

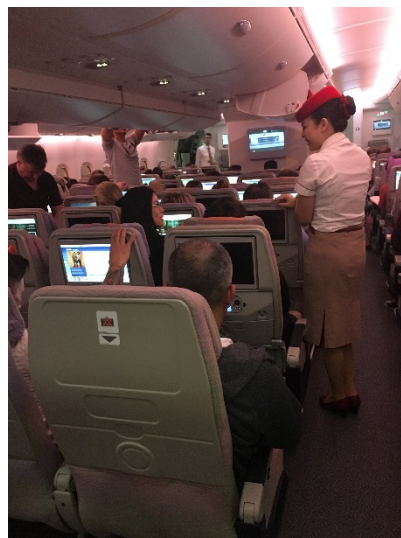
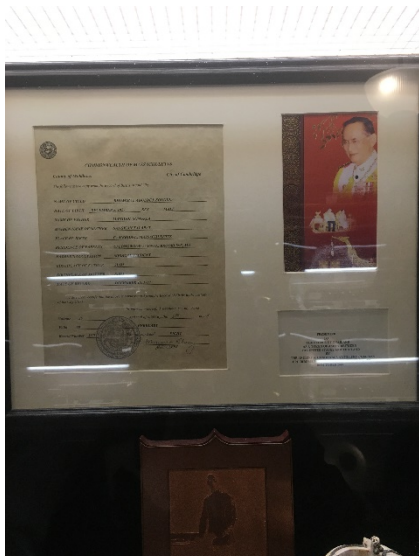
Brittany Kloes

East Meets West Journal

Professor Jeffrey Marc Rockland

3-4 January 2017

Today felt like the longest day ever. We arrived in Boston around 8:30 AM and found out that our bags were not able to be checked all the way through to Bangkok. So we had to take all of our luggage with us as we traveled through Boston on a bus, two subways, and then three blocks on foot. We were all very relieved when we were finally able to drop our suitcases at Jeff's parent's house in Brookline. After we got rid of our luggage we got to tour Boston for the rest of the day! We stopped at the place in which the late King of Thailand was born and then visited Faneuil Hall. I found what appeared to be the birth certificate of the King there! Then we ate at an Irish pub for lunch. On our way back Brookline, we stopped at the market and I got to buy a Harvard sweatshirt and also see the Cheers bar that they modeled after the famous TV show. We then got our luggage and went back to the Boston airport to relax until our next flight. I was very nervous for the flights to Dubai and Bangkok because I had never been on a plane for more than two hours at a time before. This was a huge change for me considering these flights lasted about eighteen hours total. Once I got on the plane my nerves were calmed and I was able to enjoy myself. The flights ended up being really nice, they offered food and you could watch movies on your own personal TV. After the long day, I chose to catch up on some sleep for the better part of both flights.



5 January 2017

Today we arrived in Bangkok, Thailand! After getting off of the flight, we had to go through customs and then stop to exchange our U.S. money into the currency of Thailand, which is called baht. I learned that 1 U.S. dollar is equivalent to about 36 Thai baht. King picked us up from the airport in a big charter bus and it was about an hour drive to Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University from there. Once we got in and unpacked our bags, we went out to have our first meal in Thailand. King treated us to lunch and I got a smoothie and chicken fried rice, it was good! I was relieved because I am usually a picky eater and was worried about finding things that I would like while I'm here. After lunch we had a short rehearsal on the stage that we will be performing on on Wednesday. We got to meet the Thai students that we will working with during our trip at this rehearsal! We then went back to the hotel to rest and get ready for dinner. King took us out again and ordered a lot of options that everyone could pass around and pick from. I was a little taken aback when they brought out a full fish and set it in front of us, I am not really a fan of fish so I did not try it. I ended up eating the same thing that I had for lunch which was still good. I can tell I will be eating a lot of rice already. Once we were finished with dinner we all came back to the hotel because we were all exhausted. We all called it an early night and passed out around 8 PM.



