

"WORLD LIFE"

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Thesis Prepared for the Degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

August 2018

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Ingabire, Cyuzuzo. "*World Life*." Master of Fine Arts (Documentary Production and Studies), August 2018, 43 pp., references, 17 titles.

During this time of interest and uncertainty in immigration, a foreigner seeking an education, home, and career wonders how welcoming America really is. This documentary film focuses on how the organization known as World Life is involved in helping international students in terms of language, accommodation, and religion. It follows an organization that is willing to open up and welcome them into the community.

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PROSPECTUS*

Title: *World Life*
Length: 10 Minutes
Medium: Hd Video/ 4k

The film centers on the students involved in World Life, a Christian organization that was started by Denton Bible Church. Their ministry is based on the verse “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). Denton Bible Church created this organization to help international students coming to America for the first time. With the culture shock and new language, World Life is there to support and make international students feel welcome and at home. A lovely couple named Meredith and Carey Hall live in Denton, Texas with their children and help run the organization.

One of the reasons World Life works for the international students is the relationships that are created and the connections that are made there. For example, Meredith and Carey helped an international student who didn't have a place to live by letting her stay with them. Her name is Sari Amalia Djalil from Indonesia. She has been to The United States twice. The first time was in 2014 when she first met Carey and Meredith when a friend brought her to their house. She built a good relationship with both them and their children. Carey and Meredith brought her to World Life and that night they went bowling. She came again for a second time in 2016. Sari is a Muslim, but she attended Catholic schools as an elementary student in Indonesia. Her parents did not mind because the school had a good reputation and was strict. This Fall Sari will start university studying Construction Management at The University of North Texas(UNT). This is the next step to take to begin her future career.

* This section was written during one year, from March 2016 until March 2018. This is the original proposal that was submitted and approved by the thesis committee.

World Life (WL) is a Christian organization for international students of all faiths that is more than a charity organization—it's a community. When an international student comes to Denton they are often surrounded by new people, a different culture, and don't know where to go. The Halls make this experience easier from the start by picking them up from the airport and helping them with everything they need. This may include a place to live, shopping, relocating, learning about American culture, learning to improve their English, and also making new friends. The Halls haven't always engaged with international students, but a friend approached Carey and asked if he could spearhead a mission outreach to some Chinese pilots in Denton. Carey and Meredith visited the pilots who were in the hospital and enjoyed learning their culture. A friend of Carey's from the international ministry shared with him how wonderful World Life was. Carey believes God placed in his heart a real desire for international students and has been with World Life for four years now.

World Life, an organization where you can socialize with people regardless of their background, meets every Friday evening at 6:30 in the Christian Campus Building where students and volunteers gather as a community. The meetings include dinner, music, and Bible study, which happens at the end of the night to give students the freedom to leave or to ask about the Bible and God. Sameer Hakimi is a Muslim student who is new at World Life and came to know about it through a friend. He came to America in October 2016 from Saudi Arabia and now lives in Denton with his wife and two children. To Sameer, World Life is a place to make new friends and to develop his interest in learning about Christianity. Sameer is in the process of applying to UNT.

Zhecheng Shi (Cheng) is an electrical engineering student from China. He came to America in August 2014 and was introduced to Carey, as World Life works with the Intensive

English Language program (IELI) at UNT. Cheng loves the program because it is a place that people can get together every Friday evening and share their daily lives with each other, play games, and attend Bible study to gain knowledge from a book he had never read. Cheng is an atheist but he feels totally welcomed by World Life because they do not push him to accept Christianity. World Life members share their knowledge and life experiences to show how the grace of God works. Cheng will miss World Life when he graduates from UNT in December 2017. My hope in making this documentary is to help international students to see that there is a community willing to help them out. All three main characters are all students on different paths and from different backgrounds, but they are all connected to an organization that helps international students.

Treatment

The day starts as three students, Sameer, Cheng, and Sari are getting ready to go to school. Sameer plays with children in the living room before he says goodbye to them and his wife Sari is in the kitchen eating her breakfast while sitting with her roommate and talking about what their days look like. She finishes and says “I’d better head out and get to school, I don’t want to be late.” She grabs her bag and heads out the door. Cheng is in the living room working on his homework before he heads to his other class. He looks at the time and packs his bags to head to campus to start his final semester. Cheng, Sari, and Sameer are on campus in class as the morning goes by. It’s time for lunch as they each head home or to the union.

Connie is getting ready to go to work, knowing it’s going to be a long day she makes sure she has everything with her before walking out of the door. As she drives to Dallas she listens to her playlist on her phone to boost her for the youth she’s going to help that day. She arrives at

work, takes a deep breath, and walks out of the car into the building. Simultaneously, Drew and Katie are getting ready for work. While Drew is feeding their daughter breakfast, they discuss their schedule for the day. “Oh, I just remembered,” Drew says, “We have some volunteer time at the nursing home, are you ready to sing Katie?” “As ready as I can be,” says Katie, with a smile on her face. “Are you ready to teach the word of God?” says Katie. “As ready as I can be,” says Drew. That makes them laugh out loud and their daughter Avonlea joins in their laughter. “We need to get to work,” says Katie as they both get up and get ready to leave.

Meredith and Carey Hall are at home getting ready for the day. Their two little children, Jonathan and Josiah, are playing with their toys as Meredith prepares their breakfast and puts it on the dining room table. Carey helps Jonathan onto his chair and Meredith helps Josiah. Meredith and Carey discuss their day. Meredith and Carey drive to the Christian Campus Building in Denton to set up for World Life like they always do every Friday. They always look forward to it because it brings together the community and they get to catch up with all the students they have helped. The night draws in and at 6:30 p.m. volunteers and students start to come in. Sari, Cheng, and Sameer are talking and enjoying their time hanging out with their friends after a busy week of school. As people are talking to each other, the volunteers help prepare dinner. Carey thanks everybody for coming and they pray over the food before they start eating, as is customary. People are talking and enjoying the food. Carey picks up the microphone and makes some announcements for new people to introduce themselves. As the night goes on we have music, games, and finally Bible study. The event ends, and they put away the chairs and tables, starting to say goodbye.

