

Fall 2024

# PASSEPARTOUT

*Office of International Education Newsletter*

*Passepartout* is an occasional newsletter of the Office of International Education (OIE) at Harper College. Named after Phileas Fogg's valet Jean Passepartout in Jules Verne's novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*, our newsletter is your passport to the world of international education at the college.

## International Fun Facts



### BRASIL

National Congress Palace, Brasilia, Brazil

Brazil has a large coastline on the eastern side of South America, stretching 7491 kilometres (4655 miles) in length.

Brazil covers 3 time zones and shares a border with all South American countries except for Chile and Ecuador.

Human activities such as logging, mining fishing and agriculture are important to the Brazilian economy but are also a serious threat to Brazil's diverse environment.

### BURKINA FASO

Grand Mosque, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso

The Republic of Upper Volta was renamed "Burkina Faso" on 4 August 1984 by then-President Thomas Sankara. The words "Burkina" and "Faso" both stem from different languages spoken in the country: "Burkina" comes from Mossi and means "honest" or "honest people", while "Faso" comes from the Dyula language and means "fatherland" (lit. "father's house").



## AND THE NEW REGION OF FOCUS IS...

As it wraps up its focus on South Asia (2020-2024), the Office of International Education is pleased to announce its transition to its next Global Region of Focus (GRF). With generous support from the Centers for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) and Global Studies (CGS) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and AmidEast, we will be focusing on the Middle East/Southwest Asia and North Africa (MENA/SWANA) region for the academic years 2025-2029. With these partners, we will be launching a robust series of professional development opportunities in the spring 2025 semester. All faculty development opportunities associated with the GRF are supported by the Academy for Teaching Excellence and the Provost's Office.

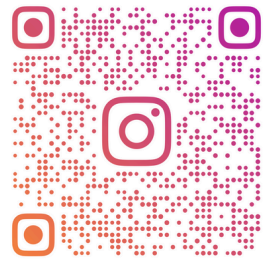
For this and future iterations of the GRF, we are moving to a four-year plan. The first year will be entirely devoted to building faculty capacity to develop and teach concepts, issues, and material in their content areas related to the region of focus. This year of professional development will culminate in the Faculty International Field Seminar to the region. During the second and third years, we will host visiting scholars from the region on our campus. And as in the past, we will hope to offer education abroad opportunities to the region in years 2 through 4.





# OIE IN PICTURES

Honors students visited Kenya in the Spring as part of GEG111 and BIO 103. Students examined environmental realities and local/global challenges during their time there.



HARPER\_OIE



On January 1st, an adventurous group of Harper professors embarked on a journey to discover India. For two weeks, the group visited locations such as Aurangabad, Mumbai, Kochi, Munnar, and more!! Check out their adventure on our Instagram.



Prof. Gramlich took students to London as part of his SOC 101 course. Students did a comparative study of the US and the UK to explore the structures and dynamics of human societies.



Jill Izumikawa reconnected with a student she advised years ago, Mr. Clinton D. White. He currently serves as the Counselor for the United States Agency for International Development and

# *What's New in International Education @ Harper?*

**BREAKING NEWS**

## **FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS 2024 - 2025**

### THE 213 - London, England

Students will experience an immersion in the life of William Shakespeare. They will visit sites, attend master classes, learn from guest speakers, and attend performances at world-renowned theaters, such as The Globe.

### GER Language and GER 230 - Munich, Germany

Students will dive into the German language on our study abroad trip to Germany, where they will practice speaking with locals, explore historic cities, and experience the vibrant culture firsthand.

### LIT 220 - Japan (HONORS)

Students will explore classic and contemporary Japanese literature while experiencing the culture and beauty of Japan firsthand.

## **CAMPUS INTERNATIONALIZATION SURVEY**

If you are interested in becoming involved with our programs, keep your eyes peeled for our Faculty Internationalization Survey. In the next week, you should receive an email from the Office of Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness with a link to our survey.

Please help us gather information about your amazing intercultural expertise so that we can better serve your internationalization interests and needs! The information you provide will also help us gauge the depth of interest in international issues and the level of integration into our curricula and programs.

