

India
May
2017



Elephants,
coffee farmers
and
digital media.

A study abroad program of
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Part of the University System of Georgia

ABAC students call experience in India 'life-changing'

Since 2013, students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have traveled to India in the spring to help build international understanding through photography.

ABAC graduate Devin Gibbs, who met the Dalai Lama on her trip in 2013, called the program "life changing."

Recent trips have focused on the struggle for survival of elephants and coffee farmers in southern India. Students helped produce a documentary called "Elephants in the Coffee." Now we're seeking students join the effort to find solutions to the conflict.

The most successful effort has come from the largest coffee grower, who tracks elephants in the estates and uses cell phone communication to alert workers and move them to safe areas. We are exploring how media and communication might be adapted in even more ways to help save elephants and farmers.



ABAC's Devin Gibbs meets the Dalai Lama

The study abroad trip is led by Dr. Thomas Grant, assistant professor of journalism at ABAC, and DK Bhaskar, international explorer and photographer. Scientists, government officials and farmers in India will provide deep insights into the issue.

Students will explore the use of media and communication to address agricultural and environmental problems. The final project will aim at using media to change attitudes.



Bathing elephants with Jenu Kuruba tribal mahouts at a camp in the Coorg district of Southern India.