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

## Language Hike and Hayride

by Erik Troske

This fall, we went on a day trip to McCormick's Creek State Park for our annual language hikes! As always, it was an all-around fun occasion, and everyone had a great time enjoying the beautiful natural scenery and practicing their conversational skills in the language of their choice in a relaxed setting.

We left the GV late in the morning and got on a bus to head to McCormick's Creek, where different language clusters hiked on paths leading to a quarry, along the river, or in the vicinity of a cave, where we all spoke in our chosen languages. Languages that day included French, Russian, Arabic, American Sign Language, Spanish, German, Chinese, and Japanese! I personally led the French cluster and guided about six fellow francophones across the creek and up the opposite side of the ravine to the quarry (we got lost at one point, but we did eventually make it!). As a birdwatcher and general outdoorsman type, I was already aware of many of the more obscure terms related to the outdoors, but participants all received a packet with relevant vocab words to aide them in their discovery of *Mère Nature*. We then met up with the other groups and had lunch before spending the rest of the day exploring (and for many of us, climbing up!) a picturesque waterfall and enjoying a hay ride around the State Park. All in all, the hikes were an enjoyable experience. I had the chance to practice leading a group in French, and it was a great chance to relax and get out of the city for a day!



Global Villagers after the Language Hike



Picking for worms from a fresh pile o' dirt!

## Worms are Wonderful!

by Maggie Kline

Being a leader of the Environmental Interest Group at the Global Village has been one of the highlights of my year at the Global Village. As co-leader of the group, I organize events and lead discussions to educate GVers about popular and contemporary environmental issues and their potential solutions. My favorite event this year was our hands-on demonstration of vermicomposting, collaboration between environmental co-leader Abigail Hamilton, GV director and amateur composter Jeff Holdeman, and myself. Vermicomposting, or worm composting, is a green way of disposing of biodegradable wastes within one's home. Essentially, a worm colony digests the wastes—food scraps, old Jack-o'-Lanterns, and even used tissues—and produces nutrient-rich castings and "vermicompost tea" that can be used for potting and watering plants.

At the event, fifteen students got dirty and sorted the worms from the contents of the compost and discussed how the undigested contents of the compost could be explained by the worms' diets. The worms were returned to new bedding composed of biodegradables supplied by the students. Jeff, owner of the worm colony, explained tips and tricks of healthily maintaining it, and allowed students to take home castings and vermicompost tea from the event. Additionally, we all ate some delicious worms and dirt dessert.

Environmental Interest Group has also led campaigns for students to green certify their rooms, resulting in one of our floor's winning the Greenest Floor Challenge for all Residence Centers. My experiences in the environmental interest group have helped me develop my leadership skills, taught me a wealth about environmental affairs, and prepared me to be a better global citizen.

# The Exceptional GV

By Brynna Webb

It seems like whenever I visit friends from other dorms, they're chock-full of crazy anecdotes about their rude, drunk, noisy neighbors. In contrast, I'm always a bit embarrassed because I don't have any horror stories; I only ever have lovely stories about what activity, trip, or event that the GV's allowed me to participate in. From spicy food competitions to trips to McCormick's creek, the Global Village has effectively made my freshman year at IU a richer, more fulfilling experience. Without any effort, I was able to meet new people and find support with my fellow GVers. In addition, I found easy ways to get involved within the community through language clusters and interest groups. I even got to work up a sweat a few times helping cook meals for events. Overall, the Global Village provides its residents with the experience that college should be: a place to learn, make friends, and discover themselves.

