

## Professors take class around the world

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Staff Writer

Several Truman State University professors are planning study abroad excursions during which they will take students abroad and partner with international professors. Two options currently offered include trips to Peru and India.

Dereck Daschke, philosophy and religion professor, will take students to Peru this June. The goal of this trip is to immerse students in Peruvian culture and give them the opportunity to study traditional healing in places where the history and use of traditional healings is particularly broad and rich, such as the Andean and Amazon regions, Machu Picchu and the ruins of the Sacred Valley.

The courses will involve hands-on learning and lessons at the University of San Ignacio de Loyola International Extension Center. The trip can be used for four credits of PHRE upper-level credit or a general Truman elective.

Chemistry professor Dawood Afzal and biology professor Stephanie Fore will be taking students to India in January. During the course of the India trip, students will experience the “Flavors of India” and visit Kolkata, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi. They will see destinations such as Mother Teresa’s place, Amer Fort, Ranthambore National Park, Taj Mahal, Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan, India Gate and more.

“Dr. Fore has routinely taken students to South Africa to work with wild animals — she has that strength [working with animals],” Afzal said. “We are teaming up. I, on the other hand, know the [Indian] culture, the language, the history. I can translate more than a book [can] ... I speak

the language of Kolkata.”

Afzal said he looks forward to immersing students in the culture that exists so vibrantly within India. He said this trip was “an opportunity of a lifetime for many.”

“India is a huge country — old and new, the contrast is almost obvious,” Afzal said. “There are very modern facilities — high rise buildings, space programs ... and then there are slums ... there is high tech, there is low tech. It is not homogeneous, you see the contrast. You see the very educated, you see the very illiterate.”

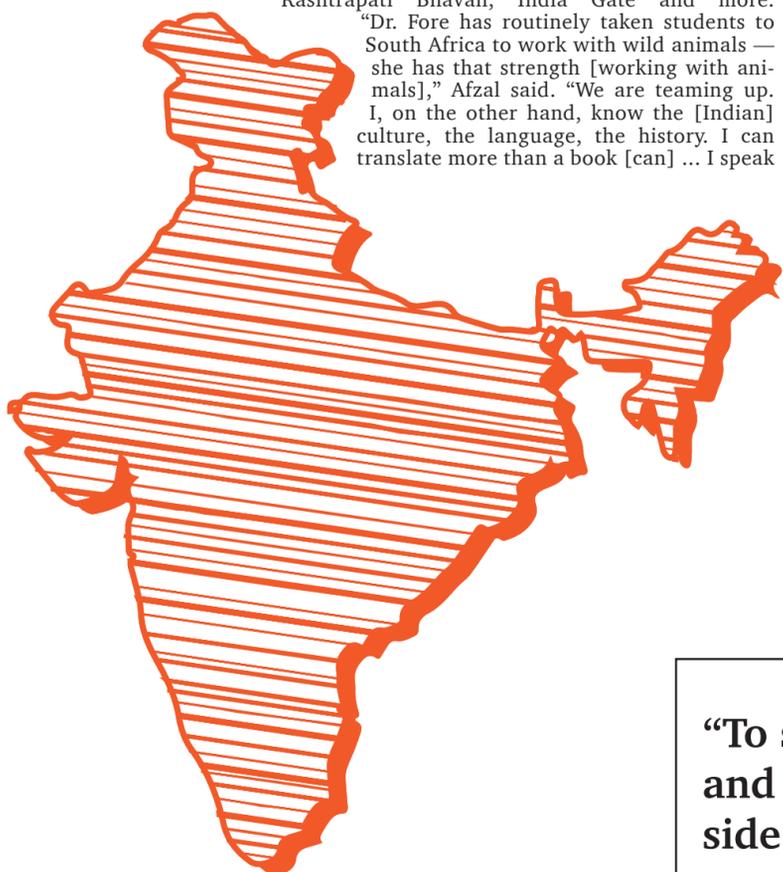
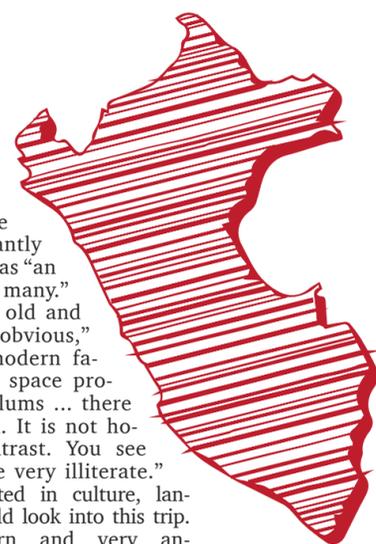
Afzal said if one is interested in culture, language, food or music, they should look into this trip.

“To see the very modern and very ancient coexist side by side is going to be a very amazing experience,” Afzal said.

Junior Brennan Bukaty is amongst the group embarking on the trip to India, and she said she is looking forward to the experience.

“I’ve studied abroad once, in Mexico, and it piqued my curiosity in not only study abroad, but other cultures,” Bukaty said. “I’m a Spanish major, so I’m interested in foreign cultures as a whole, and India’s is so rich in history, diverse and unique that I want to experience it through study abroad like I did with Mexico.”

If students are interested in the trip, they must complete the application, contact either Afzal or Fore and submit the \$350 deposit for the trip by May 1. The trip will take place January 1, 2018 through January 13, 2018 and two credit hours can be earned.



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-Chemistry professor Dawood Afzal