Just Across the Border

By Robert Barnell

You don’t have to go far from home to get a bigger picture of the world. From the kitchen window in my host family’s house, you could see the wall and the security lights on the hill. In fact, seeing the U.S. from just across the Mexican border gave me a very different, sometimes disturbing perspective of my home country.

The purpose of the Borderlinks: Semester on the Border Program, is to expose students to the reality of the U.S.-Mexico border and give us firsthand experience with the issue of immigration. From living in my home state, Kentucky, I already knew much about Latin American immigrants. I knew several Mexicans and Guatemalans from church who faced much danger coming to the U.S. and had to separate themselves from their families for years just to make a living. On the border, I saw how U.S. trade policies increase poverty in Latin American countries, causing more and more people to attempt immigration north to the U.S. But since there are not viable ways for Latin American workers to attain legal status, they must risk crossing through the desert, leading to hundreds of deaths each year. And since the border is becoming increasingly militarized, migrants choose to stay in the U.S. indefinitely, fearing that they’ll never be able to return to their jobs in the U.S. if they go back to visit their home countries.

The issue is tragic and complex, so the semester was often discouraging and depressing. We walked through the desert and saw the backpacks, jackets, Gatorade bottles, tuna cans, toothbrushes, and other things migrants left behind. We visited the migrant detention center in Nogales, Arizona, and we waited at a humanitarian aid camp in Nogales, Sonora, to meet the men and women whom the Border Patrol dropped off there.

I once asked my fifth grader host brother, Victor, “Has living on the border been strange for you?” He replied, “No, it’s just where I’ve always lived.”

“You don’t have to go far from home to get a bigger picture of the world.”

—Robert Barnell

Like any study abroad program, some of the most meaningful experiences were the ordinary ones. I got to go with Victor to a barber shop, the mall, his uncle’s birthday party, and his cousin’s quinceañera. The other students and I rode the city buses each day to school, getting to meet Mexican border residents going about their everyday lives. We went to the Day of the Dead celebration at the nearby cemetery, and we went to a mass on the wall, attended by students from Phoenix, Tucson, Nogales, and Hermosillo who prayed for greater unity between the two countries. Studying abroad widened my view, enabling me to get to know Mexico and to see the U.S. as the country on the other side of the wall.
“Upon arrival at the park, students broke up into various language groups according to their abilities and interests. Each group then chose a route for their hike and walked through the woods, discussing various nature terms along the way in their respective foreign languages. “mapache,” Spanish for “raccoon,” to “usagi,” Japanese for “rabbit.” —Caitlin Ryan

Six Ways to Make Study Abroad More Fun

By Lisa Ferguson

After one semester in France and another in China, there’s one thing I’ve realized: while studying abroad with a bunch of fellow gringos, it is easy to get lost in the shuffle and forget why you’re abroad in the first place—to immerse yourself in the language and the culture! When you get sick of your American friends don’t lose hope…get out there and discover the world around you!

How, you ask? Well here are some examples that work in China, and might work in a lot of other foreign countries as well.

Get out of town! Plan your own trip. In the process you will meet lots of cool people: hostel staff, other tourists, and locals eager to talk to the foreigners.

Eat! Explore the local cuisine by visiting as many restaurants as possible, but when you find a favorite, come back often. Becoming a regular will help you to interact with both the restaurant staff and the usual patrons.

Babies and kittens! Just like in the States, cute things are great conversation starters. Waving hello to someone’s kid or giving Fluffy a scratch behind the ears is an easy way to get people to open up.

Play with children! In Sichuan I was being stalked by 3 little kids selling rotten kiwi. To distract them I showed one a quarter, one a nickel, and one a dime, and explained their respective values. Once they realized they were holding American money the kiwis were forgotten. Before long their older sisters were running down the street after us giggling…

Let them laugh! If you screw up and people find it funny, don’t take it personally. It probably was funny.

