

Texas Tech University

Texas Tech University, founded in 1923 and located in Lubbock, Texas, is listed among the nation's top doctoral universities in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Of the 115 universities listed in the Highest Research Activity category, Texas Tech is one of 81 public institutions in the top tier.



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

Research and enrollment numbers are at record levels, which cement Texas Tech's commitment to attracting and retaining quality students. The university strives to foster an environment that celebrates student accomplishment above all else. With 10 colleges, a Graduate School and a School of Law, Texas Tech is large enough to provide the best in facilities and academics, but small enough to focus on each student individually.



MUSEUM
OF TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

Quality students need a top-notch faculty. Texas Tech is home to a diverse, highly revered pool of educators who excel in teaching, research and service.

The Museum of Texas Tech University was founded in 1929 as the West Texas Museum. It was begun as a community museum and a research institution, a dual purpose it continues today. The Museum is home to more than eight million objects and operates several facilities, including the Moody Planetarium, the Natural Science Research Laboratory, and the Lubbock Lake Landmark. Offering a range of exhibitions and public programming, the Museum is committed to serving the diverse region surrounding Lubbock. Visitors, however, come from across the US and around the world. The Museum is a non-profit institution with free admission.

Texas Holocaust Genocide Commission (THGC)



The mission of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is to promote awareness and understanding of the Holocaust and other genocides in the world. Since its founding in 2009 by Senate Bill 482, the THGC has dedicated its resources, energy, and expertise to the education of teachers and students to better recognize and acknowledge the consequences of hatred, bigotry, and apathy. This commission was created to reaffirm the commitment of the State of Texas and its citizens to choose right over wrong, good over evil, and through those choices to continue the fight against malevolent forces that would perpetrate genocides and make us question our own humanity. Through education and engagement, the THGC

seeks to remind the public of its collective responsibility in not only preventing, but ending once and for all this type of human cruelty.

Awareness • Education • Inspiration

The Texas Liberator Project

SHORT:

Texas Tech University, with the generous support of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, created the Texas Liberator Project as a means of introducing the wider public to the experiences of U.S. soldiers who were witnesses to and actors in the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camps and serve as a portal to furthering Holocaust and genocide awareness and education. The multi-pronged project includes an educational app; a website that features interactive maps, an Honor Roll of veteran liberators, bibliographies, filmographies, and teacher resources; a traveling exhibit; and a book that has been provided free of charge to every public and private middle and high school in the state of Texas. To access the app and the website, please go to: www.texasliberators.org.

For more information, please contact Aliza Wong, Project Lead for the Texas Liberator Project, at aliza.wong@ttu.edu or the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at thgc.texas.gov.



The Texas Liberator Project

MEDIUM:

Texas Tech University, with the generous support of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, created the Texas Liberator Project as a means of introducing the wider public to the experiences of U.S. soldiers who were witnesses to and actors in the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camps and serve as a portal to furthering Holocaust and genocide awareness and education. Working with the nineteen oral histories compiled by the Baylor Institute for Oral History and archival material from the Dallas Holocaust Museum, the Holocaust Museum Houston, and the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum, TTU faculty and students worked to create a multi-pronged project that could be used in the classroom, with community members, and with scholars. The project includes an educational app; a website that features interactive maps, an Honor Roll of veteran liberators, bibliographies, filmographies, and teacher resources; a traveling exhibit; and a book, *The Texas Liberators: Veteran Narratives from World War II* (Texas Tech University Press, 2017), that has been provided free of charge to every public and private middle and high school in the state of Texas. To access the app and the website, please go to: www.texasliberators.org.

For more information, please contact Aliza Wong, Project Lead for the Texas Liberator Project, at aliza.wong@ttu.edu or the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at thgc.texas.gov.





The Texas Liberator Project

LONG:

Texas Tech University (TTU), with the generous support of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, (THGC) created the Texas Liberator Project as a means of introducing the wider public to the experiences of U.S. soldiers who were witnesses to and actors in the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camps and serve as a portal to furthering Holocaust and genocide awareness and education. Working with the nineteen oral histories compiled by the Baylor Institute for Oral History and archival material from the Dallas Holocaust Museum, Holocaust Museum Houston, and the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum, TTU faculty and students worked to create a multi-pronged project to be used in the classroom, with community members, and with scholars.

