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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](http://www.college.indiana.edu/global).

## Service in the South

by Hannah Catt

A major part of the Global Village's Alternative Spring Break trip consisted of service work in the community in Birmingham, Alabama. However, another aspect was to explore Birmingham and put a face on its citizens. Both of these goals were achieved through the work of Global Villagers at the JJ's Freedom Center in the West End of Birmingham. The center is an after-school program for at-risk youth in the area. Instilling the values of being strong, smart citizens who can lead positive lives, the center was founded in 1998 by Reverend Vee. Today she is assisted by multiple volunteers, including Titus Battle, a longtime friend of Global Village Assistant Director Vera Marinova. During the two afternoons GVer were at the center, we mentored approximately 40 children and teens, discussing their schoolwork, families, and future college and career plans.

Additionally, as a service to the center the GVer organized the resource room and the library, which will benefit the students when they need space to study or play. After visiting both days, many of the GVer commented on the students and how they were inspired by hearing their ideas and goals for the future. One student in particular stood out. Caleb, a 13-year-old 7th grader, expressed serious interest in being a journalist when he gets out of college. He is the son of a military veteran and a survivor of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Naturally, his interest led to many of the students encouraging him to apply to IU's Media School when he is old enough, and they assured him that he would have multiple letters of recommendation when the time comes.

Overall, the GVer all had extremely positive experiences interacting with the students, staff, and volunteers of the JJ's Freedom Center, and they look forward to returning in the future.



## Spanish Cluster

by Jennifer Wyrick

We had some awesome Spanish Cluster events this year with our cluster facilitator Ian Michalski. Recently, we attended IU's Latino Film Festival and Conference. It featured numerous films from all over the Spanish-speaking world. A group of us went to see *Jean Gentil*, a movie about a Haitian immigrant trying to find work in the Dominican Republic. The film was in Spanish and Haitian with English subtitles. It was an artsy, dramatic movie about suffering and hopelessness, and needless to say it didn't end happily. However, it was an eye-opening view of what Haitian immigrants go through in the DR and how they're treated. After the movie, there was a Q&A with one of the directors of the movie, which was a unique opportunity. Most of the people who asked questions knew quite a bit about film, and it's always interesting to hear someone discuss something they're passionate about. It was a great experience.

Afterwards, we walked to El Norteño as a group and had dinner. We got to practice our Spanish with the waiter and the food was delicious. We had an excellent group, and there was some good conversation (when we weren't stuffing our faces, of course). We also got to discuss the movie, and Ian, who has extensive experience with the Dominican Republic, gave us background information to contextualize some of its events. I think we all learned a lot. All in all, it was a fun event, and everyone who went made some lasting memories.

## Study Abroad

by Valerie Gregorash

Thanks to my experiences at the Global Village LLC, I feel totally prepared for my trip abroad to Nagoya, Japan, for the 2014–2015 academic year! While studying Japanese here at IU, I met a fellow GVer, Chelsea Nsonwu, who was in the same class as I was. Together we attended a presentation about overseas study and decided that we absolutely had to go to Japan.

A large number of Global Villagers typically study abroad for at least a summer or semester, and I think that that is because it is the nature of a Global Villager to want to seek out and explore new cultures. Because many GVers have been abroad before, there are plenty of resources and people that you can go to for advice. Last year I met Hanako Gavia, who had studied in Japan, and she encouraged me and Chelsea to go. Vera Marinova, assistant director of the Global Village is a wonderful resource for finding scholarships, and thanks to her advice I am close to having my entire trip funded.

The program that I chose is fairly competitive, so I was very worried about the application process. The essay was lengthy, but if you are really passionate about going to a certain country, it's not that difficult to come up with 1,000 words explaining why you want to go there. The paper work was extensive: I had to put down my educational background, specifically how many years I had studied Japanese, which textbooks were used, etc., and had to fill out a lot of personal information so that I can be matched with a host family. I also had an interview with faculty members, one of whom was my Japanese professor. My interview was in English, but I know that many programs conduct their interviews in the target language.

The application process was grueling, but with Chelsea, who is now my roommate, completing the application right next to me, and with so many people in the Global Village backing us up, we were both able to get into the program. We can't wait to start this amazing journey together, and when I get back, I plan on returning to the Global Village as a senior, where I will continue the tradition of encouraging students to go abroad. It's totally possible! You just have to go out there and get it.



