A Semester in the East: An Interview with Tabby Hrynick
Interview by Weston Brownlee

Tabby Hrynick, a senior Sociology major at Colorado College spent her first semester last year studying in India. The Lotus was able to catch up with her for an interview. Tabby, along with other CC students who have studied in Asia, will be sharing her experiences at the Asian Studies Opening Reception on Wednesday, October 1st.

Where were you staying?
In Pune, a city of about five million people, in the state of Maharashtra. I was there with the ACM program, so I was taking classes with other American students and an Indian professor. Pune is really a big college town, so there were a lot of students from India, but then from all over the world too.

Tell us a little bit about what you studied and your experience in India.
Well I was taking quite a few classes: Indian sociology, political science, environmental science, and then Marathi—a local dialect derived from Sanskrit. I’d say that was the hardest part of my academic experience because the script is quite a bit different from Sanskrit. But by the end of my time there I was able to get around the city with ease, and to bargain which definitely saved quite a bit of money.

What was it like coming back after spending a semester in a country so different from the United States?
Well I’m a lot more appreciative, if not somewhat critical of the US. One of the bigger experiences was living with a host family. They were fairly well off, I’d say upper-middle class, but my two host sisters, ages seven and eleven didn’t have a lot of toys so they were really creative with whatever scrap-material they found around the house.

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You have seen their meeting information listed in the Lotus issue after issue. If you are lucky, you might have even run into a student associated with the organization. You might be wondering why you have never been interested in dropping in on a meeting, and then realized that it is probably because you are not sure what these clubs are about. Well, read on and learn about **KASA** and **MOSAIC** this block!

1. What is your organization’s mission?

**KASA:** Our mission is to share Korean culture with the Colorado College community. We hope to explore, embrace and become more educated about Korea, Korean politics, Korean culture and Korean and American relations.

**MOSAIC:** We are dedicated to the promotion of multiculturalism at The Colorado College as well as the surrounding community. We are a mosaic of different ideas and perspectives from around the world who share a common human spirit. Our main aims are to infuse cultural diversity in the community so that we may have the opportunity to share our own culture along with learning more about other cultures.

2. Main events of the year (please describe).

**KASA:** For the past two years, KASA hosted a fashion show in the fall semester. This year, we hope to bring "A Taste of Korea" and/or Korean Culture Night in the spring semester.

**MOSAIC:**

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK involves a variety of activities including cultural presentations, performances, guest speakers, film screenings, and Taste of the World.

3. Why do you think your org. is important to the community and campus?

**KASA:** We think our organization is important to the community and campus because there is an unique essence about Korean culture that we would like to share. The history, culture, traditions, and even existence of Korea are often forgotten and we find that it is important to bring awareness of Korea. We also hope to share and discuss current events with the CC community with hopes of creating more dialogue on issues of ethnic/cultural/racial identity, foreign affairs, similarities and differences between American culture and Korean culture.

**MOSAIC:** Our organization is important to the community and campus as it is unique and the only one of its kind that caters to all international students from any continent and non-international students who are willing to participate with us in creating a culturally diverse community. MOSAIC is not only about International Students but it is about sharing our culture with people who are interested to get involved with the events and our club activities. It is highly enriching and adds a lot of color and diversity to the CC campus.
5. How does your organization address these challenges?

**KASA:** We, as KASA, discussed issues on identity recently and allowing a safe place for dialogue challenges us to bring about conversation so we can support and encourage one another. Also, we hope to offer Korean language classes which will hopefully create a path toward communication with the older generation and by exploring Korean culture and history, we hope to empathize a lot more with our ancestors.

**MOSAIC:** We at Mosaic try to deal with various issues that we might face as internationals. We try to form a support system for each other as internationals we tend to understand each other’s differences. Living in between diversity is certainly a very rewarding and enriching experience. We form a network so that we can identify issues and have the right resources to counteract those issues. Roger Smith, who is our advisor, is an important resource for all of us international student and we can approach him with any issue that we might face.

Tune in next block and meet AASU and SASA!
In fact the family produced almost no trash—it’s just a different lifestyle. There was just a lot more efficiency than you see here.

