In order to explore the relationship between physical location and friendship, Paul Butler, engineering intern at Facebook, utilized a random sample of 10 million friendship pairs from the Facebook database of 500 million active users to create this image.

“Butler stated “What really struck me, though was knowing that the lines didn’t represent coasts or rivers or political borders, but real human relationships. Each line might represent a friendship made while travelling, a family member abroad, or an old college friend pulled away by the various forces of life.”

Imagine that Jose, a future freshman lives in Alpine, Texas. Although he lives in West Texas, he is also a citizen of a global society, even though he might not realize this. When Jose buys a product at Wal-mart, he might not know the item got there via a complicated supply chain that involved coordination between producers, distributors and others around the world. Or when he watches an animated film at the local cinema, Jose might not realize it was written in Florida, designed and directed in Los Angeles, animated in Bangalore, India, voiced-over in several cities around the globe, and edited in San Francisco. The interconnectedness of today’s global society can be seen even in places that only very recently seemed situated on the periphery of world events. Examples include the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland, the acquisition of farm land in Africa by foreign conglomerates, and the role of Twitter in recent political uprisings. Iceland’s volcanic eruption not only interrupted air travel around the world for weeks, but impeded the movement of humans, food, and other commodities. Today, governments in Africa are selling farmland to foreign conglomerates and displacing families who have been working that land for generations. Finally, despite government attempts to restrict coverage of protests calling for change throughout the Middle East, technology has enabled individuals to air their grievances in real time in the “Twitterverse” and beyond.

These examples highlight the importance of developing an awareness of the ways individuals and localities are a part of a complex web of interconnected relationships. Although students in the United States might intuitively understand that changes in the U.S. impact others across the globe, they also need to develop a deeper appreciation for how events on the other side of the world can impact their day-to-day experiences in the U.S. This call is echoed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In a recent report on "College Learning for the New Global Century," the AACU concluded, "The context in which today's students will make choices and compose lives is one of disruption rather than certainty, and of interdependence rather than insularity.” It is our committee’s hope that when they graduate from Texas State, students will be prepared to participate in today’s global economy and become more responsible global citizens. Embracing A Global Odyssey as the Common Experience theme for 2012-2013 will be a significant step in this direction for the University community as well as for the many communities with which the University interacts.

If A Global Odyssey is selected as the Common Experience theme we hope to accomplish the following objectives: Students will become more aware of the complex geographic, political, and economic connectedness of today’s world; more equipped with essential 21st century skills;
more empowered to work toward improving the quality of life at the local and global levels; and more socially responsible members of the global community. To illustrate, if business students achieve these objectives, they will be able to negotiate language and cultural differences during a staff meeting with international partners. They will come to the table knowing cultural differences exist and will be prepared to interact appropriately. Similarly, future teachers will develop cultural consciousness, bring their expanded worldview into their classrooms, and enhance their instructional effectiveness – thereby improving the educational experiences of the growing number of multinational and multilingual students in Texas schools. Future health educators will be prepared to effectively assess the level of healthcare education needs in a Southeast Asian country by taking into account the influence of local mores. Finally, future engineers will be prepared to work on global design and development teams which are often operating in various parts of the world. As a result of embarking on *A Global Odyssey*, our students will realize they no longer live in isolation from the rest of the world, but rather are part of a flat world where traditional geographical boundaries no longer have the importance they once did.

Daily we learn that students in the U.S. need help realizing they are citizens of an interconnected world. For instance, after Hurricane Katrina, one-third of young Americans could not locate Louisiana on a map. Similarly, in 2006, 6 out of 10 young adults were unable to locate Iraq on a map (http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12591413/ns/us_news-education/). Perhaps more distressing is that “fewer than three in 10 [students] think it important to know the locations of countries in the news and just 14 percent believe speaking another language is a necessary skill…. Nearly three-quarters incorrectly named English as the most widely spoken native language…. Six in 10 did not know the border between North and South Korea is the most heavily fortified in the world. Thirty percent thought the most heavily fortified border was between the United States and Mexico.”