6 January 2017

Today was our first full day of rehearsals! We woke up and ate breakfast at the hotel, they had a lot of options. I ate some ham, rice, fruit, and I was excited to see that they even had toast. The breakfast was much better than I was expecting. After breakfast we walked over to another university to get coffee and I learned that Thai coffee is way better than what we get at home. I think that I'll be getting it every day that we are here. We started rehearsal around 9:30 AM and began with a ballet class taught by Abby. This morning we also took a turns and leaps class taught by Skylar and Megan, it was a really fun class. After class we took a lunch break and I tried some pad Thai for lunch. That was probably my least favorite meal so far, I wasn't really a fan of the noodles. When we were finished eating Pla took us back to the dance building to watch a Thai classical dance class. We ended up getting to try some of the dancing and that was definitely my favorite part of today! We went back to rehearsals and Ashley and I taught our improvisation into choreography class. We had all of the American students pair up with a Thai student to see what kind of unique phase they could come up with and the results were really cool. Once that was done we finished the dance with rehearsing the collaboration piece and I was glad that we got to spend more time with the Thai students today. I am getting pretty good at counting in Thai by listening to them rehearse their parts! We ended the night by going to Khao San road for shopping and dinner. It is definitely crazy on Khao San

road
there
some
for
and



with all of the people and shops, but I liked being
and got
souvenirs
myself
my
family.



7 January 2017

Today was another dance filled day. We followed the same morning routine and started with a ballet class taught by Jeff. The Thai students seemed to struggle with ballet technique so it was kept pretty basic. We also took a May O'Donnell technique based class taught by Sydney and Nicole. This was very interesting to see the Thai students take because it was unlike anything they've ever tried. After lunch at the hotel, we got to take our first class taught by Much. Her style was so cool and it was definitely my favorite class so far! Everyone loved it and wants to take it again. We ended the day with more rehearsals and are getting close to having all of the pieces finished. Tonight we went back to Khao San Road and got our first ever Thai massages. They cost 250 baht for an hour long, which is only \$7! I loved

it and definitely want to go back again. After we went to a shopping mall in Bangkok with King and Much. We ate dinner in the food court, which turned out to be rather difficult trying to communicate with the workers. Then we got to see a private dress rehearsal for a live action show called Ong Bak. It is apparently modeled after a famous Thai movie and it was really cool!



8 January 2017

Today was our first free day! We got up early to leave for the King's summer palace in



Bang Pa-in. We had to dress very politely in respect for the King and the establishment even gave out shawls to those who were not dressed appropriately. The palace was very beautiful and we got to go in one building that was a gift to King by the Chinese. After we left there we went to ride elephants at Ayutthaya. This was my favorite thing we have done so far! We even got to pose with a baby elephant after. It was sad to see that the elephants didn't appear to be taken good care of though.

Once we were finished we ruins of Ayutthaya. It was culture of Thailand from over two also guided us through Thai rituals the Buddha, made wishes, and did very cool to experience the Thai Tonight we went back to Khao and drinks with the Thai students.



went to tour the ancient amazing to see the hundred years ago. Pla in which we prayed to fortune tellers. It was a culture like that. San Road for dinner

9 January 2017



Today was two days till show! We did our usual routine with breakfast at the hotel in the morning and classes all day. We took another ballet class from Abby and



a



contemporary class from Much. After lunch, we spent the rest of the day rehearsing. We were rushing to finish and clean our collaboration piece and the jazz piece, but they are coming together. Once we were finished dancing we went to the campus Dairy Queen and got ice cream. I was excited that it was just like at home! For the rest of the night all of us dancers hung out in Maddie and Ashley's hotel room and bonded.



10 January 2017

Today was one day until show! We started off the morning with breakfast and a warm-up with Maddie. We rehearsed all of the pieces some before we got to take a break for lunch. We went over to a fruit stand across from the university for lunch and I got watermelon and pineapple. The fruit in Thailand is so good! After lunch we did a run of the show with our costumes. Ashley has been sick for a little while, so we are worried that we will need to rework the piece if she can't dance tomorrow. Tonight we ate dinner and went back to Khao San Road. All of us dancers bought matching kimonos and we got another Thai massage.



11 January 2017

Today was show day! We had breakfast at the hotel as usual and dress rehearsal all morning. We didn't do much else other than dance today, but it was great. We were given some time before the show to relax and I took a nap. We went back to the dance building for warm-up at five and then hair and make-up until the show started at seven. The Thai dancers looked so beautiful in their traditional costumes. The show went really well and I loved hearing the audience cheer for us! After the collaboration piece was finished we stayed on stage for presents to be given to everyone who helped make the show possible. We all got pictures together after too. We ended the night with dinner and packed up to leave in the morning.



