VARANASI, INDIA
TOU VUE

**Program:** UW in India, Spring

**Tou’s Major:** Plant Pathology

**Academic Life:** The classroom experience was great. I took Indian History, Field Methods, Independent Studies, Kushti Performance Tutorial, and a Hindi course. The classroom setting was laid back and comfortable in a small room with couches. My classmates were other UW-Madison students.

**Memorable Experiences:** Just meeting new people from different backgrounds such as other college students and people from local villages.

**Benefits of Study Abroad:** I am more culturally competent because I have experienced and now understand a culture much different from mine. Living in Varanasi made me more appreciative of my life in the U.S. and the things I have that I took for granted before the study abroad experience.

**Tips for Students Considering India:** Make sure you are ready for a challenging experience. Varanasi can be chaotic in terms of overpopulation and levels of sanitation and cleanliness. For me, this experience was an example of overcoming adversity.

“**This experience has helped me become more culturally competent.**”