GV Establishes New Arabic Language Cluster
by Taylor Lawrence

Here at the Global Village, we already host several language-specific clubs called Language Clusters, including Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian, but this semester, polyglot GVers decided to add a new member to the cluster family: Arabic!

While this is not the first year the GV has housed students interested in the Arabic language, current residents decided that there was enough interest to create a cluster for this year. The Arabic Cluster was formed this semester (Fall 2016) by several GV residents, including Arabic Flagship students, other Arabic students, and students just interested in the language and culture. With the help of GV staff and the cluster’s now-facilitator, Philip Raad, the group has done quite a few activities so far: put on language microlessons and a cooking lesson, participated in the GV Language Hikes at McCormick’s Creek State Park, attended showings of Arabic movies, played Arabic games, and hosted an Arabic Culture Night in coordination with the IU Arabic Flagship Program.

This spring, the Arabic Cluster hopes to hold more events (including more Middle Eastern cooking lessons and Arabic dialect microlessons), as well as attend other IU events centered around Arabic, such as Middle Eastern dancing—whatever helps improve GVers’ language skills and cultural knowledge. Keep an eye out for upcoming events. They are sure to be lots of fun!

Becoming a Global Villager
by Macey Halgren

Before most first-year college students arrive on campus, their biggest worry is making new friends. For me, this was one of the largest causes of my anxiety during the nights leading up to my move-in. I tossed and turned, wondering if I was going to find even one good friend. Little did I know that joining the Global Village would make those fears melt away.

The second I arrived at the GV, I was put at ease. Immediately, I was greeted by friendly GV Welcome Week Leaders who helped me get settled in. I knew that I had chosen the right place to live, and Indiana University quickly became my new home. I remember meeting a lot of GVers during the Welcome Week Progressive Dinner and Culture Fest, and we all clicked right away. I loved the Global Village so much from the start that I knew I wanted to be as involved as I could, so I joined Central Council, as well as the German Language Cluster and several Interest Groups.

Since Welcome Week, we have all formed one big happy family. If someone in the GV is stressed because of school or personal problems, there’s always someone who will write you encouraging notes and be a shoulder to cry on. When the responsibilities of being a college student get overwhelming, we all hug, laugh, and vent. On one particularly rough night for me, I was very distraught. But my GV friends hugged me while I ugly-cried in front of them (and I mean super-ugly). To cheer me up, they put on a Christmas movie, gave me a pedicure, and wrote enough motivational sticky notes to fill up my paper Christmas tree on the wall. We are truly a community that builds each other up.

The Global Village has already helped me grow. I’ve been exposed to new cultures, new languages, and new people. I’ve become a better person, and I have the GV to thank. Whatever happens in the future, I know that I will always look back at my time here with nothing but gratitude and happiness, and I’d like to thank every single Global Villager who made that possible.
GVers in the IU Language Flagship Programs: A Peek into Their Worlds

According to IU’s official website, the Language Flagship program is “an innovative language-learning initiative that incorporates advanced language study, international internships, and study abroad.” This year, the Global Village is home to students from each of IU’s three Language Flagship Programs: Turkish, Chinese, and Arabic. Here, they give us a look at what it’s like to be a part of each of these prestigious, rigorous, and exciting programs!

**Turkish Flagship Center: Moira Corcoran**

After falling in love with foreign languages in high school, I knew that I wanted to learn a new language in college. More than this, I wanted to learn a language really well—to develop the fluency necessary to study and work abroad. I needed a program that provided opportunities for study abroad, language practice, and community. In the Turkish Flagship Program, I have found all of this and more.

One of the most appealing aspects of the Turkish Flagship is the opportunity to study abroad for a summer and an academic year. Because Turkish is a critical language, there are many scholarships available. Currently, I am applying to study Turkish in Azerbaijan over the summer and am excited to practice my Turkish in context. But the Turkish Flagship offers so much more than study abroad. It provides undergraduate students with unmatched opportunities. A student can enroll in Turkish courses taught by dedicated native speakers, which use authentic materials to engage students with the language. Students quickly bond with their classmates and peers from all levels during the Fall Retreat, conversation tables, and media discussion tables. While Flagship is not without its challenges—the courses are rigorous and move quickly—there are many resources available to students seeking help.

Through working with my Flagship conversation partner each week, attending media discussion tables and presentations given by native speakers, and practicing my skills at weekly conversation tables, I have gained more confidence in my abilities. Turkish is a language of increasing global importance, and through the Flagship program you have access not only to top-tier instruction, but also to a strong community and a plethora of cultural activities. Choosing to study Turkish has been the best decision I’ve made at IU, and to any student looking to study a language, I encourage you to consider the Flagship.

**Chinese Flagship Center: Patrick McNabb**

The Chinese Flagship Program here at Indiana University has been an especially unique experience so far. During my one and a half years in this program, I have gained invaluable experiences and expert guidance. The Chinese Flagship has helped me progress from zero experience with the language to being able to talk about politics, history, and social issues, all in Chinese.

One of the most valuable things I have gained from the Flagship is friendships. I have made friends through the Chinese Flagship that I never would have known otherwise. These friendships are strengthened by the fact that we have all gone through the same experiences and are all taking the same classes. The Chinese Flagship has also provided me access to innumerable resources and programs that have helped tremendously in advancing my Chinese. One such resource is the Flagship Chinese Institute (FCI), which is a domestic summer study center for advanced Chinese learning. FCI is a required program that takes place during the summer and is extremely challenging.