Characters

Main Characters: Sari, Cheng, and Sameer

- Meredith and Carey Hall:

Living in Texas, Meredith is a stay-at-home mom and Carey works as a flight service weatherman for Leidos. They are members of the Denton Bible Church, the church under which World Life was created. They have two children: Josiah, 17 months and Jonathan, 3.

Supporting Characters

- Connie Espino aka Mama Connie: Originally from New Mexico, Connie lives in Denton, Texas and works in Dallas as a probation officer. She helps with young teenage girls who have been sexually abused. She is a member of the Denton Bible Church, where she volunteers on missionary trips and in World Life. She's a game leader (comes up with the games played at World Life.)

- Drew and Katie: Born in Texas, Katie and Drew are nurses (Drew at Baylor Heart Hospital and Katie at Texas Presbyterian Hospital in Denton, TX). They are members of the Denton Bible Church. Drew goes to Bible school at the Dallas Theological Seminary. They volunteer and teach Bible study at a nursing home and Katie helps play the piano at various church events. They have one 20-month-old daughter, Avonlea, and are volunteers for World Life.

Sarah Feeny: Though now living in Texas, Sarah has also lived for five and half years overseas in four different countries. From 2014 to 2016 she lived in Hualien, Taiwan teaching English and visiting students in a nearby village. Having lived overseas, she appreciates the

different nationalities and is interested in learning their cultures and their desire to share in the love of Christ.

Tentative Schedule

Locations: Christian Campus Center (CCC), Home of: Carey and Meredith, Drew and Katie, Connie, Sarah. Nursing home (need permission), Denton Bible Church.

Date:	Location	Crew
September 8, 2017	Film Students and Volunteers at World life.	Cinematographer sound recordist
September 14, 2017	Film observational footage with Sari in home and campus environment. School, work, friends.	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 15, 2017	Film observational footage with Cheng in home and campus environment. School, work, friends	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 16, 2017	Film observational footage with Sameer in home and campus environment. School, work, friends	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 23, 2017	Film observational footage of Drew and Katie in their home and as they head to work.	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 24, 2017	Film observational footage of Meredith and Carey in their home, Carey working at home and as they go to church	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 29, 2017	Film observational footage of Connie in their home and as she heads to work.	Cinematographer, sound recordist
September 30, 2017	Film observational footage of Sarah in their home and as she heads to work.	Cinematographer, sound recordist
October 20, 2017	Sit- down interview with Cheng in the CCC	Cinematographer, sound recordist
October 21, 2017	Sit-down interview with Sari and Sameer in the CCC	Cinematographer, sound recordist
October 28, 2017	Sit-down interview with Meredith and Carey in the CCC	Cinematographer, sound recordist
October 29, 2017	Sit-down interview with Katie at the CCC and Drew and Film them at Nursing home.	Cinematographer, sound recordist
November 11, 2017	Sit- Down interview with Connie at the CCC	Cinematographer, sound recordist
November 12, 2017	Sit- Down interview with Sarah at the CCC	Cinematographer, sound recordist

Style and Approach

Much of the documentary will be observational with a mix of hand-held and tripod. The use of interviews will be on location (for example home, work, the CCC). The film will include voice-overs. For example, when the subjects are talking I will show either observational footage or photographs. There will be narration that will come from the main two subjects, Meredith and Carey Hall. Music will be added for the emotion of the documentary.

Feasibility

I live in Denton, Texas making it logistically feasible to film. As far as access, I am already familiar with the characters.

Target Audience

Age and Gender

My target audience will be both female and male. This documentary will appeal to international students, the international office at UNT, and its resident students. My main audience will be the people at the University of North Texas as this directly affects the students at UNT. Also, I am considering people involved in ministry to international students.

Location

In Texas. In the documentary I will have my subjects give their opinions on the topic of international students and how World Life helps them in many ways. This is to show that international students don't have to struggle when coming to America for the first time.

Religion

Since this is a Christian organization and it respects different cultures and religions, my plan is to do the same.

Ethnicity

I am aiming for different ethnicities in America and will try not to offend anyone race or culture.

Social Media: Facebook, Website

I will be using Facebook to spread the word out about my documentary film and as a fundraising platform. By showing photographs of my documentary on Facebook, I will gain more audience awareness.

The official website will be more detailed and include my reason for making this documentary, videos, and photographs of the documentary. This is for future use and during production when I want to promote the film.

Financing Possibilities

I plan to raise money through a Kickstarter campaign. Kickstarter has proven to be a successful fundraising platform and the goal is to try and raise \$6,500. This will help me sustain the project through my production time. I will also explore other possible resources for funding including the Austin Film Society, grants, crowd funding, and Women in Film (Dallas).

Distribution Possibilities

The initial plan is to look into getting into local festivals such as Thinline and the Dallas International Film Festivals SXSW. With the topic of film, I feel it would be good to get my story out there. The best part is that it won't cost me a lot to attend these events since they are in Texas. Some of the best, yet most difficult, festivals to get into are the Sundance and Tribeca film festivals, however there is a chance I will be accepted so I will give it a try. Other festivals interested in international students that could assist in the distribution of my film are:

- Thinline Film Festival
- Atlanta Film Festival
- Austin Film Festival
- Christian Film Festivals
- International Christian Festival(ICFF)
- Christian Worldview film festival
- EBS International Documentary Festival- Seoul, Korea
- World Fest - Houston International Film Festival
- Winter Film Awards Independent Film Festival – New York

Equipment

Editing was done in premier pro, with footage captured on the Panasonic DVX200 camera and FS 100.

Research

Website/Social Media

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/23734831487/> - World Life Facebook group page. Find out who has joined the group since 2014.
- <https://www.facebook.com/worldlifedenton/> - Main Facebook page where you can find out more about World Life and what has happened. Events, games, Friday nights at the Campus Christian Building.
- <http://dentonbible.org/> - The main website of the church that founded World Life.
- <http://dbcm.org/international/> - A map showing the international countries where the church did missionary work
- <http://international.unt.edu> - Main international office website page where students can get information they need.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8rR-oYdbpI> - Welcome video for international students with different departments, a welcome message from UNT president, and students saying “You are welcome here.”
- <http://international.unt.edu/ieli/intensive-english-language-institute> - (IELI) attended by international students before they enroll as full-time students at UNT.