*GVers making noodles for "Hasta la Pasta." These noodles were later eaten at "Pasta la Vista."*

## Talking Politics

by Brandon Dayton

The Political Discussion group's main goal is to take controversial topics and discuss them with people of varying views in order to grow, possibly change, or solidify the beliefs we already had. Alongside Hannah Catt, I led this group in a series of events throughout the semester. Our goal was to present the different topics in an unbiased/neutral way, so that if anyone was learning about a certain political topic, it would be impartial. We then moved on to discussing facts about the chosen topic and then showing the different political views that already exist. The floor would then be opened to the attendees to discuss what they thought.

The three events that we were able to squeeze into this semester were: the politics of marijuana and its legalization, abortion, and finally the politics of Affirmative Action. In these three events we discussed how these policies are carried out while comparing them to other countries around the world to put our politics into perspective.

## Pasta and Puns

by Cassandra Rider

If there is one thing half as good as food, it's probably really bad jokes about food. As this year's leader of the Cooking Interest Group, I always ask myself what bad jokes are possible when sitting down to fill out a Green Sheet (GV event proposal form) with whoever is co-leading the latest event. When filling out the Green Sheets for the two-part pasta making event to end the Cooking Interest Group's year, Brandon Dayton and I thought of what would make for the best Italian food event. Obviously references to The Terminator. And so Hasta la Pasta and Pasta la Vista were born!

At Hasta la Pasta, Brandon taught us to make our own tagliatelle noodles the way he learned while studying in Italy. These noodles are made by making a simple flour volcano, putting an egg in the middle where the lava should go, and mixing things together with your hands. Pretending that your dough was an erupting volcano was optional.

A couple days later at Pasta la Vista, we cooked the noodles we had made at the previous event and made a Bolognese sauce. There was also bread with homemade garlic butter to ward off all of the vampires that infest the Global Village. The event was small since it was Easter weekend and a lot of people had gone home, but all of the people present enjoyed a big, traditional Italian dinner with their friends, which was extra nice on such a quiet weekend.

With the year coming to a close, I can only hope that the Cooking Interest Group can be as active and have as much fun next year as it did this year...and tell as many food-related jokes.

## Recycling

by Abigail Hamilton

Recycling at IU can be confusing. What is the difference between co-mingled and plastics? Which cans are for recycling and what is for just trash? Luckily for GVerS, the Environmental Cluster hosted a "What is Recycling Event?" on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. After a sampling of snacks at the annual "Taste of Ethnic Chicago Event," GVerS settled into the lounge to learn about recycling at IU. Liz Essman, the grad student representative from the IU Office of Sustainability, led us in a discussion about the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Liz provided examples of each of the different recycling categories and provided us with tips on how we could recycle more in the dorms. One tip I really appreciated was how to recycle nearly the entire coffee cup: Place the lid in plastic recycling and the paper cozy in the paper recycling. We learned to reduce waste by using re-fillable water bottles rather than plastic water bottles and to use real silverware rather than the plastic that is provided in the dining halls.

After discussing easy ways to recycle more, GVerS asked questions about recycling both in general and at IU. Many GVerS discussed ways to improve recycling here at IU by providing non-disposable dishes and silverware in the dining halls for residents that are "dining in." We also discussed the successful cardboard recycling at the Global Village. The GV has been running a pilot corrugated cardboard recycling program for a few years, and GVerS would like to see this program instated in other residence halls. However staff shortages are a main roadblock to this goal. Liz encouraged us to join the IU Student Sustainability Council to help guide IU towards a greener future.

Liz and the IU Sustainability staff look forward to working with IU students in the future to create a more resourceful and sustainable campus.

## Ethnic Chicago

by Laura Zweig

I've been to Chicago more times than I can count, but never like this. Honestly, I was a little bit shocked to learn that there is culture in the Chicagoland area outside of the wall of baseball memorabilia on my grandfather's basement wall. Unlike the Cubs, however, the GV's three-day-weekend trip is a winner.

We hopped off the bus on Devon Avenue, with dreams and a really heavy winter coat. We tasted challah and rugelach in the Jewish bakery, the best I'd had outside of the Holy Land itself, and some kind of mix of heaven, bread, and cheese called *khachapuri* in a Georgian bakery. We went to a lot of bakeries—seriously, go just for the food—the Mexican and Polish bakeries in Pilsen, the Chinese bakeries in Chinatown, the Czech restaurant with the fireplace where we played Twister in Czech. There were some museum visits sprinkled in between the pastries to learn about Mexican art and the Irish-American experience in Chicago. We gallivanted around the Shedd Aquarium or the Field Museum, gaping in awe at the fish and dinosaurs.

