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Introduction

This is a very special edition of the Global Village's *NOMAD* newsletter. This semester, we have had outpouring of support from Global Village alumni, expressing what the GV has meant to them throughout their college careers and beyond. In this issue of *NOMAD*, we compile a selection of heartfelt testimonials from GV alumni who will forever be a part of the GV family. Thank you for reading!

Kalah Reneé Gallapoo

Alumna, 2012–2013

The GV was and is my home, as well as the home for so many students that have gone through IU's undergraduate program. My transition to IU was rough. I had few friends. I was a little too excited about all things German and Russian. I struggled to find my niche. And the GV fixed all of that.



I found so many close friends there, who found my passions cool, exciting, and fitting with theirs. I found people from other disciplines who were just as fascinated with me and my favorite things as I was with them and theirs. Students from the Jacobs School of Music would join Kelley kids to help students working towards bio degrees sing Spanish folk songs while making Chinese dumplings with international students, so everyone could feel right at home. In what other dorm

can you stay up until 3 am discussing translations of Tolkien's works with other students from five other areas of study? Where else could I watch "Trolljäger" while eating Döner and talking about the political climate of Honduras? I'll give you a hint. It's absolutely nowhere else.

The friends that I met there? They're my family. We've traveled all over the world to meet up with each other. To be there for each other. (Some picture evidence is included with this testimonial.) When I need a place to stay in Morocco, I know who to call. When someone needs to figure out Japanese social norms, we know who to call. When we need to figure out how to navigate the deutsche Bahn and its messed up Tarifzonen, we know who to call. We have a close-knit family network that's there for each other, which you couldn't find anywhere else.

When Rachel needed help figuring out her schedule, the GV family was there. When Cas needed to properly update their CV, the GV family was there. When Andrew needed English speakers on Skype to help him teach English in Russia, the GV family was there. When RPS wouldn't let me have housing, when



I needed help filling out the paperwork for my Fulbright grant (which got me here to Germany), when my depression and the stresses of life caused me to fall into a black pit of despair, the GV family was there. I need the GV, and so does IU.



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.

Jenny McDougall

Alumna, 2008–2012

I'm a military brat. Although I was born in Indiana, I moved to Italy when I was six, Hawaii when I was ten, and California when I was thirteen. Each new place had its own unique difficulties for me, and as a result, I never had a place where I really felt comfortable and could call home. When I applied to IU, I was in California, and other than a few supportive teachers, my high school had brainwashed me into thinking that it was University of California or nothing. So I was stressed and anxious, and the end of my senior year was emotionally disastrous.

When I arrived on Move-In Day in 2008, I was disoriented and tired from a six-day-long car ride across America with two cranky cats and parents who were deeply concerned about my future. I felt like I was being thrown to the wolves on a huge campus where I again found myself with no friends, a new school system, and a new stressful addition: roommates and hallmates.

But I got placed in the Global Village (although I applied to it, I found out I was part of the intake that got in on a clerical fluke), and there was something different and special about my new living space. In this small space with a hundred hallmates, there was a community—a real community—that wasn't divided by a "local vs. tourist" mentality, and there was no one who thought "I'm from California, so I'm automatically better than you." The GV was made up of happy, enthusiastic residents who took care of the freshmen and helped us find our classes. They created events for us and got us involved. And most importantly, they taught us how to have not only GV spirit, but IU spirit.



It took me a good eight months to finally let that all in, but when I did, I was blown away by where it took me. Suddenly it was easy for me to talk about my experiences. I wasn't weird for having lived overseas or being interested in all things Asia or feeling like America wasn't and never really would be a place I would ever want to call "home," because that's hard for third-culture kids. I found myself getting involved—I got a job as a GV office assistant for two years, helped with Welcome Week in 2009, and led it in 2010. And it was strange and new and amazing, and for the first time, I felt like I was part of something bigger. For the first time in nineteen years, I felt like I had a real home, and I wanted to take care of it. For the first time in my life, I was happy.

The GV provided me with opportunities and information, about study abroad in particular, and gave me more resources than even the Office of Overseas Study did. The GV gave me guidance for my future where IU advisors couldn't, because they're shuffled around departments too much. The GV provided me with invaluable volunteer and cultural opportunities that led me to where I am today, teaching English at a high school in Japan, because someone in the GV mentioned JET, and from then on my heart was set on it.

And that doesn't even begin to cover the emotional help the GV gave me. By my second year, the GV was my home. I had a fantastic group of friends, and we joked and laughed and cooked together. They were my family. We had movie nights in the lounge and practiced our target languages together and danced and sang, and it felt like paradise. The GV made the world small, and there was something for everyone. It was a place where we all felt safe. It was a place where we all felt accepted. It was—it is—a home.

This same family even supported me after I graduated. Whether it was helping me through my struggle with life abroad, writing recommendation letters for me, or helping me through my mom's cancer, they were there. I made lifelong friends at the GV, and eight years later,

they are still the people I'm closest to.

The GV is a home, not just for GVers, but for international students and those from other dorms. We made friends with just about everyone, we had some of the highest grades, and we were the most internationally minded people on campus. To that end, we made up the majority of the Office of International Services' Practical English Tutorials (PET) Program and before the current leader took over, three GV alumni were the ones who ran it.



The Global Village made me proud to have moved to Indiana. It made me proud to finally be a true Hoosier. I recommend IU to everyone I speak with since I've graduated. I still sleep in the first GV shirt I ever received, and I have the decal from my 2008 Move-In Day goodie bag sticking to the wall in my small apartment in Japan.

