Arts Initiative Residential Learning Community – 2016/2017

- Cakes with a Cause
- Clay
- Community for Artistic Development
- Dead Poets Society
- Ecological Art House NEW!
- Integrated Fine Arts
- Moving Picture House
- Photo
- UVM Moth: Storytelling NEW!
- World Music NEW!

Global Village Residential Learning Community – 2016/2017

- Africa House
- Caribbean House
- Chinese House
- German House
- India House NEW!
- Japanese House
- La Casa (Spanish House)
- La Maison Francaise
- Multinational Sports House
- Russian House

Living/Learning Residential Learning Community – 2016/2017

- ALANA House
- Animal Welfare & Ecology NEW!
- Climbing House NEW!
- Exploring Business
- Farm to Table House
- Freestyle Ski House NEW!
- Health Professions
- Hiking House NEW!
- Integrated Humanities Program
- Integrated Social Sciences Program
- Knitting and Crochet House
- LGBTQA Collaborative
- Not your Average Sport
- Our Minds Matter NEW!
- ROTC and Community
- Save the Trees! NEW!
- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in the Arts
- UVM.tech
- Wilderness Adventure and Naturalist Skills

How to Apply: go.uvm.edu/applyrlc
Programmed Housing Website: go.uvm.edu/programmedhousing

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AFRICA HOUSE

Overview

The Africa House’s participation in the Living/Learning Center’s Global Village program are threefold. First, to offer students an awareness and appreciation for the rich variety of African cultures the continent is able to provide. Second, to outline historical events that have helped shape modern African cultures through the study of historical events, and lastly to enhance students’ educational experience at UVM by attending various cultural immersion programs geared towards alerting students of various African countries. Activities will be afforded to students for the purpose of cultural immersions, educational knowledge, and a better understanding of African cultures’ role in the world. Africa House will be a valuable program in helping students develop a deeper appreciation of African cultures and traditions as well as increase their educational experience in a diversified topic area. The program promotes interactions between participating students, Africans, and Africanist scholars in both the UVM community and the greater Burlington community. Through its residential component, Africa House offers students shared experiences as well as opportunities for participation in the exploration of Africa’s incredibly rich and diverse cultures.
ALANA HOUSE

Overview

The ALANA House (African-American, Latino/a, Asian-American, Native American Ally) helps participants develop a sense of their own cultural identity and the other cultures of the world alongside their suitemates throughout the year. Participants are also equipped with the knowledge and skills to be able to disseminate cultural competency and sensitivity to their UVM peers. Participants will elevate their awareness of different cultures at an accelerated pace through weekly dialogues, working with ALANA affiliated clubs and organizations on campus, and through collaborating with other suites to see how race and ethnicity intersect with other parts of their identities. ALANA House members will always be able to feel comfortable confiding in other suite members, and the program will be a safe space for people in the ALANA community. The program’s activities and dynamics are all set up to stamp out ignorance by having participants better understand the profound impact of discrimination and take what they learned as tools with them for battling prejudice with confidence and wisdom.
ANIMAL WELFARE & ECOLOGY

Overview

The purpose of Animal Welfare and Ecology is to raise awareness and understanding of animal species and how humanity affects their existence in both negative and positive ways. For issues and matters of negative impact, this program will actively discuss and implement reparative action. Members will gain general knowledge and issues of different species from research and round table discussions during weekly meetings, reading one controversial book per semester, and putting together a 5-10-minute presentation. Participants will partake in exercises that will contribute to the wellbeing of the environment and the animal kingdom, as well as fundraising events to contribute to organizations pertaining to issues covered in the weekly meetings. Members will be able to better understand how humanity has an impact on the animal kingdom and what they can do to improve the future of animals, including us.
CAKES WITH A CAUSE

Overview

Baking has innumerable benefits, including a stress reliever from life’s daily worries. It allows students to enter a space free of the stress and worry that academics can bring. The skills required to be a successful baker are not only being able to follow a recipe, but also being able to use problem solving, time management, and creativity in order to create a work of edible art. Besides these benefits, baking also promotes community building. It allows you to work side by side with other people, and in the process you are able to share ideas and make new friends.

This program is designed to teach members baking and decorating skills, but also to allow them to experience community service and the benefits it has on each party (ie: those receiving and those giving). Last year, the program had a great balance between baking and humanitarian activities. We would like to participate in more community service activities than in previous years. We plan to have two bake sales per semester, one of which will be a collaboration with another L/L program that shares our values, with each bake sale benefitting a different cause. Last year we made monthly visits to the Ronald McDonald house, a charity that provides housing for families whose loved ones are sick and in the hospital, and found that it was both beneficial for the residents as well as a really wonderful opportunity for us to serve the community. We hope to continue this ongoing project. Along with the long term project, we hope do several smaller projects including a cookie decorating workshop for the child care center in L/L and a feminine product drive (using baked goods as a donation incentive) for the women served by COTS who may not have access to such vital items.

