Going Global

by Leah Myhre

It’s two o’clock in the morning on a Tuesday, and I finally decide to take a break from writing my essay for Spanish literature. Leaning back in my desk chair, I study the colorful Tibetan prayer flags draped from my ceiling, and begin to let the clutter of foreign conjugations slip easily from my thoughts. As I listen to my roommate recite Russian grammar, I can even make out the faint Icelandic melodies of Björk drifting in from next door.

The moment described above could be one of many I have experienced in the Global Village where I could simultaneously experience a whole host of cultures. I am now even more convinced of not only how remarkable the Global Village is at living up to its name, but also the positive environment it offers for students to grow and learn about the world.

Returning to the Global Village my sophomore year felt as fitting and comfortable as slipping on a favorite pair of sneakers. Owing to the fact that the Global Village is dedicated to fostering a desire to learn about and encounter the world, I have been able to immerse myself in an environment of students with interests similar to my own. After having had such an enjoyable experience my freshman year, and the fact that the majority of my friends were returning as well, I came back to the Global Village my sophomore year with the conviction that a second year could only get better.

Looking back now on the past two years, I am easily able to identify the Global Village as one of the most significant and defining aspects of my experience as a student at Indiana University. I hope that all incoming Global Villagers allow themselves to grow and change, so that they too can appreciate the brilliant diversity and significance of the Global Village.

Chicago 2009

Our annual trip to multicultural Chicago was once again an odyssey of epic proportions. It is amazing that we packed so many things into just three days. Here are some highlights:

* Oxfam International presentation
* Shedd Aquarium (global aquatic bio-diversity)
* Chinatown exploration and dinner
* shopping on the Magnificent Mile
* free time downtown
* luxurious accommodations at the Palmer House Hilton
* deep-dish pizza from Giordano’s
* Second City comedy club (post-election politics)
* a salsa dance lesson
* Art Institute of Chicago (world art holdings)
* Devon Avenue (Indo-Pakistani neighborhood)
* Belmont Avenue (Polish-Mexican neighborhood)
Living It Up Mongolian Style

By Hilary Gaiser

Former GVVer, Chris Williams studied abroad in Mongolia during the 2008-2009 academic year.

For Chris, his time abroad has proved interesting to say the least. In Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, Chris lived with a family whose father is a practitioner of traditional medicine. This involves acupressure, herbal remedies, bloodletting, and spirit cleansing. Later in his study abroad he traveled to the Bayan Khangor province for a countryside homestay. Life in the countryside was an adventure: it took the better part of three days to reach, a lot of it off road. There he learned to take care of baby goats and herd them while riding a horse. Food was also an adventure, consisting of boiled fatty meats with lard and a drink called suutei tsai made by boiling tea in milk. In conclusion Chris says that, “Mongolia’s a place where everything is laid bare in front of you. The culture, the history, the politics of this place are all stark, open, and oftentimes frustratingly changeable. The culture is not one of overarching structures and fitting into places, but something that subtly guides the life of anyone who comes here. Mongolia is riddled with problems, but it is a society that is free in a way that is so different from our own country.”

From the Blog of Melissa

By Melissa Dittmann

The last two academic years, the home base for my life journey has been the Global Village. This year, it is Nanjing, China, where I’m studying abroad to improve my grasp of Chinese language, culture and traditional arts. When my flight from Chicago touched down in Shanghai, the summer Beijing Olympics were underway. It’s hard to underestimate what this long-awaited event meant for China. The day I moved in with my host family, we (like the overwhelming majority of the people across the country) took part in a mass ritual. When the time turned to 7 PM, my family tuned their giant plasma screen TV (which they’d bought only about a month before for the express purpose of being able to watch the Olympics) to the 2008 Olympic closing ceremony.

For the past 16 days, the competitions were in full swing in Beijing. Emotions were running high here on many levels as China as a nation is basking in the glory of its Olympic success and, on a personal level, as I become accustomed to my new life in Nanjing. All the Chinese people I spoke with around that time asked if I knew the latest results in the unofficial Olympic competition between China and the U.S.: which nation had won the most medals overall.

There was an overwhelming sense that this was more than an athletic event. Like an India vs. Pakistan cricket match, people at all levels from the highest ranks of the Chinese communist party to the lowest levels of social standing seemed to take the competition personally. It wasn’t just the individual athletes vying for peak performance: it was country as a whole...

Tales from New Zealand

by Toni Haraldsen

Kia ora GVers and greetings from Aotearoa, or as it is known in English, New Zealand! I have been studying at the University of Auckland for almost three months and will continue here until the end of the school year in November 2009. Most of my time in Tāmaki-makau-rau (Auckland) has centered around my courses and enjoying all the opportunities living in a large city has to offer.