The survey will take less than ten minutes to complete, and all responses will be kept anonymous and only internally reported as aggregate response rates. It is solely for the purpose and use of the Office of International Education to improve our services to you and the college.

We hope that you will be willing to share your views!



## **FINDINGS OF THE GATEWAY REPORT AND OIE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

In the spring of 2024, OIE commissioned a team from the Gateway International Group to analyze Harper College's international education programs, with an emphasis on the International Students Office and the Office of International Education. The team's Final Report focuses heavily on the college's infrastructure, resources and alignment needed to elevate our campus internationalization efforts and make Harper College a showcase institution for International/Global engagement.

There are many important recommendations in this report that provide a both short- and long-term road map for the college, but the two principal recommendations are to

1. Align the Offices of International Students and International Education to maximize impact and better support efforts to advance an internationalization agenda on campus, including coordinating all global engagement efforts from campus programming, international student enrollment, faculty development and curriculum infusion to education abroad and visiting scholars.
2. Provide needed resources to create a strategic vision for this new office and an international enrollment plan.
3. Embed international/intercultural perspectives and initiatives in the college's existing DEI agenda.

By implementing these recommendations, we believe the College has the opportunity to become the premier destination for learning opportunities that foster an interculturally-welcoming campus culture through the ongoing and transformative education of our students, faculty, staff, and community.

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# *What's New in International Education @ Harper?*

## GLOBAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

OIE is “rebranding” a previous CoP to have a broader appeal while incorporating many of the same goals as the Virtual Exchange CoP. Assuming funding from the Academy, the Global Education CoP will explore and promote tools, resources, partnerships, and pedagogical approaches that incorporate international and intercultural perspectives in the curricula of Harper College. We are seeking members who will

- discuss research and evidence-based practices, instructional strategies, and issues related to global and intercultural education
- discover and disseminate information and resources that can be used to develop, expand, and inform our disciplines in a globally-relevant way; and
- enrich and improve campus dialogues related to global education and intercultural dialogue by providing an open forum for the exchange of relevant ideas, practices, tools, and theories related to assessment.

### Potential group activities include:

- Shared read of Digital Internationalization of Higher Education: Beyond Virtual Exchange book
- Zoom chat with IREX administrators about their two flagship programs, Global Solutions Challenge and Global Solutions Conversations
- Zoom chat with colleagues at the Universidad Autonoma de Chiapas, with whom we have an MoU
- Zoom chat with administrators from the Asociacion Mexicana para la educacion internacional (AMPEI) about their “speed-dating” sessions and COIL training
- and the following conferences:
  - NAFSA Region V Oct 29-Nov 1, 2024, Schaumburg, IL
  - CONAHEC Oct 23-25, 2024, Ensenada, Mexico
  - CCID, Feb 14-17, 2025, Washington D.C.
  - AMPEI PIC-Americas COIL symposium, spring 2025, Mexico City

If you are interested in any of these topics and activities, please contact us: [internationaled@harpercollege.edu](mailto:internationaled@harpercollege.edu)

## HARPER COLLEGE IS HOSTING 3 CBYX STUDENTS THIS YEAR



For the last twelve years, Harper College has hosted German students through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals. The program was founded in 1983 to strengthen ties between Germany and the United States through citizen diplomacy. Jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, CBYX is overseen by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This year we are hosting Dario Wolf, Jan Detret, and Kim Reichenbecher. If you bump into them, be sure to welcome them to our campus! Would you like to host a student in the future: <https://forms.office.com/r/MNFFfyQUR>

