Living/Learning Programs

- ALANA House
- Book House \textit{NEW!}
- Climbing House
- Coffee House \textit{NEW!}
- Eco Food \textit{NEW!}
- Farm to Table House
- Freestyle Ski House
- Health Professions
- Hiking House
- Law & Government \textit{NEW!}
- LGBTQA Collaborative
- Our Minds Matter
- ROTC and Community
- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror
- STEM House \textit{NEW!}
- Thinking Design \textit{NEW!}
- Travel New England \textit{NEW!}
- Wilderness Adventure and Naturalist Skills
- Women in STEM and Health \textit{NEW!}

Arts Initiative Programs

- Audio Art \textit{NEW!}
- Clay
- Comedy House \textit{NEW!}
- Community for Artistic Development (CAD)
- Creative Writing \textit{NEW!}
- Dead Poets Society
- Fiber Arts \textit{NEW!}
- Videography/Moving Picture House \textit{NEW!}
- World Music

Global Village Houses

- Africa House
- Arabic House \textit{NEW!}
- ASL & Deaf Culture House \textit{NEW!}
- Caribbean House
- Chinese House
- German House
- India House
- Japanese House
- La Casa de Cultura
- La Maison Francaise
- Russian House
- Shalom Home \textit{NEW!}
- Tea House \textit{NEW!}
Africa House

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

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.
Arabic House

The Arabic Culture and language program is designed for all those eager to learn about Arabic culture and language through mutual activities of learning and teaching. In addition to students just beginning their study of Arabic, we will welcome to the residence those who have native or near-native fluency so that they may share their skills and knowledge. We will open many of our activities to the widest possible audience in order to familiarize the public with aspects of Arabic culture. 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.

Elements of program activities will be guided and chosen by residents' interests, and events will be held celebrating holidays such as Eid al-Adha and Mawlid. The residents are expected to interact with other Global Village members to share in all the participating cultures for better mutual understanding. Arabic House Program residents are encouraged to take Arabic Language courses at the relevant level. This program is designed to meet several educational needs of students studying Arabic language and culture, such as the opportunity for active, personal engagement with aspects of Arabic culture as expressed in film, literature, and cuisine, the experience of using the Arabic language outside of a classroom setting with native speakers other than their instructors, and the ability to learn by sharing their own knowledge of Arabic culture and language.
ASL and Deaf Culture House

The ASL and Deaf Culture House's main goal is to establish a community that fosters a respect and understanding of and for Deaf culture. Through immersion in the language of Deaf people, sign language, we will come together to learn about and become advocates for the Deaf community. Our program will be based around the necessity for social justice as well as the experience of each of our individual members and their personal language and cultural identities and the way those identities can be similar to or even parallel to that of Deaf people, sign language, and Deaf culture. As a community based in language and culture, it is important to understand intersectional identities and the way that each person's experiences shape who they are and the way that they navigate the world.

We will be lively, exciting, and constantly evolving. Together, we will become more proficient signers and more active advocates. There are multiple events in the upcoming year that will help build a stress and judgement free environment where learning is encouraged and enjoyable. We will engage in signing dinners twice a month and collaborate with the UVM ASL club in order to foster a group of people with the same interests excited about learning ASL and being a part of the Deaf community.

When the year is over we hope that our members will continue fostering a love for the language that captured our attention and that each member will have a deeper understanding, respect, and love for all of the things that make us different because those are the things that make us, us.
Audio Art

Audio art encompasses all forms of art that can be listened to. This could possibly include poetry, lyrical music, spoken word, instrumental music, storytelling, comedy, and any other fathomable art form. The goal is to create an environment of flowing creativity and artistic development. Each member will learn to advance their own art and to learn of and create other forms of art. This will be accomplished through peer to peer help sessions, presentation and critique of art, live performances, and much more. It is not completely necessary for participants to excel in a specific art - any person willing and open-minded is welcome to learn and grow with us. We hope to create a supportive living space where participants are comfortable sharing their deepest thoughts and will feel wholly respected and purposeful. We want to share our love of Audio Art with the community of UVM and Burlington, to show how important it is to expel our emotions and share our perspectives with others.
Book House