My favorite course this semester has been Introduction to Spoken Māori, which is the first of three levels of Māori language instruction offered at the university. The class is taught in the whare nui, which is the Māori meeting house on campus. A whare nui as well as a marae (the grassy area in front of it) is found on most university campuses.

Next semester I will be taking Samoan Language I, and hopefully will continue to enjoy learning another language. For any one contemplating learning a language while studying abroad, I recommend it. It’s an amazing way to expand your knowledge not only of language but also the culture and country in which you are studying.
Meet Your Fall 2009 Q-Instructors

Q-199, Intro to the Global Village is peer-led and focuses on global issues, current events and becoming a part of the Global Village.

Addy Bryan
Addy is a sophomore majoring in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Anthropology. She’ll be spending her summer at IU continuing her studies of Arabic and getting ready to study abroad in Egypt. She decided to be a Q-instructor because it will build her resume and allow her to get to know the incoming GVers.

Adrianna Pappas
Adrianna is a sophomore majoring in Nonprofit Management in SPEA. This summer she will be in Uganda working at an AIDS clinic and school for a few weeks and working as a nanny in the States. She loves teaching Q because of the excitement of teaching, as well as getting to know everyone.

Leah Myhre
Leah is a junior majoring in Political Science and Spanish. She’ll be spending the summer lifeguarding at Wabash College. She wants to teach Q because she wants to help incoming GVers become more educated and get excited about other cultures.

Chris Purvis
Chris is a junior majoring in Environmental Management and Spanish. His summer plans include traveling to Rwanda for the Books and Beyond project and to Boston for the Oxfam Change Initiative. This is his second year teaching Q-class and he says that he likes being an instructor because he enjoys teaching.

Owen Mason
Owen is a sophomore majoring in Entrepreneurship, International Business and Chinese. This summer he is going to China for 4 weeks to study Chinese. Owen had a great time in his Q-class last year and wants to give the same experiences to incoming GVers.

Chelsea Todd
Chelsea is a sophomore majoring in International Studies. This summer she’ll be visiting her friends in Brazil. She wanted to teach Q-class so that she can meet incoming students as well as provide them with the same wonderful experience in Q that she had.

Rachel Schend
Rachel is a junior who is majoring in SPEA: Arts Management with an art history concentration. She plans to spend the summer working so that she’ll have some travel money. She wants to teach Q because she really enjoyed taking the class herself, and since she won’t be living in the GV in the coming year she wanted to stay part of the community.

Addy Bryan
Caleb is a sophomore majoring in Linguistics and Japanese. He plans on working all summer long to earn a little extra money. He wants to teach Q-class because he wants to get to know all the incoming GVers and engage in interesting discussions on global issues.

Rachel Schend
Leah Myhre
Chris Purvis
Owen Mason
Chelsea Todd

Meet Your Fall 2009 Q-Instructors

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Books & Beyond

Books & Beyond matches GVers with high school students from the Newark Collegiate Academy to author, illustrate, and publish children’s stories. The stories will be sent to the Kabwende Primary School in Kinigi, Rwanda to teach critical thinking skills and English literacy.

As the story unfolds...

Documenting the Books & Beyond Project

by Caitlin Ryan

When Lauren introduced the Books & Beyond project to me last summer, I thought it was a pretty cool idea but it seemed to me like just another one of the excellent extracurricular activities at IU that I probably wouldn’t have the time to fully devote myself to with my full course load, work, and other extracurricular involvement. Nevertheless, the beginning of fall semester rolled around, and I found myself attending the kick-off meeting for the Books & Beyond project. Impressed by the presentation put on by the Newark Collegiate Academy staff and excited about the idea, I decided to get involved in a way that seemed tailored to my interests without involving a time commitment that was too great. Looking back, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Over the course of the first semester, the documenting team comprised of Chris Purvis, Eleanor Stevenson, and me, went from little to no experience in documenting to being able to proficiently and effectively videotape events, conduct interviews, take meaningful photographs, and edit our materials to create a finished product that could be used to promote the project. Our learning curve was great, but our enthusiasm for the project and excitement to take on new challenges were greater.

After only a month into the project, I think we all found ourselves in something much greater than we had originally imagined. What we first thought of as being a one to two-hour time commitment per week became something more like six to eight hours each week, depending on the number of B & B events and interviews we had scheduled. But the amount of time we spent on it never seemed to be an issue. Working on the project was so enjoyable, and it seemed so urgent, that we never worried about that.

When reflecting on the year and discussing our plan for the spring break trip to Newark, I realized a change that had occurred within myself that I had begun to see in my fellow documenters as well. We were no longer students messing around with cameras; we had become true documenters, with the sincere and urgent need, not only a desire, but a need to record everything that was happening around us in relation to the project. The project itself became a part of who we were, as if it had captured us in some way and instilled in us this intense duty to make the story of this project known. And so, we set out to do that.

