

October 2017

Dear Class of '55,

Words cannot express my gratitude for your aid towards my travels to India.

It was a beautiful and very impactful experience, that I am still processing all of the lessons and wonder from. This block abroad was the conclusion course to complete my major for a Gender and Sexualities degree. It was the best way to capture, expand, and reflect the empowerment, wonder and gratitude that I have experienced in my adventures through my major and college.

There were so many stories, connections, and messages learned and experienced; which were dynamic and authentic and irreplaceable from a classroom experience. I carry with me three main lessons that I find value in from my experience there;

- 1). Healthcare and medicine needs to be demystified.
- 2). Knowledge and Empowerment are key for success and agency, and work hand-in-hand.
- 3). Humans are capable. Do not underestimate their abilities.

Simple lessons, but impactful nonetheless. I cried, I laughed, I felt joy, pain and sorrow, empathy and compassion. I will forever remember this empowering journey. Thank you with the deepest gratitude for assisting me with this privilege and opportunity.

Sincerely with Gratitude,

Adrianna Van Hansen '18