In a geography poll conducted in 2002, surveying individuals from nine different countries, the United States came in second-to-last place, followed by Mexico” (http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1068259.html). The limited geography exposure U.S. students receive in school, as well as the lack of foreign travel, appear to contribute to these differences. “The 2002 survey showed that in the highest-scoring countries more than 70 percent of those surveyed had traveled internationally in the previous three years. In the United States, that figure was only 20 percent.” Similarly, in response to a U.S. poll on public knowledge of current events, “the average respondent got about 12 of the 23 questions right, or slightly more than half…. Using a common school grading scale…fully half would have failed, while only about one-in-six would have earned an A or B” (http://people-press.org/report/319/public-knowledge-of-current-affairs-little-changed-by-news-and-information-revolutions). These data paint a somber picture of students’ preparedness for succeeding in the modern world. Universities like Texas State must aid their students in gaining an awareness of global issues, and programs like *A Global Odyssey* will be integral to that task.

Texas State already has made some strides in preparing students for a future in the global marketplace. However, many of these efforts have been dispersed throughout the university and have not been coordinated. Selection of *A Global Odyssey* as the Common Experience theme will bring together internationalization efforts already occurring across campus and will also lead
to the development of new and exciting initiatives. Globalization brings with it change, and in today’s society, these changes are happening ever more rapidly. Scholars have said that today’s college students need to be prepared for jobs that do not even exist. Therefore, it is critical for Texas State to stay ahead of the curve and prepare students for the complexities of life in a globalized world. Adaptability and globalization go hand-in-hand.

We believe the administration at Texas State has realized the critical nature of this issue. In Spring 2010, President Trauth appointed a Task Force to “clarify and prioritize the University’s goals for enhancing the international dimension of Texas State [and] provide strategies to achieve these goals” (Task Force Final Report). One of the highlighted recommendations from the Task Force was to select a Common Experience theme for 2012-2013 focusing on internationalization. It was the belief of Task Force members that doing so would serve as a curtain raiser for the implementation of new internationalization initiatives in the 2012-2017 strategic plan. In addition, in 2010 Dr. Ani Yazedjian was appointed as Presidential Fellow. Her project for the Fellowship has involved increasing internationalization initiatives across campus. We believe these examples illustrate the University administration’s commitment to internationalizing our campus, and feel the selection of A Global Odyssey as the 2012-2013 Common Experience theme will provide the impetus for the continuation and development of related innovative initiatives.

As Texas State strives to become one of the premier public institutions in the state, we will be considered by more and more qualified high school students. Many of these students will bring with them an excitement about discovering the world in which they live. Already, our best students have an interest in the world. Many choose to study abroad, learn another language, engage in service learning, volunteer in the community, and support causes dear to their hearts. We want to be able to provide them and future students with meaningful experiences to expand their worldviews and challenge them intellectually. One way to do so is by allowing them to embark on their own Global Odyssey. We believe the University is already moving in this direction. The Common Experience theme can provide stimulation to many students’ curiosity about the world and their place in it, integrating how they choose to focus their time, studies, and future plans.

Our theme is relevant to all disciplines and highlights work already being done in various colleges and programs across campus. For example, as the University Honors Program seeks to provide opportunities for students, faculty and the broader community to explore our connections to the world, the proposed Common Experience theme of A Global Odyssey will enhance their academic and cultural outreach in a number of ways. The Honors Program has a well-established schedule of events that are international in scope. For example, the Gallery of the Common Experience in the Honors Coffee Forum exhibits the work of students, area artists, and artists from around the world, reflecting the theme of the Common Experience. Up to a third of the Honors courses each semester have an international focus, while other Honors courses focus on American sensibilities that have global influence. Each semester Honors students host a multicultural dinner, inviting international students and faculty to share a meal with Honors students and faculty. A Global Odyssey promises to intensify the interest across campus in planning for projects related to exploring our connections to the world. In addition, the newly formed student group, Voyagers, has begun to meet to explore the nature of travel, tell stories,
and support one another in adventures outside the local scene. Two freshmen Honors students worked to establish Voyagers as a student organization in January 2011, seeing a need for a student group that explored global issues and creating a space for students to share their experiences.