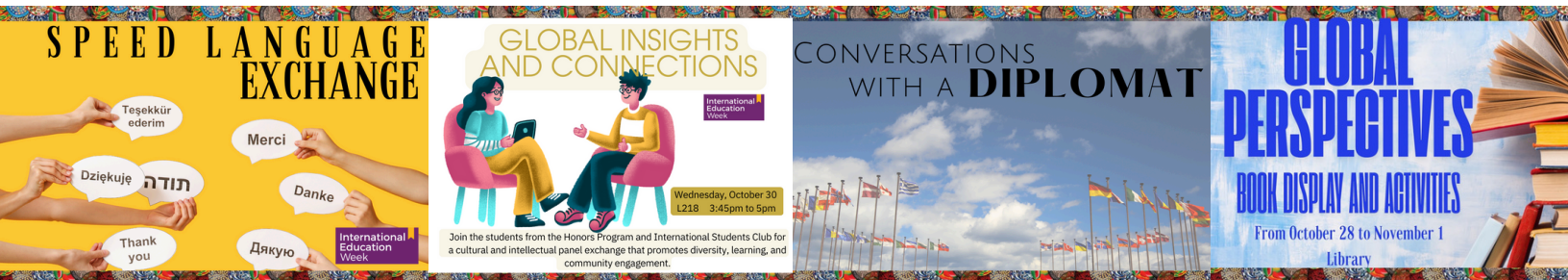




# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

When you start seeing pumpkins and smelling cinnamon everywhere, you know what's right around the corner: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK! This year, we are celebrating from October 28 to November 1, 2024 with a fun, engaging and educational line of events. Thank you to all the partners who are collaborating with us to make this year's event possible. I hope to see you there, celebrating with us.

International  
Education  
Week



## Speed Language Exchange

Monday, October 28, 2024, from 11am to 1:30pm, at the Starbucks Atrium

Do you love learning new languages?

Join the OIE and the World Languages team to learn words and cool expressions in other languages. Languages represented are: Spanish, French, German, Japanese and ASL.

Is English not your native language? You'll also have the mission to teach something from your mother tongue as well!

## "Cruising Across Time Zones: Music from Around the World"

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm, location A-Atrium

Esteemed violinist Linda Veleckis joins guitarist and Harper Music Department faculty member Peter Aglinskas for a concert of music from around the globe featuring Afro-Cuban, Argentinian, Brazilian, Baltic, Eastern European, African-American and other world music styles. You won't want to miss this imaginative musical journey!

## Social Justice Studies and Global Scholar Students Presentation

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 10am to 11am, at the Cultural Center

Are you familiar with the Social Justice Studies and Global Scholar graduation distinction?

They are ways to be recognized in your transcript, diploma and during graduation for developing skills linked to intercultural and social justice skills. Students pursuing these distinctions conclude their pursue by joining a Capstone course where they develop a transformative project in partnership with a mentor. In this event, we'll have current students and alumni sharing their projects and their experience pursuing the distinction.

## Dia de Los Muertos

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 12pm to 3pm, at the Avante Wing

Presented by DEI and Latinos Unidos, join the Harper Community to celebrate Dia de Los Muerto!

This multi-day holiday, which is widely observed in Mexico, will display ofrendas (altars) to honor the memory of our loved ones and also feature how different cultures address loss and death. Come and enjoy some hot chocolate, pan de muerto, music, vendors and more.

## Global Insights and Connections

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 3:45pm to 5pm, in L218

Join the students from the Honors Program and International Students Club for a cultural and intellectual panel exchange that promotes diversity, learning, and community engagement.

## Conversations with a Diplomat

Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 1pm to 2pm, in D195

Join us in welcoming Susan Falatko, a career Senior Foreign Service Officer with nearly twenty-five years of experience with the U.S. Department of State, for a conversation about Global Affairs and careers in the field.

## Global Perspectives Book Display

All week, Library

The Library team is partnering with us to bring you a display of books that showcase global perspectives. Catch up with some reading time, learning about different cultures, ways of living, and international issues you might have yet to be exposed to.

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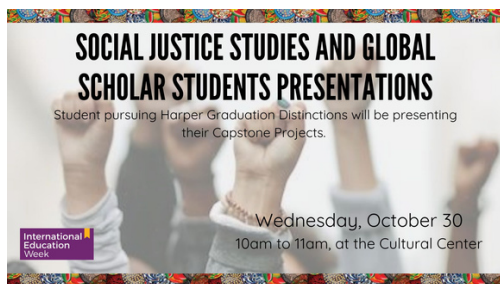
# GLOBAL SCHOLAR REPORT

Have you heard of the Global Scholar Distinction?