We plan to accomplish these goals by discussing bake sales, service project, and collaborations with program members at our weekly meetings. These weekly meetings have proven to not only be effective for planning our various events, but are a great way for members to get to know one another and share ideas. In addition to our meetings, we will be hosting a column-wide holiday dinner before winter break so that everyone can look back on their semester together. This event and others like it will not only promote program bonding, but will allow Cakes with a Cause members to build stronger relationships with other students and Living/Learning programs. We also hope to have a few small events within Cakes with a Cause to promote program bonding. Community is very important to us, and building relationships within our program is of the utmost importance.
CARIBBEAN HOUSE

Overview

The Caribbean House is provided to let participants feel a sense of home away from home. It is a wonderful experience to be a part of and engage other participants that may be able to relate and connect with. The main purpose and mission for this house is to not only educate the students that live in it, but also to educate the UVM community about Caribbean Cultures.
The Chinese House has been a Living/Learning Center program since the fall semester of 1998. In the past 16 years, it has provided a living and learning place for students who are learning the Chinese language and are interested in Chinese culture. It is also a place where American and Chinese students can come together after class to have extracurricular activities that help to enrich their experiences with Chinese and American cultures and to reinforce their Chinese and English language skills, with the assistance of language faculty members of the Chinese Language Program at UVM and visiting instructors and scholars from China.
CLAY...

Overview

The Clay House helps participants in our program learn how to express themselves, problem-solve, think critically, and communicate effectively using clay and the skills they will learn as potters. Participants in this program will learn to be skilled potters with a solid foundation in technique, but also to be creative and push themselves as artists (and as critical thinkers) from the start. This program is about members learning that pottery is more than just making a high volume of functional pieces. Clay is a medium that lends itself uniquely to many sizes, shapes, colors, and textures. As a result of this, the opportunities to use clay to communicate a variety of thoughts, feelings, emotions, and situations, both realistic and abstract, is limitless. Participants will attend weekly classes to build their knowledge and skill, and are encouraged to share their ideas and collaborate with other members to enhance their learning. The Clay House is a community of potters of all styles and levels, who want to grow as artists, students, and most importantly, people.
CLIMBING HOUSE

Overview

The UVM climbing house will be a living and learning community created for students who wish to integrate climbing-oriented activities and habits into their daily life. Climbing House will facilitate opportunities to get outside often throughout the climbing season and train inside as a group during the offseason. The learning objectives of this project cater specifically towards newer climbers as to create an inclusive and encouraging climbing community. In addition to climbing, the house will encourage general health, fitness and environmental conservation through several different methods detailed within this packet. The bottom line is climbers will have opportunities to learn, climb, and give back to the Greater Vermont climbing community. This community is an effort to bring the energy and zeal of UVM climbers to Vermont’s climbing scene in order to grow the sport of climbing and build a relationship with Vermont climbers. As climbing is a dangerous sport; at the root Climbing House is both an education and understanding of risks involved.
COMMUNITY FOR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview

The Community for Artistic Development (CAD) is a program based on the enhancement of artistic abilities, while remaining invested in a nurturing environment that is educational, in order to create well-rounded and invested students. The community fostered by CAD will include all forms of artistic expression, such as poetry, writing, music, painting, drawing, photography, and filmography, among others, to create a diverse and comfortable atmosphere. CAD will create an affinity between artists through the acceptance of varied mediums. Community members will work together to promote an open environment where we can share ideas through collaborative works and events that will be promoted throughout this program. Our community will create platforms for members to share, expand, and develop their artistic work. While simultaneously creating an array of options for mediums, we will achieve our goal of diversity. The acceptance of people’s differences will then lead to the symbiotic relationships we wish to create between education and community. We highly encourage students to challenge existing views and ideas, and explore their artistic interests through collaboration and learning within the program.
DEAD POETS SOCIETY

Overview

“Carpe diem! Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary.” With these fervent words, John Keating, an English teacher at Welton Academy, a New England boarding school, brings poetry to life in the 1989 film, Dead Poets Society. We hope to not only bring poetry to life at UVM, but to color the Living/Learning Center with poetry, film, art, music, theatre, and all they have to offer young people, especially college students. We have seen first hand, lives altered by the moving power of artistic expression. This program strives to immerse its members in the world through a new lens – one experienced between the lines of poetry, short stories, and scripts, in the silent moments of our favorite movies, within the notes of beloved songs, and beyond. As a program we will decide what films we watch, what texts we read, and what other art we study as a group, voting based on categories of types of writing, types of music, film genres, and so on. Weekly meetings will alternate between discussions of work and film viewings with discussions of genres and specific films.
ECOLOGICAL ART HOUSE

Overview

The Ecological Art House is designed to help the environment through art. Whether participants are interested in the organic beauty of nature or activism through art, this will be a supportive environment for them. Students will explore repetition of pattern in nature and how the organic shapes are found in everyday life in comparison to the mechanical shapes with hard lines that we see in cities and urbanized areas. In the areas around UVM, we would like to have students explore new media for their art and learn about the impacts of these mediums on the earth. In addition to learning about art, we would like to add an activism component to our program. Students will engage in climate change debates and, through art, seek ways to help the earth.

