The Chicago Trip was a great way to get out of Bloomington for a weekend, not stress about school, eat delicious ethnic food, and hang out with friends. We started the trip on Devon Avenue, a street with Indian, Pakistani, Russian, Jewish, and other ethnic shops. Jeff insisted we all should try the khachapuri, a cheese-filled pastry, at Argo Georgian Bakery and let me tell you, it did not disappoint. Devon Avenue is also a great place to get Indian cuisine and buy nice kurtas (Indian-style shirts). I used to live in India, and seeing all the Indian culture/things on Devon Avenue brought back wonderful memories. Afterwards, we all headed to our Israeli dance lesson. The instructor was very energetic and dancing was a great way to burn off the snacks we ate. Then, we went to the Goethe Institut, German language and culture teaching organization. We learned about and asked questions about life in Germany, although most of us were interested in hearing about Karneval and German beer. For the rest of Friday night we were able to rest and explore the city. Some of us even took the ‘L’, Chicago’s elevated public rail system!

Bright and early on Saturday morning, we went to Chinatown. It was my first time there and it was great! I got to try some duck, bean cakes, and bubble tea. What I enjoyed most was walking around with Anushree, Crystal, and Pallavi and playing with all the knickknacks in the stores. It was so much fun! The rest of the day we saw and explored several ethnic neighborhoods such as Ukrainian Village and the largely Mexican Little Village. David was very excited when we went to the Garfield Park Conservatory after exploring the neighborhoods to see plants from all around the world. At the end of the day, we saw “Panic on Cloud 9” at Second City Comedy Club, and the comedians were very talented and funny. Sunday we went to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the DuSable Museum of African American History. Each place had unique pieces and stories to tell. For lunch we had Chicago deep-dish pizza. It was my first time trying it and to my surprise the pizza was more like a pie than a pizza. It was covered in cheese and very delicious.

The Chicago Trip is a great part of the Global Village and a wonderful time to get to know our small community more. I know I made wonderful memories on this trip. It was awesome to see what Chicago has to offer, but what I will cherish are the memories I made singing Disney songs on the bus, staying up late talking with people, and exploring the hotel, and the small things like laughing and enjoying time with friends.
Books & Beyond: Newark 2015

Over Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, Books & Beyond (B&B) sent 21 volunteers to work with students from TEAM Charter School in Newark, New Jersey. Writing Partners worked with TEAM School students to write, edit, and illustrate their stories for the seventh edition of B&B’s anthology, The World Is Our Home. Other volunteers focused on fundraising and evaluating the work that B&B has accomplished this academic year. Upon their return from Newark, three B&B volunteers and GVers reflected on their experiences.

David Sowerby
Writing Partner

Working with my writing partner, Antwaine, was a great learning experience because we learned from each other. We wrote a story about farming practices in America. He said he could not draw, so I encouraged him to test out his drawing skills with practice runs. Together, we produced a marvelous story that we can both be proud of. We had to work on our communication at first—but once we figured it out, we were thick as thieves. I really appreciate his fastidious work ethic.

Antwaine also likes to muss up my hair, like some kind of guy who tussles hair, but in a sort of way that is more I-see-your-hair-game-is-on-point-today-let-me-help than you-are-adorable-and-I-want-to-show-you-affection.

Chelsea Heiney
Fund Development

B&B is an organization that is near and dear to my heart. This was my second time on the Newark trip in my three years as a B&B member.

My favorite part of this trip was getting to experience the other schools in the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP). I personally got to take part in a first grade classroom during their reading lesson. It was great to see such young minds get so excited over books and learning. They also had a question session with us about college life. It was very sweet to learn their perspective of what college students do. Then, informing them about what they are all striving towards made the circle complete—going to college. It was a worthwhile experience that I will remember forever.

Luke Knaggs
Fund Development

Once a year B&B travels to the TEAM School in Newark, NJ, to meet with writing partners, share experiences, and write The World Is Our Home. Starting from the 13-hour bus trip to Newark, we began bonding as a team. Before we met our writing partners, we were briefed about KIPP and Newark’s new charter system.

Our writing partners welcomed us into their school where we camped all weekend. The Newark students were quick with questions about college and as full of excitement to hear about our lives as we were theirs. With games, story sharing, and learning about each other’s programs, we all became a family in no time. By far, this was my best experience yet with B&B, and there is still more to come.
Studying Abroad, GV Style
by Aaron Martin

It’s been over a month since I arrived in Austria, something that I find very difficult to believe. In that time, I have adapted well to life in Vienna. In the beginning, there were challenges. I got lost my first four times taking the tram, lost my transportation pass, ate frozen dinners for two weeks before I learned how to cook, lost my keys, and have had countless difficulties communicating with the locals (I’ve learned to speak German as much as possible and English only when I have to). There have also been some challenges while traveling. I ended up waist-deep in snow in Marizell, thought I was going to get arrested two times in Poland (among them the time a cop pulled over next to me to ask where my jacket was), found out the hard way that I was not allowed to take pictures in Dresden, constantly got lost in Berlin, and completely failed to communicate in a Czech gas station.

