In my Intermediate Hindi class, we talked about Hindi movies. As a child, I grew up watching and listening to Hindi movies as well as Hindi songs, which made me a fan of Hindi at a very young age. Now that I was learning Hindi, it was interesting to see the type of language used in movies and songs. It is sometimes different when they use a mixture of Hindi and Urdu to make it sound fancy enough for the movies and songs. That day was definitely one of my favorite days of class!

Memorable Moments

Funniest: There was new vocab that we would sometimes pronounce with an American accent, which makes the word sound and mean something completely different. There were a few words that I said incorrectly and accidentally meant something really bad and inappropriate!

Most challenging: I moved to Intermediate Hindi after only one semester, which was a big jump. I was still getting used to writing and reading Hindi script while the Intermediate students already mastered it.

Favorite: We had a picnic at Capital Square and ordered a 20” pizza from Ian’s while listening to the orchestra play. It was great to just hang out!

The Madison Experience

New favorite dish: I started getting falafel towards the end of the program. Naf Naf falafel sandwiches really got me, because it was a different taste that we don't have on the East Coast. It came with a base of baba ganoush with falafel pieces, veggies, and tahini sauce.

Must see/do: Get on the lake and kayak!

New Perspective

Cultural point of view: Hindi culture is very humble, and people have so many ways of saying the same things we say in English. I noticed how when speaking in Hindi, the tone of voice really gives away what you're trying to say.

Advice to students considering this program: Try something new! I took a step out of my comfort zone and went somewhere I have never been to learn more about my culture and language.

How this experience will help me in my future career: After this program, I am interested in seeking career opportunities where language and Air Force overlap. I am considering taking the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and applying to the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP)!