The Book House will provide an engaging living environment in order to foster a love of books, reading, and diverse viewpoints and stories within the Living/Learning community. It will continuously challenge program members as readers to expand their reading horizons and worldviews. We will build community around reading and the exploration of genres, expose program members to new literature, genres, and worldviews, and facilitate meaningful and constructive discussion around the books we read. We will provide opportunities for members to actively participate in literature-related events and community service, and create literature-related events for the greater Living and Learning and UVM communities. We will host a program a book club, with alternating genres and input from program members towards book choice, and attend events and program-run activities related to the current reading. We will read and discuss books from not only different genres, but different cultural viewpoints and perspectives to cultivate a valuing of diversity and experiences other than our own. We will encourage members to tell and value their own stories, and create a space that values the many experiences of humanity and intellectual growth through books; by means of reading, writing, appreciation, discussion, and creativity.
Caribbean House

The Caribbean House is created to allow students to feel a part of a smaller community in which they can relate to one another and create a bond through similarities throughout the year. Its main purpose is to educate on Caribbean culture, which can help others learn and experience different beliefs and principles.

Our goal is to create new and exciting experiences for students and the community, and to lead events that can help students, faculty, and community members to learn more about who we are as people and what we stand for as a house full of different backgrounds. This housing is greatly known to house people of the Caribbean descent, but also students who want to learn or be a part of this culture. It helps our community grow and respect the differences everyone may share. We think it is important to have a Caribbean House - as diversity increases at the University of Vermont, it is important to not only be acknowledged but also understood.
**Chinese House**

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

The Clay house is so much more than just students working in a studio; it’s a community. The program is a collection of students whose skills are at all different places, we have beginners and advanced level potters. Skill does not matter, rather we encourage the students to learn, grow, and create as individuals when they enter the community. This is a program for students who have a passion for clay, or even beginners who want to learn. Clay is a way that students can express themselves, and as a program we want to teach the members how to self-reflect, accept constructive criticism, and learn enough skills for every member to be proud of the work they accomplish. We want students to take the lessons we learn in class (teamwork, encouragement, community, and dedication) and be able to implement them into their daily lives.
Climbing House

Climbing House is an environment filled with compassionate and wonderful people who are highly driven. As a collective, we feed off of each other's enthusiasm to motivate each other to train and climb together. We hope to continue this collective of climbers in order to carry on another generation of students ecstatic to go outside and rock climb together. We will foster an enthusiastic and ambitious spirit within our climbing community and share with each other our own personal strengths to grow in our technique and abilities as a whole. Housemates will feel supported and inspired by being a part of this community and they will be taught to respect the nature which provides us with the beautiful rocks we are privileged to climb on. We are very excited to foster many new psyched and experienced climbers in the Climbing House!
Comedy House

Comedy has always been a source of happiness for when the world seems bleak and unfriendly. Students who are stressed with school and everyday worries look to the Internet for comedians, comedy movies, memes, and much more to ease their worries. Comedians use the pain they endured in their lifetime as fuel to make others happy, comedy movies use the satire of the experiences we go through in life, and internet culture brings it all together with memes, videos, challenges, animations, skits, and much more. Comedy always finds a way to bring joy to others. Besides this, comedy has a way of connecting everyone in a single community and promotes community building through everyone sharing a common interest - humor.

