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The Global Village Living-Learning Center is a residence hall located in Indiana University's northwest neighborhood. The GV is home to 110 globally minded undergraduate students who share a common interest in learning languages, cultures, and studying or traveling abroad. Each semester the Global Village is host to numerous internationally themed events including language hikes, cultural celebrations, ethnic dinners, lectures, and workshops. This year there are over 20 languages being studied at the Global Village. To learn more about the Global Village Living-Learning Center, check out our website at www.college.indiana.edu/global.

My First Semester at the GV

by Rachel Schlaifer

When I became part of the Global Village, I was surprised to find myself surrounded by such a large group of eclectic personalities. I immediately felt at home, and was more than happy to take part in the celebration of the Village's 10th anniversary. GVers from previous years were welcomed back with open arms as we reminisced about the things that the GV has done over the years. From enjoying world music at the Lotus Festival to taking a bus up to Chicago, cleaning up Griffy Lake, or language hikes, there is always something exciting to participate in.

The Global Village is a living-learning center that promotes multicultural understanding and global literacy. Because of this, we tend to host many events that raise awareness about current events happening elsewhere in the world such as the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, Chinese-American relations, and other issues around the globe.

We also hold a lot of events that are just plain fun! To enjoy nature and enhance our vocabulary, we hosted the McCormick's Creek language hikes, where various language groups were created, and we spent an entire afternoon together learning new words in our foreign languages.

The Lotus Festival was another incredible thing that I got to experience with the Global Village. All around downtown Bloomington different venues hosted artists from all over the world. Swedish hip-hop-jazz, taiko drumming, flamenco, and anything else you could imagine was there. It was definitely something I'll never forget.

The Global Village also participates heavily in Books & Beyond, a student-run volunteer organization that helps write, publish, and transport English books to the children in a Rwandan school who are trying to learn the language. Being a part of this program has been one of the most emotionally fulfilling commitments I've made, and I'm proud to be surrounded by such an active group of young adults.

This is only the tip of the iceberg of what we've done together, and there's plenty more to come in the next semester. The Global Village exemplifies a place where we can all come together and be a part of something bigger than just us. There's never a dull moment and I wouldn't have it anyway. I've made incredible friendships that I hope will continue for a very long time here, and can confidently say that living here has opened my eyes to a whole new world of opportunities.



McCormick's Creek Language Hikes



Global Villagers at Lotus Festival



German Language Cluster's Oktoberfest



Books & Beyond Volunteer Orientation



Dorm Gardening Event

Brazilian Blowout!

by Molly Zweig

Tudo bem? (How's it going?) Spanish Cluster went outside its linguistic comfort zone this semester to learn about Brazil and the Portuguese language at a Brazilian Blowout event. The evening had three main parts, beginning with a short lesson from Professor Vania Castro about Brazilian culture and language. Students learned how large and diverse the country is—it's slightly smaller than the United States and has over 200 million citizens. Professor Castro also taught some basic phrases in Portuguese. Although not widely studied in the United States, Portuguese is spoken by more people than French, German, or Italian. It is closely related to Spanish, which made picking up on simple phrases easy for Spanish Cluster members.

After the language lesson, Thalissa Paixão and her friend Giordana Mesquita taught the samba! This dance is traditionally part of the annual Carnaval celebrations that take place all over Brazil. Groups who perform in the Carnaval practice their dancing skills all year at escolas de samba (Samba Schools). Each group has a theme for their show, and they create a dance and song to showcase at the big televised competition. We attempted to learn the samba, but we definitely could use more practice! The dance itself is very fast, and some students even tried on heels to better move their feet.

The evening ended with tasty brigadeiros, a fudgy chocolate ball made with sweetened condensed milk, cocoa powder, and sprinkles. Students got to assemble their own treat and roll it in the sprinkles. Many ended up with chocolate all over their fingers or simply dipping spoons in the bowl—hopefully there was no double dipping! Afterwards, we watched parts of last year's Carnaval parade in Rio de Janeiro.