As for language faux pas, confusing the word for “tourist” with the word for “cocaine” can lead to some funny conversations too...just hope someone corrects you when they’re done laughing.

Abroad at Home

By Nick Wallace

Over the course of this past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed the Global Village’s abundance of special programming and ceaseless parade of ethnic food. While I appreciate the events and organizers in and of themselves, I have noticed that they speak to a broader and more significant trend that characterizes the very flavor of the GV itself.

Here, students are presented with a magnificent opportunity to experience a “year abroad” while remaining at home on Bloomington’s campus. A crystalline example of this feeling coming to life can be found in the Village’s language hike and hayride at McCormick’s Creek State Park on a beautiful autumn day this past October. Though just a few miles outside Bloomington, the park provided the perfect location for the Global Village to combine the best of Indiana’s natural environment with native language speakers representing several of the languages our community’s residents study.

Hiking around with the Spanish language facilitator, who just happened to teach a literature class I had taken in Spain two years ago, all while identifying various flora and fauna, I was able to appreciate just how talented the GV is at successfully mixing a multitude of cultures.

Above, Lisa Ferguson talking with her new friends in Sichuan

Aska Iida and Caitlin Ryan pose for a picture on the hayride
A Pancake Epiphany

By Carmen Cronin

Who would have thought that a pancake breakfast could alleviate the most common college student ailments? It’s normal for a student to develop homesickness, long for real food after months of Gresham's artificial and unvaried output and on occasion to experience the repercussions of a rough night "studying." Although one might fall into the trap of thinking that the tantalizing aroma of pancakes would only further exacerbate the issue of homesickness, I assure you that indeed it does quite the opposite. Yes, for a brief moment a wave of familial Sunday brunches at home or mom’s hearty breakfasts reminds you of what your heart and stomach both greatly miss. But with the older Villagers taking the reins, mixing, flipping, and waiting upon everyone else, the plates soon become stacked high with pancakes chock-full of berries and chocolate chips. The orange juice soon disappears and a hearty laughter resonates throughout the lounge and down the hall. With the first few bites, all desire for home and its accompanied pampering have dissolved. Et voilà! It hits you: These people chatting away merrily and cooking are your family. Suddenly, the hole-in-the-wall dwellings seem luxuriously spacious, papers and tests are a distant thought, and your stomach, on the verge of bursting, complains no more.

HoosonFirst

By Arec Ligon

As a high school senior in a class of eighty, I was involved in many different student organizations. Starting my freshman year of college with no creative outlets naturally left me feeling unfulfilled and craving attention. Less than three months after beginning my college career, I found my niche on campus. HoosOnFirst Improv Comedy is just one of many student organizations that freshman can become involved in, but I feel it represents the college extra-curricular experience in its entirety. I, as well as the other actors, run every aspect of the comedy troupe, from rehearsals to shows, from writing new games to advertising on campus. Then every Saturday we have the opportunity to show off the fruits of our labors to the campus in the form of spontaneous comedic genius. All of this is possible with any student group and is one of the most rewarding parts of the college experience. Be a part of something, join a student organization, build your resume, and enjoy campus life.

Stewing for a Good Time

By Hillary Gaiser

Amid the wafting scents of lamb, potatoes, and carrots, the members of the Global Village gathered for a celebration of St. Paddy’s day and all that is Irish. The ginger "ale" and root “beer” were flowing with the sound of bagpipes and flutes playing in the background. The residents of the Global Village were eagerly waiting for the stew to finish, after a laborious ten hours of crock-pot time. Finally it was done and the festivity could really begin. People began to eat, drink and socialize and talk swirled around upcoming events, news and the latest GV gossip. Before long the soda bread was all eaten and the pot was empty making this St. Patrick’s Day another GV success. Already I had plans for next year, more lamb, live music, perhaps even a leprechaun, although I think those are getting harder to find nowadays. Regardless, the culture and togetherness GV events provide is priceless and why I love the Global Village. Watch out for next year’s St. Paddy’s day celebration; step dancing is optional.