The project includes an educational app (available on www.texasliberators.org) that introduces viewers to the liberation of Dachau through the eyes of U.S. soldiers. The app features liberator accounts, survivor testimonials, artifacts, texts, and letters. Set in a virtual reconstruction of Dachau,

students can interact with different historical documents and learn more about the liberation period and the Holocaust as they navigate the app. The accompanying education website features interactive maps, an Honor Roll of over 480 veteran liberators, a 360 degree virtual tour of the exhibit, bibliographies, filmographies, and teacher resources including research projects, discussion questions, quizzes, and other materials. The oral histories of twenty-one liberators, nineteen from the Baylor Institute of Oral History and two from Holocaust Museum Houston, are featured in a compellingly edited display quality book, *The Texas Liberators: Veteran Narratives from World War II* (Texas Tech University Press, 2017), that features the liberators testifying as to what they witnessed as well as modern-day portraits and service photos. This book has been provided free of charge to every public and private middle and high school in the state of Texas by the Friends of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

Finally, the entire project culminated in an exhibit curated by Dr. Aliza Wong, the project lead for the Texas Liberator Project and associate dean of the Texas Tech University Honors College and associate professor of History; Cameron Saffell, Assistant Director for Operations and Facilities; and Andrew Gedeon, Exhibits Manager, Museum of Texas Tech University, that was featured at the Museum of TTU in Fall, 2017. This exhibit is now traveling the state of Texas and serves as a portal to further Holocaust education and honor our Texas liberators.

For more information, please contact Aliza Wong, Project Lead for the Texas Liberator Project, at aliza.wong@ttu.edu or the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at thgc.texas.gov.



The Texas Liberator Project

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HISTORY – Faculty Lead, Aliza Wong, Ph.D.

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Jeremy Huston, Ph.D.

MUSEUM - Faculty Leads, Aliza Wong, Cameron Saffel, Andrew Gedeon

Student Curators:

Stephanie Wuthnow, M.S.

Chad Campbell, B.A.

FAQ:

What is the Texas Liberator Project?

The Texas Liberator Project is a collaborative effort between Texas Tech University and the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, using the testimonies of WWII veterans collected by the Baylor University Institute of Oral History, to enhance holocaust and education for the wider public in the state of Texas and beyond. Using these testimonials, the team at Texas Tech University developed a digital app to help share the stories of the Texas Liberators with high school students across the state. Texas Tech created a narrative by which students could come to understand the extremes of savagery and fanaticism, humility and humanity of the Second World War from the perspective of the American soldier.

The Texas Liberator Project includes the app, a website, a large format, display quality book featuring the narratives of 21 of the Texas liberators, and an exhibit at the Museum of Texas Tech University. Led by principal investigator Dr. Aliza Wong and Texas Tech faculty, teams of Texas Tech University undergraduate and graduate students took on the gargantuan task of honoring the men and women who sacrificed so much to ensure the liberation, survival, and memory of the Holocaust.

For more information on the Texas Liberator Project, please contact Dr. Aliza Wong at aliza.wong@ttu.edu or the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at www.thgc.texas.gov.

How do I access the app?

The interactive app as well as filmed walkthroughs and links to the full-length testimonials are available www.texasliberators.org.

What is the Texas Liberators Honor Roll?

The former chair and commissioner of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, Peter Berkowitz, took on the arduous and difficult task of "rescuing" the names and service information of Texan men and women who were present at the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. Before he passed, Mr. Berkowitz found more than 460 Texas veterans on the Honor Roll. The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission continues his work and to date has expanded the Honor Roll to nearly 500 liberators.

I have a family member who I believe should belong on the Texas Liberators Honor Roll - to whom should I speak?

For more information on the traveling or full-scale exhibit, please contact the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at www.thgc.texas.gov or call (512) 463-5108.

How do I find out more about the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission?

For more information on the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, please visit: <https://thgc.texas.gov>.

Where can I learn more about the Holocaust and genocide?

The www.texasliberators.org website has bibliographies, filmographies, educational resources, list of Texas, national, and international museums and archives as well as interactive maps, videos, and project guides. The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission website <https://thgc.texas.gov> shares information about teacher workshops, educational materials, events, and major news stories.

Where can I order a copy of the Texas Lib-erators book?

You may order a copy of the book from Texas Tech University Press at <http://www.ttupress.org/Products/9781682830246/the-texas-liberators.aspx> or from most major bookstores.

To whom should I speak to bring either the traveling or full-scale Texas Liberators exhibit to my city?

For more information on the traveling or full-scale exhibit, please contact the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission at www.thgc.texas.gov or call (512) 463-5108.

How can I learn more about Texas Tech and the public and engaged scholarship at the university?

For more information, please see our website at www.ttu.edu or contact University Outreach and Engagement at universityoutreachandengagement@ttu.edu.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE:

Traveling Exhibit

Texas State Capital - November, 2017

Holocaust Museum Houston – September/October, 2018

USS Lexington Aircraft Carrier Museum – December, 2018

Eastfield College – November/December, 2018

Midland College – February– April, 2019

Hutto High School – February - March, 2019

Laredo ISD – March, 2019

Camp Mabry, Austin – April, 2019

Fort Hood, Killeen – April, 2019

Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, The University of Texas at Dallas – April– May, 2020

National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, February – April, 2020

Full Exhibit

George H.W. Bush Presidential Library – 2020-2021

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For more information on the book:

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