

Parents, friends, Romans, countrymen,

Lend me your ears to that I might tell you about the adventure that is Global Semester. We are currently back in Cairo after a 4-day stay in Luxor. It was unbelievably hot there, but first things first:

We arrived in Cairo about two weeks ago, in the middle of the night. There are a LOT of cars in Cairo and they ALL use their horns ALL the time. No one from our group has gotten run over (yet); pedestrians most definitely do NOT have the right-of-way. We have had class nearly every day at the American University in Cairo (the AUC) and tend to have our afternoons free to explore. While in Cairo, we have seen the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, a soccer/football match, the Nile, ridden camels and horses (camels are hard to steer, just FYI), and experienced many WC's. Sadly, Egypt has done a number of many of the group members' stomachs. We have all learned to carry our own toilet paper at all times, as well as a couple of pounds of "baksheesh," or tip, for the person who stands in front of the WC and hands you about 4 squares of toilet paper.

Both males and females in the group have gotten marriage proposals but don't worry, as no one has accepted. When we ladies of the group go out during the evening, we often have a fellow Globalite of the male persuasion join us so as not to get hassled all the time, just about 80% of the time instead. But I guess that's just all part of the fun of gaining that famous St. Olaf "global perspective." It's tough on everyone to always have to travel in groups and there aren't always enough guys to go around, but we manage okay. It will be nice, though, to have a little bit of our freedom back when we go to India.

As I mentioned above, Luxor is hotter than the seventh ring of hell. We often started our tours at about 7 am so as to beat the heat and Char made sure we applied liberal amounts of sunscreen and drank plenty of water. We saw all kinds of amazing tombs and temples and some of us even hiked up the mountain that overlooks Queen Hatchepsut's temple. We mooned all the tourists down there (an act that Bill did not endorse).

Our hotel in Luxor had a rooftop pool, which is where we spent our afternoons. On account of all the sand and dust we tracked in, by the third day, the pool was so cloudy that we could not see the bottom! It was refreshing nonetheless.

We returned to Cairo last night to a heat wave. I just received an e-mail from a friend in MN who said they got the first frost of the season. Here, though, we're all brown as little berries from being in the sun so much.

We are quickly approaching our one-month anniversary...how time flies! Bill and Char continue to be great leaders and we continue to learn every day.

Farewell until next time,
Laura and Global 02-03