“Already I had plans for next year, more lamb, live music, perhaps even a leprechaun.”

–Hillary Gaiser
**A Taste of India**

By Leah Mhyre

Growing up, my family moved around a bit more than the average family. Most exotic of all was the year we spent living in Suva, the capital of the island nation of Fiji. During that time I not only experienced a beautiful new country and culture, but also developed a profound passion for Indian cinema. The streets of Suva teemed with the vivacity and richness of Indian culture—brightly colored saris, the thick smells of incense and masala, and the mesmerizing melodies of rhythmic Bollywood beats—all of which were manifested in the films I came to know and love.

The Global Village routinely shows foreign films, and therefore I was excited to take the opportunity to share my passion of Indian cinema by showcasing Devdas, one of my favorite Bollywood films. Devdas is based on the novel of Bengali author Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and was released in 2002 as the most expensive Bollywood film made to date. Enchanting song and dance numbers coupled with stunning cinematography make Devdas a brilliant example of just how vibrant Indian cinema can be.

“Most exotic of all was the year we spent living in Suva, the capital of the island nation of Fiji.”

—Leah Mhyre

The movie showing was made even more special with the presence of esteemed religion professor Rebecca Manring as well as a sampling of some local Indian fare from Shanti Restaurant. Recently returned from one of her many trips to India, Professor Manring led a brief lecture before the film that focused on the importance of cinema within India’s culture and society. Devdas was well received by those who braved its three-hour length and I was content in having been able to share a beloved passion of mine with others.

Later in the semester, I delighted in taking a course offered by Professor Manring dealing with women’s roles in South Asian religious traditions that further delved into the portrayals of these roles in Indian cinema. The course familiarized me with many new and exciting ideas and was easily one of my favorite classes this past year. Therefore, it is clear that the Global Village is not only a great place to share one’s passion, but to explore that passion as well.

**Global Villagers Wish “God Jul!”**

By Toni Haraldsen

On the 5th of December, Global Village residents experienced the delights of the Norwegian Christmas traditions with Gergana May, a professor who teaches Norwegian at Indiana University. Since my family currently lives in Norway, I wanted to share some of our favorite traditions with the GV.

To begin, Gergana discussed several Norwegian traditions, which culminated in the singing of Norwegian carols. Some were well-known such as “Jingle Bells,” while others were traditional Norwegian songs. Once the singing finished, residents were able to sample traditional Norwegian foods such as pancakes, waffles, lefse (Norwegian flatbread), and goat cheese and crackers. The most interesting food was the marzipan, a candy made from sugar and almonds, which came shaped as a pig. During Christmas, Norwegian families buy marzipan pigs to enjoy; a holiday tradition that spans all regions of the country. To drink, residents tried Julebrus (a traditional Christmas soda) and Solo (a popular soda similar to Fanta).

This event allowed me to have a bit of a Norwegian Christmas because I did not fly over this year during winter break. I also enjoyed sharing the food, because I feel that food is one way to bridge cultures as all groups of people have food traditions. Overall, all attendees enjoyed the night and hopefully it will become a Global Village tradition!
The Chicago Trip in Pictures

Life in the GV

A noticeable lack of UGG boots,
Banana and penguin suits,
A pancake-flipping Comrade
Who’s everyone’s doting dad.
Those who’ve crossed the ocean blue,
And those who want to do this too
But what it is that they all share:
A concern for Global welfare.
Yes, this is clearly evident
In how their precious time is spent
As each one learns a foreign tongue
And studies cultures far-flung.
But even while all this goes on
There’s something more to draw upon;
Namely the sense of community.
The family of friends that is the GV.