Media

Title: Twinsters:

Director: Samantha Futerman, Ryan Miyamoto

Time: 90 minutes

Synopsis: The story follows a French fashion design student as she goes on a journey to meet her twin after being separated at birth.

This documentary influenced me because of the style of the film; it has observational footage when the two girls are searching for each other. The sit-down interviews that allow the characters tell you their stories and how they feel helps you connect with the audience. The film has a good following on social media. The documentary covered an issue that affected not only

the subjects, but also other people who are in similar situations. It's current and it impacted the audience in a big way. Personally, I liked it because I am very close to my sisters and I cannot imagine growing up without knowing I had another sister or brother in the world. They used Kickstarter to fund their film and it was very successful as they raised \$43,838 with a pledge goal of \$ 30,000 and had 1, 241 backers.

Title: Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief

Director: Alex Gibney

Time: 120 minutes

Synopsis: Former Scientology member and now filmmaker Alex Gibney interviews former members of the Church of Scientology and exposes abuses and strange practices within the controversial organization.

The reason I picked this documentary is because, as a Christian, it caught my eye. It was very intense and prevalent in the public media. The director did sit down interviews with a simple background and had the former member witness the struggles they went through with the organization. This controversial documentary has a big following on social media because some of the former members are celebrities and it made a big impact. The film has been receiving awards since its release.

Title: Man, on Wire

Director: James Marsh

Time: 94 minutes

Synopsis: the documentary tells a story of a man, Philippe Petit's in 1974 who dared cross the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center on a high-wire.

This story is very interesting and keeps the audience on their toes. First because it's coming from Philippe himself and there are reenactments which keeps the documentary intense and sometimes funny. I always like it when I hear from the person who's already in the story because you can take those steps and memories with them.

Title: 20 Feet from Stardom

Director: Morgan Neville

Time: 89 minutes

Synopsis: The documentary tells a story of backup singers. The filmmaker, Morgan Neville, decided to shine a spot on those who made songs that were a hit on the charts.

The reason I like this story is that it's a great story to tell, but mostly it's like my documentary because it's telling a story of people who continue to help others while nobody knows their hard work behind the scenes. It's time to shine a light on those people who influence others in a positive way.

Title: Blackfish

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite

Time: 80 minutes

Synopsis: The documentary of Tilikum, a captive killer whale, who is an intelligent mammal and has caused a great deal of problems for Sea World, including taking several people's lives.

This documentary is very intense and controversial and Sea World has been affected by this. Tilikum was taken from a place he knew to a strange new place. While international students choose to come to an unfamiliar place, they too are adjusting to strange, new surroundings in America.

Title: What Happened, Miss Simone?

Director: Liz Garbus

Time: 102 minutes

Synopsis: This biographical documentary is about the singer Nina Simone. The story is constructed from archive footage, interviews, and diary entries. The director concentrates on Nina Simone's political message about racism, a defining characteristic of her career.

This a personal story that tells who Simone was and how hard she worked to get far in her music career. She inspired many people and worked with famous artists because of the connections she made in her career. Connections and relationships are some of the key points in this film and my film about World Life.

Journals

Vogt, Peter. "Christianity." Encyclopedia of Community, Karen Christensen, and David Levinson, Sage Publications, 2nd edition, 2003. Credo Reference, <https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:5154/login?url=http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sagecommun/christianity/0?institutionId=4982>. – The definition of Christianity, why people are Christians, their beliefs and the reason people read the bible.

Morris, J. (2001). The Book of Miracles: The meaning of the miracle stories in Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam. The Wilson Quarterly, 25(1), 142-143.

Retrieved from

<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/197250026/fulltextPDF/799B396A24464117PQ/1?accountid=7113> - This book covers the miracles and stories in different religions. This is a great find because my characters believe in these different religions.

Ward, T., Jacobs, J., & Thompson, R. J. (2015). THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. *College and University*, 91(1), 3-10. Retrieved from <http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/1785517420/fulltextPDF/EE63A2532DB64AA5PQ/1?accountid=7113> – This article talks about the number of international students that go to school in America and their reasons for doing so (e.g. poverty in their home countries).

Lee, Jenny J., and Charles Rice. "Welcome to America? International Student Perceptions of Discrimination." ER Login. Jstor.org
<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2065/stable/pdf/29735060.pdf> – This article covers a study that was done that asked international students about different situations they were encountering at the university such as discrimination, unfairness, inhospitable treatment, and cultural intolerances.

Khoshlessan, Rezvan, and Kumer P. Das. "Analyzing International Students' Study Anxiety in Higher Education." *Journal of International Students*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2017, pp. 311-328, Research Library; Social Science Premium Collection,
<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/1871393555/fulltextPDF/AC34B1088B0143EBPQ/1?accountid=7113> – This article covers the anxiety international students go through when it comes to higher education in mid-sized, public, four-year universities in Southeast Texas. It covers points of anxiety such as nationality, gender, age, major, degree, and stage of education.

Kamara, Abu. "International Students and "the Presentation of Self" Across Cultures." *Journal of International Students*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2017, pp. 291-310, Research Library; Social Science Premium Collection,
<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/1871383846/fulltextPDF/4CDFDD14CA9B4360P/Q/1?accountid=7113> – Research that discovered that when it comes to presenting or talking

about their culture, international students feel threatened and so they tend to hide from social and academic interactions.

Falcone, Santa. "International Student Recruitment: Trends and Challenges." *Journal of International Students*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2017, pp. 246-256, Research Library; Social Science Premium Collection,

<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/1871393598/fulltextPDF/A66EC928549D473APQ/1?accountid=7113> – This article covers how schools recruit international students and particularly focus on Chinese students. I have seen this happen at my undergraduate university in Georgia where the president of the university took a trip to China himself to recruit students regardless of their level of proficiency in English.

Erlenawati Sawir, Simon Marginson, Ana Deumert, Chris Nyland, Gaby Ramia. *Journal of Studies in International Education*. Vol 12, Issue 2, pp. 148 – 180. September-13-2007

<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2992/doi/pdf/10.1177/1028315307299699> - A study that was done with international students studying and living in Australia. It talks about their loneliness and isolation.