It's a graduation distinction for students interested in exploring intercultural and international perspectives while pursuing their major at Harper College. The capstone project is the conclusion of this distinction, and students pursuing it for the 23-24 school year presented their projects in May. Some of the projects selected and developed by this cohort include:

- Michelle Montano- "Exploring Biodiversity Conservation Strategies"
- Zain Raza - "Koranic Arabic: Necessity or Tradition"
- Zahir Nunez - "Deaf Culture: Their Struggle/ Their Challenges"
- Briana Manzo - "Breaking Barriers: A Personal Narrative on Study Abroad Access"

Students pursuing the distinctions work closely with a faculty mentor that they choose, or that can be assigned to them. Jess Unger, one of the students completing the capstone this Spring, said that the professors made her journey "fulfilling, inspiring, and educational". She shared that the program empowered her to become a more active citizen and ally.



Alumni and current students will be presenting their projects and talking about their experiences on October 30, 2025, as part of International Education Week. More details about this and the other events are available on the [OIE main webpage](#).



Bianca Di Sandro, and mentor Ranjani Murali (English), Jess Unger, with mentor Judi Nitsch (English), Zahir Nunez and mentor Marcos Aguilar (World Languages).



## *In Your Own Words: Internationalization @lies*

## New Amnesty International Chapter at Harper College



Amnesty International is a global human rights organization dedicated to combatting human rights abuses and advocating for the protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and justice. Last year Harper alum and Global Scholar, Dechen Atsatsang, established the first Amnesty International chapter at Harper College. This chapter of Amnesty is among 7,800 chapters across the globe and it has heralded a new era of student activism at Harper. Last spring Amnesty@Harper held tabling events to bring attention to abortion rights and coordinated a campus-wide ceasefire rally to call to an end to the war in Gaza. This year Amnesty students plan to focus on banned books and freedom of expression, the US 2024 election, and will host several "write for rights" campaigns to advocate for release of prisoners of conscience.

New members are always welcome! Meetings for the fall 2024 semester are Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30pm in Z204.



# Teaching Africa Today: My experience on the Fulbright-Hays Project Abroad

by Joseph Angermeier

“The most meaningful travel experience of my life was in East Africa in the summer of 2023 when I participated in the 6-week Fulbright-Hays Project Abroad led by Rich Johnson and Mukila Maitha.

The purpose of the program was to prepare faculty to teach about environmental and conservations issues in East Africa through a social justice lens. Since I teach Environmental Biology, it was almost as if the trip were created just for me – thanks Rich and Mukila!

As we traveled across the beautiful landscapes of Kenya and Uganda, we spent our days learning from local experts, including professors, farmers, fishermen, and wildlife guides. Listening to the stories of individuals whose lives are affected by human-caused environmental challenges has had a profound impact on my life and my teaching.

The most popular and powerful experience for many tourists are the game drives. For me they were both wonderful and challenging. I loved seeing the animals and supporting the wonderful people that earn a living in this industry. But not all local people benefit, and driving vehicles so close to the animals negatively impacts them. Yet without the tourism money there would be less incentive to protect the lands needed for the wildlife to thrive.

I loved the performances by the Ndere Dance Troupe. While I enjoyed their performance here at Harper last spring, seeing the entire troupe live in Uganda was magical. The power of the drums gave me chills and the beauty of the flute and dancing put me in a trance. And everyone was expected to dance, including the audience. I loved it!



**Closeup photo of an elephant taken from our vehicle on a game drive.**



**Our group at the Nashulai Maasai Conservancy in Kenya, including Harper Faculty Rich Johnson, Mukila Maitha, Bethany Michelle Statler, Nellie Khalil, and Joseph Angermeier.**

The part of the trip I enjoyed and will remember most are the connections made with the people we met and within the group. I still miss the late-night conversations about environmental challenges, the stories and the laughter, the Simonisms, the song and dance after dinner, especially the ones played on a broken guitar one night around a campfire. East Africa is beautiful country with beautiful people, and I was lucky to share an experience there with my friends.”

More information about our Fulbright-Hays Project available in the [OIE Grants Page](#).