In addition, essential to the various disciplines that comprise the College of Liberal Arts is an understanding of the interconnectedness of ideas, experiences and cultures. Thus, the proposed Common Experience theme, A Global Odyssey, is a natural focus for the many students and faculty who participate in courses and programs sponsored by the College. The College of Liberal Arts regularly hosts international scholars from countries as varied as Syria, China and Romania; contains many study abroad programs that take students to locations around the world every year; offers numerous courses in a variety of departments that examine international themes; and is home to a number of international faculty and students. Moreover, the majority of Texas State’s Fulbright Scholars teach in the College, which is also home to the Center for International Studies. With its rich history of advocating global awareness, and its ongoing commitment to bringing the world to our students, the College of Liberal Arts is an enthusiastic supporter of selecting A Global Odyssey as the Common Experience theme and will contribute many international activities to the Common Experience calendar.

Similarly, the College of Fine Arts and Communications is actively involved in giving music, dance and theatre performances around the globe, and teaching and researching topics that are intercultural and international. Both the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) and the Department of Communication Studies are engaged in providing their students with cross-border experiences that prepare them to work in a global society. Technological evolution resulting in communication via the Internet, mobile devices and social media has brought the world to our fingertips, and the communication disciplines in the College are researching the use and impact of such devices. Moreover, SJMC houses a Center for the Study of Latino Media and Markets that hosts conferences and contests attracting scholars from Latin American countries. The College has a number of faculty members who share their scholarly and professional international experiences and perspectives with their students, both in the U.S. and abroad. A Global Odyssey will highlight these endeavors to the entire campus community. For example, in the past, the SJMC has sought to schedule Mass Communication Week events that complement the theme of the Common Experience (see 2009-2010). They will work to ensure similar coordination in 2012-2013.

Globalization is without question also integral to the business community of the 21st century. With a rapidly growing number of nations joining the World Trade Organization (153 countries in 2010), global economic and business relationships are expanding at exponential rates. International trade in goods and services, currency exchange, and foreign investment are at historically high levels. The McCoy College’s curriculum and research reflect the trend toward globalization. McCoy College offers international business programs at both the undergraduate and graduate (MBA) levels that include courses in every business discipline with international themes and content. In addition, McCoy College has Study Abroad programs each summer in Europe and South America, and has had students and faculty participate in Exchange Programs with partner universities abroad. The McCoy College Center for Latin American Commerce provides support for faculty engaged in international research and works with the central Texas
business community on international business projects. The McCoy College of Business will integrate *A Global Odyssey* into its annual Business Leadership Week through programming that will engage students, faculty, and the local community in a dialogue on these pressing issues. McCoy College will also host lectures, interactive events and contests, and forums for discussion that will incorporate the theme of *A Global Odyssey*.

This theme is also relevant to those in the College of Education. Future teachers need to be provided with the integration of knowledge, skills, dispositions, and the personal and social responsibility needed to succeed in a global society. They need to learn how to create constructive social change both in the United States and around the world. Today’s teachers also need to learn to work together to solve the vital issues concerning the education of all students both in and out of the U.S. Teachers must intentionally establish standards, learning outcomes, curriculum, and resources that inform practice and guide assessment in our global society. Digital technologies such as videoconferencing, social networking, video blogs, and email are all powerful tools that can be used to create virtual connections with international teachers and students- thus creating spaces for increased attention to international perspectives and our overall connectedness to the world. The College of Education will integrate *A Global Odyssey* into its Annual Teachers’ Conference and its IT: Technology Conference. Both conferences invite local teachers, administrators, students (graduate and undergraduate), and faculty to present their research and showcase teaching demonstrations focused on literacy and the use of digital technologies. Both conferences will include an international theme- highlighting teachers and students’ connections to the world. In addition to inviting international educators, and providing lectures on international education, The College of Education will host at least one movie night incorporating the theme of *A Global Odyssey* followed by guided discussions.