Christopher Fry once said, “Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair; a narrow escape into faith.” Comedy provides a way for people to join together and talk about serious issues or an escape from stressful situations in life. We would like this program to be a society where people can go to laugh, express themselves, and to learn about what comedy has to offer. A key component to Comedy House is building such an environment not only for our members but also for others in the Living/Learning Community. Here, we will dive into the history of comedy, the different genres, and learning how to use humor as a way to destress from what life throws at you. We want people to walk away with the knowledge that comedy offers individuals a way to be comfortable, express themselves, and learn from life.
Coffee House

As students of the University of Vermont, we are extremely devoted to fostering welcome communication between people, expanding our knowledge outside of our comfort zones, diversifying our experiences, and practicing environmentally friendly living habits. As former students of greenhouse, the environmental sustainability housing program, we have learned how to incorporate sustainability and green living into our everyday life. We are also students passionate about coffee. Coffee is a staple in the diet of most people, relying on its golden elixir to give them enough energy to get through their working day, and who drinks more coffee than college students? For us, an 8:30 class would be miserable without at least one cup beforehand. Of course, coffee is much more than a drink, it is an experience. Countless memories can be tied back to sharing a hot cup o' joe.

We have discovered that there is also a world of education on the matter of coffee. There are dozens of ways to roast coffee and just as many ways to farm coffee plants sustainably. The cultural history of coffee, the economic impact coffee has on large companies versus the local farmers who produce the plant, and the rising demand of the product are all in depth topics to look into. Therefore, we want Coffee House, to be a safe, passionate, and diverse community to discuss, create, learn, and explore all things coffee. The Burlington community is rich with coffee retailers, so we have a lot to learn- right at our doorstep. Our goal is to learn as much about coffee in all aspects, socially, environmentally, economically, culturally, via interactive exploration throughout Burlington's local roasters.
Community for Artistic Development

The Community for Artistic Development (CAD) is a program focused on the enhancement of the artistic abilities of its members. By combining the arts with an educational and welcoming environment, CAD will foster well-rounded and engaged students. Our program will include all forms of artistic expression including, but not limited to, poetry, writing, music, painting, drawing, photography, and filmography to create a diverse and comfortable atmosphere for incoming students.

Community members will work together to promote an open environment where they can share ideas through collaborative works and events that will be promoted throughout the program. Our community will serve as a platform for members to share, expand, and develop their work. By introducing members to different art forms, we will create an accepting environment designed to encourage a bond 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.
Creative Writing House

The Creative Writing House is a program that is centered on writing and sharing works created by students. Participants will practice skills that they can use in their personal and academic lives, such as writing and creativity. Participants will create a variety of works over the course of the semester, spread across a variety of types of creative writing, such as short stories, scriptwriting, and more. Participants will also practice peer review skills by reviewing the drafts of other participants and offering constructive criticism of their works. Students do not need to have any experience with writing or storytelling. Participants will help each other craft their works, and encourage others during the writing process, creating a tight-knit community of writers.
Dead Poets Society

“Carpe diem! Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary.” With these 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 create an environment wholly open to creative expression and development. With the intent of livening the UVM community with the performative art of slam poetry, Dead Poets Society strives to enrich the minds of its members. As a program, we will decide on films to watch, texts to read, and how to actively engage with the greater Burlington community. We will cooperatively work towards two poetry slams during the academic year, culminating in performances involving each member in some way. Weekly meetings will alternate between member-led discussions on literary topics, film viewings, and planning for events.
Eco-Food House

The environment is gaining an increasing role of importance in society, but there are many specifics that people are unaware of. Climate change to many people is a superficial idea that does not affect us in our backyards. For example, most people are unaware that animal agriculture is just as harmful to the environment as the transportation industry. Animal agriculture also emits methane, not carbon, which turns out to be more destructive in the atmosphere.

The simplest way to help the environment is to change the food you eat everyday. The best way to have a positive influence on our world is to first be educated, and then be given the means to act upon that knowledge. Our program members will be provided could provide the means to do both of these. We plan on having a variety of activities based around these topics. Our main group activity would be a dinner once a week, cooked together with all the participants using foods that have a low impact on our environment and are sustainable or grown sustainably (i.e. limiting dairy and meat products and buying food that is locally sourced). Eating sustainably can be difficult, especially when food choices are limited, such as eating in the dining hall, and many people think that this kind of food is bland and distasteful. This dinner will provide the participants with a chance to see that eating sustainably is easy and can taste delicious, as well as encourage the growth of our group as a community. Other activities will include airing documentaries, group discussions on different topics relating to the environment, and getting our group actively involved in bettering the world around us with community service and service projects, in addition to getting outside through hikes and camping trips to reconnect our members with nature and remind them of its beauty and why we work so hard to protect it.

