

## Livin' in America!

What an awesome two weeks we've had since arriving in the US of A! Definitely amongst the most wonderful experiences of our lives! We are truly lucky ones to have been amongst the few who got selected for the IEP program. Experiencing firsthand, the renowned education system of the most developed country in the world is something that many students would die for! We've been here for two weeks now and the time has just flown! Here's a look at the second week we spent at K-state, in a nutshell.



June 10<sup>th</sup> was effectively the second Sunday that we spent at K-state, and since we don't have dinner on Sundays at our mess hall – The Derby Dining Hall, we decided to cook Indian food. Some of us went with Dr. Das the previous week to the Indian store at Manhattan, and we got a lot of authentic Indian food to cook. It was one of the highlights of the weekend and everybody really enjoyed cooking in the tiny kitchen in the West Hall basement, and eating Rotis, Paneer Tikka Masala, and Indian rice and Dal! We had also invited our good friend Joe Olson for dinner, and we watched the blockbuster Bollywood movie 'Rang De Basanti' during dinner. All in all it was quite a spicy evening, and everyone (including Joe!) had their fill.

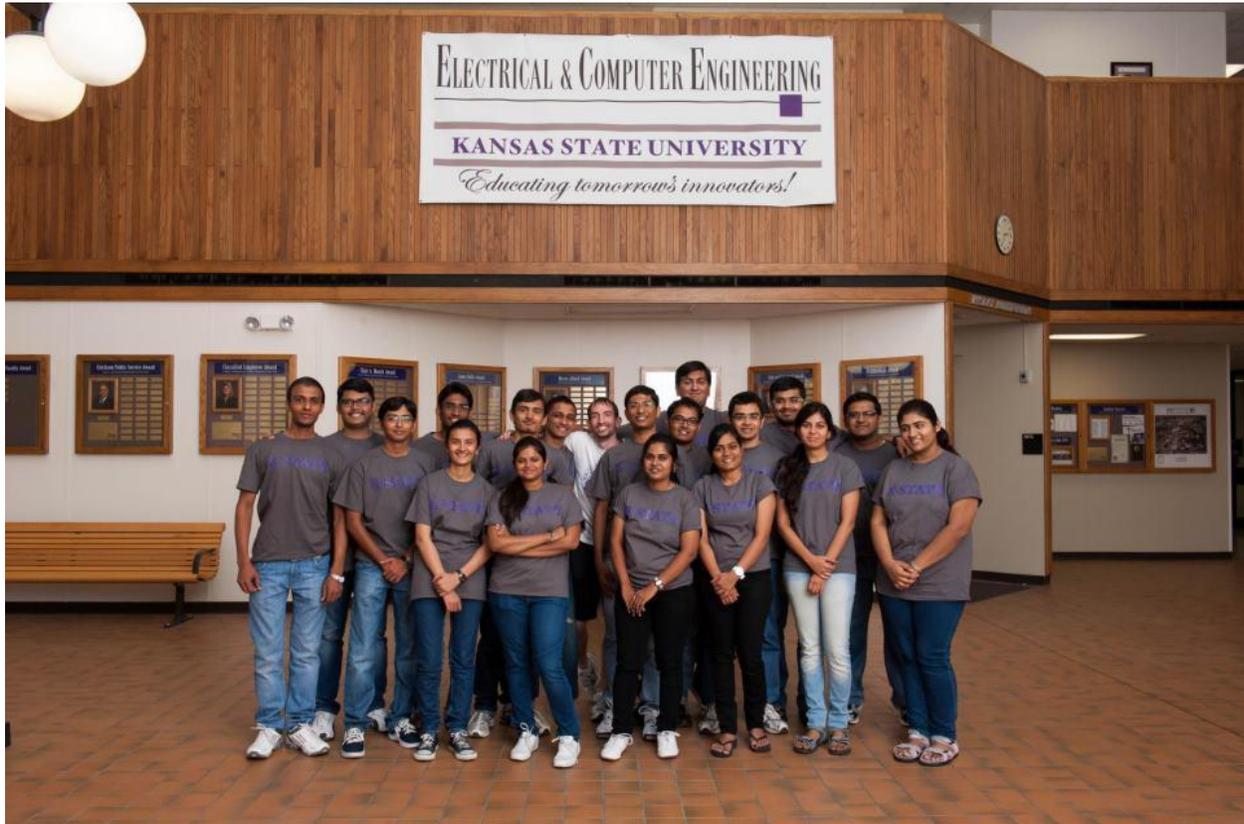


The next day classes resumed full-fledged. In the morning, we had a video conference with the Vice Chancellor of GTU, Dr Akshai Aggarwal. He gave quite an inspiring speech and encouraged us to study well and utilize our time at K-state as effectively as possible. We also met Dr. Hosni and shared our experiences with him. During our DSP Lab at Seaton Hall on Monday, Nick brought us our K-State T-shirts (Awesome!), and we were told that we would be having a photo-shoot the next day.



On Tuesday, we were given gift certificates to visit the city pool, and were also informed by Kathryn that we would be taken to Kansas City to watch the T-bones game and shopping, the weekend after the next. To add to our joy, we were told that Joe would be coming with us as our driver.

After lunch we went over to Rathbone Hall for the photo-shoot, and had several pictures taken at various locations in the Engineering Complex.



By this time, we had started getting homework assignments and people were getting used to the busy schedule. Wireless Comm classes in the morning, then lunch and a small break, and then back to Rathbone Hall for the DSP class. Most evenings in the weekdays were spent doing homework and then relaxing at the dorms. Though some of us did find time to visit Aggieville, go to the Rec Center or the Natatorium. We would also have a game of basketball every day, either at the court at the Rec Center, or outside Moore Hall.