In order to complete our goals, we will have outings to surrounding places of natural beauty. Here we will paint, sketch, write, or otherwise creatively express what we experience. We would like to meet with a few local artists that have conservation or environmentally friendly practices in mind when they create, and see how their work can inspire our own. By being in a small community like Living and Learning, members will be able to comfortably share, critique, and collaborate on their artwork all while forming a tight family of individuals who want to use their art to change the world.
EXPLORING BUSINESS

Overview

The Exploring Business program will allow students to explore their interests within the business world through the scope of three themes: Global Business, Sustainable Business, and Entrepreneurship. Within this program, there will be several opportunities to learn more about the business field. Students who live in the “Exploring Business” community will be invited to professional presentations, field trips to local organizations - ranging from large businesses to new start-up companies, networking events, social events, community service events, In-House professionalism trainings, career preparation meetings and In-House professional academic advising. This program will also allow students to meet major players in the business world in varying fields to discuss business trends, career options, and the current (and future) markets.

It is our hope that through these activities, students will be able to make a confident and informed decision in declaring their Interdisciplinary theme while becoming engaged during their time at the University of Vermont.
FARM TO TABLE HOUSE

Overview

The Farm to Table house will focus on the importance of food in community building, supporting local and buying organic, and learning more about where our food comes from on both a local and global scale. We will delve into food issues surrounding social justice, economics, and politics, and learn how food impacts our various communities. We will also work to explore our personal relationships with food by expanding our culinary knowledge, learning about nutrition and dietary choices, and exploring our overall effects on the environment and food industry. Our community will foster a peaceful, safe, and accepting environment that encourages people to build relationships and support one another.

We wholeheartedly stand by this.
FREESTYLE SKI HOUSE

Overview

The Living/ Learning Freestyle Ski House is a living environment for students with a passion for freestyle and freeride skiing, and a desire to progress their skills and knowledge of the sport. Designed for students interested in getting started in freeskiing, students with a desire to build on their already practiced abilities, or students with a strong drive to continue the sport at a professional level, the Freestyle Ski House is a place where students can safely work together to achieve their goals. Organized and directed by two passionate skiers, interested in all aspects of the sport, as well as theirs and others progression, the Freestyle Ski House is a welcoming and supportive environment for all interested. Revolving around personal progression and short/long-term goals, ski safety, and different forms of ski media, the Freestyle Ski House will organize events for members and non-members to enjoy the sport and the thriving culture around it. The Freestyle Ski House will also discuss the economic and social structure of the ski community, as well as targeting racial and gender biases in the sport and in ski media. Members will also explore the effects that climate change and global warming have been having on the ski industry. As a house, we will premier ski films to get members excited and enthusiastic, invite local professional skiers and company founders, and promote safety through increased knowledge in ski equipment and informational sessions on proper ski etiquette. Organized ski outings will keep members enthusiastic and focused on overall house goals. By teaming up with college sponsored associations, such as UVM Ski and Snowboard Club, and the UVM Freestyle Ski Team, the Freestyle Ski House will be able to help organize ski outreach events on campus for all UVM students. The Freestyle Ski Program will help members progress their skiing abilities and overall knowledge of the sport, while providing a productive academic environment. The Freestyle Ski House is a safe environment for all UVM students!
GERMAN HOUSE

Overview

The German House Program has been designed to provide students the opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the German language and culture in ways not commonly possible in a traditional classroom setting and timetable. Through a program of films, discussions, guest lecturers, group meals, excursions, festivities and other cultural and social activities, an environment is created in which German is not only encouraged but becomes a medium of expressing the students’ personal interests. In the past, the German House has proved to be both a good preparation for study abroad in German-speaking countries, as well as a means for students to retain fluency upon returning to UVM.

With the aid of the faculty and student Program Directors, students can reinforce language-learning and share their experiences and knowledge of German culture. German House residents traditionally have identified personal and social aspects (the group spirit and the quality of life in the suites) as being among the strongest features of the program.

The basic objectives of the German House Program activities are to deepen students’ awareness of German culture and to further their ability to express themselves in spoken and written German. The process through which these objectives will be met is thus cumulative, rather than end-goal oriented.
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Overview

The objective of the Health Professions Living/Learning Community is to foster an environment for students who are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. We intend to provide opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds to come together and further their interests and personal experiences in health, while inspiring others to do the same. The main objectives of our program are 1) To diversify student knowledge of various aspects of health related fields 2) Encourage members to partake in undergraduate health related experiences and opportunities 3) Extend our knowledge and experiences to help contribute to the greater Burlington and UVM communities by volunteering in group activities regarding health outreach and/or awareness. Based on our objectives, we have formulated a new slogan that will act as a theme for our next year. “Educate, activate, advocate” will guide our actions for next year. “Educate” will represent our first objective to learn from one another through group presentations intended to improve our healthcare knowledge base. “Activate” will represent our second objective to help our program members to gain practical educational experiences such as job shadowing and healthcare related volunteering. Lastly, “Advocate” will represent our third objective with the goal to focus on service based events with the goal of improving the greater community around us.
HIKING HOUSE

