What do the French, Arabic, Spanish, German, Russian, and Japanese landscapes all have in common? Well, geographically not much, but on the day of the GV excursion to McCormick’s Creek State Park all who participated enjoyed the scenery of a beautiful fall day while talking about various aspects of nature within their respective language cluster.

McCormick’s Creek was just a short bus ride away; upon arriving we unloaded, divided into our groups by language, and headed out to conquer trails of varying difficulty. After our snack break there was even a path that led down to a waterfall. Although we did learn the names of different plants and animals, it was mostly just a great opportunity to relax with friends and speak the languages we are studying amid a hectic couple weeks filled with papers and midterms.

As a first-year GVer, the hike was perfect for me to spend some time away from school with all the people I’d met. Capping the day off with funnel cakes and s’mores in the first floor lounge, hanging around with those who went, helped me realize that while I chose to live in the Global Village to be surrounded with people who love to learn languages, we all have much more in common than just that.

By Claire Ronner

Emily Neitzel, Claire Ronner, and Carmen Cronin relax during their hike at McCormick’s Creek
“Most of the residents choose to live in the Global Village because they are interested in learning about different cultures and global issues... As a Resident Assistant, it is an advantage being in the GV because most residents want to contribute to the building’s community and are passionate about bringing mirth to each and every resident.”

– Liz Feliciano

Pancake Breakfasts

By Scott Schaffer

There is something about family, being together and enjoying each other’s company surrounded by good conversation. It’s even better when you can enjoy it in your pajamas and you don’t have to go very far. Sounds exactly like Thanksgiving and the holidays except for the pajamas part, right? Well, actually, I’m talking about pancake breakfasts in the lounges. It is a time to see everybody’s sleepy faces come sleep-walking and stumbling into the lounge to enjoy a “home-cooked” meal made by some of your fellow GVers. It’s a time where people stop working and enjoy being around others while filling our bellies to the max with food. In the event of a stressful week, midterms, or finals, having pancakes is just a way to put things on hold and say, “Ok, bring on a stack of warm, freshly made pancakes to fill me up!” It’s a warming way to feel at home, enjoy being with others, and eat good food. All this thinking about food and I’m ready for a stack of raspberry chocolate chip pancakes right about now...mmm...m.

RAs ♥ GV

By Liz Feliciano, Global Village RA

Residents Assistants help to build community on each floor of the Global Village. Liz Feliciano is the RA on the Ground Floor.

IU may be one of the top party schools, but believe it or not, there are actually students who have an insatiable hunger for knowledge. Their idea of fun doesn’t require consuming excessive amounts of Kamchatka. This is mainly why being a Resident Assistant in the Global Village has been a great experience. Most of the residents choose to live in the Global Village because they are interested in learning about different cultures and global issues. Because the GV is a Living-Learning Center, residents are required to pay an additional fee in order to live there. Therefore, there is more money available for purchasing foreign movies, having events, ordering ethnic food, etc.

As a Resident Assistant, it is an advantage being in the GV because most residents want to contribute to the building’s community and are passionate about bringing mirth to each and every resident. Most of the residents are open-minded and eager to attend events. This year some great events have included: going to the Kirkwood Observatory, going to the opera and the Nutcracker, Nutellafest, and many delicious ethnic dinners. Living in the GV is a great way to explore different cultures, foods, and opportunities.

Did you know? GVers have the highest GPA in Foster Quad.

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Ode to the GV

By Chris Purvis

The Global Village has been a part of my life as much as I have been a part of its legacy. Before I came here I imagined a village. It would have German-inspired architecture with little shops along the street, and everyone would be from all corners of the globe. I had no idea what to come. Once I arrived I saw it as a place to live and maybe do a little bit of studying. I soon found myself partaking in cultural events and attending social gatherings with those on the ground, first, and second floors. Then I became a Q199 peer instructor for two semesters, documenter for the Books & Beyond project on campus and on a trip to Rwanda, and even co-editor for Poets In the Potty. The GV consumed my life. I made friends that will transcend a lifetime, memories that will stay with me forever, and experiences that have shaped my future. Now, like most of us will soon do, I am sadly leaving the GV to study abroad in Ghana. However, it has become so much a part of who I am, it will really never truly leave me, nor I it.
Global Village Culture

By Mallory Schreier

¡Hola! Bonjour! Shalom! Here at the Global Village, you can learn so much more than anything the average high school language department could ever teach you. As someone with no reputable language talent or background, I suddenly found myself immersed in an array of languages available for me. This includes the prominent Japanese, Spanish, and Russian language clusters, all of which provide incredibly enjoyable co-curricular activities and require no previous language experience.