# The Griffey Lake Trip

By Aaron Martin

The Griffey Lake Trip was an enjoyable experience. The group went with Vera and Natalie and when we arrived, we put on gloves and met our guide. He was a friendly and knowledgeable guy. He told us all about the park, some of the things that go on there, and rules of the place. Before we even got out of the parking lot, Natalie began talking all about invasive plant species in Indiana. That was a major topic of the day. She quickly taught us the five biggest invasive species. Between her and the guide, we learned a lot about exotic plants. There wasn't much garbage to pick up, so we just walked, listened, and enjoyed chatting. We saw many spiny caterpillars, which interested the group, and the guide taught us how to identify certain types of trees. The forest itself, even in late October, was beautiful. Toward the end of the trek, we ran across several indentations in the ground. The guide assured us these were not sinkholes, but likely places where trees had been removed. He also taught us a bit about the Native American history of the area. It was a fascinating experience. Even though we didn't pick up much trash, we did something and enjoyed it. After all, it's always fun to get out of the building with fellow GVers, especially in such a beautiful location as Griffey Lake State Park.

# Russia: Our Favorite

by Chelsea McShurley

The Russian cluster can often be found cooking food, watching films, and wearing funny hats in the lounges of the Global Village. We kicked off first semester with an assortment of Russian dishes at the first Breakfasts from Around the World event. In September we enjoyed delicious desserts and good laughs, as we explored the world of Soviet and Russian cartoons. November meant warming up with a big pot of borsch, a traditional Ukrainian and Russian soup. Many were skeptical of this beet-based soup, but with a dollop of sour cream on top, it earned the approval of all in attendance at the event. A highlight of fall semester was the Russian cluster's participation in the Foster World's Fair. Visitors to the Russia booth could enjoy Russian tea and treats, have their names written in Cyrillic, attempt to identify all of the flags of the former Soviet Union, and even dress up in traditional Russian clothes and pose for a picture in our Moscow-themed photo booth! Just before we all went home for the holidays, Russian cluster hosted a New Year's celebration and watched the classic Soviet film "The Irony of Fate". The Russian cluster had a great fall semester and is looking forward to many more opportunities to show our peers that Russia is so much more than snow, vodka, bears, or babushkas!

# Q-199

by Carmen Henderson

Beginning college is a very exciting experience! However, often times the excitement of beginning your first semester of school is accompanied by a little bit of worry. Will I make new friends? Will I learn interesting things that will help me grow as an individual and as a world citizen? As a GV resident, you are required to take a course called Q199. Taking Q199 was a really interesting experience for me. Not only did it allow me to discuss global issues with my fellow classmates in a comfortable environment, it helped me to become more familiar with other GV residents. Taking Q class is a great experience for freshman residents living at the GV because it provides residents with the necessary tools to put on GV events, get involved, and learn about globalization. Overall taking Q199 has really enhanced my experience of living at the Global Village!



## Four Full Years

By Nathan Grantz

The Global Village has been the center of my time here at IU. Despite the title I have not actually lived in the GV all four years. I took one semester off to study in England, but even while abroad I was missing this place and the people in it more than I was missing anything else. I find it difficult to express in words exactly how much this community means to me and what has made it so special. The original community that I joined in the fall of 2010 has all but disappeared. Only Jeff, Andy, and three then freshmen (two of whom weren't really involved that year) are still here, so, as much as it pains me to say it, it was not the individuals who have kept me coming back. I was apprehensive about the turn over back when I was starting my sophomore year. I thought that because so many of the people who I had come to see as integral to the GV in my first year would be gone that living there would feel strange, alien, or somehow wrong. That year I made two of my strongest friends and strengthened many of my existing friendships. By the end of that Welcome Week I had grown to love the unique opportunity afforded by our yearly changes.

That is the unique perspective that I think that four years of living in a community like this, and this community in particular, gives. I have missed the old people. I have always known that at the end of the summer I would not be going back to the "same old" GV, but to a new one full of new people to meet, and an environment designed to pull me out the shell that most GVers probably don't know I have.

## Central Council

By David Sowerby

Central Council is the backbone of events in the Global Village. As a member, I help to ensure the success of events that our GVers submit to us and help to ensure that GV traditional events, such as *Breakfast Around the World*, Language Microlessons, McCormick's Creek language hike, and many others are preserved as tradition. Our goal as Central Council is also to ensure that our programming achieves several goals: quantity, depth, quality, and scope.