Overview

The goal of the Hiking House is to create a community that encourages people, regardless of their hiking experience, to learn to love hiking and the outdoors, while fostering independence and leadership in its members. The house will work to teach members the basics of hiking, and also how to find joy and peace in the outdoors. As a house we will go on a number of excursions to local mountains, building up with a goal of summing a major mountain in the area. In conjunction with actual trips, members will have opportunities to learn more about the art of hiking through speakers, books, movies etc., and be constantly emerged in a healthy and curious environment. The Hiking House will be somewhere that people of all backgrounds and abilities get to be part of a team and a larger purpose, bettering themselves while supporting and working with others. Additionally, leaders would incorporate local youth from Burlington and surrounding towns in these programs. In doing so, members will gain confidence and a sense of leadership by passing some of their knowledge and skills on to children. We plan on working in coordination with the Outing Club to learn from the extensive experience of the successful club, which has inspired us to create a residential community. The Hiking House will appeal to incoming students with a sense of adventure who either want to feed their passion for hiking, or find it.
Many people in the Western world are unaware of the traditions and cultural aspects of India. Indian culture has had a long lasting impact on the world. The accomplishments of great Indian artists, scientists, mathematicians, and architects during “The Classical Age” still echoes today. For example, one of the most basic concepts of mathematics, “zero,” was developed by the rulers of the Gupta empire. Aryabhata’s expositions on astronomy gave calculations of the solar year and the shape and movement of astral bodies with remarkable accuracy. All these accomplishments have changed the way we think. There are so many more groundbreaking discoveries by many Indians and not many people are aware of the cultural aspects of India and why we celebrate certain holidays. Thus, the India House will acknowledge and appreciate all of India’s revolutionary achievements to its members and many more!
INTEGRATED FINE ARTS

Overview

IFA, one of four College of Arts and Sciences full-year Teacher-Advisor Programs, is designed for adventurous students who seek to broaden their understanding of the creative process by working in a variety of artistic media: film and television, music, theatre, creative writing, visual art, and dance. IFA has been designated a "Dean's Signature" program because it is designed for highly motivated first-year students with strong academic records.

IFA enrolls students in a special "suite" of four courses—two each semester. At least three are small classes reserved exclusively for IFA students. The courses, chosen from art, music, theatre, film and television studies, dance, and creative writing, dynamically complement one another and relate to an overarching annual theme, such as "Breaking Boundaries: The Experimental Spirit in the Arts." Course work is both studio-based and scholarly, giving students hands-on experience as well as the opportunity to collaborate and examine the history, practice, theory, criticism, integration, social relevance, and connectivity of varied creative forms.

IFA students will become leaders in creating, showcasing, and cultivating the arts, both within the university (utilizing the fine arts, humanities, and sciences), and within the greater community (through exhibits, performances, and other events). During the spring semester, students may elect to design their own creative and scholarly projects. Community outlets may include Burlington City Arts, local museums, the Flynn Center, Waterfront Theater, the Vermont International Film Festival, Vermont Stage Company, local music groups, and other arts organizations and venues.

MORE INFO:  http://www.uvm.edu/cas/tap/?Page=fullyearprog/ifa.php
INTEGRATED HUMANITIES

Overview

IHP is one of four College of Arts and Sciences full-year Teacher-Advisor Programs. IHP has been designated a "Dean's Signature" program because it is designed for highly motivated first-year students with strong academic records. Established in 1978, it has a long and distinguished history at UVM. The program is designed for students who seek a solid foundation in the humanities. IHP consists of three year-long courses in literature, history, and religion/philosophy, with an emphasis placed on social experience and personal questioning. The program provides a foundation in the liberal arts that benefits students regardless of their major or future career. IHP students have established careers in law, diplomacy, higher education, medicine, environmentalism, public service, as well as the liberal arts.

Courses, taught by award-winning faculty, deal with the great texts, thinkers and ideas of the past and present, and the responses they provide to questions of contemporary life. Assignments focus on common themes in the disciplines, and courses are taught congruently so that each complements and enriches the other, making reading and writing assignments more manageable.

IHP courses are:

- Literature of Western Tradition
- Ideas in the Western Tradition
- Religion, Philosophy, and Self-Knowledge

Additional benefits of the program include the option to live with other IHP students in one of the Residential Learning Communities and to be advised and mentored by an IHP faculty member during the first year.

