Study abroad offers new world insight

■ he fireworks reached their peak on the night of Dusshera, a Hindu celebration marking the triumph of good over evil. Giant figures of Ravan, an evil demon, were set up in the streets of Delhi and filled with firecrackers.

My Indian host sister and her friends helped me navigate through the crowds until we found a perfect spot to watch the action. Eventually, one man launched a flaming arrow that pierced the figure of Ravan directly in the chest. There was a momentary pause, silence among the crowd and then a huge explosion of fireworks. Everyone began to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

Moments like these really gives meaning to a quote from a friend currently studying abroad in Hong Kong: "Studying abroad is a time when you experience the highest highs and the lowest lows.

Initially, I thought that studying abroad would be a great way to visit a foreign country or learn a new language, but it's more than that. It's a completely life-changing experience. Studying abroad forced me to step out of my comfort zone, adapt to new situations and become comfortable with and excited about the unfamiliar.

When I lived in India, I was the minority for the first time in my life. Despite my best attempts to fit in by wearing an Indian salwaar-kamiz pantsuit, people still gawked at me each day as I towered over everyone else in line for the metro or walked through the city. My language abilities were also tested daily and though they improved, I learned that it was most important to be able to laugh at myself when I made

Simply living with host families, attending classes with local students and living like the locals provides an incredible outlook into another way of life. Extremely apparent to me were differences in people's perspectives and behavior. During my study abroad experience, my



Bryanna Foote Columnist

host family and I had very deep discussions about many controversial issues, most of which I had always seen only through the American liberal and conservative lens. The first few months were challenging for me because they forced me to question my views. But eventually, I was able to re-examine my opinions, and I returned home with a more open mind and a new understanding of my background and personal

I strongly encourage everyone to study abroad during their time

at Carolina, whether it is for a summer, a semester or an entire

You will return with lifelong friends, confidence in your abilities to adapt to new situations, ridiculous stories, new perspectives and incredible memories that may shape your future at Carolina and beyond. UNC's study abroad advisers are extremely helpful and can find a program that fits your academic and financial needs.

The website is very interactive and allows you to narrow down programs based on your individual preferences. Log onto the study abroad website, choose a few countries or programs that interest you and begin a life-changing journey into the fascinating world beyond.

> Contact the Opinion Editor at opinion@dailytarheel.com.



COURTESY OF ERICA ODORISIO

UNC junior Katie Sweeney stands in front of Westminster Abbey in London during her study abroad program through Boston University.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY JUNE 8

Fridays on the Front Porch at Carolina Inn: Celebrate the end of the week with music, beer, wine, food and fun. No cover charge or reservations required. Music by The Gravy Boys.

Time: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Location: The Carolina Inn

Last Fridays Art Walk: The Hillsborough Arts Council invites everyone on a self-guided tour of local art galleries and studios in historic downtown. Maps and information will be available at any participating

Time: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Location: Downtown Hillsborough

SATURDAY JUNE 9

Drawing in the Galleries: Amanda Hughes will lead attendees in a creative exploration of an object in the Ackland's collection. All levels of artists are welcome. Bring paper and drawing utensils. Admission is free.

Time: 10 a.m. - noon Location: Ackland Art Museum

FRIDAY JUNE 22

Tasting Tours at A Southern Season: Free guided tours of the gourmet food store will navigate through the store's nine departments, after a brief introduction and history of the company.

Time: 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Location: A Southern Season at University Mall, Chapel Hill

WEDNESDAY JULY 4

July Fourth Fireworks: The Town of Chapel Hill and WCHL will present the family-friendly fireworks show. Time: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Location: Kenan Memorial Stadium

THURSDAY JULY 12

Locally Grown Music & Movies Series: This summer series kicks off with music by Lizzy Ross Band, Mary

Johnson Rockers & The Spark, Birds & Arrows will perform on the Wallace Plaza.

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Wallace Parking Deck at 150 E. Rosemary St.

SATURDAY JULY 21

"Chicago" Musical: Winner of six Tony Awards, two Oliver Awards and a Grammy, the sizzling jazz musical is now coming to Durham. Tickets are \$11 and up.

Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Location: Durham Performing Arts**

SATURDAY AUGUST 4

Greek Myths and Legends: Come listen to tales to tales of monsters, animal, gods, heroes and princesses and learn their locations in the night

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Location: Morehead Planetarium

The Daily Tar Heel

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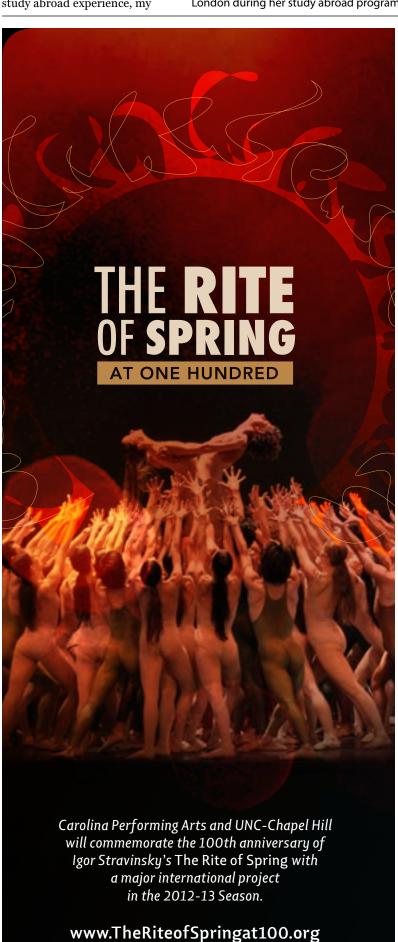
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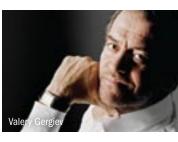


















SEPT 12/13, 16-20 The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart (at Top of the Hill Back Bar)

SEPT 30/OCT 1 The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

OCT. 11 Elsewhere, a CelloOpera

OCT 14 Compagnie Marie Chouinard

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile, Chris Eldridge, Noam Pikelny, Gabe Witcher and Paul Kowert

OCT 25 Studio for New Music Ensemble,

from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory

OCT 29/30 Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev, conductor

NOV 2 Joshua Bell, violin NOV 11 Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano

NOV 12

Gilberto Gil - For All **Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique**

NOV. 14 with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, conductor

NOV 16 Brooklyn Rider **NOV 27** Chucho Valdés

DEC 1/2 The Nutcracker - Carolina Ballet

DEC 7 North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra - Jazz for the Holidays

JAN 19

JAN 25/26 Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company & SITI Company

FEB 5 **Carolina Chocolate Drops**

Abigail Washburn

FEB 9 **FEB 10 Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**

FEB 20 Magdalena Kožená, mezzo-soprano & Yefim Bronfman, piano **FEB 22 Dafnis Prieto Sextet**

FEB 25

FEB 26-27 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

MAR 17 The Cleveland Orchestra with Giancarlo Guerrero, conductor **MAR 20** Kurt Elling

MAR 23/24 Joffrey Ballet MAR 26 Vijay Iyer and International Contemporary Ensemble

APR 2/4 Nederlands Dans Theater I

APR 12/13 Basil Twist with the Orchestra of St. Luke's APR 20/21 UNC School of the Arts

APR 26/27 Béjart Ballet Lausanne

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