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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](http://globalvillage.indiana.edu).*

## Global Village Establishes Community Mentor Position & International Student Interest Group

by Brandon Gourley

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself – my name is Brandon, I am a senior studying Biology and German, and I am the Global Village's Community Mentor (CM). As you all know, the GV is a place for us to share our love for the global and international community, and come together to explore new cultures in a place we call home. Our international students are no exception. These students took the huge leap of not simply learning about a whole new culture in a classroom, but actually moving to a new country to experience it firsthand. For many of them, this means a shockingly different culture. Culture encompasses everything from food, religion, what we wear, how we wear it, the language we speak, and our values, to the way we carry ourselves and interact with one another, and a million other elements of daily life. There is so much for our international students to learn, and these cultural differences can be overwhelming.

My position as a CM is to be a guide along the way for our international students, aiding them in any way I can to make their experience a whole lot of fun, and to be a familiar face that is willing to help them navigate life in an entirely new environment. To help address the many issues that these particular students face, I worked with past and new international students to create the International Student Interest Group, where we put on programming to share helpful information that would benefit our international students. For example, the group's last event was "How to Survive a Blizzard," which is an educational talk to help these students prepare for winter in Indiana. Many of our past students thought our early October weather was as cold as Bloomington would get. Many have never seen snow, and some current residents do not own winter clothing yet! This was a preparation event, where we discussed not only temperature but where to go to buy winter wear.

On top of working directly with international students and the International Student Interest Group, I also handle many other behind-the-scenes roles as a Community Mentor, where I attend Living-Learning Center meetings to bring international-oriented groups together and attend weekly meetings to talk with staff about what is happening with our international students. My position as CM has helped me make connections with all kinds of people, and I hope I have helped make the transition better for the GV's international students. If I have one recommendation for GV undergraduates, it is to seek out and work with people different from you, and to do it with an open mind. It will forever change how you view yourself and the world.

## A Perfect Fall Day: Language Hikes at McCormick's Creek

by Emily Simmons



On October 18, the GV took a trip to scenic McCormick's Creek State Park. This is a trip that happens yearly, and I am so happy that I was able to go this year for the first time! The day started out with touring the nature center, followed by hiking, snacks, climbing a waterfall, and, at the end of the trip, a hayride. The participants first divided into language immersion groups for the hiking part of the trip. I was part of the French group, and it was a lot of fun and a lovely way to bond. We learned lots of fun nature vocabulary and spoke entirely in French for the whole hike! Trying to go through the very narrow cave was a mistake, but we climbed up a waterfall, and I loved every second of it. I also enjoyed the hayride, which was a fabulous way to end the day. The whole experience was an awesome way to bond with others and spend time in nature. I would highly recommend that everyone go on this trip, since it is a lot of fun and the nature is glorious. After McCormick's Creek, there was a fall celebration in the first floor lounge, which was a nice way to relax and unwind after a long day hiking and reveling in nature. The fall celebration had a (video) fireplace, s'mores, funnel cakes, and apple cider. A great way to end the day!



## Two Tales of Welcome Week

### *The Week of Welcome: A Freshman's Perspective* by Megan Diekhoff

As I write this article, I am sitting at "home" in Holland. Not the country. Not the one in Michigan, but the tiny town in southern Indiana. And although I have enjoyed spending time with my family and showing my roommate, Lillian, all of the wonders of the ice cream shop that my family owns and operates, I am ready to go home. I know it hasn't been very long, but Bloomington already feels like home to me. As I look back on my time at Indiana University so far, I remember how much Welcome Week meant to me.

I moved in early, and from the moment I dropped off my bags I knew there were great things in store for me at IU. Jeff, the GV's director, greeted me and talked to my parents for a while. Then, when my family said goodbye, I joined the Welcome Week Leaders in the lounge and got to know some people. I do want to take this time to thank all of the Welcome Week Leaders. They were all very helpful and inviting.

As the days passed by, I began making friends in the Global Village. We attended campus-wide Welcome Week events together and also held many of our own here in the GV. Groups of GVer's played games together, attended CultureFest, went to the Farmer's Market, had a progressive dinner, went on a scavenger hunt, ate lunch with our Q-class instructors, played music at a jam session with Jeff... the list goes on and on.

In fact, I could talk for days about how much I love the Global Village and the people who live here. I think Welcome Week was a really wonderful experience because it allowed me to make friends in the dorm as well as around campus. I feel comfortable with everyone here because of the fun times we shared together—many of which occurred during that time right before and at the beginning of classes.

As a freshman, I feel so welcome here. It is my hope that someday I will be able to help create the same positive experience for future freshman in the years to come.

### *My Last Welcome Week: Ending On a Sweet Note* by Aaron Martin

Welcome Week for many of you began on Move-In Day, but for me it began three days earlier. As I returned to the GV for my final Welcome Week, much had changed. I was coming back from a semester abroad and adjusting to my new (old) surroundings. However, there were many warm reunions with my fellow Welcome Week leaders and returners. The first two days were a blur of decorating the lounges, enjoying food, and meeting new people, concluding with a lovely dinner at Jeff's house.

Move-In Day came, and I welcomed many interesting new people to the GV. That night was the first of the major Welcome Week events, the Progressive Dinner. This year we were all in one lounge, but it made it closer and I had some good conversations.

Saturday night was one of the best Welcome Week events, the International Coffeehouse. My freshman year, this event was my first experience with the crazy musical amazingness that is Jeff, and his first experience of me as I established my reputation as "the '80s Guy." This year was spectacular, and the enthusiasm was as high as ever, as Jeff played songs in nine languages, as well as a few American classics. At the end, I begged him to play "Take On Me," the song that established my reputation, and this brought my last International Coffeehouse to a perfect conclusion.