The relevance of this theme is also clear for the disciplines in the College of Applied Arts. Faculty in the College are involved in international teaching and research collaborations. Numerous courses across various departments integrate international content and explore the impact of globalization on today’s marketplace. The College also houses the Center for Migrant Education, which provides training and in-service education to teachers of migrant students (some of whom are from foreign countries) across the nation. Faculty in the College have been selected as Fulbright scholars; taken students to study abroad in Cambodia, South Africa, Mexico, and England; and developed research collaborations with faculty at international institutions. For example, faculty in the Department of Agriculture have participated in a collaborative relationship with a university in Morocco related to cattle feeding practices, another faculty member in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has taught in Peru and visited textile factories, and the Department of Criminal Justice hosts an annual hostage negotiation training which is attended by international participants. Similar to other Colleges, the College of Applied Arts will host talks, exhibits, and workshops in support of *A Global Odyssey*.

Faculty in the College of Science also have a wealth of international experience. The proposed Common Experience theme will provide a venue for their work to engage students and others in thinking about the world and seeing their place within it. Global interactions in the College are second nature as the barriers of language are greatly diminished because the fields of fundamental sciences, engineering, computer science, and mathematics utilize a common global language. For example, thermodynamics, a fundamental language to the sciences and
engineering, is the same worldwide. This fact makes it second nature for students, post-doctoral students, and faculty members to conduct active interactions throughout the world. During 2010-11 an interdisciplinary group from the College of Science and the Center for International Studies worked in collaboration with Royal University of Phnom Penh faculty and students to create a one-year science course for first-year university students in Cambodia. Furthermore, both undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world attend Texas State on a full time basis while others are here for short-term internships. In addition, many faculty hold graduate research appointments at foreign universities where they co-supervise graduate students while others spend their developmental leaves abroad. Many of these sabbaticals stem from long standing international research collaborations and often result in future long-term collaborations. With the globalization of business, the College of Sciences’ orientation toward applied research fosters a tremendous amount of activity with other countries. In light of these activities, the College looks forward to participating in the events associated with the proposed theme, _A Global Odyssey_.

The College of Health Professions is committed to teaching students in the health professions about the globalization of healthcare. Sharing medical knowledge and patient care procedures has now become a two-way exchange. While the U.S. healthcare culture attracts international students, faculty, and researchers for educational and investigational experiences before returning to their home countries, the number of Americans receiving healthcare outside the US is increasing. It is estimated that by 2012, nearly 2 million Americans will be participating in “medical tourism,” an industry worth an estimated $100 billion. While lower costs are usually cited, the availability of advanced technologies like stem cell therapies and better quality of care are likely reasons why Americans are drawn to healthcare abroad. In a traditional sense, the College provides cultural exchange experiences for students and faculty including study abroad opportunities for physical therapy students to provide care to communities in Nicaragua and Mexico, sharing of clinical laboratory science skills in Russia, hosting respiratory therapy educators from Singapore and nursing educators from Cambodia, conducting healthcare management courses in Kazakhstan and the Republic of Georgia, and sending a University delegation to assess the level of healthcare education needs in Cambodia. At home, students are required to complete cultural competencies embedded in the themes of various courses, develop cultural projects in a team setting, and explore practitioner expectations in the midst of diverse cultural healthcare beliefs and influences on patients and families in the American healthcare system. The College recognizes the future of healthcare will be addressed from a world-wide perspective and supports the theme of _A Global Odyssey_.

The Common Experience theme is crucial to the Graduate College and University’s goal of establishing itself as a prestigious research school. Due to the recent rise of several nations across the globe as technological powers, U.S. universities are placing high importance on collaborative research and innovation, especially in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) areas. Graduate Studies at Texas State has always attracted a large number of international students from various countries around the world. In 2010, five percent of all graduate students at Texas State were international. Although international students are pursuing various programs across campus, they often pursue degrees in science and engineering. As Texas State enhances the offerings in these areas, there will be a corollary increase in the number of international graduate students. Increased participation in international collaborative research
projects will not only enhance the educational opportunities for Texas State students but will also ensure the growing prestige of the University. The Graduate College will strongly support *A Global Odyssey* in their annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students, held each November.