If people had the option to eat sustainably, and the sustainable option tasted just as good as the other, many people would choose the sustainable option. The main issue is that in our modern day, that eco-friendly option is not readily available. Our program aims to provide this option to the students of UVM and inspire the same passion for the world and nature around us that we feel so strongly about, as well as inspire health and community. We plan on being as inclusive as possible, and want people open to learning about the lifestyle and living as sustainably as possible.
Farm to Table House

The Farm to Table movement in America has taken off in recent years with a lot of response, but in recent years there has been critique of the so-called movement. While the idea is rooted in promoting sustainability, awareness and education it has become another aspect of society that only those in the middle and upper class can take part in. UVM is a community guided by equal opportunity and access, something Farm to Table as it is is lacking in. Access to not only food, but quality food is a basic human right that often gets lost in the discussion of human rights or obesity in the U.S, but it is incredibly relevant. The Farm to Table house will seek to further educate people about where their food comes from, understand and act to combat issues of ethics in the food system that result in infringement on people’s right to food. Through buying organic and providing organic, quality food to those without access, we will better our local community by participating in the Farm to Table movement in a new way.
Fiber Arts

The Fiber Arts House aims to improve technique and knowledge in knitting, crocheting, sewing and other fiber-based arts by developing skills to make different types of items and stitches, and by learning about the history of fiber arts. In addition to knitting and crochet, program members will also learn about felting, sewing, 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 fiber related topic and the projects will allow for 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. We think we would fit in well with either the Living and Learning Arts Initiative Program or the general Living and Learning programs but, the Arts Initiative is our preference.
The UVM Freestyle Ski House is a Living/Learning program designed for freestyle skiers of all skill levels, whether it be just starting to learn or continuing an already existing career at a professional level. The Freestyle Ski House will be a safe and healthy living environment for all members, regardless of their backgrounds, to achieve their goals and work together, on and off the mountain. We ensure that all members will be motivated throughout the term in educational and recreational aspects, all while meeting great friends and having fun. Members in the program will learn a wide range of skills related to freestyle skiing, including ski maintenance off the hill, tricks and techniques on the hill, and how to prevent injury during the off-season. We will discuss and learn about the ever-growing ski culture and community. One night per week, we will hold movie nights where we watch ski media that has been produced in the last 15 or so years. These movie nights will promote suite bonding, as we can all appreciate the videos together, and create a happy and healthy living environment where each member gets along, as well as inspiring our own skiing. The movie nights will get each member and excited for the new season.

An important part of the program is we will have organized days where we ski together, and motivate one another to be the best we can be. The program will be a welcoming environment for both members and non-members, and we will create events on campus to promote and spread ski culture for the UVM and Burlington area. We will do this by coordinating with university-sponsored organizations like the UVM Freestyle Skiing Team and the UVM Ski & Snowboard Club. On top of going skiing, the Freestyle Ski House is about members being aware of the lack of diversity in our sport, and learning what steps they can take to change the way we think about diversity in ski culture. We will encourage members to ask themselves why there might not be very much diversity in skiing, and what we can do to help make others feel comfortable in our world of skiing. Overall, the Freestyle Ski House is focused on motivating members to better themselves, increasing our abilities on the hill and off it, being safe, being open to learn about diversity, and having fun.
German House

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 program director, 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.
Health Professions