And here, in the middle of Japan's least populated prefecture, I had a GV reunion this past weekend with two other GV alumni, in addition to one in Osaka in January. We are everywhere, and we are making a bigger difference in the world than you can even begin to fathom. The GV has been a place of acceptance for myself and countless other IU students. People in the GV found their siblings when they had none, or a family that might have replaced a much more problematic situation. People found their soulmates in the GV. In the past eleven years, the GV—by itself—has made IU better than it was. And I know I will always remember that the GV was the first place I really, truly called home.

Kate Bushong

Alumna, 2013–2014



It was by sheer luck that I found out about the Global Village. My mom stumbled across it while looking at housing options for me. In 2013, advertising for this special LLC was minimal. Moving from Florida to Indiana was a huge change, and I was full of self doubt when I arrived on campus—was a Chinese degree worth moving hundreds of miles away and leaving my friends behind?

After my first semester in the GV, I knew I was right in my decision. I'd never really been one to value the idea of a community, but I would not be the student I am today without having lived with my fellow GVers. I may not have been there for as long as some, but I hope I've left my mark, as it has left its mark on me. While I was there, I met wonderful, likeminded people, learned about many different cultures, participated in dozens of fun activities, and took an unforgettable trip to Chicago.

In addition to my academics, my art flourished there as well. It was not an uncommon sight to see me propped up in the first

floor lounge with my tablet, sketching away. I still feel so lucky that I got to contribute artistically to the community, designing mugs and decorating the lounge as a Welcome Week Leader. The GV helped me be confident in not only my language skills but also who I am as a person, and I'm sure I would not have gotten an internship in Taiwan or decided to go abroad to Nanjing, China and Nagoya, Japan without having lived in the GV first. No matter how the future turns out, I will always talk about how wonderful my time at the GV was. Being a GV'er was so great, it made eating at Gresham every day worth it!



Elizabeth Magill

Alumna, 2012–2014

I am deeply grateful for my time in the GV during my freshman and sophomore years, along with the lasting influence that the GV has on my life during the rest of college and beyond. The GV benefited me academically, socially, and professionally.



My international education and understanding truly took flight during my time at the GV, through my exposure to a wide variety of cultures and languages via the programming and relationships there. I greatly benefited from participating in cultural programming and initiating it myself, like my “Winter Festivals Around the World” event, which I hosted my freshman year. When I returned as an RA during my sophomore year, my highlight

events were putting on a Foster World's Fair and a Chinese-American Cultural Exchange Night. All these events broadened my understanding of the traditions of different cultures and taught me to ask questions and be curious about how other people experienced the world.

Moreover, being in the GV strengthened my community within my own German major. As a freshman, I took upper-level German classes with my floor mates and knew older students who could guide me. This group of students shared a passion for German, and I have enjoyed working with them as classmates, seeing them at German conversation table, and visiting them while studying abroad. Only an international community that brings language majors together would so easily provide such access to students in the residence halls.

After moving out of the GV, my relationships with GV staff prepared me for my study abroad experience, as they gave me advice and helped me seek out scholarships. This enriched my study abroad experience in Vienna and made it more financially feasible. Jeff's recommendation letters for leadership and



study abroad opportunities enabled my success. I will always enjoy these relationships with staff and fellow GV members who influenced me and continued to create a positive experience for me throughout my college experience.

Moving into the future, I will be working as a management consultant in an office with co-workers primarily from other countries. The understanding attitude and values of diversity and inclusion which the GV instilled in me will prove vital as I work in a highly diverse office, which will require an openness to different working styles and cross-cultural thinking.



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<http://globalvillage.indiana.edu>

Kelsey Lechner

Alumna, 2011–2014



Undoubtedly, I loved my experience at Indiana University. It was my first home away from home, where I finally clicked with people my own age, and where I had so many amazing experiences. When I say IU became my home, I mean that the Global Village was that home. The GV was what fostered me and cared for me more than anything else. At the GV, I got my first taste of Russian food, saw my first Italian film, learned my first words of Bengali, had my first salsa lesson, and more importantly, I wasn't the weird kid for being so interested in foreign languages and cultures. I was able to see new sides of Chicago and explore New York on excursions with these awesome groups, so I was able to learn more about my own culture as well.

It was always upsetting discussing where on campus I lived with non-residents and hearing the countless sighs of "I wish I had known!" and even more so seeing such an amazing place become downscaled in recent years due to lack of exposure. I felt, and still feel, lucky for being part of such an amazing organization.



Most importantly, the GV was where I was able to flourish and develop as a leader. Not only was it my home for two years, but it was also my employer for those years. I held three official positions during that time and participated in many other volunteer projects, such as helping at the Practical English Tutorials with my other GV friends (current residents and alumni) and working

with Books & Beyond. I led my first event there, paving the way for the countless others I would later coordinate. It was thanks to the GV that I was able to study abroad for a full year in Japan, receive an internship in Taiwan, receive a competitive job at the Office of Overseas Study once I returned, and land my current job working for the prefectural government of Japan. I developed as a person, and without it, I have no idea where I would be today. Thanks to the GV, I have friends all around the world, and perhaps most importantly, I am where I want to be in the world. And the really cool thing is that even where I am, thousands of miles away from IU, I am still meeting up with old friends from back home—and by that, I mean the GV.