Seo, Hyunjin, Ren-Whei Harn, Husain Ebrahim, & José Aldana. "International students' social media use and social adjustment." *First Monday* [Online], 21.11 (2016)

<http://journals.uic.edu/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/6880/5646> - This article covers how international students adjust to social media in the western world.

Anand, N. K. "INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE A WIN-WIN." *ASEE Prism*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2015, pp. 10, SciTech Premium Collection; Social Science Premium Collection,

<http://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2087/docview/1732766273/fulltextPDF/3C1FB11C599A46B3PQ/>

[1?accountid=7113](#) – This discusses the adjustments international students go through in terms of money problems, language, and culture.

Crew Biographies

Bokyung Choi, Cinematographer: Bokyung from South Korea, is a filmmaker pursuing a Masters in Fine Arts in Documentary Production and Studies at the University of North Texas.

Sunil Kilaru, Sound Recordist: Sunil is a filmmaker, From India, is a filmmaker/ Photographer pursuing a Masters in Fine Arts in Documentary Production and Studies at the University of North Texas.

Budget

		Country of Production: Texas				
		Currency of Production: US Dollars				
Description	Quantity	Duration (days/weeks)	Rate	Total	Kind	Cash
Pre-Production/ Research						
Gas/parking/ Mileage/Toll		7	\$12.50	\$87.50	\$87.50	\$87.50
Subtotal Pre-Production/ Research				\$87.50	\$87.50	\$ 87.50
Production						
Director of Photography	1	10	\$200	\$2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	0
Camera (Fs 100/ shogun)	1	5	\$150/day	\$750	\$750	0
Camera (Panasonic DVX200)	1	5	\$ 195/day	\$ 975	\$750	0
Sound Recordist	1	10	\$ 100	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	0
Audio Package (633, wireless mic)	1	10	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0
Lighting Package (fiilex light kit)	1	7	\$100/day	\$ 700	\$ 700	0
SD cards 64 GB			\$ 87.96	87.96	\$ 87.96	\$ 87.96
Equipment Insurance			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000
Gas/parking/ Mileage/Toll		15	\$ 12.50	\$187.50	\$ 187.50	\$187.50
Meals	2 crews	10	\$30	\$600	\$600	\$600
Subtotal Production				\$9,800.46	\$9,800.46	\$1,875.46
Post Production						
Editor picture & sound	1	9 weeks	\$ 100.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	0
Distribution:						
Festival fees	10		\$ 60	\$600	\$600	\$600
Travel to festivals			\$ 400	\$400	\$400	\$400
DVD's (package)	100		\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Social media: one-time campaign investment			\$3,000	\$3,000	\$ 3,000	\$3,000
Social media: monthly management investment			\$1,200	\$1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Subtotal Post Production				\$14,700	\$14,700	
Total				\$ 24,587.96	\$24,587.96	\$ 3,000
Grand Total				\$24,587.96		\$ 2,262.96

BEFORE PRODUCTION

During the pre-production stage I wanted to film this documentary as a community that's there to help. And one of the important parts of it is the people involved in the organization. The leaders and the students connect through religion, culture and language.

World Life is about the organization and the people involved, therefore I pictured the documentary film being more observational with some sit-down interviews with the leaders and students who make up World Life. The students at World Life get a chance to interact with each, and get to know each other and friendships are built. People from different parts of the world come together and learn from one another. Friday nights is when the organization meet and have dinner together, have fun together, and play games. Showing that visually is a good way to show the audience that this is a place where the students feel safe.

Christianity is a big part of World Life. Their motto is a Bible verse in Matthew 25:35 "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." I want to showcase in the documentary that they welcome everyone even if they are not Christian and that they are willing to be open with their beliefs and share it with others. For example, two characters in the documentary are not Christians, but they have mentioned that people in World Life are not forcefully trying to convert them to Christianity, they teach about the knowledge of God and the Bible. Through teaching, fun, and learning, World Life is there to be a community of support for students who are far from their homes and families. home and their families.

INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH

Religion and Environment

Religion is the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods. Religion can also be seen as an ideology or a sacred system of beliefs and rituals that binds people together into social groups. Religion is used in different ways: in culture, environment, education, and daily lives. It influences all parts of life including sports, social situations, and food. Since religion consists of different beliefs, a theoretical methodology that can be used is cultural studies. “Cultural studies is concerned with the generation and circulation of meanings in industrial societies.... Also underlying this assumption that capitalist societies are divided societies the primary axis of division are nation, age group, religion, occupation, education, political allegiance, and so on. Society, then is not an organic whole but a complex network of groups, each with different interests and related to each other in terms of their power relationship with dominant classes.” (Fiske 284, 285)

Sometimes groups from different backgrounds are willing to come together and work as a community. For example, the Christian organization World Life makes connections with international students from different cultures and religions to teach about God in the context of Christianity. Similarly, the documentary film *Renewal* is about people with different cultural backgrounds and religions from different parts of the United States fighting together for the environment. A quote in the beginning of the film says, “Many Americans have been discovering deep connections between their religious beliefs and the environment. Together they form a growing movement that seeks to profoundly change how we live with the Earth.” Although each of these religions diverges from and sometimes contradicts the others, all of them speak to environmental issues in some way. By focusing on the shared aspects of their different religions,

Renewal shows how activists from different religions can come together for a united cause. Such as world life with their motto “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Church created this organization to help international students coming to America for the first time. With the culture shock and new language, World Life is there to support and make international students feel welcome and at home. World Life is a Christian organization that was started by the Denton Bible Church who bases their ministry off the verse “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Church created this organization to help international students coming to America for the first time. With the culture shock and new language, World Life is there to support and make international students feel welcome and at home. A couple named Meredith and Carey Hall live in Denton, Texas with their children and help run the organization. The organization tries to build relationships with the international students. World Life is a Christian organization for international students of all faiths that is more than a charity organization—it’s a community. When an international student comes to Denton they are often surrounded by new people, a different culture, and don’t know where to go. The Halls make this experience easier from the start by picking them up from the airport and helping them with everything they need. This may include a place to live, shopping, relocating, learning about the American culture, improving their English, and making new friends.