The objective of Health Professions is to create an environment that is helpful for students interested in any health related fields. We will help provide opportunities for students to come together and share ideas with each other, and get access to resources to help them expand their knowledge and learn more about their interests and future careers. Our programs main objectives are to help diversify student knowledge on the health field, to get members resources to get health related experience in the community, and to extend our knowledge and experiences to benefit the greater Burlington and community by volunteering and outreach awareness. “Educate, activate, advocate”. This slogan represents our three objectives. Educate represents our ability to teach and learn from each other through group presentations and weekly meetings. Activate represents our initiative to get our community members involved with learning experiences relevant to what they want to do, be it research or job shadowing, to get them experience. Advocate represents our focus on service learning and service based events with the goal of improving our community around us.
Hiking House

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 their experiences in the outdoors. As a group we will foster independence and leadership in our members. The house will work to teach residents 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 having everyone in the house confident in their hiking abilities and independence in a backcountry environment.

In conjunction with actual trips, members will have opportunities to learn more about the technicalities of hiking through speakers, articles, movies etc., and be constantly immersed in a healthy and adventurous environment. The Hiking House will be a place that people of all backgrounds and abilities can be part of a team and a larger purpose. We hope that our residents will strive to better themselves while supporting their fellow housemates in all of their endeavors. Additionally, leaders will 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.

With our ties to the Outing Club, we plan on working with them in order to learn from the collective experience of the OC leaders, which has inspired us to create a residential community. The Hiking House seeks students with a sense of adventure who either want to feed their passion for hiking, or find it.
Japanese House

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.
La Casa de Cultura

La Casa de Cultura is dedicated to the provision of an enriching environment for those interested in discovering diverse Latin American cultures, Spanish language, and the inner workings of the world. This program will provide a platform for students to not only embrace the cultures from which they come but gain an understanding of cultures and perspectives apart from their own. In a rapidly globalizing world, social justice, politics, and cultural awareness are becoming increasingly important. As a result, we believe that it is imperative for our program to explore these issues in a dynamic way. By creating a space where people from all backgrounds are encouraged to explore the complex issues we will address over the course of the academic year through activities spanning from celebrations of important events in Latin American countries and common hours to presentations on relevant topics delivered by both program members and experts on the subject, La Casa de Cultura will enable members to do just that.
La Maison Française

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.
Law & Government

The Law & Government House will afford its students the opportunities to develop their research, writing, and oratory skills, learn more about careers and employment in the fields of law and government, and live and learn alongside students who share interests in public policy, social issues, legislation, and the moral and ethical issues surrounding American law and politics. Our students will be expected to help a broader UVM community understand the complex legal and political issues our country faces. Participants will learn from guest speakers who will represent law firms, local Burlington government offices, and the Vermont State Legislature, take field trips to the offices of local attorneys and the Vermont State Capitol at Montpelier, and partake in tri-weekly debates on topics voted on by the program. Students will be expected to work with their debate teammates to research their sides of the arguments we choose, prepare notes for the debate, and participate both respectfully and constructively.

We wish to harbor an atmosphere of academic variance; we want to see political-and ideological dissimilarity among our students, but we want those differences to be discussed rationally, respectfully, and reasonably. This program is not simply a debate club, however. We encourage Law & Government House students to get involved in on-campus organizations such as UVM SGA, the Political Science club, UVM College Democrats, UVM College Republicans, and the mock trial team, where they can learn more about law and politics on the smaller scale of UVM, and how what they learn here can be applied to their post-graduate lives. In addition, students will be able to make an impact in their community by volunteering with the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. By fostering the interests of these active students now, the Law & Government House can serve as a plane of development for future leaders in our state, in surrounding states, and on the national level.
LGBTQA Collaborative

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.
India House

Our mission is to acknowledge and appreciate all of India's revolutionary achievements to its members and many more. When planning events, this mission statement is always on our minds. In previous years, we have displayed Indian dance and Indian cuisine during our events, and we plan to do much more in the future. 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 we live in today and we as India House will take it upon ourselves to share this knowledge with the global village community of Living and Learning and more.
Integrated Fine Arts
Integrated Humanities Program
Integrated Social Sciences Program
Moving Picture/Videography
Our Minds Matter