# CAORC Faculty Development Seminar: Mexico's Indigenous Languages and Cultures

by Ginger McHugh-Kurtz, Assistant Professor of Biology



"I had the opportunity to attend a two-week seminar in Mexico, which included stays in Mexico City, Puebla, and Cuetzalan. This experience was funded by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), in collaboration with its member center in Mexico, the Americas Research Network (ARENET).

The seminar provided exposure to the geographic and cultural diversity of Mexico, first-hand experience of Mexico's Indigenous communities, and meetings with local scholars, artists, and activists. This experience included exploration of the rich collections held in Mexico's museums, libraries, and archaeological sites. The Indigenous population of Mexico is one of the world's largest, and Indigenous migrants from diverse linguistic and cultural traditions have come to the U.S. for decades, with their numbers continuing to increase."

Ginger plans to develop a comprehensive StoryMap, using ArcGIS StoryMaps, centered on the migrations of the monarch butterfly and the important connection between the Midwest US and Mexico in the organisms' remarkable journey. The cultural connections of the monarch butterfly will be studied in the context of the indigenous Mexican heritage and modern day. This project will advocate for conservation of this migratory species, by protecting the habitats that support the monarch, including our own campus. Ginger plans to apply a social justice perspective to the study of migratory species, while society readily supports habitats such as butterfly gardens, there is a notable disparity when it comes to basic resources like food and shelter for human migrants.

More information about [CAORC here](#).





# Leading a Study Abroad: Honors Study Abroad program to Kenya

by Crystal Peirce, Biology Department



Last Spring, Mukila Maitha and Crystal Peirce created a study abroad experience to Kenya for Honor's students in GEG 111 and BIO 103. This innovative initiative brought together two different disciplines, physical geography, and environmental biology to create a transformative field experience in Kenya. This travel optional program included a virtual exchange component for students who were unable to travel, as well as student research projects highlighting environmental issues in Kenya and East Africa.

The study abroad experience kicked off at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, which included a guided tour from Kenyatta students, presentations from University Professors on urban planning in Nairobi as well as a personalized bus tour of the city highlighting its diversity, socioeconomic structure, and key challenges. Next up was African Forest, a private non-profit restoration organization which promotes sustainable agroforestry, who hosted Harper's students for 2 days, highlighting nursery techniques, teaching students about botany, and leading an excursion into Eburu Forest an important conservation area and source of water for geothermal energy and household use.

The famed Maasai Mara region was next on itinerary, and a personal favorite of many. Harper students participated in a cultural exchange with students from the Nashulai Cultural Training Center, which included a tour of the school, a traditional Maasai welcome song from the students, and an opportunity to exchange ideas during a small group Q & A.

And finally, no experience to Kenya would be complete without a chance to view the amazing wildlife. Students learned about the unique biodiversity of the region through game drives with guides and rangers at Nashulai Conservancy & Maasai Mara National Reserve. Students had a unique opportunity to learn about conservancy challenges in the region through discussions with one of the conservancy's managers and the game warden. Nashulai is unique as a community-owned and led wildlife conservancy.

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### *Student Reflections:*

"Going to Africa was a life-changing experience to say the least. I really enjoyed seeing the differences between life in the United States and Kenya. The people we met were extremely kind and knowledgeable about any questions we had. This experience meant a lot to me. As an aspiring zoologist/ botanist, everything we learned helped me move towards narrowing down what I want to study in the future as well as encouraging me to try new things and to not be afraid of the unknown."

"Traveling to Kenya was one of the greatest opportunities life has brought me so far. I was able to experience connections to my African culture and understand the differences and similarities to the way African culture is in Africa vs the US. Being in Kenya, I felt the safest I've ever felt in life. I am so happy that I was able to feel this firsthand and I will take this knowledge to break stereotypes of foreign countries and instead encourage others to go and experience the world for themselves."



## Harper Student Awarded CLS Spark Scholarship

CLS Spark is a scholarship launched in 2022 by the Department of State as a virtual language and cultural exchange focused on key languages crucial to America's global interactions: Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. The program takes approximately 8 weeks during the summer, learning either Arabic, Chinese, or Russian through online classes and activities facilitated by native speakers at a CLS partner institution abroad.