In quantity, we try to make it so that there is always something going on in the Global Village and there's always something for someone. In depth, we address the educational aspect, whether it is a fun card game with a cultural aspect as *International Card Game Night* goes, or if it is a political or cultural discussion, as when we watch movies like *Hotel Rwanda*.

In quality, we want to ensure that our community members' money is spent effectively and appropriately, and that the event is properly performed, and we will often make suggestions based on past observations and data accrued from previous events. This keeps an overall high success rate for our events and allows fledgling events to become well-attended events.

Scope is the who, what, and where our programming is about. As the Global Village, we want to make sure that we have a broad range of regions, nations, cultures, and historical events. We make sure that all the continents and many cultures are represented. As a Central Council member, I can take an active part in a community that fosters a multicultural understanding in a vivacious living environment.



## Returning From Abroad

By Brandon Dayton

Deciding on whether to return to the Global Village after my year abroad was probably the best decision I could've made. Living in the Global Village my freshman and sophomore years, I definitely had the desire to travel abroad and study. This was, in part, due to my growing interest in foreign affairs and languages, but also to the passion of my fellow GVers. Having juniors and seniors living in the Global Village was a great help in the decision-making processes and finalization of my study abroad experience. After having completed my junior year (first semester in Bologna, Italy and second semester in Aix-en-Provence, France) I understood the importance that an exposure to a foreign culture and way of life can have on a person. I ultimately decided that I wanted to return to the Global Village that had supported me in my attempt to rediscover myself, to be the extra guidance that was useful during my freshman/sophomore years.

Another important, but not of any lesser significance, factor that encouraged me to return to the Global Village is that it had become my home on campus. The Global Village really emphasizes that we are a community and that we need to not only cohabitate, but also create a family away from home. Therefore coming back to the Global Village was, for me, very natural.



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## B&B Newark Trip

by Christopher Robbins

Books & Beyond's annual trip to Newark, New Jersey, was a great success. IU volunteers were excited to finally work with TEAM students and learn more about the KIPP charter school system. After a cozy 16-hour bus ride, our first morning in Newark was spent touring SEEK and THRIVE elementary schools where IU students had the opportunity to visit classrooms and meet with administration. Back at TEAM Academy, students spent time learning more about each other and more about Books & Beyond through games and activities. Saturday morning held an intensive editing workshop – IU and TEAM students collaborated to develop a rubric in order to choose which stories will be included in our “best of” anthology. We were also very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with ArtWare fundraising to create ceramic tiles which will be placed in Kabwende Primary school this summer. The students were very creative with their literacy-themed tiles and we can't wait to see the final product!



## Books & Beyond

by Brie Petty

It was a busy Fall semester for Books & Beyond! We began the year by building partnerships with the SPEA Civic Leaders LLC, Atkins LLC, and Kelley LLC in hopes to increase our volunteer base and on-campus visibility. In October, we had the opportunity to meet with Carl Wilkens and learn about his experience in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. In November, we hosted a non-profit roundtable discussion and had representatives from Hands of Hope (Uganda), Peace Corps (Rwanda), and Kilimanjaro Education Outreach (Tanzania). It was enlightening to learn about other organizations' success and triumphs working in sub-Saharan Africa. Books & Beyond also participated in the Foster-Harper Worlds Fair to share information on Rwandan culture.

For Spring semester, the Public Relations team is working on a campaign to raise awareness about the Rwandan book famine. In April, the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, we will be having a film series at the IU Cinema to commemorate this important time in Rwandan and world history. We are also looking forward to having Rwandan cultural events this semester such as a Kinyrwanda micro-lesson and possible poetry reading. All in all, we have much to be proud of and couldn't do it without the help of our amazing volunteers. We are looking forward to another productive semester!