

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE
LIVING-LEARNING
CENTER AT
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON

NOMAD

VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

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The Global Village Living-Learning Center is a residence hall located in Indiana University's Northwest Neighborhood. The GV is currently home to 58 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 nearly 30 languages being studied at the Global Village. To learn more about the Global Village Living-Learning Center, check out our website at globalvillage.indiana.edu.

What I Learned My Freshman Year at the GV

by Karly Murat-Prater

Dear past self from August 2015,

If you ever think it's a good idea to turn in a 10-page honors paper two months late, you're wrong. If you think that you can write a 5-page French paper in the two hours before it's due... well, you're right, but it's a horrible idea. If you think that philosophy will be easy because you've already studied it, that you can keep up those perfect grades from high school, that you won't fail at all—you're so wrong.

Dear past self, you're so wrong about everything that will happen in college, but that's okay.

Over the past year, I have turned in countless papers just before their deadlines after waking up around four to five hours before in order to finish. I have completely failed a midterm, and I have earned a nearly perfect score on another. I have written a paper in French only for my professor to mark—multiple times, no less—that a certain word was English. I have procrastinated so badly that I had to read 500 pages and write a 2,000-word essay over the course of three days. I have had to set several alarms in order to make it to class. I never expected any of this.

But I've also grown an incredible amount.

Dear past self, you might be worried about fitting in, and you might be worried that you'll spend too much time studying and not enough time making friends. Again, you are wrong. You will find your place in the best community on campus, a built-in group of friends—friends that you get to live with.

Over the course of this past year, I have made some of the best friends in my entire life just by living in the GV. I now have a core group of friends who support me in almost everything I do (except for the stupid stuff), but also who laugh at me and convince me that such thing as a Mexican comma exists when I have a paper due the next morning.

Love,
Karly



The GV ♥s Food!

by Dillon Lyons

Culture is something which one absorbs with all five senses. We quite often think about the sights to see in a culture, and the sounds of the local language filling the air, but at least for me, it's sometimes harder to get a feel for the *taste* of a community. The GV has certainly facilitated that process for me and other GVer's, moreso than any other organization at IU.

There is a plethora of events every semester that allow GV residents to expand their palates. Most events highlighting a culture also feature a cultural dish, be it *baklava* from Greece, *sopa paraguaya* from Paraguay, or *pierogi* from Poland. And it should be noted that there are nearly always leftovers to enjoy. I'll often come back from a hard day of classes and studying to find some small pleasure like Turkish delight in the lounge, free for the taking.

There are several food events from this year that were memorable. Taste of Ethnic Chicago is a multicultural smorgasbord of exotic foods, from lychee to sardines, where GVer's orient their palates in preparation for the cultural collage of the annual Chicago trip. There have also been events meant to highlight extreme flavors. In one, Super Hot Food for a Super Cold Day, GVer's compete to see who can eat the spiciest food, including ghost chilis, wasabi, habañero peppers, and other capsaicin-laced delicacies for the adventurous eater. For Super Sour Food for a Super Sweet Day, held on Valentine's Day, GVer's choke down sour and bitter foods like lemon juice, bitter melon, Toxic Waste candy...then eat a miracle berry tablet (which makes sour foods taste sweet) and try all of them again!

It hardly bears mentioning that almost all the food is delicious, and most of what's not is so interesting that it's given me stories to talk about for years to come. I'd take the Global Village's cuisine over a dining hall almost any day.



Where Are They Now: A Word from Our Alumni Abroad

Hannah Kurowski: Mexico City, Mexico



As of August 2016, I will have been living in Mexico City for a total of two years. I currently work for an international strategic communications firm, Llorente & Cuenca, that most recently opened offices in Miami and Cuba (for those of you interested). I work to develop corporate communication strategies for companies in the energy, construction, automotive, and food industries. These strategies are focused on developing a solid company reputation. This is an asset that might seem to be intangible, but in fact, a good reputation is imperative in today's digital and globally connected age, where a company can lose its key

stakeholders and plummet into a financial abyss if it does not consider its overall presence in the public eye. This means that developing a strong sense of corporate social responsibility is important now more than ever.

Getting here was not easy. I arrived in Mexico in 2014, disillusioned with life after graduating, but eager to pursue a fulfilling career. One of the greatest challenges has been networking while at the same time taking into account the cultural context in which I am living. For example, many Mexicans will tell you that a flat out "no" response is culturally unacceptable, resulting in many confusing and unclear conversations. Yet I always remember that cultural differences are not bad; in fact, they are what make life interesting. Therefore, I find these challenges to be exciting in the sense that they force me to grow and never limit myself to the small world I often inhabit on a day-to-day basis.

My advice to anyone who wants to work outside the United States: understand that being uncomfortable is a part of life, and that going abroad forces you to get used to this at a quicker pace, preparing you for some of life's most difficult obstacles.

Michael Young: Amman, Jordan

I have spent the past eight months in Amman, Jordan, teaching English through the Fulbright ETA Program. The program placed me at a local college of hospitality and tourism, as well as a school for Palestinian refugee-status boys administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.