MORE INFO:  http://www.uvm.edu/cas/tap/?Page=fullyearprog/ihp.php
INTEGRATED SOCIAL SCIENCES

Overview

ISSP is one of four College of Arts and Sciences full-year Teacher-Advisor Programs. The program has been designated a "Dean's Signature" program because it is designed for highly motivated first-year students with strong academic records. Founded in 1993, it has a long and distinguished history at UVM. ISSP explores social problems that shape the modern world from an interdisciplinary perspective. During their year in the program, students take five semester-long courses in disciplines such as anthropology, economics, geography, global studies, political science, and sociology-three courses in the fall semester and two in the spring. They work closely with faculty to understand a variety of social issues such as global environmental degradation, social inequality, economic growth and breakdowns, international political relations, and race relations in the United States. Students may also design, research, and write an ISSP thesis. Small and interactive, all ISSP courses explore important problems in a seminar setting, involve penetrating discussion and analytical writing, and empower students with an integrated approach to the social sciences that shapes their studies and thinking both inside and outside the classroom.

Students have identified many benefits of the program that extend throughout their college careers. In addition to sharing engaging seminars, most students live together in the Living/Learning Center, and all students are advised and mentored by an ISSP faculty member during the first year.

MORE INFO:  http://www.uvm.edu/cas/tap/?Page=fullyearprog/issp.php
JAPANESE HOUSE

Overview

This Japanese culture and language Residential Learning Community is designed for students eager to study Japanese culture and/or language in mutual teaching and learning activities. Its major goal is to explore Japanese culture through shared activities. Use of the Japanese language in suites and during program activities will be encouraged but not required. The residential component of the Japanese House is open to all UVM students who are currently studying or who have studied Japanese culture and/or language, and also to students who have native or near-native fluency in Japanese and are willing to share their knowledge and skills. The extra-residential components of the Japanese House encourage participation by all members of the UVM community and of the local Vermont community who wish to share their interest in Japan, especially including visiting and resident Japanese nationals. Basic to this program are the convictions that the best way to learn is to teach others and that experience is essential to the learning process. Program activities are guided by participant interests and are made as enjoyable for all as possible. The program members are expected to interact with other Global Village members to share different cultures for better mutual understanding. Japanese House Program residents are encouraged to take Japanese language courses at the relevant level.
KNITTING AND CROCHET HOUSE

Overview

The Knitting and Crochet House aims to improve technique and knowledge in both knitting and crocheting by developing skills to make different types of items and stitches, and by learning about the history and uses of yarn. In addition to knitting and crochet, program members will also learn about felting, embroidery, weaving, and the process of yarn making. We want a close community of people, both experienced and inexperienced, who are interested in any form of these yarn and wool crafts. We hope to create an encouraging, friendly environment where people will help each other to complete their projects and presentations. The presentations will allow members to teach the group about a yarn related topic and the projects will allow members to apply their skills. Members will also be given the chance to improve their leadership skills by planning and facilitating a Yarn Barn in a small group.
LA MAISON FRANCAISE

Overview

Our vision for La Maison Française is to bring together students who are interested in French language, culture, literature, and traditions. This program will help students immerse themselves in different aspects of Francophone way of life in an engaging and educational way. The Living/Learning Center creates a vibrant community for students to explore other cultures and to share their experiences, and La Maison Française reinforces this kind of environment. Each member will be given the opportunity to speak French in various environments, participate in communal events, share their ideas and experiences, and take on leadership positions for projects that interest them. Our role as Program Directors will be to organize a variety of activities, ranging from films to lectures to other cultural events in order to fully expose members to diverse aspects of francophone culture. Students who are studying French will have an opportunity to learn outside the classroom in order to fully understand and to learn a language in a social, communal setting. Part of learning a language is being pushed outside of your comfort zone, and we hope to give members both support and challenges along the way.
LGBTQA COLLABORATIVE

Overview

It is up to us to build the kind of LGBTQA community we want to be a part of. As Audre Lorde said, “Without community there is no liberation.” This program will build community, help students develop skills for building community and leadership roles, and promote a deeper understanding of the full diversity of sexual and gender identities. The LGBTQA Collaborative is home to a group of students devoted to learning and expanding awareness of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and intersecting identities. Residents will participate in a series of monthly workshops/discussions led by staff from the LGBTQA Center, Living and Learning Center, Department of Residential Life, and/or other campus resources. Students will explore the challenges to and possibilities for community building and leadership within the LGBTQA community. Monthly events may include movies, speakers, and community/campus events surrounding LGBTQA identities, as well as other student-interest programs. Activities may also include fun events with other suites in order to promote a richer, more meaningful, and more inclusive LGBTQA community.
MOVING PICTURE HOUSE

Overview

*Film* is a fascinating medium. It is a view into the deepest, most desperate desires of the society that created it, as well as the darkest of fears. Using the lens of cinema, Moving Picture House will observe the changes of American culture across the years, spanning film history, as well as the cultures of other countries. Beyond this, this program will create its own movies, and strive to develop and strengthen the skills of each member as a filmmaker and artist. Students with a passion for film and all of its facets will be encouraged to participate and bond over a mutual love of the medium.
MULTINATIONAL SPORTS HOUSE

