See the World

When the Class of 2015 arrived on campus for the fall semester, they received a novel challenge: to fill in “passports” with the signatures of fellow classmates from geographic regions around the world. Among those who complete the project, one student—whose name will be announced in mid-November—will win a round-trip ticket anywhere in the world. Through the Freshman Passport Challenge, first-year students are encouraged to meet more of their peers and discover how diverse their class is.

“It’s an experiment,” says Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid. “But I think it’s an activity that the entire class can participate in, have fun with, and hopefully, creates an appreciation for diversity across the world.”

Sneak Previews

Not sure what to read next? Three Percent, the literary blog at the University’s translation press, Open Letter Books, has some suggestions. With an eye to readers interested in perusing books before making a selection, the new blog Read This Next (readthisnext.org) offers a free preview each Monday of a work of international literature due to be published within the next month. Previews can be read online, printed, or downloaded to a phone, Kindle, or e-reader. An interview with the author or translator and a full review are also available.

“The U.S. pays higher costs for the same service in part because the government plays a smaller role in negotiating prices. Overseas, governments compress patient demand by acting as a tough regulator and negotiator for the whole system.”

—Garry Wedig, an associate professor of business administration, explaining on CNBC why the United States pays more for health care than other nations.