Finally, this theme will further strengthen the relationship between Texas State University and the San Marcos community. To illustrate, the San Marcos Public Library has participated in every Common Experience and is excited about this proposed theme as well. This theme is also relevant to students in our local school district. We hope to develop collaborative events with the school district whereby their students participate in activities on our campus and our students and faculty participate in events on their respective campuses. We also plan to engage the various businesses with international interests in our community. Their support of *A Global Odyssey* will highlight the relevance of many of the aforementioned themes in this narrative.

In closing, although we believe this theme will be wholeheartedly embraced by those students who hope to have careers in the international sector, we find it to be even more relevant for those who plan to spend their careers in the U.S. These students, who might not initially see the importance of an international worldview to their professions, will learn their lives are nevertheless inextricably connected to others across the globe. Whether it is being employed in San Marcos by a German company, staying up late to participate in a conference call with counterparts in China, paying more for gas due to political unrest in the Middle East, or seeing their stock portfolio rise or fall based on the performance of foreign markets, students need to realize they no longer live in an isolated and insulated world. *A Global Odyssey* will set the foundation for Texas State to effectively prepare graduates who will be more **aware, equipped, empowered, and responsible** global citizens.
Common Text Suggestions
Taking to heart the notion that we are proposing a common experience that will explore the ways citizens of a global world can interact with different views and ideas, our list of suggested texts includes not only books but a map and a DVD. “Text” thus becomes the word for the materials of world that we read and to which we respond as “readers” of existence, acts that in many ways define the human experience of living in the world, itself a vast and compelling text.

We would like to provide all students with a copy of the map below in addition to whichever DVD or book is selected by the committee.

- World map (http://www.petersmap.com/)
- Baraka (DVD: http://www.spiritofbaraka.com/baraka)
- Citizen You by Jonathon Tish (http://www.citizenyou.org)

Additional Texts, Films, and Other Resources

Texts

Adichie, Chimamanda. Half of a Yellow Sun

Heggstad, Glen. One More Day Everywhere: Crossing 50 Borders on the Road to Global Understanding

Huang, Chi Cheng. When Invisible Children Sing
http://www.amazon.com/When-Invisible-Children-Cheng-Huang/dp/1414306164/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1292341490&sr=8-4

Kennedy, Geraldine. From the Center of the Earth: Stories Out of the Peace Corps
http://www.amazon.com/Center-Earth-Stories-Peace-Corps/dp/0962863203

Kidder, Tracy. Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World
http://www.amazon.com/Mountains-Beyond-Farmer-Random-Readers/dp/0812980557/ref=pd_sim_b_6
Kristof, Nicholas and WuDunn, Sheryl. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

Mortenson, Greg. *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time*

Novogratz, Jacqueline. *The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World*
http://www.amazon.com/Blue-Sweater-Bridging-between-Interconnected/dp/1605294764

Peace Corps. *A Life Inspired: Tales of Peace Corps Service*
http://www.amazon.com/Life-Inspired-Tales-Peace-Service/dp/0964447266/ref=pd_sim_b_7


Shannon, Lisa. *A Thousand Sisters: My Journey into the Worst Place on Earth to Be a Woman*
http://www.amazon.com/Thousand-Sisters-Journey-Worst-Place/dp/1580052967/ref=pd_sim_b_10

Sirleaf, Ellen. *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President*
http://www.amazon.com/This-Child-Will-Great-Remarkable/dp/0061353477

We Are What We Do. *Change the World for Ten Bucks: small actions x lots of people = big change*

Films

*Born into Brothels*
http://www.amazon.com/Born-into-Brothels-Kochi/dp/B000A2XCBC/ref=sr_1_20?ie=UTF8&qid=1291664110&sr=8-20

*God Grew Tired of Us*

*Invisible Children: Rough Cut*
Jimi Sir: An American Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal
http://www.amazon.com/Jimi-Sir-American-Peace-volunteer/dp/B000EJXVKI/ref=pd_sim_b_19

The Devil Came On Horseback
http://www.amazon.com/Devil-Came-Horseback-Brian-Steidle/dp/B000UX2UK/ref=pd_bxgy_d_img_c

The First Grader
http://tiff.net/filmsandschedules/tiffbelllightbox/2011/201012210044837

Tapestries of Hope
http://www.tapestriesofhope.com/movieandclips.html

Other Resources

Colors Magazine: an interactive site about the rest of the world
http://www.colorsmagazine.com/

Gapminder: provides visual depictions of health and lifespan
http://www.flixyy.com/200-countries-200-years-4-minutes.htm
Gapminder World (http://www.gapminder.org) shows similar graphics for other variables

Occasional Lecturer Program through Fulbright: Steve Wilson can assist in arranging the visit of international Fulbright scholars to the Texas State campus at minimal cost to the university.