Sunday night was my favorite Welcome Week event, the one I've come to regard as my own, passed down to me by Nathan Grantz, who first brought it to the GV: the Marshmallow War. My freshman year, I was the one who captured the flag and sprinted for glory to win the War for my team. This year, the event was small, but the thrill of dodging sugary missiles and running for the flag remained.

Afterward, as I stood to the side watching the group of enthusiastic new GVer's come up with innovative new ways to shoot each other with marshmallows, my last Welcome Week at the GV was at an end. But I knew that that group of freshmen would be up to the task of continuing the traditions that I love. The Welcome Week traditions are such an integral part of life in the GV, and I'm confident they're in good hands.

## Our Fall Photo Album



Welcome Week Leaders



Designing the 15-16 GV T-Shirt



GV Bikes to Uganda



Hayride at McCormick's Creek

French Cluster Cooks for La Fête de la Gastronomie

Books & Beyond in Rwanda



## Books & Beyond: Adventures in Rwanda

by Sierra Reed



This summer, I was lucky enough to be able to travel to Rwanda with an amazing group of people through Books & Beyond. We spent the first week traveling and getting used to the new environment. We definitely experienced some culture shock, but after a week or so, Rwanda started to feel more like home. The second week, we got settled in at the house that we were to stay in for the rest of our trip, and started our training to learn how to teach the kids at Kabwende Primary School most efficiently. The last two weeks were spent teaching at Kabwende. During the month that we were there, I did things I had never thought I would do. We were all pushed out of our comfort zones and had to find our own way. It was tough at first, but we all made it and came out better people at the end of it.

One of my favorite days from the trip was the day that we climbed Mount Bisoke. We had been begging our professors to let us climb one of the volcanoes that surrounded the area where we stayed. When we learned that we would actually be doing it, I was so excited. I thought that it wouldn't be easy, but it would be doable. In reality, it was so difficult to make it up to the top. I was exhausted, and there were moments that I just wanted to sit down and stop. But I kept going, and I am so happy that I did. When I got to the top and looked around, the view took my breath away. There was a crater lake in the middle, and you could see all the way out and down the mountain. There was some fog rolling over the trees and sunlight beaming down. It was one of the most gratifying moments of my life.

In a perfect world, I would love to go back and visit the friends I made in Rwanda. I am involved in Books & Beyond as a team leader this year, so it might be possible to go back again. As one of our new friends said, I will always have family in Rwanda. I will forever be tied to the country and its people. I feel so much love and gratitude towards everyone. This was a trip that I will surely never forget.



## The Heart of the GV: Language Clusters and Interest Groups

by Patrick McNabb

During my stay so far at the GV, I have learned many things, one of them being that there are many ways to get involved in the GV community and learn about other cultures and traditions. I have found that one of the best ways to do this is through our language clusters and interest groups. The clusters learn about their language as well as the culture(s) surrounding that language. I myself am currently a part of the Spanish, French, and Chinese Language Clusters. One of the best aspects of language clusters and interest groups is that they put on amazing events that focus on their respective interests. For example, the Chinese Cluster put on an event back in September that taught the GV about the origins of Chinese characters, and the German Cluster put on an amazing Oktoberfest event that featured delicious German dishes. These events can be very interesting and educational. The language clusters also put on events that educate others about their languages. For example, the Spanish Cluster put on an event this semester that gives a microlesson in Catalan, a minority language in Spain, the French Cluster had a Quebec French Night, and the German Cluster taught a bit of German during Oktoberfest.



Interest groups also put on great events and can help foster interest and learning in their respective areas. Some of the interest groups include ones devoted to music, politics, film, and cooking. Some of their events include watching and discussing the Democratic Presidential debate, listening to Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," and a bad movie night. It is very rewarding to be a part of these groups as you get to learn about international cultures and traditions, and you get to meet people who have similar interests, which is amazing. Also, you often get to meet people of other nationalities who can help you learn and understand their language and culture. Truly, the language clusters and interest groups make up some of the best parts of the GV community.

再见 (Goodbye)!



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## Saying Goodbye After Five Years in the GV

by Chuck Heiney



The Global Village is the greatest place on campus to live. I've lived in the Global Village for my entire college career, except for one semester spent in Indianapolis for an internship at the Indiana State Senate. In the fall of 2010, I came here from a small country town, terrified to be away from home for the first time. I never in a million years thought I would fit in at IU, let alone the GV, but I was wrong. The GV soon became my home. I've met so many great people here and made some of my best friends. It's been a surreal experience to be so happy and welcomed by the students and staff of this building. I've had the opportunity to see so many changes and witness the Global Village transform into the closest community. Between the trips and events, there's never a dull moment (or lack of free food). All of my favorite college memories have happened in this building or with these people.



The staff here are amazing. I don't know what I would have done without GV Director Jeff Holdeman's recommendation for my internship or Lindsey Pullum (the former graduate assistant) helping me prepare my resume. Not only do you have a community here, but you also have teachers. You're always learning something at the Global Village, whether that be a new language, global issue, how to navigate campus, or a history of vampires. This community is brimming with smart people willing share all their knowledge with you, and a staff to steer you where you need to go.

As I prepare to graduate in December, I'm forced to remember everything. I'm leaving my safety net behind. My parents never worried when I was ill, sad, or stressed, because there was always someone around willing to help and support me. Living here, I've never lacked a shoulder to cry on. It's hard to leave my home of 5½ years, but even though I won't be here anymore, I know I will never be without the Global Village. I have the biggest family ever now, and it's constantly growing and will support me wherever I end up after graduation. If I had the opportunity to do college over again, I wouldn't change living in this community for anything!