So far, we have captured hundreds of hours of footage from the events and trips over the course of the year, and we have been working tirelessly to review that footage and compile it in some way that is meaningful. We have created a Youtube channel where our videos may be viewed by our friends, supporters, and potential donors: http://www.youtube.com/user/IUGlobalVillage. Over the course of the summer, we will continue to add short videos to the channel with updates on the progress of the project, including our trip to the school in Rwanda in late June.

As the journey continues and the story of Books & Beyond further unfolds, we will document it, preserving the story of this incredible project for the future.
Reflections on Books & Beyond
by Sarah Travis

When I first decided to jump on board and be part of Books & Beyond, I was excited at the idea of working hands-on with high school students from TEAM to help write, illustrate, and publish an anthology of stories themed around the idea of ‘home’ and ‘safe places’. Communicating with my writing partner started off consistently, as most things often do, but as months went on, our communication dwindled to nothing.

This frustrated me because this was our project, not just mine or just my partner’s. Due to our lack of communication during the first semester, I was quite hesitant about the

Books & Beyond Fundraising
by Jana Kovich

It all started with free samosas. It was the fall of my first year of college, and I had already learned that most call-out meetings involved a lot of delicious, free food. And this one, for a new project called Books and Beyond, just happened to offer a new-found favorite food. So I went, and listened for an hour while representatives from TEAM schools in New Jersey, Ali Nagle and Ben Cope, discussed their school and their goals for this “Books and Beyond” project.

They explained that their charter high school serviced a poor and traditionally underserved population of Newark, New Jersey, and how the students at the high school wanted to partner with a primary school all the way in Kinigi, Rwanda, where the students had no running water or electricity and typically no more than one text per classroom. Then Ali delivered her vision of a triumvirate of literary-empowerment and threw Indiana University and the Global Village Living-Learning Center into the mix. She told us how we could mentor and co-author children’s stories with the

students from Newark, and the stories could be published and sent to Rwanda to the students there.

I was hooked.

I found my place in the project where I am most beneficial: fundraising. Madelyn Kissel and I were paired together in what became B&B’s fundraising dynamic duo. We first met to put together a PowerPoint highlighting the goals of our program. Later that week we gave our first presentation to the Residential Programs and Services’ Academic Initiatives and Services board. This initial meeting launched a series of Books and Beyond presentations across campus.

Over the next six months, we presented over and over. We met with the executive board of RPS, who agreed to finance plane tickets for the students from Newark to visit IU in fall 2009. We also met with several other groups, including the Dean’s Advisory Board for the College of Arts and Sciences. In the spring, we made one of our most important presentations to the Metz Grant selection committee. We were awarded the grant, for $5000, on April 20th from Indiana University Student Associations. It was a great way to end the first of what promises to be many years of B&B fundraising.
End-of-the-year Gala: A Time to Reflect

by Dr. Jeff Holdeman

Summer is a wonderful time. In addition to sunshine, regular sleep, the Bloomington Farmers' Market, and time to travel, it is also a great time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to and prepare for the coming one.

On April 28, 2009, we held our end-of-the-year Gala in the Harper Formal Lounge to gather one last time and recognize our staff, student leaders (Central Council members, Q instructors, student office assistants, Welcome Week leaders, interest group leaders, RAs, and course reviewers), faculty, RPS staff, and all of our residents who make the GV a wonderful place to live and learn. We celebrated the successes of the GV's most ambitious project to date: Books and Beyond (see the article in this issue). And we watched a slideshow and reflected on the many events from this year: the Oxfam Hunger Banquet, the GV/Foster International cookout, Lotus World Music Festival, the annual language hike and Chicago trip, attendance of the opera Le Cendrillon, the many workshops (resume writing, study abroad, foreign language study skills, French Canadian music and dance, Martenitsa bracelet-making), guest speakers (Prof. Julie Auger on Québec French, Kelsey Timmerman on global clothing production, Prof. Rebecca Manring on Sanskrit, Brent Hierman on his travels in Central Asia, Trent Engbers on the Chinese perspective of America, Liana Zhou on sex and politics in the Kinsey Institute collection, Prof. Pravina Shuble on world body art, Deeksha Nagar on the sari in Indiana culture), the concert and workshop by the Russian post-folk group Reelroad, and of course movie nights, international dinners, pancake breakfasts, Sledding Day, Oktoberfest, Passover, and more.

Lauren, Shelli, and I have already had several planning meetings this summer and the Welcome Week leaders met throughout the spring to make sure that 2009–2010 is full of the same fun, educational, cultural, thought-provoking activities as this past year. We are all really looking forward to it!