



# Common Theme

## What is the Common Theme?

The Common Theme is a yearlong program to engage the campus and community in the ideals of a liberal arts education and the UW-Green Bay interdisciplinary mission. It is designed to encourage faculty, staff, students, and community members to focus on a general theme from multiple perspectives and have a shared experience with open discussion and critical thinking. See [www.uwgb.edu/commontheme](http://www.uwgb.edu/commontheme)

## Summary of the 2011-2012 Common Theme, "Celebrating Differences Creating Community"

Campus diversity with respect to (but not limited to) ethnicity, expressions of gender, age, socioeconomic status, ability status, religion, and sexual orientation offers significant social and educational benefits. Our goal for this Common Theme is to present a variety of opportunities on campus for students, faculty and community members to engage in positive discussions that explore and celebrate diversity, that identify and challenge oppression, and that focus on positive steps that can be taken toward creating a more inclusive campus community.

This is a portion of the proposal that was selected as the common theme for 2011-2012. The proposal was a combined effort of Angela Bauer-Dantoin (Human Biology), Deborah Rezac (American Intercultural Center), Shawn Robinson (American Intercultural Center), Jolanda Sallmann (Social Work) and Kristin Vespia (Human Development and Psychology)

## Selected Events Related to "Celebrating Differences Creating Community"

- Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord, "Creating Healing Environments: Wisdom From Navajo Ceremonies"
- Online book discussion with author Rachel Simon "The Story of a Beautiful Girl"
- Bittersweet Exhibit
- Daryl Davis, Grammy Award winning pianist spoke of his journey into the heart of the Ku Klux Klan
- Panel Discussion: "Transgender: Sexual Orientation, Gender Expression, Gender Identity or None of the Above?"
- Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator
- Book Discussion - "The Latehomecomer" by Kao Kalia Yang
- Rana Husseini, internationally recognized and award winning journalist and human rights defender
- Mural Contest in Residence Life

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If you have an idea or would like to get involved with the Common Theme, please contact one of the Common Theme Task Force members:

- Brenda Amenson-Hill (Co-Chair)
  - Donna Ritch (Co-Chair)
  - Sue Bodilly
  - Forrest Brooks
  - Anne Buttke
  - Paula Ganyard
  - Michelle Dewhirst McQuade
  - Adam Gaines
  - Alison Gates
  - Steve Meyer
  - Ellen Rosewall
  - Mussie Teclezion
  - Kris Vespia
  - Grant Winslow
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## “Creativity, Innovation, & Vision” 2012-2013 Common Theme

“We believe that higher education has a vital role to play in the formation of the next generation of creative innovators and visionaries. We must give students the opportunity to form the interdisciplinary connections necessary to challenge conventional frameworks and invent new ones. We must recognize that a student's pursuit of a personal passion has the potential to lead him or her to new collaborative partners and groundbreaking entrepreneurial ideas. We propose to spend the 2012-2013 academic year examining creativity, innovation and vision through the lens of questions such as:

- What is the nature of creativity?
- How can we as an institution foster creativity and innovative thinking in our students?
- What are we doing to cultivate the next generation of “visionaries”?
- How can we better cultivate organizational cultures that support creativity, innovation, collaboration and interdisciplinary connections?”

This a portion of the proposal submitted by Professors Adam Gaines, Michelle McQuade Dewhirst and Ellen Rosewall with contributions and support from Lucy Arendt, Kevin Collins, David Coury, Clif Ganyard, Alison Gates, Cheryl Grosso, Craig Hanke, Derek Jeffreys, Jennifer Mokren, Chuck Rybak, Lisa Tetzloff

### Class Events

This year Professors Ellen Rosewall, Michelle Dewhirst-McQuade, and Jenifer Mokren will be team-teaching a first year seminar directly related to the common theme. The course description for AVD198: Creativity, Innovation, & Vision is: The UWGB Common Theme for this academic year is “Creativity, Innovation and Vision.” What does this mean for a student at UWGB? What is creative thinking? How do innovators think of new ideas? In this course, we will explore creativity as a practice, examine how innovators change the world, and imagine how as students you can impact your own education and the university.

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#### *Past Common Themes*

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- 2008-2009 “Waging War, Waging Peace” by Professor Kim Nielsen
  - 2009-2010 “Realizing Our Sustainable Future” by Professors John Stoll and Kevin Fermanich
  - 2010-2011 “The Leadership Question” by the Office of Student Life, the Office of Residence Life, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Ecumenical Center, and the Campus Life Leadership Task Force. Other contributors included Debbie Furlong and Professors Lucy Arendt, Scott Ashmann, Jeff Entwistle, Denise Scheberle, and Kris Vespia
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### Ideas for Future Common Theme Topics

Do you have an idea for the 2013-2014 common theme? Watch your e-mail for the request for proposals which should be coming out soon. The process for submitting a proposal is a very simple one. The Common Theme task force looks for interdisciplinary ideas that can connect faculty, staff, students, and the community. A stipend of \$3000 is awarded to the author(s) of the selected proposal to be used toward common theme programming.

## Upcoming Events

These are just a few events that are scheduled that relate to this year's common theme, "Creativity, Innovation, & Vision." See [www.uwgb.edu/commontheme](http://www.uwgb.edu/commontheme) more events and further details.

### Now You See It

**Tuesday, October 9 at 8:00PM in the Phoenix Rooms**

**Cathy N. Davidson** is the author of *Now You See It: How the brain science of attention will transform the way we live, work, and learn*. Her main contributions have been in the areas of history and theory of technology. She is known as a leader on national policy on digital media and learning. Her interest in issues of race, gender, and sexuality cross all her work, from eighteenth-century literature to envisioning the future of digital media and learning institutions in a digital age.

***bobrauschenbergamerica* by Charles L. Mee**

**October 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2012 7:30 pm**

**Jean Weidner Theatre**

*bobrauschenbergamerica* is a fantastical road trip through the American landscape, written as Robert Rauschenberg, one of America's greatest artists, might conceive it. Traveling easily through time, the play is a glorious collage of images and sensations—Rauschenberg's childhood home, a human martini, a pizza delivery boy, the world's worst collection of chicken jokes . . .

### The City 2.0

**Thursday, November 8 at 8:00PM in the Phoenix Rooms**

**Candy Chang**, artist, designer, and urban planner who explores making cities more comfortable and contemplative places. She believes in the potential of introspection and collective wisdom in public space to improve our communities and our personal well-being. By combining street art with urban planning, social activism, and philosophy, she has been recognized as a leader in developing new strategies for the design of our cities.

### Why Darwin Matters: Evolution, Intelligent Design, & the Battle for Science & Religion

**Tuesday, November 13 at 8:00PM in the Phoenix rooms**

**Michael Shermer** is the author of *The Borderlands of Science*, about the fuzzy land between science and pseudoscience, and *Denying History*, on Holocaust denial and other forms of pseudohistory. His book *How We Believe: Science, Skepticism, and the Search for God*, presents his theory on the origins of religion and why people believe in God. He is also the author of *Why People Believe Weird Things* on pseudoscience, superstitions, and other confusions of our time.

SEPTEMBER 2012

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