

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE  
LIVING-LEARNING  
CENTER AT  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
BLOOMINGTON

# NOMAD

VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

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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 65 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 over 25 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).

## The Year in Review

by Megan Diekhoff

It is nearly impossible to pick just one favorite Global Village event, and that is what is so great about the activities sponsored by this incredible living-learning center. Each event hosted here is unique and special in its own way. There are Culture Nights, holiday celebrations, and community bonding events as well. That is why today I am writing about a few GV events in review:

- ✦ **Chinese New Year**—To start the New Year off right, the Chinese Cluster invited us all to celebrate Chinese New Year by making and eating dumplings, watching the official countdown online, and decorating the lounge with red lanterns.
- ✦ **Warm Fuzzies**—Just when Indiana weather is at its coldest, the time comes for Warm Fuzzies. At this event GVer's bond as a community by creating a "necklace of memories" made by tying strings of yarn to another person's necklace while giving that person a compliment. This is a great event for friends to show each other how much they care.
- ✦ **Recycled Rhythms**—In a community that is environmentally conscious, Recycled Rhythms is the event that allows GVer's to reduce, reuse, and recycle old boxes, cans, and other "trash." After learning about the Landfill Harmonic, attendees have the chance to make their own drums, guitars, and other instruments before recycling everything.
- ✦ **Culture Nights**—Of all the events at the GV, Culture Nights are perhaps the ones that have grown the most. These nights focus on a different country and feature that country's food, crafts, dances, and language. Several examples from this semester include the Chinese, Haitian, Belgian, and Akan Culture Nights, just to name a few.
- ✦ **Easter EGGstravaganza**—Among other holiday celebrations, the Easter EGGstravaganza strives to display the history and traditions of Easter from around the world. GVer's enjoy a presentation, egg dyeing, an egg hunt, and a race where they must balance an egg on a spoon and race to the finish line for a prize chocolate bunny!
- ✦ **Memory Jar Lane & End-of-the-Year Gala**—Last but not least are the events that wrap up the entire academic year. There is a series of events that the GV hosts for finals de-stress such as Kids Play and the Pancake Brinner (breakfast for dinner), but some of the events during this time of year are more about reflection. Memory Jar Lane, for example, allows GVer's to empty the contents of their memory jar (a jar they fill throughout the year with mementos) and reminisce about good times throughout the past two semesters. The End-of-the-Year Gala, of course, is where alumni rejoin us to celebrate everything the Global Village is and what it means to us.



The Global Village has meant so much to me, and participating in the events here has made me a more well-rounded, globally-minded student. The events listed above make up only a small selection of the many that have been put on by GVer's throughout the year for the enrichment of our community. I am proud to be a part of this living-learning center, and I will always keep what I have learned at these events with me.

## Ma Vie en France

by Colleen Couch

When I decided to study abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France, I was not entirely sure what I was getting myself into. Honestly, it felt completely surreal until I got off the plane and was greeted by my 70-year-old host grandma, Madame Tchakrian. Now, when I reflect on this semester, I am glad that I took that leap, even if I was not quite sure about the landing. There are major differences that one notices immediately, like the landscape, the architecture, and the language. But I think that to really know a place, you have to live there. It is in daily life that you find the intricacies of culture, but also the unifying feeling that people everywhere are more or less the same.

It is certainly true that going by myself to a foreign country where I knew no one was a bit terrifying. My fears included making social blunders and not being able to communicate. However, in my case, it was that very fear that was a detriment to communication. In the classroom, I would refrain from speaking



unless I knew that what I had to say was perfect in grammar and content. In practice, I make mistakes every day, but I communicate much more effectively. I feel like it is important to remember that these linguistic quirks make you seem charming and funny, especially when you accidentally say “condom” when you meant “preservative,” or when you have your hostess review a paper and she remarks that you “speak French like a Spanish cow.”

Living abroad has helped me to gain confidence and independence. Never before would I have booked a bus ticket to the next country over just a few days before going all alone, without a well-thought out itinerary of activities, especially if I didn’t speak the language. However, after going to Spain, Italy, and various French cities without serious incident, I feel more prepared to take on the world in general, and to make spontaneous decisions. I look forward to taking my experiences home with me and sharing them all with you.