The highlight, for me, was definitely Second City, Chicago's premier improv comedy theatre. We saw "Let Them Eat Chaos," a show combining sketch and improv sets, which I would whole-heartedly recommend to anyone in the area.

The GV trip is special, not just for the places you go, but for the people with whom you travel. It was so cool to see my friends translating a sign in another language or sharing a story about studying abroad or explaining a strange-looking food in a grocery store. This trip showed me how easy it can be to be a global citizen, even in the heart of America.



Laura Zweig, Katy Hockerman, and Audrey Muston at Second City Comedy Club in Chicago.

## Leadership Development Series

by Lindsey Pullum

Over the last two years, I have constructed and executed a leadership development program that engages students in a series of outlets whose sole goals are to promote the learning and application of leadership styles and techniques for our students. Every month there has been a different, themed workshop aimed at encouraging students to look at leadership from different perspectives. Some workshops examined servant leadership and how giving back was key to leading. Others included self-examination, i.e., identifying one's values and taking care of oneself in order to lead by example. Another outlet for leadership development included reflecting. After each workshop, students had the opportunity to reflect on the material and place it in context to their own leadership style and positions both on and off campus. Students reflected on specific examples of what they learned, how those examples had meaning, and finally how they would apply the message of the workshop in their own leadership journey.

Finally, to really drive home the themes we learned throughout the year, students put theory into practice. Student leaders gave back to the various communities they were involved in. Nathan Grantz took skills he learned in the dynamic communication workshop and applied them to his job as a GV office assistant to improve his work experience and performance. Meanwhile, Audry Estill applied the knowledge she gained from the self-awareness workshop to have a better understanding of her passions and what drives her to success. Whether students grew as professionals or as people, they all gained something that will hopefully be beneficial to them as leaders either at the Global Village or another organization on campus.



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## Rwandan Book Famine

by Aaricka Washington

*Did you know that it would take a Kabwende Primary School student 20 hours and 38 minutes to walk to the Kigali Public Library, the only public library in Rwanda?*

*Did you know that even though the literacy rate in Rwanda is 71.1%, access to libraries and just books in general for citizens is very low?*

*Did you know that before the Books & Beyond project was created, most Kabwende Primary School students had no books to take home? Now, every child attending the school has at least one book of their own.*

This year, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, the Books & Beyond service-learning project is highlighting tangible statistics about the core of our mission in Rwanda: to publish student-authored books for students in order to improve English literacy in a country that was devastated by the genocide. Our goal is to spread awareness about not only the issues that the country is facing, but also what our student-led organization is doing to provide Kabwende students with better access to English literacy resources.

If you have been on campus or around the Bloomington community, you may have seen our display case in the Wells Library in April or attended a movie in our Rwandan Genocide film series. You might see one of five versions of our book famine campaign posters! We also have a display that highlights the Rwandan book famine as well as what Books & Beyond is doing to help. Snap a picture with one and tweet us about what you think!



*Students at Kabwende Primary School prepare to receive the latest volume of The World is Our Home.*

## B&B Fundraising Dinner

by Hannah Kurowski

On Monday, April 21, 2014, the Books & Beyond project had its first Annual Fundraiser Dinner. There were over 60 attendees, great food from Taste of India and Anatolia, as well as a silent auction. Student director Brie Petty also shared the accomplishments from this year, including our extended publicity, partnerships, funding victories, as well as having a successful transition year. The dinner was a success, and the students and faculty enjoyed the presence of Michael Uslan, the executive producer of the Batman films since 1989. Uslan gave a talk about living out your passions as well as the importance of perseverance.

Books & Beyond volunteers were recognized for their hard work, each being personally acknowledged for his/her accomplishments. The dinner proved that Books & Beyond will continue strong into next year, as our new student leaders prepare to take on their tasks. The dinner also continued the dialogue about the Rwandan "book famine," sharing the need for global literacy with new faculty and other students that attended. We hope to continue this tradition in the upcoming years, as Books & Beyond grows and spreads its presence around the Indiana University campus as well as the United States, as proven by a recently published Big Ten Network article about our flourishing, student-run organization.