

Common Experience

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University Archives, Texas State University
Alkek Library Room 580
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas, 78666
UnivArchives@txstate.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives, Texas State University
Title	Common Experience
Date [inclusive]	2004-2015
Extent	1.25 Linear feet Foldered items and books in document boxes; oversize posters located in map case.
Location note	Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice may be required for use.
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

Series 11.200.Common Experience. University Archives, Texas State University.

Biographical/Historical note

The Common Experience tradition began with the 2004-05 academic year. It "brings students together to read and engage with a powerful text, explore related themes in University Seminar classes, write responses and reactions to the text in writing courses, participate in related symposia with scholarly panels, hear renowned and respected speakers address the topic, see films related to the Common Experience theme, explore the experience by way of the fine arts, engage in informal discussions in residence halls and coffee shops, and extend the exploration via the avenues of their own choosing."

[Taken from Common Experience Website.]

Scope and Contents note

Series includes background materials, such as descriptions of the event and proposals for themes; materials used and saved from each theme, such as newspaper clippings and press releases, posters, calendars of events, etc. Each year's theme also featured a book, and these are kept with the series.

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically and grouped by Common Experience theme.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives, Texas State University

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers without restriction.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Beginning in 2007, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Distinguished Lecture Series was held in conjunction with the Common Experience. See 11.200.LBJ Distinguished Lectures.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Texas State University--San Marcos.
- Texas State University.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Background materials Summary of the common experience	1	1

Hatred 2004-2005

Biographical/Historical note

'Explorations on Night and the Challenge of Hatred-A Common Experience' is a year-long initiative of Texas State University-San Marcos designed to cultivate a 'common intellectual conversation' across the campus, to enhance student participation in the intellectual life of the campus, and to foster a sense of community across our entire campus and extended community. By examining the deep roots of hatred, we may expose the manner in which hate-based actions can be couched in the name of good-while inflicting harm. Through honest dialogue, we may become more aware of the role that hatred plays in our lives, our community, our world and our collective history.

--from Common Experience Website.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Elliott, Jane, 1933-
- Nagy, Tibor P.
- Shepard, Judy
- Wiesel, Elie, 1928-

Courage

Theme 2004-2005 Theme description, list of events, clippings. Event poster for Candlestein, written and directed by Charles Pascoe.

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials		
	1	2
Text		

Map-case

11.200.CommonExperience

Folder**Box****Folder**

Book 2004-2005 Night, by Elie Wiesel

1

3

Courage 2005-2006**Biographical/Historical note**

The 2005-2006 Common Experience engages students in a campus-wide discussion of 'Courage' as it is examined in the Summer Reading book *If I Die in a Combat Zone* by Tim O'Brien."

"The themes and emotions that O'Brien explores in the context of Vietnam are the themes and emotions of human life: friendship, patriotism, duty, sacrifice, leadership, innocence and experience, good and evil, humanity and inhumanity. Arguably the central theme in much of O'Brien's work - a theme he explores with passion and honesty - is Courage. Courage offers a relevant, challenging, and inspiring theme for the 2005-2006 Common Experience.

--from Common Experience Webiste

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Angelou, Maya
- Lee, Spike

Protest & Dissent

- O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

	Box	Folder
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Theme 2005-2006 Explanation of theme, list of events, press releases, clippings, event posters, play program.	1	4
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Book 2005-2006 If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home, by Tim O'Brien.	1	5
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Protest & Dissent 2006-2007**Biographical/Historical note**

The 2006-2007 Common Experience will engage in a campus-wide discussion of 'Protest and Dissent: Listening to the Voice(s) of America.' It has at its center the idea that the United States of America is a heterogeneous nation, one with many voices. Rather than the idea that we as a nation have only one perspective or belief, students are encouraged to explore the idea that many people view many ideas in very different ways, and that as students and Americans it is their responsibility to recognize that others have a right to dissent from both their own personal beliefs and the beliefs of those in power. Further, they also have the right to dissent from others' beliefs as well. How we respond to and listen to those whose beliefs are different than our own is, however, key.

--from Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Allende, Isabel
- Carlos, John P.
- Olmos, Edward James

Water Planet

- Valdez, Louis

Theme 2006-2007 Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings. Event poster for Martina Guzman and Monique Velasquez screen and discuss their new documentary, The Bajio Project.