Overview

The Multi-National Sports House intends to teach participants about the importance of world sports and bring out their own love for all things sports. The house will bring together a like-minded community of sport lovers, athletes, or both, and teach about the role that sports can play in the world, while also providing participants with an exposure to many world sports. Participants will also spread their love of sports throughout the UVM community through participation and/or support of sports on campus. We stress “Multi-National” because too often we only focus on sports that are popular in this country, and forget about other sports that hundreds of countries participate in on a global scale. These Multi-National sports can do amazing things for individual countries or the world and we hope that participants can gain knowledge of this importance. Another large part of the program will be individual members presenting to their peers about their own sport(s) of interest so that participants can expand their knowledge of Multi-National sports. Multi-National Sports House members will also encourage their peers to be active and engaged with the sporting community here on campus. The program aims to expand knowledge and a greater appreciation for sports and their significance to the world.
NOT YOUR AVERAGE SPORT

Overview

The goal of our program is to introduce members of our community to atypical sports and use our experiences to build a community through academic success, friendship, and personal wellness. As a program, we will use sports to bring the community together with teamwork and shared experiences. Through participation in these sports, we aim to help members of our program develop and improve skills such as motivation, commitment, camaraderie, hard work, discipline, and more. Additionally, we hope that members of this program will have a chance to improve their own fitness and athleticism, regardless of current ability. We wish to help members of the community improve through both group activities and self-guided routine. We want to help first-year students acclimate to college life as well as provide a healthy environment and tight-knit community. We will use sports to build community as well as benefit the individual member’s personal wellbeing. These sports include but are not limited to, foursquare, ultimate Frisbee, hurling, e-sports, and underwater hockey. We also plan to play adaptive sports such as Paralympic volleyball, sled hockey, and goalball. This way, we can be inclusive those who are differently abled member of the UVM community regardless of ability. Not only will members gain a sense of community and personal wellness, they will also have fun and gain knowledge of the changing worldview of uncommon sports.

Members of this program will learn about and take part in all sports, with emphasis on uncommon, “not average,” sports. Sports are a great way to establish a community that will promote a healthy lifestyle, and provide an environment for academic success. Physical fitness and gaining knowledge are key aspects of this program. Members will learn and teach about atypical sports, and the history of those sports. Through these experiences, we hope participants can improve upon their health, and develop necessary skills for success. Sports provide a platform for connections across boundaries. They are able to transcend cultural, gender, religious, racial, or any other differences through teamwork and unity created by the sport. We plan to translate our sports experiences to community service, collaborations with other Living and Learning communities, and leadership skills.

“Not average” sports can require as much skill, effort, and friendly competition as more conventional and varsity, but provide a fun and friendly environment that can’t be found in an average sport. This uniqueness aids in education and camaraderie between players. By teaching the history, rules, and strategies of each sport to community members, students will apply leadership and expand their, and the community’s, knowledge of underappreciated sports. It will also give members a chance to share uncommon sports that they are passionate about with the rest of the community. Taking part in daily sports will bring our community together on a level that is hard to achieve off the field. Sports and fitness will bring out aspects of community members that promote healthy competition, hard work, and motivation. Through the two frequent interactions with each other during and
after games, members will develop a sense of belonging in a secure environment that not only accepts, but welcomes differences in sexual orientation, race, gender, ethnicity, or ability.

OUR MINDS MATTER

Overview

The Our Minds Matters program creates a positive and encouraging environment that works towards addressing the importance of mental health and related issues throughout the year. The program’s efforts are largely focused on introducing methods to promote mental health. Individuals will increase their understanding of various ways in which they can improve their lifestyles and mental health. Although personally beneficial, the inclusive environment of the My Mind Matters program makes it possible for participants to explore new approaches to their own mental health in a collaborative manner alongside suitemates. Participants will also work collaboratively to de-stigmatize mental illnesses and stress the reasons for which they should be recognized and treated as any legitimate ailment. The initiatives surrounding the de-stigmatization of mental illness will make it a more feasible task for peers to seek help. Goals of the My Mind Matters program will gradually be achieved through bi-weekly activities that create a safe place to converse, remove stigmas surrounding mental illness, and/or promote mental health initiatives.
PHOTO

Overview

The Photo program is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the technical, creative/artistic, historical, and contemporary aspects of photography. This program is designed so, students of varying skill levels will become proficient in using a 35mm SLR film camera and develop competency in darkroom techniques, and also become proficient in use of digital cameras and computer photo editing. Students will also have an understanding in current trends brought about by new technologies and have an understanding of photography as a visual language and creative outlet. Students are encouraged and supported through a series of weekly program classes, monthly critiques, independent and group assignments, special topic workshops and guest lecturers, to expand their understanding and use of photography.

During the spring semester, program members will apply the photographic skills they have developed through the year in an end of the year photo program group exhibit in the Living/Learning Center’s Gallery. Students are encouraged to visit local libraries, galleries, and museums to facilitate their visual knowledge.