In my spare time, I have been taking private Arabic classes and teaching English to refugees from Iraq and Syria. One of my happiest memories from this experience has been co-teaching a weekly Conversational English class for Syrian teenagers at the Zaatari Refugee Camp. Each of these various teaching roles has exposed me to very diverse factions within Jordanian society, as well as different Arabic dialects.

Although it's not always easy to navigate the cultural and linguistic complexity and competing social norms of this country, its warmth and hospitality and people's willingness to help are unmatched.

Looking Back on Four Years with Books & Beyond

by Abigail Hamilton

Books & Beyond's eighth year has been full of changes and successes. We have expanded across campus, connected with new Bloomington partners, and successfully raised the funds necessary to publish our annual anthology of stories. This year, I had the opportunity to be Books & Beyond's Student Director, and it's been a pleasure working with the team leads, volunteers, and community partners.



In January of this year, we began our new partnership with The Project School and Harmony School in Bloomington. B&B volunteers visited the two schools to

guide elementary school students through the writing process. Volume VIII of our anthology, *The World Is Our Home*, includes stories about topics ranging from unlikely animals becoming friends to students' school days and favorite subjects. With these partnerships, we have brought Books & Beyond closer to Bloomington, giving the elementary students and IU students the opportunity to learn from each other. On April 5, we had our second annual Visions of Rwanda event, displaying photographs taken in Rwanda by our volunteers. B&B volunteers dedicated a large amount of time and energy to making this event a success, and attendees enjoyed learning more about the beautiful country of Rwanda.

Since I am now graduating, this year was my last in Books & Beyond, and I loved my four years with the program. I've met new friends, learned about non-profit management and service-learning, and traveled to Rwanda to teach English. I am excited to see how the organization will grow in the future. Next summer, B&B will be working with Play360 to



build the first playground at Kabwende Primary School in Rwanda. The Kabwende Holiday Camp will continue to teach students English reading, writing, and speaking skills. In 2008, when Books & Beyond began as a small Global Village organization, who could have predicted how much impact the students from IU, Bloomington, and Kabwende would have. Someday, I hope Books & Beyond will reach more countries and more schools to help students achieve their goals.

Feeling Green: A Look Inside the GV's Central Council

by Mercedes Farias

Central Council is the governing body of the Global Village, and as a member and its Treasurer for the past two years, I have become well acquainted with its goals. What does CC do? Via consensus decision-making, we approve the numerous events held by the GV—everything from cultural nights to discussions of global topics to attending events outside the GV. We approve funding, use of equipment, and the events themselves. But how does CC work?

At the beginning of the academic year, each floor elects three members to represent them in Central Council, with two representatives from the smaller ground floor. From among those, a treasurer is elected. This person has all the responsibilities of a CC member and, in addition, keeps the financial books and submits reimbursement requests to pay for events.

The most important aspect of Central Council is the "Green Sheet." This is the



form a GVer (or staff member or cluster facilitator) fills out to propose an event to CC. With these Green Sheets, the Central Council facilitator, who rotates every week, drafts an agenda with the proposed events on it. When the facilitator presents the agenda at the weekly CC meeting, we approve events and funds and offer suggestions, while the secretary, who also rotates each week, records what happens in the meeting for the minutes. These minutes are then converted into the following week's agenda, and thus the cycle continues. CC ensures that events are put on properly and keeps students who sign up for events responsible for their tasks.

In Central Council, we do not have a president—everyone here has the chance to lead. That is why Central Council is so important. We, the residents of the GV, make all our own decisions about what programming we will have, from conception to actualization.



The GLOBAL VILLAGE
Living-Learning Center at
Indiana University Bloomington

Foster Residence Center
1000 N. Fee Lane
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47406-7501
Phone: 812-855-4552
Fax: 812-856-0983
E-mail: village@indiana.edu

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<http://globalvillage.indiana.edu>

What the GV Has Meant to Me

by Aaron Martin

As I look back on my four years in the GV, I find I have nowhere near enough space for all of the good things I want to say. It's impossible to express how much the GV has meant to me. After my first Welcome Week, featuring Jeff singing '80s music, three lounges of international food, and Marshmallow War glory, I knew I'd picked the right place to live, and within my first month I knew I wanted to be a four-year GV'er. Since then, the GV has definitely become my home and a place I look forward to coming back to after every long day of classes, break, and summer. For me, the most important part of the GV is the community. I've made so many amazing friends here, friends who have helped me get through the rigors of college. They've laughed with me, encouraged me, commiserated with me, spoken random languages in the hallway with me, and had completely bizarre

conversations. Of course, I can't possibly forget the events, from hiking around a gorgeous state park speaking whatever language I'd chosen, to having days crammed with new experiences in Chicago, to dressing up in Jeff's magical madrigal

outfit, to organizing International Card Game Nights and Geography Bees.

The GV has given me friends, a job, a home, and more beautiful memories than I can possibly count. I've changed a lot in my time here, thanks in no small part to the one and only Jeff, the tough but kind Vera, the elven historian Nathan Grantz, and many others. In four years of college, I've gone from a shy freshman who spoke three languages but didn't talk a lot to an outgoing senior who speaks eight languages and never shuts up. I love the Global Village, and I will definitely miss it, but I know living in the GV has prepared me for the next step, and I'm ready to take it.