There are similar connections and comparisons with World Life and the film *Renewal*. *Renewal* is based on eight stories and the idea of the film is showing the diversity of religious environmental activists. The different religions focused on are Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam and World life is one faith helping people with various faith. The stories that will be focused on are mountaintop removal, food for faith, compassion in action, eco justice, and scared celebration. The first story is about the mountaintop removal from Kentucky and West Virginia

where companies mine for coal to put into the power plants in America. A group called Kentuckians for Commonwealth who are Evangelical Christians have created a community that has a tour to show people how mountain removal has destroyed the environment and have organized the fight against this practice.

In *Renewal*, during a meeting held by the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, a mother comes forward as a witness to tell her story of her three-year-old daughter bathing in arsenic water because of the mountain top removal that goes into the streams. The removal leads to flooding, the decline of vegetation, and the interruption of the entire ecosystem. According to Louis Althusser, “Ideology is not a static set of ideas imposed upon the subordinate by the dominant classes, but rather a dynamic process constantly reproduced and reconstituted in practice that is in ways that people think, act, and understand themselves and their relationship to society” (Fiske pg. 286). Christianity has been around for centuries since the Roman Empire and the birth of Jesus Christ. This led to the spread of the Christian faith with two billion Christians worldwide. Christianity does have its own classes, but in terms of different denominations. Western Christians include Catholics, Evangelicals, Lutherans, Methodists, Pentecostals, Protestants, and Non-denominational. Eastern Christians include Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Assyrian. Nontrinitarian Christians include Iglesia Ni Cristo, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Oneness Pentecostal. Some denominations such as the Catholic Church do not believe in denomination, but as an original pre-denominational church that has 1.2 billion members worldwide.

In *Renewal*, the group Kentuckians for the Commonwealth use their faith as a way to dominant the coal mine companies. The actions the Christians take are to try and help the community. For example, in the film a scene shows the group singing religious songs while

blasts are going on in the background. In another scene the group goes to speak to students at Berea College as Matthew Sleeth, a Christian doctor, points out, “we want to witness to young generations because we want them to take upon themselves this challenge to bring justice and healing to these mountains. ‘Environmentalism’ is a dirty word. The church got involved late, but they have an advantage in their favor of faith and a church with a lot of political connections and economic might and I think that’s why we have a special role to play.”

The group believes God created nature and that mountaintop removal is destroying their environment. They believe it is their place as Christians to protect as much as they can.

Food for Faith

John Fiske states, “Social norms are ideologically slanted in favor of a particular class or group of classes but are accepted as natural by other classes, even when the interests of those other classes are directly opposed by ideology reproduced by living life according to those norms” (287). Muslims are usually portrayed in the media as a culture and religion that is violent and feared by people, but the film depicts a different story. In Chicago the Muslim community and an interdenominational organization called Faith in Place helps support Taqwa, a Muslim community that provides organic meat and supports other communities that do sustainable farming. Taqwa was initially started by non-Muslims to bring the Muslim community into the organization. The organically-raised chicken, beef, and lamb are known as “Eco-Halal.” The Muslim community has a tradition where during Ramadan, they make sure that the people without food are provided with organic, healthy meat. Shreen Pishada, a Muslim in Chicago, believes in treating animals with respect and dignity as the prophet Mohammed taught in the Quran.

To help treat the animals better than they are treated in factories, Taqwa decided to provide meat products that are Zabihah, which means slaughtered in accordance with Islamic dietary requirements, and organic and humanely raised. The Taqwa and Faith in Place believe in better treatment of animals and sustainable farming, and they found that in Floyd Johnson, an organic farmer. Johnson hesitated at first because he had heard of Muslims being connected to terrorism. His farm is in a rural community where there aren't many Muslims around, but he was open to welcome the Muslim community to share a common cause. Johnson was also willing to participate in a Muslim tradition known as Ramadan, which is a month of fasting to honor the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad. This is followed by the holiday of Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of Ramadan. The Muslim community also mark the occasion by doing the sunset prayer, the Maghrib prayer. The last part of the honor is the Muslim community gathering with friends and family and eating dates and drinking milk to break the fast and join in a feast.

Another way the Muslim community get involved is through a group called Masjid al-hassa who provides food to those struggling with narcotics and alcoholism in Chicago's inner city. They do this because their way of life encourages the connection between those who are fortunate and those who are unfortunate. World life has a gathering of international students that involves having dinner together, singing Christian music and Bible study that will be further explained under scared celebration. Since the organization consists of different cultures and faiths, they celebrate for example Chinese New Year also known as Spring Festival that is observed following the Chinese calendar and the reason behind the celebration is to honor deities and their ancestors. During this celebration, they practice several customs such as families gather for dinner, clean their house to sweep away ill-fortune and bring in good luck. Also, they light firecrackers and give money in red paper envelopes. The most popular food eaten at the festival

is dumplings. Students even get a chance on occasion bring their food from their country to share and enjoy together.

Compassion in Action

Green Sangha is a Buddhist community in Northern California that believes in saving trees by recycling paper. The word Sangha is Sanskrit for community. Their belief is connected to the Buddhists monks in Thailand who fought against the illegal cutting of trees. Their plan was to wrap the trees with robes from the monks and in Thailand monks are well respected and not to be touched. Once the trees were covered by these robes the trees are ordained by the monks and when the loggers came they left the trees alone. In the film *Renewal*, research shows that if every United States household used one four-pack of recycled toilet paper it would save 1.2 million trees. Traditional environmental activism is argumentative and split in the middle between the activist, non-activist and probably the government. The group Green Sangha has tried to petition for magazines to use recycled paper for their magazines such as *National Geographic Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and the *O Magazine*. Statistics show that eighteen magazines are published in the U.S. each year and fewer than one percent use recycled paper. Buddhism is about the non-separation between people, the air, the earth, and everything. World life can be connected to the word Sangha because World life is a community that shows respect to the international students they meet. It's a community that is open-minded willing to learn each other religion and culture without judgment.