As many people have the general idea of how to be in and maintain good physical condition, mental and emotional health is a very broad and misunderstood topic that makes taking care of its wellbeing difficult. The Our Minds Matter program is a mental and emotional health awareness program that stands to break down stigmas of mental ailments and to provide various methods to UVM students to improve their lifestyle and mental health. The goal of this program is to actively educate its members in various topics of mental health with heavy emphasis on ailments that are largely affecting college students. Through various professional outlets, each member will gain the knowledge to erase misconceptions and promote healthy lifestyle habits and organizations on-campus that offer support. The main idea of this program is to not to individually educate the UVM community about mental health, but to offer support and build trust and respect among students that can greatly assist in finding a solution to any major conflict that arises. The Our Minds Matter program will collaborate with other residential communities and organizations on and off-campus to create unique, educational events that maintain a safe space within the program and offer a sense of community to nurture one’s mental and emotional wellbeing.
ROTC & Community

The ROTC’s main focus is to cultivate the relationship between the UVM ROTC Battalion and the UVM Community. To do so we will create community events where Cadets, potential cadets, Cadre and community members can collaborate and learn more about the ROTC program and the US Army. The more experienced members in the suite will also act as guides for the incoming first-years and new Cadets. ROTC and the U.S. Army are service based organizations, so we will create a presence in the community and get involved in community volunteer and engagement activities whenever possible.
Russian House

The goal of the “Russian House: An Introduction to Russian People, Culture, and their Society” course will be to present our 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 studying the Russian language or those who have enrolled in a Beginning Russian course for the fall.

Members of the German and Russian Department, as well as faculty from the Russian and East European Studies Program, will give bi-weekly lectures 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 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.
Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror in the Arts

The Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror in the Arts program plans to create a welcoming environment for members to 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 positive and open-minded community that is conducive to extensive and thoughtful discussions of the aforementioned genres in a safe environment. We will introduce classic works, as well the obscure. We plan to bring in works from multiple cultures to promote the cross-cultural knowledge of members. We will try to encourage active participation from the larger UVM community in by hosting activities and events that spread knowledge of the sci-fi, fantasy and horror genres. We plan to expand across multiple forms of media, such as film, video games, literature, and art. Members will leave with a greater knowledge of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror, as well as the importance that they play in our society.
Shalom Home

The Shalom Home's purpose is to be an all-inclusive Living and Learning program with a focus of Jewish life, values and culture. In addition the Shalom Home aims to educate students, regardless if they are living in The Shalom Home, about Jewish life, values and culture. An important issue that many Jewish students face on campus at the University of Vermont and college campuses across America is the rise of anti-Semitism. The Shalom Home would assist in combatting anti-Semitism on campus and off campus through educational programs. The objective in educating people, would be to spread diversity and learn about other cultures, while sharing our culture.

We envision The Shalom Home as a place where students of any faith can come to learn, celebrate, and converse about Jewish life, values and culture in a safe and welcoming environment. In order to fully engage with participants in The Shalom Home, we plan on creating all-inclusive community events that focus on learning more about Jewish life, values and culture. We plan on collaborating and tapping into the resources of Hillel in order to bring Jewish speakers and scholars into The Shalom Home. With the help of Jewish organizations on campus and throughout the community, The Shalom Home will enable students to further their understanding of Jewish life, values, and culture.
STEM House

STEM House, is a Residential Learning Community where students in the STEM field (Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Math, and more) come together to work on projects, and learn new skills outside of class. Not all the time will an engineer build a website, or a mathematician build a plane, but these can be turned into hobbies that we can teach each other. More importantly this will be a program where members can help each other. We all learn material together, study together, and obtain help from each other with homework and program-related activities.
Tea House