However, there have been plenty of fun moments amidst the chaos. I attended and enjoyed an opera, conducted a recording of the Vienna Philharmonic, went to a Berlin Philharmonic concert, and went to many art museums full of beautiful paintings. I have had a lot of adventures since arriving. I went skating one Sunday on a rink outside Vienna’s City Hall. I visited the last Alp on a bus and got a beautiful view of the city. I climbed 323 steps to the top of St. Stephen’s Cathedral. I saw the beauty of Vienna’s National Library. On my 10-day trip, I saw gnomes in Wroclaw, Poland, visited the beautiful Frauenkirche in Dresden, stood before the Ishtar Gate in Berlin, and attended a soccer game in Berlin where coordinated singing is really a thing.

I have also learned some important lessons since coming here. Among these are — do not go to the flea market without a coat or everyone will try to sell you one, switching languages to make sure you understand is not the worst thing, and where there’s good coffee there’s good hot chocolate. Poland taught me the most important lesson, it is okay to sometimes be an ignorant American. You can’t know everything, and they really do appreciate your efforts. I’m certain I’ll have many more complications as I venture out into Europe, but as long as it means more adventures, I’ll embrace it.

Super Hot Food Night 2015
by Brandon Gourley

Super Hot Food is a Global Village tradition countering Indiana’s chilly weather with, you guessed it, super-hot foods. The event takes place on January 21, which is both the coldest day on average and the coldest day on record in Indiana, at a shivering -21°F. When we say “hot foods”, we are not talking about banana peppers or jalapeños which are a pathetic 500 and 3500 Scoville Heat Units (SHU) respectfully on the Scoville scale. You wish, but we are talking about tongue-burning habaneros and India’s flame in a pepper, the ghost pepper, scoring 200,000 SHU and 1,000,000 SHU! In comparison, eating one ghost pepper is the equivalent in terms of spiciness as upping the intensity of a jalapeño 2,000-fold.

Super Hot Food Night is not only a time for GVers to test their bravery amongst friends. There are milder options for those of you who don’t like Loucifer Wings from BuffaLouie’s, such as Chinese and Mexican dishes, including vegetarian options. Our director Jeff Holdeman pulls out all the stops at this event bringing in da jams— playing hot classics such as “Hot, Hot, Hot” by The Merrymen and other corny, heat-themed songs. He also brings in lights to set the atmosphere for the annual competition, testing those GVers who think they have what it takes to be the GV’s Super Hot champion.

The competition works by filling in your Passport of Pain. Almost everyone joins in, realizing by the third rotation that the stations have become exponentially spicier than starting out at nice and mild cultural restaurant dishes. After passing the initial six stations comes the semi-finals, where the heat is packed on with a variety of dishes like Loucifer Wings or pure hot sauce and nacho chips to try to get contestants to cave until only four remain, initiating the final round. The final round is where the habaneros and ghost peppers are laid on back to back until only one person remains. During my three years, we’ve always had a single winner. Seeing a man eat three ghost peppers like he was casually eating chips is quite the sight. To wrap up the event, all GVers eat well-earned ice cream to try to cool our enflamed tongues. Super Hot Food Night is a cultural tradition that no GVer wants to miss out on.
Why I Am Returning to the GV Next Year
by Colleen Couch

As the spring semester starts to get under way, many of us in the Global Village are trying to plan out our next year. Some of us may be figuring out the intricacies of studying abroad, others might want to change their course of study, and some could be contemplating other living situations. For my own purposes, I have decided to become a returning GVer. There are more than a few reasons why I have come to call the GV my home.

We have a plethora of resources at our disposal at the GV. The lounges and everything in them from the kitchenette to the projector are there for our use whenever we want. From watching Korean variety shows to impromptu 2 am pancakes, there is a lot of equipment in the lounges that makes life quite a bit sweeter. Besides the lounges, anything that might benefit the community or further enhance us as global citizens can be requested from Central Council. The opportunities for fun and discovery are limitless.

The Global Village hosts a variety of daily events that I would definitely miss if I decided to live elsewhere. There are always flyers on the bulletin boards advertising the upcoming events for anyone who might want to attend. These include language cluster events, discussions, films, and free food (everyone’s favorite). The “GV Attends series” helps GVers attend non-GV events, connecting the GV to campus and Bloomington. Some events, like Lotus Festival, are subsidized by Central Council, while other events, like the Bloomington Krampus Night, can be attended with a GV group for free.

The Global Village is a great resource for general campus information as well. It’s easy to learn about new scholarships, internships, study abroad opportunities, clubs, and campus events from the bulletin boards, the community listserv, or fellow GVers. The GV is a hub for knowledge and discussion from which to thrive.

Every aspect of the Global Village encourages a strong community. The frequent events and the community spaces help to force people out of their shells, which was really important for me as an introverted incoming freshman. It is easy to become a leader in this community through joining Central Council, becoming a peer instructor, or putting on an event. The Global Village is a community that has helped me to branch out and interact with other people and is a space that has helped me to grow as an individual.