By Frances Friedl

New Music Interest Group

The Village is home to many talented musicians, and this year we started a group to explore and play a variety of musical traditions. In addition to attending concerts, we also invite musicians to the GV to lead workshops in which Villagers bring their instruments and improvise songs under the direction of our guests. This year’s events included:

- international coffeehouse night (with the world song stylings of director Jeff)
- a concert of music from Egypt and Turkey by Bloomington’s own Salaam
- Lotus World Music Festival (over half the GV attended)
- a concert by Bloomington’s female vocal ensemble Kaia
- workshop and concert by the famous Latvian world music group Ilgi
- workshop on Azeri music by Dr. Shahyar Daneshgar
- workshop by The Chicago Afrobeat Project

Chicago international highlights:
- Visit to the Japanese Consulate
- “Ethnic Chicago” tour of Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and Indo-Pakistani neighborhoods
- Dinner in Chinatown
- Visit to the Art Institute of Chicago
- Tour of the Bahá’í House of Worship
- Tango lesson

Chicago classic highlights:
- Lunch at Giordano’s Pizza
- Tour of the Museum of Science and Industry
- A night at Second City Comedy Club
- Shopping on the Magnificent Mile
- Tour of the Field Museum
- Two nights at the historic Palmer House Hilton

Right, music workshop at the Global Village
Global Villagers, Melissa Dittmann, Grace Green, and Grace Baumann at the Chicago AfroBeat Project

When asked to describe Afrobeat music, CAbp bari sax player Garrick Smith says, “Imagine the funkiest James Brown meets Africa...with a message.” This type of music, originally developed by the legendary Fela Kuti, has been evolving over the years as its roots in western music traditions have deepened with the creation of groups like Chicago Afrobeat Project.

This Midwestern group, whose mission is to pay tribute to Fela while adding their own twist to the genre, brought their tribal rhythms and jazzy melodies to Bloomington on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The group was featured in Cultureshock, WIUX’s annual music festival, in Dunn Meadow during the afternoon, where a diverse crowd of students, professors, and Bloomington residents gathered to listen and dance to their unique sounds.

Later, four members of the band came to the Global Village for a musical workshop involving a brief history of Afrobeat music as well as a jam session with GV musicians. Guitarist David Glines and drummer Marshall Greenhouse led the initial discussion about Afrobeat music that led into a brief demonstration of the rhythms the band typically uses, as showcased in their song “Tibet on it.”

The students were shown how to play the rhythms on their respective instruments—ranging from djembe drums to a violin and a guitar. By the end of the workshop, students knew not only about the history of the genre, but also how to emulate a few of the rhythms themselves. Overall, it was a fun time for musicians and music-lovers alike.

No community is complete without artists and the Global Village is no different. Poets, comedians, musicians and visual artists are a few examples of the artisans who call the GV home. Freshman Joel Yoder, is one such example. Joel, a master of 3-D art, will be studying in Nagoya, Japan beginning in the Fall of 2008; he hopes to integrate Asian influences into his artwork.

Freshman, Joel Yoder’s 3-D rendering of a bird in a tree for an Introduction to 3-D Modeling class

Artists as Residents

Where in the world are Global Villagers?

Next year Global Villagers will be studying in France, China, Russia, Tibet, Bhutan, Argentina, Mongolia, Japan, Israel, and England.

Students Around the Globe

Pictured below from left to right:
Xoe Higginbottom in New Zealand, Chris Purvis in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Carmen Cronin in the Dominican Republic, and Scott Schaffer in Jerusalem, Israel
Tibetan New Year Celebrations

By Melissa Dittmann

The Global Village partnered with Bloomington’s Tibetan Cultural Center, Anyetsang’s Little Tibet Restaurant, the Tibetan Studies Department, and members of the Tibetan community to put on a month’s worth of events in celebration of the Losar, the Lunar New Year and most important holiday in the Tibetan calendar. The programs included...

A Tibetan Buddhist monk gave a lesson on the basics of Tibetan Buddhism and led a meditation session.