I’d also have to say I have come to appreciate the sense of democracy and equality that does not exist in India. You can still see racial, caste, and class discrimination on a daily basis.

The volume of people in cities was suffocating, which made it very strange to come back. You’d walk out a door and there’d be one-hundred people there that you’ve never seen before. Everyone seemed to have a very strong sense of community too. It was really interesting during the Cricket match vs. Pakistan to see how the whole city seemed to erupt anytime India scored a point. That all took a bit to adjust to; there’s really no such thing as privacy even within the family. I came back to the states around Christmas which made it harder to adjust because of all the commercialism and the lack of people in public. I felt alienated.

With your educational emphasis in Sociology and as an educated American Woman what kind of insight did you have into those types of issues?

Well there’s a lot of extremes: wealth and poverty probably the two most obvious. You will see slums leaning up against extravagant buildings. At first it’s really surreal, but I adjusted to it after a while. Women’s issues certainly became very salient to me when I was there. You don’t really see women on the streets. There’ll be hordes of men all around or at a tea-bar socializing, but the only women that’ll be out are running errands or carrying groceries or water, or upper-class women shopping.

Being a white woman in India did actually create some issues. American women in particular are stereotyped as being hyper-sexual, which led to verbal abuse and even physical abuse. There seemed to be a difference between class and how men from different classes behaved toward women or even treated foreign women. But at the same time some of the stuff that happened gave a bad name to all men, even though many are very respectful and educated.

Wow! Would you still go back if you had the chance?

I would love to back. I’m actually going again this January with the international service trip. We’ll be working on a sustainable agriculture project. That’ll present a new kind of culture shock because we’ll be in a very rural area, which will be a lot different from the city. I’m open and ready to the new challenges that’ll come with it. I wouldn’t just call it all fun though, there’s really no way to conceptualize India as a whole in any one way that would be accurate. It’s the kind of place you have to go to really get a sense of what it’s like.
Japan intends to expand whaling; protestor react in Theatrical Reenactment

By Sam Buchanan

Japan’s dolphin and whale hunting were a hot topic once again this summer. Japan intends to resume commercial whaling after a twenty year hiatus. Japan is frustrated with the lack of progress on the issue at the International Whaling Commission talks in Chile this past June. Anti-whaling nations are equally obstinate and conservationist groups are becoming bolder with public protests and attacks on ships at sea. A group dressed up as dolphins and Japanese fishermen staged a protest in front of the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC. The protestors had the typical signs and chants, but also they proceeded to act out the dolphin hunt that takes place in Taiji, Japan every fall. The “dolphins” proceeded to crouch in the group and whine and scream as the “fishermen” danced around them thrusting spears and yelling “DIE!”. While demonstrations like this do nothing to stop Japan from continuing these hunts, they do serve a purpose for spreading awareness. No matter how poor the protestors’ acting skills!

Washington D.C. Protestors wearing dolphin costumes.

Japanese Studies Interns

Weston Brownlee  
Senior  
Major: English  
Minor: Asian Studies

- The Senior!

Sam Buchanan  
Junior  
Major: Economics  
Minor: Asian Studies

- Hopefully in Japan for the spring!

Parker Huang  
Sophomore  
Major: Economics

- New addition to the Asian Studies team  
- The desperately need- ed web editor

Lisa Ly  
Junior  
Major: IPE  
Minor: Asian Studies

- New addition to the Asian Studies team  
- <3 Donuts

Introducing… the Asian Studies Interns

Lisa Ly

Junior  
Major: IPE  
Minor: Asian Studies  
New addition to the Asian Studies team  
- <3 Donuts
Looking for a Block 3 Course?

Take PA 250, Asian American Literature with Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Chen Yongguo, from Tsinghua University, China. This course will survey the classics of Asian American Literature with an emphasis on 20th century writings, providing a comprehensive view of different forms. The course will cover major literary movements within the Asian American tradition, paying special attention to history, social change and ideology. It will not only center on Far Eastern writers from China, Japan and Korea, but also those from Vietnam, the Philippines, East India, etc.