Other movies exploring the power of education can be found on http://www.linktv.org/teachers

TED: Ideas Worth Spreading
  • Alisa Miller: CEO, Public Radio International
    http://www.ted.com/talks/alisa_miller_shares_the_news_about_the_news.html
  • Auret van Heerden: Labor-rights activist
    http://www.ted.com/talks/auret_van_heerden_making_global_labor_fair.html
  • John Francis: Planet walker
    http://www.ted.com/talks/john_franics_walks_the_earth.html
  • Ethan Zuckerman: Blogger, digital visionary
    http://www.ted.com/talks/ethan_zuckerman.html

Central Academic Event

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – Author
http://www.l3.ulg.ac.be/adichie/
Doc Henley – Founder of Wine to Water
http://winetowater.org/

Fareed Zakaria - Journalist
http://www.fareedzakaria.com

Ishmael Beah - Writer and Human Rights Activist
http://www.macmillanspeakers.com/speaker.aspx?name=ishmaelbeah

Luma Mufleh – Jordanian soccer coach for children from war-torn nations
Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference by Warren St. John (corresponding text to Luma Mufleh’s experiences)
http://www.edutopia.org/luma-mufleh

Mira Nair – Filmmaker, director, screenwriter
http://www.southwestern.edu/library/writers-voice/Mira_Nair/

Tibor Nagy – Ambassador and Associate Provost for International Affairs, Texas Tech University

Wole Soyinka – Nobel Prize winner for Literature

Performance in November by an international company to coincide with International Education Month

**Collaborative Activities**

- Dr. Smart is willing to contribute $1000-$2000 toward an honorarium or reception for a campus-wide speaker.
- Dr. Smart has also agreed to incorporate the theme into the yearly Business Leadership Week.
- Dr. Maria Canabal from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is willing to contribute $300 toward the following collaborative activities: a panel on the nutritional and economic impact of shortages in food and water around the world, a presentation on slave labor and the impact on the families and consumers, and the complex issue of sweatshops and their impact on families, consumers, and the fashion industry.
- Dr. Marcus Felson from the Department of Criminal Justice would like to explore local crime across the world. To that end, he has suggested the following speakers: Johannes Knutsson, an expert in policing, crowd control, and problem oriented policing, and affiliated with the Police Colleges in Sweden and Norway and George Rengert from Temple University who can speak about the geography of crime across the world.
• In November 2010, Dr. Anne Deepak from the School of Social Work coordinated an Islamophobia conference which was supported by a coalition of student groups from across campus. There was strong interest from participants to have more events in the future. Dr. Deepak has indicated an interest in assisting with a similar event in the future.

• Dr. Lori Assaf from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction has indicated a willingness to write a proposal for the university lecture series in order to invite Greg Mortenson the author of Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time and founder of Pennies For Peace (http://www.threecupsoftea.com/). Mr. Mortenson was recently nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize to be announced in October.

• The College of Education will sponsor one movie night focused on the universal urge to improve ourselves and our world through education. They propose to show The First Grader (http://www.thefirstgrader-themovie.com/), a movie that can be accessed for free online.

• Dr. Michael Willoughby supports the integration of the theme into the International Research Conference for Graduate Students to be held the first week of November.

• The Undergraduate Research Conference in the Fall will invite a speaker who will highlight our theme.

• Dr. Dennis Dunn has indicated his support for the proposed theme. The Center for International Studies will incorporate the theme into various events throughout the academic year.

• Dr. Federico Subervi, from the Center for the Study of Latino Media and Markets, has agreed to incorporate the proposed theme into the Puntos De Vista International Spanish Language Documentary organized by Dr. Sindy Chapa.