By enrolling in our program, participants will learn about the various cultures, customs, types, styles, and various comforts provided by tea and the art of tea brewing. Tea is such a diverse experience; you can have teas native to China, which have been around for centuries, while you can have teas native to remote regions of Africa, which have their own unique history and origin, or you can have teas that are a combination of multiple cultures and origins. There are tea ceremonies that are rich in culture and integral to life in certain countries. Then you can have teas that are family specific: someone's mother gives their child chamomile tea, just as their mother did and their mother's mother, and on and on. Tea can even heal! There are certain teas, like peppermint, that can soothe an upset stomach, and teas, like elderberry, that can soothe the symptoms of the common cold. Tea can be religious, cultural, and/or medical. There is always more than one way to look at a tiny cup of hot tea!

Some activities we have in mind are cultural tea nights, tea education nights, and so many more. A cultural tea night would involve having sample teas from regions all around the world, with a brief historical background, traditional brewing and serving methods, and how the tea is made. We could have teas native to China, Peru, India, England, Japan, and so many other countries! A tea education night would be more along the lines of how tea in general is grown and made, the different types of tea (like white, oolong, black, herbal, etc.), how to brew them, types of brewing methods, how hot the water should be for each type of tea, and how to store loose teas. Even the difference between bag and loose tea.

Our goal is all about education! These activities would educate people briefly on the history of teas, "how to's," and most importantly, on the comfort and joy that tea can bring to our lives! We want people to enjoy tea as much as we do, and understand the richness and the diversity of the history of tea. Tea can help health and souls! We want to share that with anyone who is willing to listen, and activities like cultural tea nights and educational tea nights and even showcase nights where we show off our current favorite teas would help us spread the joy of tea!
Thinking Design Program

In the Thinking Design Program, we will embody the thought process of designers, engineers, business professionals, architects, and most importantly children. We will develop questions, form solutions, and think critically about any and all ideas that we propose. We will follow similar guidelines to the Design Thinking course provided at UVM and come up with solutions to improve student experiences on campus.

Design thinking is a mindset. It is a creative resolution to problem-solving and it empowers people to think from different perspectives. This type of evaluating works great with groups in particular, because they’re pushed to work together and create a “better idea,” as a whole. When analyzing our proposed ideas, we will follow the five guidelines provided by Professor Eugene Korsunskiy’s Design Thinking course. We will first focus on empathizing with our potential users and discover what works well; then we will define our objective, ideate potential ideas and solutions, prototype our proposed innovation, and finally test our idea on others. Think about the experiences you had in pre-K and early childhood and then push yourself to “color outside of the lines” in our creative environment.

You will be tasked to find your own voice and come up with solutions that are exciting and innovative. “Themed Months” will become a major aspect of our program curriculum and provide us with a basis for our creation. Our months will include viewing a variety of Ted Talks that relate to our themes, reading articles and books about design thinking, and exploring content from Eugene’s course. Above all, we will design and build a variety of opportunities for residents in the Living & Learning Community and UVM affiliates, all around our campus. We will "manufacture" one major event at the end of each term and you will be pushed to get involved and design the opportunities that we end up providing. This is all based around the fact that, at the heart of design thinking there is a strong drive for diversity and collaboration, amongst teams. These design thinking solutions can create a positive impact on the world and better the individuals who formed the collaboration. Let’s just say there will be a lot of sticky notes and vision boards all around our suite! The goal is for everyone to come out of this program with a greater connection to UVM, an even greater connection to each other, an ability to see their initiatives come to life on campus, to learn more about the power of design thinking, and ultimately have an impact on our community by making the world a better place through design. We will learn from each other and design innovations together!
Travel New England