Gedun Rabsal, Tibetan language instructor at IU, presented about Tibet’s political situation, focusing on the controversy surrounding the Panchen Lama, “Tibet’s Stolen Child.”

On the day of Losar, Global Villagers participated in a Tibetan Buddhist ceremony and dance to welcome in the Year of the Fire Pig.

Finally, Global Villagers had an opportunity to learn about the recent unrest in Tibet and conflict with China from a panel of experts: two faculty in Chinese studies, two from Tibetan studies, and Arjia Rinpoche, director of the TCC.

A Senior Bids Farewell

By Kon Tchergueiko

This short article has an impossible mission: to summarize four full years’ worth of experiences in the Global Village in the span of just a few words. Therefore, I shall restrict myself to several short goodbyes and memories. I remember when I first came to IU. I was overwhelmed by the size of the university and somewhat intimidated by my surroundings. But this feeling didn’t last long because of the support and help that I received from the Global Village. Over the years, the GV became not only the place where I lived, but also my home. In addition to the many fond memories, the GV has provided me with many friends and mentors. Today, I have friends who are either studying or living in over a dozen foreign nations. There is no doubt in my mind that the relationships I formed in the GV will last a lifetime. For now, however, I am looking forward to continuing my education at Columbia University. I am not certain what I will do afterwards, but I am positive that the GV will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you GV for four wonderful years. I will miss you!

The Elves of the Global Village

By Carmen Cronin

Central Council: the student-led governing body of the Global Village puts on most of the activities and events that become cherished memories. Much like the elves in The Elves and the Shoemaker, the work of Central Council is done behind the scenes, with the fruits of our labor appearing out of nowhere. Flyers mysteriously deck the halls and doors, e-mails flood the villagers’ inboxes, and the aromatic smells of international delicacies attract people to come, see what’s up, chill, take a study break, or get a taste of something delicious. The highlights of this year: a GV jam group for all aspiring musicians with musical guests to teach new styles and micro-lessons in Swahili and Hebrew. Pancake breakfasts—hands down the most popularly attended event every time—got tummies filled and mouths gabbing. Outings to the opera, musical concerts, Lotus World Music and Arts Festival, musicals, art museums and dance performances all either free or at discounted prices. The hugely successful Chicago trip which is choreographed by the Central Council is a highlight of the year. So join the Central Council, create fun activities, spend our money and be the maker of all of these wonderful memories by continuing old traditions and initiating new ones.
Celebrating Lithuanian Independence

By Jeff Holdeman

I have been doing research and fieldwork in Lithuania since 2005 and fell in love with its people, culture, history, and natural beauty on my very first trip. This spring, I got to share my new passion with the GV.

February 16, 2008, marked the 90th anniversary of Lithuanian independence from Russian rule, and the GV celebrated in full style. The evening started with a talk by IU graduate student Asta Zelenkauskaite on pagan and Christian beliefs in contemporary Lithuania, considered Europe’s last pagan country (accepting Christianity in 1386/1387) but also preserving a strong layer of pagan heritage up to today. Decorated with the yellow, green, and red of the Lithuanian flag, the first floor lounge also featured an extensive poster display on many aspects of Lithuanian traditional culture and various folk crafts. Lithuanian sutartines (ancient folk songs) played in the background as chef Jeff led a cooking demonstration of making potato pancakes, several traditional salads, and žagareliai (deep-fried dough “bowties”). Attendees then enjoyed a full dinner which also included potato soup, cepelinai (“zeppelins” filled with sweet farmer’s cheese), duonas gira (like homemade rootbeer made from rye bread), and blynai (Lithuanian crêpes) filled with traditional Lithuanian cherry and black currant jams. GVers were joined by several members of IU’s Baltic and Finnish Studies Association, who shared their own cultures and learned about their neighbor to the south. Everyone left well-fed and a little more knowledgeable about this gem of the Baltics.