• The Modern Languages department has indicated an interest in hosting a speaker to discuss the importance of the bilingualism for Americans in today’s global culture. 2009 President of the Modern Language Association, Catherine Porter has been suggested as a possible speaker. Another speaker would be Rosemary Feal, current President of the Modern Language Association.

• The following faculty in the Department of English could be potential speakers: Ogaga Ifowodo, Suparno Banerjee, Pinfan Zhu, Teya Rosenberg, and Graeme Wend-Walker.

• The following faculty members from the College of Science have indicated an interest in and willingness to work on the proposed theme should it be selected: Drs. Vince Lopes (Biology), Apan Qasem (Computer Science), and Alejandra Sorto (Mathematics).

• Last year, the International Office collaborated with the Christian Faculty Forum to host a panel entitled The Current World View Through the Eyes of Major World Religions (i.e., Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism). Dr. Robert Seese has indicated his willingness to once again coordinate with the Christian Faculty Forum to host this event.

• The International Office is willing to work with the Study Abroad Office to co-sponsor a photo contest for international students illustrating their views of and experiences in the U.S.

• The Division of Student Affairs is already involved in numerous activities related to the proposed theme and specifically in supporting international students on campus. Dr. Joanne Smith has indicated a willingness to collaborate on possible activities should the theme be selected. In particular, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs is enthusiastic about supporting the proposed theme.
• Mr. Curt Shaffer, Director of Career Services has also indicated a willingness to support and collaborate on activities related to the proposed theme.
• The San Marcos City Manager’s Office supports the proposed theme and is willing to collaborate with Texas State.
• The San Marcos Public Library will partner with Texas State to host at least one event at the public library.
• The proposed theme could be integrated into Mass Communication Week in the fall semester.
• The proposed theme could be integrated into Communication Week in the spring semester.
• There are several performances in the Theater Department through the year that could be tied in to the proposed theme.
• Similarly, there are several performances in the Dance Department through the year that could be tied in to the proposed theme.
• We hope to schedule at least one exhibit in the Mitte Art Gallery related to our theme.
• The College of Liberal Arts regularly hosts Fulbright scholars who would be able to speak on various topics related to our theme.
• The Writing Center hosts a Literacy Speakers series.
• The Writing Center hosts an "intercambio" or language exchange each semester.
• The International Studies Club and Sigma Iota Rho schedule events that highlight the interconnectedness of the world. These events are in line with the proposed theme.
• The Philosophy Dialogue series will coordinate some aspect of the dialogue with the proposed theme.
• There are German, Spanish, and French Film Series for which relevant movies representing the theme can be selected. These occur weekly through the Department of Modern Languages.
• The Gallery of the Common Experience in the Honors Coffee Forum exhibits the work of students, area artists, and artists from around the world reflecting the theme of the Common Experience.
• Up to a third of the Honors courses offered each semester have an international focus. These classes will fit into the theme and enhance the Common Experience through class discussions, projects, field trips, and guest speakers.
• Each semester Honors students host a multicultural dinner inviting international students and faculty to share a meal with Honors students and faculty.
• Honors alumni who have travelled across the world to teach, serve in the Peace Corps, go to graduate school, work, and explore will be invited to return to campus to discuss these experiences.
• The Honors program will continue its collaboration with MFA faculty in the Department of English to schedule a poetry reading tied to the Common Experience theme.
• In the spring the Honors program will collaborate with several entities on campus to schedule “Juilliard Rejoins Texas State for a Common Experience.”
• Students in the newly formed Voyagers Club meet in the Honors Program space and have guest speakers who have traveled or worked in other countries.
• Cultural activities sponsored by various student organizations will highlight the proposed theme (e.g., Diwali, Sakura, etc).
• In addition, the proposed theme will fit nicely with activities occurring during International Education Month in November.
• The Study Abroad Office conducts a study abroad fair every semester.
• We would also like to develop an exhibit to be housed on the first floor of Alkek library that would highlight Texas State’s international involvement in various spheres and include student and faculty testimonials.