Due to the success of our Brazilian Blowout, we hope to do another event about Brazil during the Spring Semester. Até a próxima! (Until next time!)



Griffy Lake Clean Up

by Gabriel Jones

The temperature was warm, the sun shone, and a light breeze whistled through the air as I made my way to the car of a short woman named Vera, surrounded by strangers I had hardly been acquainted with. I squeezed into the car, cramped between the left passenger door and one of the acquaintances whom I was secretly shy of, and we drove off into unfamiliar territory, leaving behind the residence hall I was still unfamiliar with. In a few minutes' time we arrived at a lake front parking lot on the edge of the nature reserve. The sun reflected brightly off of the lake, creating an atmosphere of serenity and natural beauty as we stepped out of the car and met Vera's wife, Natalie, and a former GVer, all of whom were so enthusiastic and proud to take care of the environment with us.

And along we went on the trail, picking up bottles and candy wrappers. Natalie, through her expertise, taught us all about the invasive plants of the area. We journeyed along listening attentively to her facts, figures, and stories, frequently pausing to smile as Vera snapped a photo or two documenting our efforts. The invasive plants were only half of the learning experience. I learned to skip rocks, I learned some of the likes and dislikes of my acquaintances, I learned the career plan of a GV alum, I learned Vera's story of meeting and falling in love with Natalie.

Halfway through the hike, we found a handmade Boy Scout bench perfectly positioned at the top of a hill overlooking the lake. We took up positions posing for yet another picture. I looked up at the camera and gave a broad and joyful smile. That guy who almost slipped down the hill, that girl who speaks Hindi, that charismatic young woman holding the camera, these were not acquaintances, not just a random selection of the 42,000 IU students.

They were...we are the Global Village.

Reflections Before Studying Abroad

by Aaron Martin

I have described myself many times over the course of this school year as a GV veteran, because that's what I am. Out of everyone who lived on second floor my freshman year, I'm the last one left, and almost all of the familiar faces from two years ago have moved to apartments, graduate school, or study abroad. Now I'm preparing to engage in the GV ritual of the junior year semester abroad, as have so many before me, and it leads me to reflect on my time in the GV.

Many other GVers have scoffed when I mentioned that I'll miss the GV during my semester abroad, but that's the simple truth of it. It may seem silly that when I am in Europe, I'll be thinking about the fun I had at second-semester events in the past, like watching David and Benji battle it out in Czech Twister on the Chicago Trip, dressing up in Jeff's magic outfit for International Clothing Night, performing a poem at the GV Gala, watching Jeff play hopscotch, reading a children's book at the GV Eisteddfod (for which I won a small plastic chair), or pulling things out of my memory jar and reminiscing fondly about hay rides taken, Passports of Pain completed, and mysterious coats received. The GV is quirky, friendly, caring, bizarre, nerdy, and above all home—I will undoubtedly miss it and my GV family while I'm abroad. At the same time, study abroad is a GV tradition, and nothing could've prepared me better.

In my freshman and sophomore years, there were a large number of junior and senior GVers returning from study abroad, and all were more than happy to give advice on things from which program to apply for to which classes to take to which cities to avoid. Vera and Jeff, of course, have been invaluable with Jeff's immense knowledge of the globe and Vera talking me down when I was freaking out about visas. Annual presentations from the Office of Overseas Study helped me decide what I want out of my experience overseas.

Less tangible is the value I got from the diversity of the GV. Moving into the GV was a culture shock for me, and walking down the halls hearing conversations in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, or Hindi helped prepare me for the experience of immersion. Being able to speak German at home in the GV was also immensely valuable. As I prepare to study abroad, my time in the GV has meant that I feel ready to go. Most importantly, when I finally get back from Austria I know that there will be two homecomings and two families waiting for me, and that's something to look forward to.

