephant Chaser's Daughter*, should be published by the end of the year.