## Russian Fulbright Dinner and Hot Pot Night: Highlights of Spring 2017

by Joseph Steininger



There have been many wonderful events at the Global Village, but by far my favorite event this semester was our Russian Fulbright Dinner. This was an occasion in which several Russian university administrators who are here on a Fulbright grant for about two months came to the GV to share food and culture. Being in the presence of people who are native speakers of one

of my favorite languages was an incredible experience. Using Russian with natives and receiving feedback about my own proficiency was a great way to improve my communication skills. During the many conversations we had, we learned about where they were from, their families, their universities, and what life is like in their Russian hometowns.

Another memorable event was the Chinese Cluster’s Hot Pot Night. Being somebody who had never had or seen hot pot before, this was a great experience. (In case you don’t know, hot pot is a style of dining where you dip meat, seafood, and vegetables into a pot of simmering broth on a burner in the middle of the table to cook it.) This is the type of event that I wish more people had the opportunity to partake

in. Being able to try an authentic Chinese dinner like this helped me imagine what a family dinner might be like in China. These events, along with many others, contribute to the Global Village’s unique and amazing mission. The GV gives you opportunities that you do not have anywhere else on campus.



# The GV Goes to Chicago

by Hadley Synylo

Since I come from Chicago, I expected the Global Village Chicago Trip to take me back to what was familiar and that I would get the chance to show my friends around my home town. What actually happened was that I found myself in many new places and situations, relied on friends to help me get around, and learned so much more about my wonderful city. Our first stop was Devon Avenue, full of bakeries and ethnic clothing stores. In Chinatown, my friends and I perused candy stores and had fantastic dim sum. The National Cambodian Heritage

Museum and Killing Fields opened my eyes to something I had never learned about in school: the Cambodian genocide. After spending time exploring the surrounding area of Albany Park, the comedy show at Second City Comedy Club was the perfect way to end the day. My favorite part of the trip was the National Museum of Mexican Art and the surrounding neighborhood of Pilsen. The art was extraordinarily colorful, and Pilsen had adorable shops that my friends and I loved.

My fellow GVers and I got to delve into the wide array of cultures that Chicago has to offer, and it was such an eye-opening experience that next time I go to Chicago, I want to return to those culture-filled areas to try more delicious food and maybe talk to locals. Our itinerary was exhausting at times, but I wouldn't have changed any of it. Most of the greatest memories from my freshman year of college come from the Chicago Trip, and I can't wait to introduce many of the experiences I had to my friends from home.

## The Chicago Trip... in Pictures!



Second City Comedy Club



Bakery sign spotted on Devon Avenue



Seeing the Bean!



Learning a traditional Cambodian dance



Group photo in Chinatown



Lunch at a Nepalese restaurant



Taking the wheel at the Museum of Science and Industry



Lighting a candle for those who died in the Cambodian genocide



The beautiful lobby of our hotel, the Palmer House Hilton



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## Bringing My Culture to the GV

by Lillian Jiang

As an international student staying in a living-learning center at Indiana University since I came to this beautiful town, I have to admit that spending all three years of my college life in the Global Village has without a doubt been an amazing experience.

As I have become more and more involved in this community, I feel that I am part of the Global Village just as much as the Global Village is an indispensable part of my life. I have created so many memories in this place, and it has not only enriched my study abroad experience in the United States, but also enabled me to meet new people and make friends with people who are open to new cultures and who aspire to explore new things. The experience I have had and things I have learned here have also made me become who I am today, and it always motivates me to help out other international students here. I found it to be most inspiring to see how the international students adapt to their new lives in the United States and embrace the changes that occur in life.

I have also been serving as the Chinese Cluster Facilitator at the Global Village for two years. Although the world has become much smaller with the rise of globalization and emerging technologies, I found out how surprisingly different the cultures can be between countries. Sometimes, people do not have much knowledge about other cultures. This has inspired me to be an ambassador for Chinese culture and language to my friends at the Global Village. For instance, I have been working on establishing the Chinese New Year Brunch as a Global Village tradition, just like other GV traditions organized by other language clusters, such as the German Cluster's Oktoberfest event held every year.

It was unexpected to hear that the Global Village will transform into another LLC soon, but I believe that it will be a continuation of this friendly culture. I can't wait to see how the community will evolve next year, and I look forward to my senior year at the new Global LLC.