The TRAVEL House (Traverse, Roam, Adventure, Volunteer, Explore, Learn) aims to explore Vermont as well as the surrounding areas including New England, to expand the knowledge that we, as students, have regarding our community. There is also a lack of knowledge amongst us and our peers about the region we currently live in, and the history behind where we are. The college experience should take place both inside and outside of that classroom, as learning is limited to no boundaries; exploring this region will allow us to do that. We also feel that while living in such a beautiful area, it is important to give back to the community that has given us so much. This is why we also encourage regular volunteer commitments that we will partake in as a group. By enrolling in this program, our hope is that members will learn about the history of the surrounding areas and the communities that are within, and subsequently broaden their horizons. The living component of this program will encourage members to continue discussions once the adventure ends, fostering a holistic environment and experience.
Videography/Moving Picture
Wilderness, Adventure, and Naturalist Skills

This coming year, we hope to attract a crowd that will make Wilderness Adventure and Naturalist Skills a truly wonderful program. We are looking for members who have an incurable desire to be out in nature, members who want the challenge of inventing and repairing using only the tools and materials immediately available, members who love to share what they know, and members who can't wait to learn at any and all opportunities. For those who already have fundamental knowledge and of the outdoors and outdoor activities, we would like to provide as many opportunities as possible for them to expand their knowledge and experiences. For those who have little to no previous experience, we will show them what it's all about. Join us for tons of outdoor adventure including but not limited to Hiking/Backpacking, camping, mountain biking, longboarding, cliff jumping & swimming, hammocking, skiing and snowboarding (Front, side, and Back Country), and snowshoeing.

The common skills of reading maps, building safe fires and simple shelters, minimalist fishing, animal identification, leave-no-trace principles, and trail etiquette, will be taught and reviewed along with less common skills such as building effective yet humane traps and snares, edible and medicinal plant identification (foraging), basic wildlife tracking, whittling, wood carving, timber-framing, fabrication of natural art materials, and methods for collecting water without obvious liquid sources. The opportunities to learn these skills will be facilitated by all the trips we will take — be it weekday afternoon nature walks or weekend backpacking trips. Whether you are an outdoor veteran and gearhead or a total newbie, your desire for outdoor action, adventure, and skill will be fulfilled in W.A.N.S.

In past years, WANS trips have been very traditional outdoor activities: primarily camping, hiking, and front country skiing trips with a handful of other adventures sprinkled in. This year we want to step up our game by incorporating more action sports into the mix. Some of our main goals this coming year are to expose our house members to the worlds of backcountry skiing, mountain biking, white water kayaking, and longboarding. We want to not only provide students with a way to get out and enjoy the pristine beauty of the Vermont landscape, but also give them a way to get their blood pumping and adrenaline flowing.
Women in STEM and Health (WISH)

The purpose of WISH or Woman in STEM and Health is to encourage women and those who identify as female to pursue and stay in STEM and Health careers as well as provide a sense of community for those either interested or actively pursuing careers in those fields. Women are severely underrepresented both at the University of Vermont and colleges around the nation in STEM and health professions and the WISH program hopes to help stimulate interest in those career paths both in the school community and through outreach efforts. During the year, we will visit schools and groups such as girl scout troops in the community to help educate other young women about the opportunities in both STEM and health careers. In addition, as part of the WISH program, participants will help stimulate interest in STEM and health at UVM and a sense of community by holding study sessions, field trips, dinners, and stress management workshops for women in these fields or interested in them.

In the WISH program, we hope that participants learn that they are not alone and that they can reach out to other members of both the WISH program and the community for help and assistance. Being in a STEM or health career can be hard, especially for women who are oftentimes in the minority in those professions. We hope our participants learn self-advocacy and confidence through our events and workshops. Our program will help participants learn stress management techniques and time management skills to help them get through difficult classes. Overall, our program hopes to make UVM a more welcoming and inviting place for women in STEM and health careers and to help close the gender gap in those professions.
World Music

The World Music House is a community whose goal it is to encourage the appreciation of music from different cultures around the world. Through hands-on experience, conversation, and active listening, program members will learn, teach, and inspire one another through music. It is our program’s hope that those with a passion for music will be able to broaden their understanding of cultures around the world, as well as their musical abilities.