While languages and, international interests are the Global Village’s main focus, they are by no means its only wonderful aspects. My personal favorite part of the Global Village is the wonderful array of people who live here. During high school, I surrounded myself with a comfortable niche of close friends and thought I would have to do the same in college. I was completely mistaken. I didn’t have to change who I was to be accepted by my dorm. They all accepted me quickly and became the best friends I could ever ask for, despite my inability to speak a coherent sentence in any foreign language.

(Editor’s Note: Mallory is the only GVVer who has not studied a foreign language, but we are working on her!)

A European Perspective

By Sanna Wager

A year ago I was home in Switzerland beginning to realize that my first choice school (Jacobs School of Music) was not only located in the U.S., but was deep in the Midwest. Although one of my passports is U.S., I had never lived there—in fact, I have not lived in the places from which I have passports since I was 4 years old.

My father works for the World Trade Organization, so we have been living in Switzerland for most of my life. Before I left I was somewhat worried about being a complete alien at IU. We don’t have homecoming, we don’t play U.S. football…and the U.S.’s single-language culture???

So what has the Global Village experience been like? I have been surrounded by a wonderful, warm, welcoming group of people who all have amazing stories to tell about life in the U.S., and all kinds of other countries, like Saudi Arabia. I really enjoy the Music School, but also being able to spend time with students of different majors has made university a much richer experience.

GVers Sana Wager, Ellie Berry, and Kelsey Mize

Home is...

By Caitlin Ryan

What does home mean to you? While working on a video project for Books & Beyond last year, the documenting team and I asked this question in a number of interviews with participants and supporters of the project. The answers we received were different every time, reflecting the unique backgrounds and perspectives of our project’s participants. While I enjoyed listening to all of the responses, one of them in particular stuck with me.

This person spoke for nearly twenty minutes in the interview on how his idea of home has changed over time as his travels have taken him all over the world. He arrived at the conclusion that he has not one home, but many, in the places and people that he has grown to love in the varied places that life has taken him. At the time, I thought it must be difficult to feel like that—as though your home or your heart is split and scattered all over the world. I wondered what it would be like to not have a certain place that I could call home. But this year, during my study abroad experience, I think I am beginning to understand what this person meant.

At the same time that I have found a new home for myself here in England with my flatmates from all over Europe, I have maintained relationships with people and places from the U.S. that make me feel at home, as well as beginning to establish new "homes" as I travel to visit the my new friends in their respective cities. I’ve considered that perhaps even places I have been before where I felt connected to the people in some way could be considered a home in a sense. As I’ve grown and learned to understand this, I’ve found that it’s not so bad. In fact, I think I prefer it this way. Rather than feeling as though pieces of me are scattered all over the world, I feel comforted knowing that I can go so many places and be welcomed by friendly faces. It’s almost as though I’m never really too far away from home.

Caitlin Ryan is studying in Canterbury, England.
Books & Beyond Newark Trip 2010

By Frances Friedl, IU Graduate

Books & Beyond engages Gvers and Newark Collegiate Academy high school students in co-authoring children’s stories. The stories are compiled with Rwandan students’ stories and are used to further English literacy and critical thinking skills. Each year students from the GV spend a weekend in Newark, NJ working with their high school writing partner to complete stories.

As a proud veteran of the Books and Beyond trip to Newark, NJ, I am confident in saying that the whole endeavor was a marvelous success. We survived the 14-hour-long bus trip and arrived Friday evening at Newark Collegiate Academy where a quick, but restful sleep prepared us for our duties the following day.

Armed with a very specific schedule, the GV students went about writing stories, creating illustrations, and editing with our Newark partners. I was lucky enough that my partner and I had already finished the writing of our story and we were able to edit and re-edit our story to perfection. That evening, we piled into the bus, all bundled for an evening of ice skating in Bryant Park—a trip highlight.

Another highlight was the fabulous talk given by NY Times bestseller Dorothea Frank on how to become a published author. Positively inspiring.

On Sunday, after an excursion to NYC, we came together with parents, team members, and supporters to celebrate a second successful year for the Books and Beyond project. I almost wish I hadn’t graduated just so I could be a part of what is sure to be next year’s glory.

For more information about Books & Beyond, please visit: http://www.indiana.edu/~college/global/books.shtml