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials		Map-case 11.200.CommonExperience
Text	1	6

	Box	Folder
Book 2006-2007 Zoot Suit and Other Plays, by Luis Valdez.	1	7

Water Planet 2007-2008

Biographical/Historical note

As a theme for the Common Experience, the subject of water has particular relevance for our university. The unique, spring-fed San Marcos River that runs through campus is a constant visual reminder of the many dimensions and roles that water plays in our lives. The nexus of the Common Experience parallels this literal flow: it fosters students' confluent thinking where discovery in one area will lead them to discovery in another.

--from Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Brockovich, Erin
- Earle, Sylvia A., 1935-

Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ

- Graves, John, 1920-

Theme 2007-2008 Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings. Event posters for speaker Erin Brockovich-Ellis and the Interfaith Blessing of the San Marcos Headwaters.

		Map-case
Graphic materials		11.200.CommonExperience
	Box	Folder
Text	2	1

	Box	Folder
Book 2007-2008 Goodbye to a River: A Narrative, by John Graves.	2	2

Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ 2008-2009

Biographical/Historical note

August 27, 2008, marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States and the most distinguished alumnus of Texas State. As part of the LBJ Centennial Celebration, the 2008-2009 Common Experience theme, 'Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ,' focuses on Johnson's devotion to public service and his contributions that continue to impact American society.

--from Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Bullion, John L., 1944-
- Johnson, Lyndon B., (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973

Whole Mind: Crossing Boundaries and Disciplines

- Nugent, Luci Baines Johnson
- Robb, Lynda Bird, 1944-
- Young, Andrew, 1932-

	Box	Folder
Theme 2008-2009 Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings.	2	3
Book 2008-2009 Lyndon B. Johnson and the Transformation of American Politics, by John L. Bullion.	2	5

Whole Mind: Crossing Boundaries and Disciplines 2009-2010**Biographical/Historical note**

As a theme for the Common Experience, 'The Whole Mind: Crossing Boundaries of Disciplines' has captured the imagination of a wide spectrum of the university and San Marcos community. From such diverse disciplines as marketing, art and design, biology, literature, physics, education, theatre, philosophy, communication studies, finance and economics, music, social work, and mathematics, faculty and students are intrigued with the possibilities inherent in this theme. Moreover, local community groups in San Marcos, from the chamber of commerce to local arts groups, are making connections to the theme as well.

--from Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Pink, Daniel H.
- Robinson, Ken, 1950-

Sustainability: Science, Policy, and Opportunity

Theme 2009-2010 Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings. Portraits of the Artist's Mind, a program by Wayne O'Quin, Juilliard (DVD).

	Box	Folder
Text	3	1
Computer disks / tapes	3	2
	Box	Folder
Book 2009-2010 A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future, by Daniel H. Pink.	3	2

Sustainability: Science, Policy, and Opportunity 2010-2011**Biographical/Historical note**

The Common Experience theme for 2010-2011 is 'Sustainability: Science, Policy, and Opportunity,' an interdisciplinary theme that affects all students, staff, faculty, and administrators of Texas State, as well as the San Marcos community. Because of the integrative nature of the problems that humanity faces, the only way in which these problems can be realistically addressed is through interdisciplinary dialogue, outreach, and education. The capacity of humanity to adapt in a dynamic world that is constantly presenting new challenges is essential in the 21st century.

--from Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Beavan, Colin

Freedoms: The First Amendment

- Watson, Paul, 1950-

	Box	Folder
Theme 2010-2011 Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings.	3	3
Book 2010-2011 No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet and Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process, by Colin Beavan.	3	4

Freedoms: The First Amendment 2011-2012**Biographical/Historical note**

The Common Experience theme for 2011-2012 is 'Freedoms: The First Amendment,' an interdisciplinary theme that affects all departments, offices, and organizations at Texas State—thus allowing for a cross-disciplinary, cross-campus, and multi-organizational conversation. The First Amendment protects the basic freedoms of religion, expression (speech), press, and assembly. Discussion and examination of the First Amendment will allow students, faculty, and staff to understand the Founding Fathers' intentions regarding basic freedoms.