Students are to meet with each other as a group on a weekly basis to learn new techniques from visiting teachers and/or photographers. Students will participate in group trips to shoot pictures as a group in various locations. Students are also to attend a weekly non-credit class, monthly critiques, and participate in program events. Independent work outside of class sessions will be required to complete assignments. Students with more experience are expected to mentor novice students.

Members will utilize the facilities of the Living/Learning Center’s Photo Co-op. A Photo Co-op membership fee is required (currently $90 per semester) and is payable by check or cash at the start of each semester. Each member will be provided chemistry, a limited amount of supplies (film & printing paper) to be used for program related assignments and mat board (for the end of the year Gallery exhibit). Members should expect to purchase additional supplies for personal use as needed. Students are required to have a 35mm SLR camera.

The Photo program is part of the L/L Arts Initiative Residential Learning Community and therefore, students are expected to participate in events that AI and the student members organize. As a member of the Arts Initiative, you are required to take a one credit class that meets on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:20pm. You are encouraged to take this class during your first semester, or by the second semester. You may participate in this class more than once if you choose.
ROTC AND COMMUNITY

Overview

The ROTC Living Learning suite will be a continuation of the program’s latest incarnation. The primary focus of the program will be to further foster the UVM community’s relationship with UVM ROTC Battalion, provide mentorship to first-year program members, and develop strong leadership skills in all members of the community. We will achieve this through collaborative community events in which Cadets, Cadre, potential Cadets and community members will come together to gain a greater understanding of both the UVM ROTC program, and the U.S. Army at large. Additionally, the suite will provide guidance and insight on the Army Values to incoming first-year Cadets and those interested in the program, in order to make these students’ first years as informative and enjoyable as possible. As ROTC and the U.S. Army are ultimately service based organizations, we will establish a presence in the community and involve ourselves in volunteer and engagement activities whenever possible.
The primary goal of the “Russian House: An Introduction to Russian People, Culture, and their Society” course will be to present our first- and second-year students with a broad overview of Russian cultural, social, political, and historical topics covering Russian, Soviet, and, now, Post-Soviet Russia at the beginning of the 21st century. Admission into the Russian House is limited to students currently studying the Russian language or to those who have enrolled in a Beginning Russian course for the fall semester.

Members of the German and Russian Department, as well as faculty from the Russian and East European Studies Program, will give bi-weekly lectures and slide presentations covering a variety of historical and cultural topics pertaining to Kievan, Muscovite, Romanov, Soviet, and contemporary Russia. While the Program Director, Professor Kevin Carter (German and Russian Department) will address a number of topics related to Russian literature, history, and politics, other REES faculty will speak on Russian history, film and society (Professor Denise Youngblood, History Dept.); Russian music, cuisine, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy (Professor Kenneth Nalibow, German/Russian Dept.); Russian/Slavic social and cultural anthropology as well as contemporary Russian popular music, tattoo culture, student political movements (Professor Jennifer Dickinson, Anthropology Dept.); post-Soviet Russian and Central Asian politics, economics, and business culture (Professor Michele Commercio, Political Science Dept.). On occasion, Russian visitors to UVM will hold personal meetings with Russian House students. In 2006, for example, Russia’s greatest living poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, gave a special poetry reading of his poetry.

The goal at all times will be to present students in the Russian House with a general introduction to a broad range of cultural, historical, social, and political topics related to a 1000-year history of Russia. Students will prepare oral presentations as well as a research paper on related topics of their choosing. As opportunities arise (e.g. the Flynn Theatre, the Fleming Museum), Program students will attend local music and cultural events in the Burlington area as well as a number of Russian films on campus. In the fall of 2007, Russian House students traveled to Montreal for an authentic Russian meal at the “Kalinka” restaurant. In the spring semester of 2008, Russian House students will organize a campus-wide Russian chess tournament.

In order to build upon Russian language skills acquired in the classroom, Professor Carter will hold a “Russian conversation hour” each week of the semester to assist students with "everyday" aspects of the language (linguistic etiquette at the dinner-table; Russian pen-pal correspondence; Russian scrabble and monopoly; Russian jokes/anecdotes, etc). To assist Professor Carter and to help Russian House students with their study of the language, a number of Russian exchange students from Irkutsk, Etaterinburg, Yaroslavl, Moscow, St. Petersburg, etc. will participate in Russian House activities, including Russian cooking and Russian chess playing.
SAVE THE TREES!

Overview

Climbing a tree incorporates a certain mindfulness and embodies a connection with nature that is often difficult to find in the hectic pace of everyday life. Save the Trees! was born of a mutual love for nature and tree climbing during just such a moment of mindfulness and connection. This program will encourage members to learn about local trees, how to use nature as a form of stress relief, and how to further the goals of nature conservation.