Welcome Week

by Alexis Negrete

Welcome Week 2014 was, as it is every year, chock full of fun and exciting events that serve to break the ice and begin the memory-making process with new and old GVers alike. This year, we had the traditional events such as the Progressive Dinner on Move-In Day, the campus-wide Scavenger Hunt, the Marshmallow War and Marshmallow Roast, and the International Coffee House and Jam Session.



Every year, following the hurly-burly that arises due to the mass of students moving into their new home, the GV hosts its annual Progressive Dinner. For the dinner, food from local ethnic restaurants is brought in and GVers travel floor to floor in a buffet marathon, meeting and mingling with their new companions.

The campus-wide Scavenger Hunt is another traditional event. New GVers separate into groups, are given a scavenger hunt task list, and then are sent off to the far reaches of campus to find and photographically document various useful and well-known locations. Once all the groups have returned, Welcome Week Leaders collect and edit the pictures into a slideshow, which is then viewed by all GVers. More often than not, there are pictures that show not only the scavenger hunt prowess of the students, but also glimpses into the more colorful parts of their personalities.

The Marshmallow War and Roast are two events that always go hand-in-hand. During the Marshmallow War, GVers get the chance to get in touch with their more primal roots and to shoot each other with marshmallow ammunition using homemade blowguns. After the War we hold the Roast, where we simply get to enjoy the magic that is the creation of the s'mores, as well as each other's company.



The International Coffeehouse and accompanying Jam Session are always a crowd pleaser. During the International Coffeehouse, the Global Village director Jeff Holdeman mans the stage armed with a variety of popular songs in multiple languages which need to be guessed by the audience. The Jam Session follows where the musically inclined among the GVers join Jeff on stage and make music together. Welcome Week establishes connections and forges friendships in the GV.

With this year being no exception and being off to a promising start, we can only guess at where the year will take us!



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Books & Beyond: Rwanda Trip 2014

by Abigail Hamilton

Over the summer, I traveled to Musanze, Rwanda with the Books & Beyond project. The B&B team consisted of nine students and three faculty. This trip, for me, was one of many “firsts”—my first time leaving America, my first time riding a plane, and my first time teaching English.

During our first week in Rwanda, we had the opportunity to tour the country, viewing the thousands of green hills, tea and coffee plantations, women carrying bags of grain on their heads with babies on their back, and men riding bicycles loaded with stacks of bananas, as Abdu, our driver, drove the coaster bus up and down the small country. One of my favorite stops was our two hikes in Nyungwe National Forest. During the first hike, we crossed a canopy bridge that was 100 meters above ground! And, on our second, we climbed down a valley to be rewarded with the sight of a beautiful waterfall.

After the first week of exploring Rwanda, we traveled to Musanze in the Northern Province to begin teaching at the Kabwende Holiday Camp. At the camp, 300 students from Kabwende Primary School spend two weeks learning from and practicing their English with the IU students.



Becoming a rabbit for the Reader's Theater story



Sabyinyo volcano

At first, I was very nervous about teaching. However, I soon found that by keeping a hardworking attitude and a willingness to change plans, teaching went well and the students enjoyed class. By the end of camp, I wished that I had more days to spend with the students.

On the first day of camp, we passed out the Books & Beyond book, *The World Is Our Home, Volume 6*, to all 2,000 students at Kabwende Primary School. For many students, this was the first book they had ever owned. Although I had learned about the book famine in Rwanda through Books & Beyond, I had not fully grasped just how little access to books most Rwandans have. Throughout camp, the students cherished their books, protecting them with hand-made book covers and writing notes to practice their English.

Rwanda is such a beautiful country. During my short month there, I saw and experienced the beautiful mountains and forests, a typical Rwandan home, and the city of Musanze. I miss the towering volcanoes near Kabwende, the people I met, and the students yelling “I AM GOING TO EAT YOU” as the crocodile in our Reader's Theater Story.