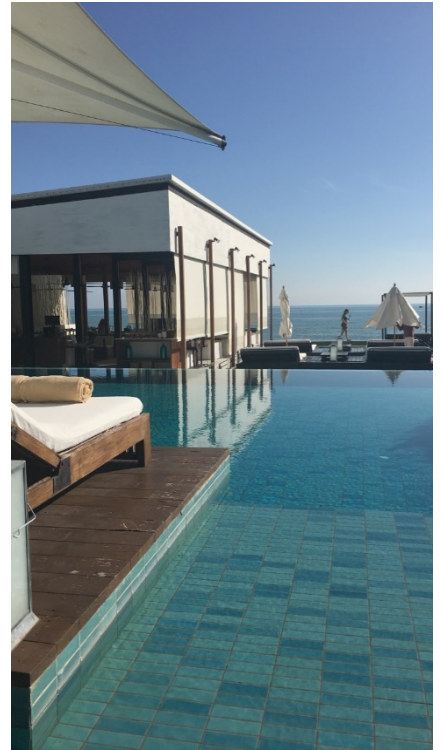
12 January 2017

Today we traveled to Hua Hin! We got up early to eat breakfast and finish packing our things. We were only able to bring one bag on the smaller bus so we left the rest of our belongings in King's office. The bus ride was about three hours and we had lunch as soon as we got here. The campus is so beautiful. We are staying in a ten person hut with a pool and lounging area right outside our door. We were given a tour of the place and taken over to the small farm that they keep. They had ponies, a water buffalo, horses, dogs, chickens, and a goat. We had a small rehearsal in the building that our show will be in on Saturday. We spent the rest of the night by the pool, eating dinner, and hanging out.



13 January 2017

Today we got to go to the beach for the first time! We went to a resort that the owner of the campus' daughter owns and it was so beautiful. We spent the morning swimming and laying in the sun. Once we got back for lunch everyone was really tired out. We went back to the studio to do a run of the show with lights and it lasted a very long time. Once it was over it was decided that dress rehearsal would be moved to tomorrow morning since everyone was so tired. We ate dinner on campus and I had a blueberry pancake! It was delicious. Then we spent the rest of the night shopping at the Cicada Night Market which was really cool.



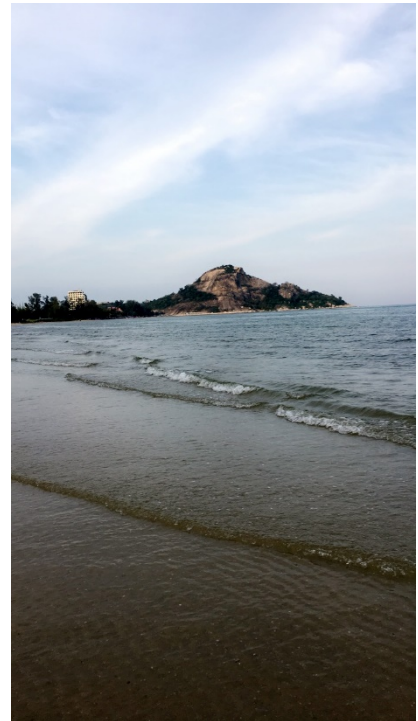
14 January 2017

Today was our last show day! After breakfast, we finished the dress rehearsal this morning. We were allowed to relax for a few hours so we spent them in the pool. Then we ate lunch and went to get ready for the show. We had another warm up at five, followed by hair and make-up. The show went even better than the first time and there were so many people in the audience. After the show we stayed out again for the presentation of gifts, but this time we did something different. It is a tradition here to present your favorite dancer with a lay so we were given pretty necklaces by audience members. It was really encouraging to see how much they all loved the show and that is something I will never forget. After the show we ate dinner and went to another night market to do more shopping.



15 January 2017

Today was another free day! We ate breakfast and then went shopping at a local mall. Some of us got our nails done and the others got their hat cut. We also ate McDonalds for lunch at the mall! We are missing American food. After the mall, we went to spend the rest of the day at the beach. We went in the ocean and took a walk down the beach. We found some jelly fish along the shore. Tonight we stayed on campus and took pictures in our kimonos. We hung out with Jang and Much and played games. It was a fun last night in Hua Hin!



16 January 2017

Today was our last day in Thailand! We exchanged presents with our fellow Thai students and everyone who helped make our trip so wonderful. We said our goodbyes and then made the three hour trip back to Bangkok. We unpacked and repacked our suitcases to prepare for the airport and then got ready for dinner. We went to a beautiful restaurant over the water and got a private room for our party. We spent the rest of the night eating, drinking and singing karaoke. It was a perfect end to the trip and everyone had so much fun. We never wanted to leave! After dinner we drove straight to airport where we are now waiting to begin the journey back to America. We have quick layovers and will be back in Cleveland around 7 pm tonight.