Our hope for this program is that members will gain a new appreciation for the value of trees within our local Vermont landscape. As a community, we will focus on the importance of the environment by incorporating sustainability into our everyday lives. We will take trips to natural areas off campus, such as Centennial Woods, in order to explore the therapeutic possibilities present in activities such as tree climbing and to learn about the types and roles of trees native to Vermont ecosystems. During the winter, we will plan snowy nature walks to appreciate the changing seasons. In the spring, we will potentially team up with the UVM chapter of the Society of American Foresters to plant trees. In founding Save the Trees! we hope to enable the students of UVM to better appreciate the natural phenomena that surrounds us. This program will blend art, sustainability, and tree climbing in ways that will make us more conscious of Vermont’s natural beauty.
The Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror program plans to create an environment that will let its members explore the genres of sci-fi, fantasy, horror, and related genres, and expand their knowledge of works both familiar and unfamiliar. The goal is to create a community that will allow for extensive and thoughtful discussion of the genres in a safe environment. We will introduce works that are classics, as well as ones that may be more obscure. We also plan to bring in works from other cultures to increase the cultural knowledge of our members. There is hope that we will be able to encourage active participation from the larger UVM community by putting on activities and events to spread knowledge of the genres to them. We plan to continue the expansion into many forms of media, such as film, video games, literature, and art. Members will leave with a greater knowledge of Science Fiction and Fantasy and Horror, as well as the importance that they play in our society.
LA CASA

Overview

Spanish House is a dynamic program designed for students in the Spanish program, or those who have studied abroad and are interested in reinforcing their knowledge of this language and related cultures. Members of the program will participate in a variety of events focusing on themes related to the Spanish-speaking diaspora, including dinners, shows, movies, etc. These activities are meant to create a sense of community for the members of the House, and also share aspects of the language and cultures with the Global Village members and the University at large. We also sponsor a variety of activities including lectures, film series, and the annual Hispanic Forum, all of which are open to the greater Burlington community. By participating in the program, members will have a great opportunity to improve their language skills while living in a supportive environment. Members of Spanish House are thus required to have a minimum proficiency in the Spanish Language, since it is expected that Spanish will be spoken in the program suites. Thus, a requirement to be selected to participate in the program is to be enrolled in a Spanish course during the first semester of living in the program.
UVM MOTH: STORYTELLING

Overview

The UVM Moth is a community that revolves around the art of storytelling. Based on The Moth, an organization based in New York City that offers podcasts and radio shows featuring storytellers from all walks of life, the UVM Moth encourages its members as well as non-members to share their own stories. Students do not have to be experienced writers or performers to participate. We hope to form a supportive, open-minded, and encouraging environment where every voice is heard. Participants will help each other to reflect on their own experiences in an effective way, and explore the craft of story construction and presentation.

A main event of this program that we hope to hold is a Moth Story Slam. Here, participants have the opportunity to tell their stories to a larger audience, and non-members who are interested can share their stories as well. The number one goal is to hear a diverse variety of narratives from as much of the UVM community as possible.
UVM.TECH

Overview

The Technology House is designed to bring together Computer/Information Scientist, Engineers and those interested in the technology field, as they learn about the technological advancements of the world. Members of Technology House will use the skills they have to put together technical projects, like making phone/computer applications, constructing robots, building machines like quadcopters, or even forming a website. Each student is required to at least learn a coding language, and have some skill using a computer (practically everyone). As a community, we will help each other in any way with computers/engineering. We will also come together and discuss possible jobs and opportunities in the technology and engineering field. Technology House plans to be a program in which anyone in the UVM community can come and receive computer assistance or even learn about technology in general. A community goal is to put together an event called “Hour of Code”, where we all sit down and learn a new type of coding language. Also, a student lecture/presentation where we all share our ideas and projects to the community. Other events include quadcopter flying, rc car building/racing, and electrical engineering with computer systems.
WILDERNESS ADVENTURE AND NATURALIST SKILLS

Overview

In the Wilderness Adventure and Naturalist Skills program (WANS), we have a few goals that we will be striving for in the future. One of the most important things a potential member of our program must have is the unquestionable love for being and spending time outdoors. While skills and knowledge are important as well, we feel that being passionate about the outdoors is the primary focus of our program. We don’t require members to be elite outdoorsmen and we believe that it doesn’t take fancy gear or prior knowledge to be able to enjoy the outdoors with your fellow suitemates.

We have the full intention of teaching and learning about different outdoor survival and wilderness skills. Some of these may include but are not restricted to building fires safely, constructing shelters, minimalist fishing skills, edible plant identification and general camping skills. We have also considered bringing guest speakers to talk to our members about varying outdoor activities and subjects. While we do plan on having events scheduled, we are very open to and encourage incoming members to teach and share their knowledge and skillsets.

We have big plans for our wilderness program and plan to offer as many new opportunities to get outside as possible for our members.
Our foremost goal is to facilitate and encourage the appreciation of World Music. Studying and appreciating the music of another culture opens a door into a new way of thinking, not just about music, but of culture itself. For those new to World Music, we hope to instill a new passion and appreciation. For those who already know World Music, the goal is to share and discuss different genres and interpretations.