Eco Justice

The Gulf Coast town of Moss Point, Mississippi has a poor community that have been affected by the contamination of industry factories. The factories release chemicals which spreads to the Moss Point community and the residents get ill. Reverend Richard Young from the Greater First Baptist Church of Estatawpa relived when the disaster of hurricane Katrina happened and ruined his church. The Holy Spirit spoke to him and told him to test the environment. Reverend Young points out in the film *Renewal*, “I was just as happy and stunned as I could get, and said, ‘Lord, all of these people, and you’re speaking to little old me in a broke down contaminated, raggedy church?’ You could have spoke to somebody else, but he spoke to me, and I moved with energy.”

Wilma Subra, a chemist, has been testing the air, sediment, water, and sludge for over forty years in the Gulf Coast, Florida, and Texas. The results of her testing of the Escatawpa River, in Mississippi found toxic chemicals such as dioxin, which is known to cause cancer at a very low concentration. Residents of Moss Point would go fishing to get fish and crabs, but the animals would also be contaminated because the dioxin would seep into the fish or crab causing the residents to get cancer or other diseases. Before Hurricane Katrina, only five percent was healthy, and ninety five percent of the community was ill. Later the remaining five percent got ill also.

Resident Linda Young has lived in Moss Point most of her life and because of the toxic chemicals she got asthma at the age of five. Now five of her ten grandchildren have asthma and have been in and out of hospitals. When the flooding stopped, and residents of Moss Point cleaned their homes, many residents ended up with breathing problems, seizures, and chest congestion because of the sludge from the flooding. Their illnesses got even worse after the

flooding. The whole area was subjected to the tidal surge that took the contaminated sediment out of the water and swept it on shore. When the water went down this left a coating of highly-contaminated toxic surge on top of the old contamination before Hurricane Katrina. To help the community Reverend Young distributed surveys that asked what type of disease or illness they had before Hurricane Katrina and what new ones they got after. Another way he tried to help the community is to help inform the residents of the danger of breathing the toxic chemicals from the chemical and petroleum industries. "They are breathing death and didn't know it," said Reverend Young standing outside his church. He helped the community stand up for themselves as they felt leaders and officials weren't concerned about Moss Point residents. But one resident mentions in the film *Renewal* that the residents would not speak up or protest because this is a poor community and the industry is their only income. The only way he can convince them is by saying that their strength and power to help their community will come from their belief in God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit and power of God will put motivation into people. The chemical and petroleum industries are greedy. Mankind has polluted the water, air, and soil and mankind must pay. In the view of these Christians it's a sin against nature and mankind is paying with their health.

Sacred Celebration

In the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico farmlands are fighting the loss of their land to rival commercial and residential developments. To help the community John Shipley, a South Valley farmer, reached out to Reverend Joan Brown Franciscan, from Ecology Ministry for help finding a way to fight for their land in an ethical, moral, and spiritual way. The reason Shipley reached out is because he was a protestant minister for 30 years and heard that the

religious communities were taking interest in the environment. New Mexico is a desert and gets fewer than ten inches of rain a year and so the community's farmers depend on the water supplied through a system of ditches that have been dug over several periods to provide access for water from the Rio Grande to flow into the farms. The developments want to build more houses and shopping centers and leave the farmers without their way of living and take away more than more of their water supply built over one hundred years of hard work. Franciscan teamed up with the Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo communities.

San Ysidro and Maria de la Cabeza are patron saints of farmers to whom people pray for water in times of drought and for laborers. They also have an elder from Pueblo Isleta who blesses in Atewa language the water and the lands. The community decided to come together and have a San Ysidro celebration to raise awareness of the issue with food, water, farmland, and the issue of the development in the south of the valley. The Holy Family Church started the ritual where the community walked to a river ditch and prayed and sang. They also prayed for the blessing of the seeds, the harvest, protection of their children and the labors. After, they take the San Ysidro statue to a central place with the rest of the communities which has a different mix of cultures and different spiritual prayers. The reason they do the ritual is because the community sees themselves as indigenous to the hemisphere, to the land. They respect everything that gives life; the sun, earth, blood of mother earth and they do this with the Catholics and Christians. They come together as a community to help with conservation of farmland and water and have a common cause and that is to respect the Earth. World life has Bible study when the students meet on Friday nights. Where the idea is to teach the word of God and give people a chance to ask questions when one does not Also understand, as said above to help students in an ethical, moral, and spiritual way. Students are not forced to stay or pushed to change their belief, but they teach

different ways sometimes how faith plays a role in our everyday lives. Why Christians believe in the Bible and the stories they tell, and for example which is God, Jesus, and his 12 disciplines. This gives a chance for the student to strengthen their faith when they believe or better understand each other religion and belief.

Connection between Religion and Environmentalism

Environmentalism is a broad philosophy, ideology, and social movement regarding concerns for environmental protection and improvement of the health of the environment, particularly as the measure for this health seeks to incorporate the impact of changes to the environment on humans, animals, plants, and non-living matter. The word environmentalism was first created in 1922. The history of environmentalism began with King Edward I who banned the burning of the sea coal in London in 1272. In the book *Islamic Rulings on Warfare*, authors Youssef H. Aboul-Enein and Sherifa Zuhur point out that in the Middle East, Caliph Abu Bakr ordered his men not to destroy the trees or orchards and not to kill any livestock, or animals. Environmentalism has been around for a long time. Such movements include Earth Day in 1970, ecofeminism, and Earth First. Religion and environmentalism have been connected from texts by Gilbert White in the mid-18th century to John Muir in the early 20th century to the present. For example, biblical images have long filled pages of popular nature writing such as the Garden of Eden, Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness, and the Promised Land of Milk and Honey. In a journal, *Religious Environmentalism and Environmental Religion in America*, Evan Berry points out that in the 1950's and 1960's scholars started to suggest a link between religion and environment. One famous historian Lynn White Jr. wrote an essay entitled "The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis." Her argument was that "claiming that the ecologic [*sic*] crisis is a tragic