- 10 hours of intensive live group instruction a week;
- Cultural activities and individual consultations with language instructors at host institute; and
- Monthly professional development workshops and inclusive support.

This past Summer Dechen Atsatsang was selected as the first Harper recipient. Details about her experience in the program are available in a [Youtube interview](#). You can check it on the [OIE Channel](#) here.



# Follow -US-

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OIE Website: <https://www.harpercollege.edu/academics/international>



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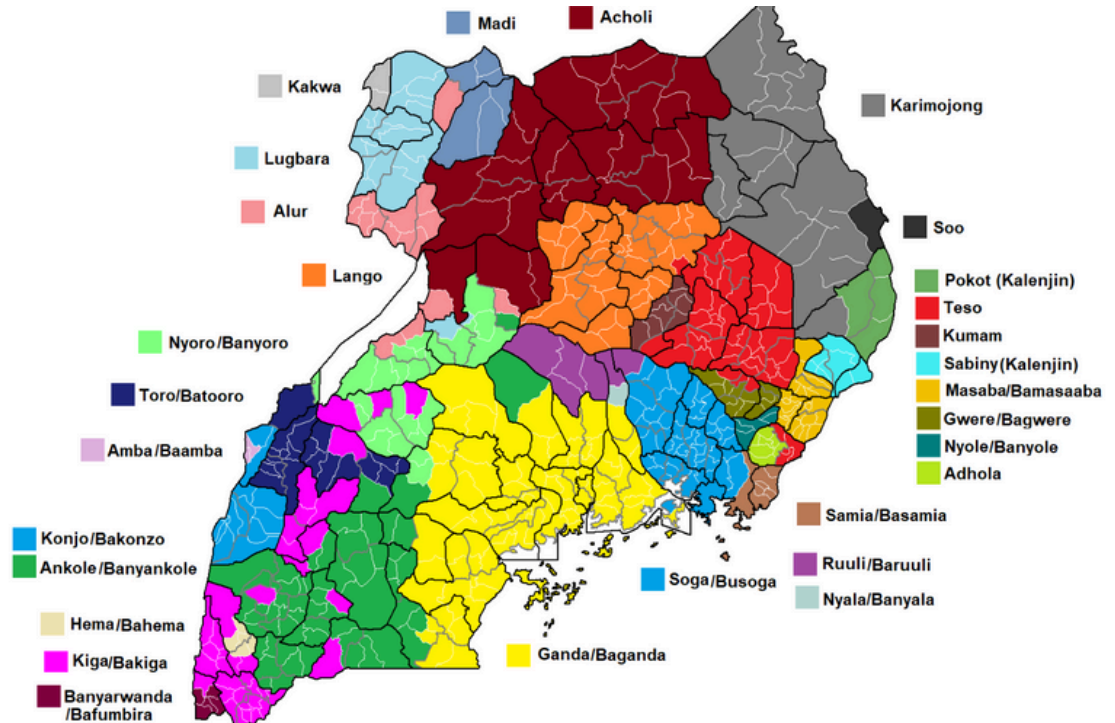
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# Ndere Visit Report

This past spring, we welcomed Ndere to Harper. Ndere is a premier Ugandan cultural organization that promotes universal unity through music, dance, and drama. The group also taught our students about their country. Uganda, located in East Africa, is home to various ethnic groups, and the troupe showed just that: all seven members visiting us came from different groups and spoke different languages, representing the following groups:

- Busoga
- Banyankole
- Buguisho/Masaba
- Lango
- Acholi
- Baganda
- Karimojong



Uganda is also a symphony of languages, with more than 30 languages being spoken. Typical Ugandans live in villages, and about 80 percent of the population work in agriculture. Nationally, they cultivate cotton, corn, tea, and coffee.

Uganda has one of the best wildernesses on the African continent. It is home to Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake and chief source of the Nile River, 6.8% of the world's butterfly species, and 11% of the world's bird population. Uganda is also famous for having the highest percentage of mountain gorillas in the world.

During their week with us, they visited classes and schools in the community and performed in the Harper community. Check their performance on our YouTube channel.