The rest of the week passed pretty much this way and come Thursday, everyone was loaded with work and waiting eagerly for the weekend to come. That was when Dr. Das announced a surprise test on Friday! We all heaved a huge sigh of relief when he changed his mind and postponed the test till next Tuesday (Phew!).

It was Surbhi's birthday on Friday and we celebrated it in style at night by holding a surprise birthday party with cake, gifts and music! We had called Joe too, and exchanged views with him about how birthdays are celebrated in India and in America.



Dr. Das treated us to 'Ice cream Cake', which was delicious! And later we went to the City Park to watch the celebration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Festival. It was a lot of fun, and there were a lot of musical performances, and a special screening of a Denzel Washington Movie "The Great Debaters".

The celebrations extended over to the weekend and we went to the city mall on Saturday. Everyone had a great time shopping, especially the girls! After the tiring week, we all decided to sleep in late on Sunday, and later on in the evening went out for dinner at Aggieville. Half of us went to a Chinese restaurant, and the rest decided to hog it out at Pizza Hut!

### **Jacob's Saturday American Barbeque Experience!**

"I went over to Joe's place on Saturday morning and we had planned to grill some sausages and watch 'Game of Thrones', a popular American sitcom. Joe showed me how to operate an outdoor grill, and how to grill sausages on them. We grilled some delicious cheese-pork sausages and had traditional American hot dogs with ketchup, mustard sauce, pickles, Nachos and Mountain Dew! It was just awesome!! Joe explained that every American household has at least one outdoor grill/barbeque. It was a complete American experience and I enjoyed it to the fullest! Later we went to repair Joe's bike and got it back to our Residence Hall so that we could enjoy the benefits of having a bike to get around!"

- Jacob Abraham



The thing about American culture that intrigued us the most was that the people are so polite, helpful and friendly! People (especially in Kansas) are really nice and greet even complete strangers with the warmest smile on their faces. The other thing that fascinated us about America was the intensity with which rules and laws are followed. The traffic rules are never broken and all the laws are followed very strictly, which results in everything running so smoothly!

We are totally enjoying our stay at K-state so far, and looking forward to a busy as well as fun filled week ahead!

Cheers!

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