cultural manifestation of theological commitments deeply held in Christian (and post-Christian) societies” (Pg. 455). White believes that there is a disagreement between Judeo-Christian values and a desire for dominion over nature: the need for Christians to have that control. But religious beliefs and commitments have done the opposite and caused a negative effect on environmental concern and activism and not being suited with the new environment model. But researchers have disagreed with White’s theory and believe human beings are the stewards of God’s creation. Stewardship is defined as the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. The environment and taking care of God’s Earth that he created is very important to them making Christians the connection to environmental activism. When people debate environment policies the advocates and adversaries appeal to religious doctrine to support or prove their point. In the article “Disestablishing Environmentalism” it points out the different labels one’s given when it comes to defending the environment. People who question human-caused global warming are heretics, if you ignore the environmental limits your known as ecologically wicked and sinful, and environmental stewardship is linked to the Bible. One the reasons Christians are big supporters of the environment is pointed out in the journal *Structuring the Religion-Environment Connection: Identifying Religious Influences on Environmental Concern and Activism* written by Darren E. Sherkat and Christopher G. Ellison that says that the Bible indicates that human beings are responsible for taking care of the earth. Different Bible verses that show this include Psalms 24:1 and Psalms 50:10-12 that says “The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein ... For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine..., the world is mine and the fullness thereof” (pg. 74). Christians also refer to the story of Noah in the Bible

pointing out that God cares about human beings and nonhuman life. In the Bible Matthew 10:29-30 and Genesis 7:2-3 tells how God commanded Noah to save the animals from the flood and shows how God cared so much about all He created.

Religions have a major role when it comes to environmental policies issues. For example, the article “Disestablishing Environmentalism” gives us when the United Church of Christ introduced “the term ‘environmental racism’ into debates over environmental policy. Both supporters and critics of specific environmental policy views have labeled sets of beliefs about the environment a ‘religion.’ And empirical studies have found that membership in churches and environmental groups are sometimes substitutes.” So how much power does religion have over politics? An article in *Newsweek* discusses how Evangelicals have too much influence in American life. The Evangelicals have control in Abortion laws such as the partial-birth-abortion ban, and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which counts a violent crime against a pregnant woman as a crime against two people. In schools they have had success such as allowing student-initiated prayer and Bible study, but haven’t been able to pass the law for organized school prayer. Foreign policy such Senator Jesse Helms who was on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and worked to “privatize” U.S. foreign aid so funds can go to his faith-based charities for example Samaritan’s Purse. They also helped with famine and civil war in Sudan and AIDS. They made a way to make a North Korean Human Rights Act that created a path for charitable organizations to provide aid. Other laws the Evangelicals got involved in include stem cells, birth control, sex education, and public displays of religion. The journal *Disestablishing Environmentalism*’s public polls have found that “vague level the ‘environment’ disappears from the political radar screen because it is hard ... to make a campaign issue out of a matter when voters tend to be in agreement. No candidate is going to say that he favors dirty air

and polluted water, wants to see more dolphins killed, or hopes to build a Wal-Mart in the middle of Yosemite.” Religion and environment is also involved in media and how activists use films to prove their point about environmental issues.

Media in Religion and Culture/Environment

Media plays a role in religion and culture. For example, Anna Roosvall points out through images and texts how Islam is perceived differently in news. Islam is shown as an “unconventional” religion, more irrational than other religions, connected to politics rather than spirituality and connected to terrorism (pg. 79). The media only shows the audience violence and puts fear in their viewers that affects how people understand the “other” religions and cultures. Social media provides people with an opportunity to post their impressions and opinions about a certain issue. This issue can cause people from different countries, with different cultures and religions to react in a positive or negative way. The World Life organization utilizes social media such as Facebook to reach out to people and show more about World Life events, games, and Friday nights at the Campus Christian Building. *Renewal* has a website that informs about the film’s screening and events, getting involved, tools for faith leaders, resources, web festivals, and where to purchase the DVD.

Roosvall points out, “While religion is associated with preaching and known as ‘the word,’ visual expressions have always been crucial to religions; through buildings, symbols, icons, art, and a general visual culture of religion” (pg. 80). For example, when you see a church it’s a symbol for a Christian church. A mosque is related to the Muslim religion, and the Star of David is connected to Judaism. Religion and culture are intertwined and cannot be separated. Religion identifies culture, environment, education, daily lives, social interactions and even food

and sports. With different cultures from different parts of the world, religion seems to be the first thing that's connected to culture.

One the blockbuster films in Hollywood that made a point about the environment was *Avatar*. *Avatar* is a film about a paralyzed former marine who enters an alien world where he can walk and falls in love and must help her fight for her world. The director James Cameron made sure that the DVD of *Avatar* was released on Earth Day. In the article, "A Spiritual Blockbuster: *Avatar*, Environmentalism, and the New Religions" written by Cynthia Erb said "Cameron urged followers to 'stand up and be warriors for the Earth'" (Pg. 7). The idea was also for Earth Day organizations to meet a goal of planting trees and they exceeded by planting over a million trees in sixteen countries such as Haiti and Brazil. Cameron continued to campaign for the environment while promoting his film and wanted people to understand the delicate world in which we live and to better take care of our earth and to tone down the "tree hugger crap."

Conclusion

Environmentalism is a broad philosophy, ideology, and social movement regarding concerns for environmental protection and improvement of the health of the environment, particularly as the measure for this health seeks to incorporate the impact of changes to the environment on humans, animals, plants and non-living matter. The Film Renewal has shown the audience the different ways people connect religion to the environment. Showing it doesn't matter what religion you connect with Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Islam. We are all here on Earth to protect and care for the environment just as God did.

INTEGRATION OF PRODUCTION AND THEORY

Documentary filming deals with reality, present action, and nothing set-up except if it's reenactments. But representation of the "other" falls into the category of Anthropology and ethnography which deals with reality and human beings. In the world they are many different cultures, but the western world separates itself from what people call the "other" or exotic places. Anthropology is defined by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) as is the study of humans, past and present. To understand the full sweep and complexity of cultures across all of human history, anthropology draws and builds upon knowledge from the social and biological sciences as well as the humanities and physical sciences. One of the main concerns is knowing the solution to human problems and this requires different fields in: socio-culture, biological, archaeology, and linguistic. Ethnography is defined as a form of study and data collection by trained observer, and also refer to the product of such research. The films that are made to educate people are usually about cultures that are very different and not normal and need to be fixed.