At times, the time commitment can seem overwhelming; as a Flagship student, you are required not only to take Chinese classes, but also to attend a certain number of events each semester, such as a retreat at Bradford Woods and “Chinese Tidings” lectures given entirely in Chinese. However, the knowledge and personal bonds I have gained are well worth the challenges. Overall, I feel that I made a very good decision in joining the Chinese Flagship, and I encourage prospective Chinese learners to do the same!
GVers in the IU Language Flagship Programs (cont’d)

Arabic Flagship Center: Logan Ferise

This is not a political article, but the state of the world was a primary motivation for my joining the Arabic Flagship. Throughout the past few years in the United States, I have noticed an increasing intolerance for Muslims and the Arabic-speaking world. The recent presidential election has brought a lot of these issues to the foreground, and I lamented this with my Muslim friends, classmates, and instructors.

However, the Arabic Flagship community is one based not in politics but in a love for all people, no matter their background. I have seen and experienced this love through the dedicated Flagship faculty. If you walk into the GISB Monday through Friday, I guarantee you will find at least one, if not many, Arabic Flagship volunteers ready for a tutoring or conversation session. While these are required hours for the students, the people dedcating their time to us are more often than not involved in rigorous and time-consuming PhD programs. “We are all bound together by a love for the Arabic language” is a phrase which I have heard so often from Arabic faculty, that it could be our Flagship’s mantra. Such love and dedication to students was all but foreign to me before going into the program.

I had been convinced that I was a poor language learner by a teacher in high school, but the IU Arabic faculty, most specifically my أمي العربية (Arabic mother) Iman, taught me to work hard and have faith in my language skills. While Arabic Flagship is often stressful and challenging, I consider it an immense blessing to have the opportunity to learn such an important language with my Flagship family.

A New LLC, A New Home

by Zoie Hancock

As the fall semester comes to a close, it is now time to start thinking about housing for the 2017–2018 academic year. If you have not yet made a decision (or if you’re reconsidering your current decision), I’d like to tell you about the new LLC that will be coming to IU’s campus this next fall—the Global LLC. The GLLC is “interested in interacting with people and cultures from around the globe. We celebrate all forms of diversity and attract domestic and international students with a wide range of academic, professional, and personal interests.”

While many of the details are still being worked out about what the new LLC will look like, here is what we can tell you for sure. Many key features of the GV will still be in place, such as a high emphasis on programming and a student-led governing body to oversee said programming. The GLLC is also setting a goal to have a 50/50 balance between domestic and international students.

Many of us have come to know and love Foster-Martin, but the GLLC’s new location in Read Hall has significant benefits as well. Some of these extra perks include brand new air conditioning units; a large lounge area for relaxation, study, events, and leisure; a shared half-bath between two rooms (two beds each) with a large ADA-accessible common shower area; and access to a foot-washing station.

Residents will also have access to a variety of in-building dining options (with Forest dining just across the street) and a full kitchen with an oven. Read itself is close to the School of Global and International Studies, the Office of Overseas Study, the Herman B Wells Library, the Musical Arts Center, the Jacobs School of Music, Ballantine Hall, and the center of campus—meaning that you will have less of a walk to the important places you need to be.

If you haven’t considered the new Global LLC as your potential new home, please think of all the great benefits, and talk to your friends and to people working behind the scenes. It is with your help that we can make this new LLC
I was nervous to go to college on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. I had never had a roommate, being the only girl out of five kids. I had graduated a year early, so I knew I was going to be younger than almost everyone there. Neither of my parents would be there to help me move in; one had to work the night before, and one had recently passed. Most of all, I was worried that I wouldn’t make friends. I had struggling since elementary school to make deep bonds with people, and that is what I had dreamed of making when going to college. People had been telling me for years that the friends you make in college would be the ones you keep for the rest of your life.

Imagine my excitement when within the first day I had met nearly everyone in the GV and had already gotten to know them quite well! We all had things in common, and it was so easy to talk to them about my own interests. It was liberating to be able to stay up all night just talking, playing Cards Against Humanity, and discussing everything that had once been taboo in our high school years.

Personally, I am a floater friend. I float from one friend group to another as the need arises. This tended to be a problem before because it was hard to be able to go around town and do things with different people. Except at IU, it is not only possible, it is recommended. One of my favorite things about the GV is that although there are clearly friend groups, everyone is included and everyone is still friends with each other. I revel in the possibilities that have opened up to me since coming here.

I think I had misunderstood people when they said college is when you find yourself. I believed it meant you decided on where you are going in life and would be able to make all those big decisions such as your major(s) and minor(s). Now, I believe finding yourself is finding what makes you happy, whether it be a friend who you meet at three in the morning and mispronounce their name from laughing so hard at a previous joke, taking a variety of classes on random topics such as Guitar Cultures Around the World, or knowing that you made the right decision to live in the GV even in its last year as an LLC.

Overall, I am not worried about next year when the GV will no longer exist as we know it. The building itself wasn’t my home. The home I found was in the bonds I created with those living alongside me. They have helped create my happiness.