



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

Global Village
RESIDENTIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Caribbean House

Janelle Morris, Program Director

OVERVIEW

In the Caribbean house program, we will help you to gain more knowledge of the Caribbean islands. You will learn more about music, food, culture, politics, basic facts of the different islands etc. The residential environment will allow us to learn from those who might have personal experiences and to share information that we learned from being in the program.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Students will gain knowledge on various traditions and cultural experiences. These experiences may range from cooking different types of food, listening to the music of the Caribbean and learning different dances. They will in turn share that knowledge with others both in the UVM and Burlington community.

ACTION STEPS

- 1) Put on a party the first or second week of school. The purpose of this party will be to celebrate the ending of the Caribbean Labor Day celebration and the beginning of Hispanic Awareness Month. This party will be a great time to collaborate with the Spanish House. It will also be a great time to expose the campus to our music.
- 2) **Pre- Thanks Giving Dinner-** This dinner will be prepared by the members of the suite as well as others who are willing to volunteer such as other houses with in the L/L complex. Each member will do research on the different dishes made around the Caribbean and choose one dish to prepare for dinner. This event could be in collaboration the ALANA Center/ALANA House. This event will be open to the campus.

- 3) **Mini Carnival-** The members of this program will put together a carnival celebration for the campus to enjoy. Other programs within L/L as well as other organizations and clubs around campus are welcome to collaborate with this program on this project. Some programs, clubs and organizations I had in mind were ALANA house, Spanish house, BSU, IRA, SGA, Alianza Latina, Alumni and more. All participants who are interested will create an outfit/costume with the colors of the island of their choice. Each outfit will be presented to the campus in a fashion show, which will take place during this Carnival event. While participants are showing their designs in the fashion show, someone will briefly talk about the history of carnival, celebrations, and traditions. When the fashion show has come to an end, we will proceed to finish the night with a party. It is also my wish that we can possibly get a steel pan band to come to perform. Light refreshments will be served throughout the night.
- 4) **Films-** It is my intention to play a film about places in the Caribbean once or twice a month. These films will show the issues being faced in various countries, cultures, as well as comedies and dramas. I will play these films in the Fire Place Lounge or room 216 in L/L. This event will be open to the entire complex and light refreshments such as popcorn and juice may be served.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Members will obtain information about influential people from the Caribbean.

ACTION STEPS

- 1) **Black History Month-** Each member of the house will be responsible for briefly researching an influential black person from the Caribbean. Preferably a person who is not well known and creating a poster about them. The person they choose can be someone who has already passed or someone who is still alive. The person can also be someone who is just coming about and is already making a difference. This person could have been important to many due to politics, medicine, technology, literature, etc. These posters will be put up around the suite and around the Living and Learning Complex so that others who are a part of the Living and Learning community will gain knowledge as well.
 - **Collaborate with BSU's efforts to celebrating Black History Month**
 - **Go to the local Elementary School and do activities for Black History Month with them.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 3

Students will learn the flags and colors of every island. Each member will also be aware of current events in the various islands of the Caribbean. They will also learn the basic facts of every island.

ACTION STEPS

- 1) The residential area will be decorated with the various flags of the Caribbean accompanied by the name of its respective country listed below the flag. This will be done prior to the member's arrival.
- 2) **Painting:** This activity will allow students to decorate their living area and make it feel more like home. This will also allow anyone who visits the chance to view the many different personalities and cultures in the house, just like in the Caribbean.
- 3) Once per month members will create posters that display information about three different countries around the suite and around the Living and Learning community. Information such as:
 - Countries Capital
 - Languages spoken
 - Religions practiced
 - Population
 - Current leader etc.
- 4) **News Letter:** Once monthly mini program news letters will be available for students. This will contain information on current events in the different Caribbean islands. Members of the program will be responsible for choosing 1 or 2 islands to retrieve information on, which will be due the third week of every month.
- 5) Members will be informed about Caribbean studies classes that are available throughout the academic year. If they are interested in taking their learning experience a step ahead they will be encouraged to enroll in the classes being offered.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All of our community service ideas will be run through the Caribbean House, but it will be open to the entire campus to participate. If it is possible we could make a connection through the UVM Bored website so that our community service ideas will gain more publicity.

Some community service ideas may include, but will not be limited to:

- **Conducting a clothing and food drive with in L/L for a local shelter.**
- **Volunteer time to the daycare center in Living and Learning C-Building. We will spend time with the children and talk to them about the Caribbean.**
- **Big Brother/ Big Sister program- This project will more than likely take place on weekends so that it will not interfere with class times.**

With the permission of parents students will pair up with a child from one of the local schools and spend time with them.



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/globalvillage>

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar is a largely self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village Residential Learning Community. All new Global Village residents **must** enroll in GRS 095 for one credit during the fall semester or GRS 096 for the spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour”

community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We'll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

We'll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in Common Hours and the educational events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in GRS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrlc/passport/GRS095096.pdf>