People learn various ways as mentioned above how to educate themselves about human beings. And World Life tries to learn from the students they meet to learn more about their culture without putting them in the "other" category. What inspired me to make this documentary is that I am, myself, an international student who needed help with living accommodations, going to the store, learning how to drive, my faith in Christianity, etc. With a state that has immigration tension it's good to know that there is a community willing to help and open their minds to us. With that, a film that can relate to that is *Samsara* (2011), is an observational documentary feature directed by Ron Fricke. The Sanskrit word samsara refers to "the ever-turning wheel of life," and the documentary explores many experiences related to birth,

life, death, and rebirth. According to the beliefs, "the ever-turning wheel of life," of Samsara represents the suffering endless cycle that drifts through our lives in the past, present, and future, which connects to birth, death, and rebirth through various realms and mind-states for all forms of life. Like the ever-turning wheel we are all connected somehow no matter where we were born, grew up and what culture we were immersed in. World Life brings together a group of people who been through all different kinds of experiences that has brought them to one place. World Life consists of people from different parts of the world with different religious backgrounds. Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam and that connection we have is religion. World Life is a place to explore your identity without being judged and to feel free to ask questions that will help you find your path. The documentary is designed to inspire to go out and make a connection with someone from a different country and culture and learn from each other.

Voice and Narration

Narration is very important in a documentary where you play two roles and are director. Narration has a connection to the audience where the voice guides the audience to better understand the story. In my home country of Rwanda, story-telling is historically very much part of our culture and dramas are still one of the preferred mediums used to relay important social information nationally. The audience gathers with their family or friends and listens to the story being told. Voice is important when it comes for the person to convey the message, for example in my documentary I want to emphasize how special or important this organization is to international students, the community, and to me. Again, narration is there to guide the audience and with observational footage it has a deeper connection and understanding with the narrator.

For example, I have my voice and some of my subjects carry the documentary. Whether through observation where the students and community are gathered together or through photographs that show memories that were built through the organization.

I will use voice narration to explain the tolerance or intolerance of America, a state that is known as a place where people come to fulfill their dreams whether in education or a job.

Hearing an international voice to better connect and try to make the audience understand where their concern of an international student coming to unknown place and adjusting to a different culture from their own.

Voice over Script

Introduction

America is known as a country of freedom and dreams, people come from different parts of the world to pursue their dream, whether in education or a job. How much is America Welcoming? Maybe some international students are not feeling welcomed into America with the immigration tension, but I feel that we are lucky to find this community that is willing to help and welcome us into the community, into world life.

A Bible Verse from Matthew chapter 25 vs 35 says I was a stranger and you welcomed me. That's the motto of a Christian organization called world life at the university of North Texas. That support international students feel like they have a second home. Even though it's a Christian organization world life is open to everybody Christian and non-Christian

Introduction, Cheng and Sari

Cheng and Sari are students who attend world life, both coming from different parts of the world, Cheng from China and Sari from Indonesia.

Students like me from Rwanda feel like they have a second home, even though it's a Christian organization world life is open to everybody Christian and non-Christian.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULES

Overview

The preproduction phase of World Life took place in the U.S. over a period of September 2016 through April 2017. During this time I talked to the organization and asked them about me doing a documentary about World Life and getting permission from my subjects I chose beforehand.

Production

Overview

The production of World Life consists primarily of location shoots in the U.S. I began production in September 2017 and ended in November 2017.

Shooting Schedule

- 8/8 2017- Film Students and Volunteers at World Life
- 8/14/2017 - Film Students and Volunteers at World Life
- 8/23/2017- Took photographs of Balloon Festival in Plano, TX
- 9/21/2017- Sit-down interview with Sari and Cheng in the CCC
- 9/28/2017- Film observational footage of Drew and Katie in their home
- 11/1/2017- Sit-down interview with Meredith and Carey in the CCC

Post-Production

- 1/27/2018- 3/8/2018 – Editing
- 2/7/2018 - First Rough Cut

- 3/8/2018 - Second Rough Cut
- 3/23/2018- Met with Tania about Second Rough Cut
- 3/25/2018- Second Rough Cut changes
- 3/30/2018 - Final Cut

EVALUATION OF COMPLETED WORK

Pre-Production

When I first thought about doing this project it was important to show what the organization, World Life means to me and other international students. I wanted to tell this story because as an international student I was frustrated and stressed when I first came to Texas. When planning out the documentary I had to figure out what direction I was going to take as director to tell a proper story that showed international students and people involved in the organization.

There was no problem with access, because I was already part of the organization and made friends there. I wanted to get international students to tell about their experience in America and World Life. Therefore, I picked three students from different countries: China, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. And this points out their different countries, cultures, and religions that set them apart from America.

Production

When it came to production it proved a little bit difficult with my subjects, but I managed to get interviews with two of my subjects: Cheng from China and Sari from Indonesia. The difficult part I had was asking my subjects to go into their homes. For example, my subject from Saudi Arabia was prohibited by his religion to allow me in their home to film him with his family. But overall, I managed to film them when they were at World Life interacting with other students and got two interviews from Sari and Cheng. I also got to interview the leaders Cary and Meredith Hall. I managed to film in a home with one of the people who is involved in the organization, Katie and Drew.

Post Production

Once my editor Gabrielle Hall constructed a first rough cut through, the direction, story, and structure of the documentary changed. Some of the main characters, Meredith and Carey Hall served more of a background story and the two international students Cheng and Sari became the focus to the story. I decided to start the documentary with an introduction with narration on why we have such a community as World Life and importance to international students. America is going through immigration tension at the moment and students who come to get their education may not feel welcomed, but the two students talk about their first experience coming to the states and meeting people in World Life.

In the second rough cut was figuring out the voice narration and knowing when to use my voice. The examples in the documentary is the introduction to World Life for the audience to understand on what or whose story they are going to hear. The introduction for the two student subjects and the leaders who run the organization, and the last part is the closing of the documentary have a narration that connects to the beginning of the narration. Given I didn't have a chance to film my subjects in their home for other circumstances, I met with Tania to discuss how I can construct the story with what I had.

Overall the story being told is important to me because, as an international student, I want to feel that I have a community that's willing to welcome me into their own community and homes and lives and are willing to share their culture and what they believe in. Also, as an international student World Life gives us a chance to have open conversations about different cultures and religions and learn from each other with judgment or prejudice against one another.

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World Life Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/23734831487/>

World life Facebook main page: <https://www.facebook.com/worldlifedenton/>