Capturing Moments Abroad

Both the Office of Overseas Study in Bloomington and the Office of International Affairs in Indianapolis have annual photo competitions. Students returning from programs abroad submit images and the staff of the offices choose winners for prizes. The contests are popular; IU Bloomington students submitted 275 of their best photos last year. Winning images appear online. Here is a sampling.

Above: Lakshay Bhardwaj, IUPUI First Place, “Cultural Adventure.” While visiting a Maasai warrior village, I participated in a traditional coming-of-age ceremony. The men gather in a group and chant while competing to see who can jump the highest. Kenya, Summer 2014.

Left: Krista Bergman. IUPUI Third Place, “Powerful Moments.” Sitting on the hammock at the family home, my “sister” told me how her son was born with a congenital heart defect, spent months in an ICU hours away, and underwent multiple open-heart surgeries. I got out my stethoscope and watched as his face lit up, and his mom’s eyes filled with tears, when he heard a heartbeat for the first time. El Salvador, October 2013.

Above: Cynthia Morraz. IUPUI Grand Prize. A little member of “La Piedra” washes her hands with excitement. Lack of clean water is one of the Dominican Republic’s main problems. Summer 2014.
Casey Seaton. IUPUI Second Place, “Most Picturesque.” The “Chess Pavilion” atop one peak of Mt. Hua near Xi’an, China, as seen just after sunrise. Summer 2014.
You can see all the winners of prizes at

Bloomington: overseas.iu.edu/return/photo/index.shtml

Indianapolis: abroad.iupui.edu/why-study-abroad/photo-contest/2014.html