--from the Common Experience Website

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Hennessey, Jonathan, 1971-
- McConnell, Aaron, 1976-
- O'Brien, Soledad, 1966-

	Box	Folder
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A Global Odyssey: Exploring Our Connections to the Changing World

Theme 2011-2012	Explanation of theme, list of events, clippings.	3	5
Book 2011-2012	The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation, written by Jonathan Hennessey, art by Aaron McConnell.	3	6

A Global Odyssey: Exploring Our Connections to the Changing World 2012-2013

Biographical/Historical note

The Common Experience theme for 2012-2013 is 'A Global Odyssey: Exploring Our Connections to the Changing World,' an interdisciplinary theme that affects all departments, offices, and organizations at Texas State—thus allowing for a cross-disciplinary, cross-campus, and multi-organizational conversation.

--from the Common Experience Website

		Box	Folder
Theme 2012-2013	Explanation of theme, list of events, planning.	3	7
Book 2012-2013	Where Am I Wearing?: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes, by Kelsey Timmerman.	3	7

Minds Matter: Exploring Mental Health and Illness 2013-2014

Biographical/Historical note

The 2013-14 Common Experience program will explore how perceptions of mental health and illness affect our thinking, laws, actions, and quality of life. The upcoming theme of 'Minds Matter: Exploring Mental Health and Illness' will encourage students, faculty, staff and community members to recognize the importance of balancing human rights, freedoms, and creativity with effective social services, business practices, educational programs, and healthcare in support of mental health. Participants will

Exploring Democracy's Promise: From Segregation to Integration

develop a better understanding of the causes of recent events said to be related to psychiatric conditions, while they increase their knowledge of the worldwide consequences of mental health and illness.

--from the Common Experience Website

	Box	Folder
Theme 2013-2014 Explanation of theme, press releases. Lecturer: Patrick Kennedy.	4	1
Book 2013-2014 Behind Happy Faces: Taking Charge of Your Mental Health: A Guide for Young Adults, by Ross Szabo and Melanie Hall.	4	2

Exploring Democracy's Promise: From Segregation to Integration 2014-2015

Biographical/Historical note

The 2014-2015 Common Experience theme is inspired by the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Texas State University, known in 1963 as Southwest Texas State College. In January of 1963 Judge Ben H. Rice ruled that SWT could not deny admission to an African-American student based solely on race. After the ruling, in the fall of 1963, 18-year-old Dana Jean Smith, a graduate of Anderson High School in Austin, Texas, enrolled at SWT. The registrar personally assisted Smith in registering along with four other African American students — Georgia Hoodye, Gloria Odoms, Mabeleen Washington, and Helen Jackson.

This Common Experience theme explores the trials of segregation and the impact of integration, raising the question of how we internalize change in this 50-year celebration of the desegregation of Texas State. A closer exploration of desegregation reveals a long and difficult struggle to achieve one of modern democracy's great promises, equal access to a quality education. Specifically, we use this 50-year anniversary of the desegregation of our institution as an opportunity to examine issues related to equal access to higher education and the role of laws, litigation, and civil rights movements in helping students obtain higher education. This theme also makes a connection to the 2008-2009 Common Experience theme, "Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ," celebrating our most famous alumnus,

Lyndon Baines Johnson. Bringing LBJ into the conversation emphasizes the role he played in making these changes happen and helps build pride in Texas State and its graduates.

--from the Common Experience Website

Theme 2014-2015 Explanation of theme, list of events, common reading program. DVD of common reading video.

	Box	Folder
Text	4	3
Computer disks / tapes	4	3

	Box	Folder
Book 2014-2015 Coming of Age in Mississippi, by Anne Moody.	4	4

Bridged Through Stories: Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico, an Homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera 2015-2016

Biographical/Historical note

Texas State University's mission statement includes the shared values of "diversity of people and ideas." Since 2011, Texas State has held the designation of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), which means that at least 25 percent of its undergraduate enrollment is Hispanic. President Denise Trauth rightfully pointed to the challenge of recognizing the service aspect of HSI when she stated, "It is not enough to recruit talented students from all ethnicities — we must also continue to retain those students and see that they graduate."

The theme of "Bridged Through Stories: Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico" will highlight the work and values of Tomás Rivera as well as those of others from all walks of life who have contributed to the fabric of our common understandings of the world. Through specific attention to connections between stories of Mexico and the United States, this theme will highlight multiple

perspectives that contribute to community building, affirmations of identity, and collective struggles to make the world a more just place for everyone.

--from the Common Experience Website

	Box	Folder
Theme Explanation of theme, list of events, programs, press releases. Lecture by Robert Rodriguez, screenwriter/director/producer.	4	5
Book ...y no se lo tragó la tierra / ...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him, by Tomás Rivera.	4	6