

THE HOUSTONIAN

WITH THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY

A Word From GCJD: Why Cover Immigration?

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GCJD

Each semester, the Global Center tackles a new issue. This semester it's immigration. It seemed appropriate given the current debate over how to deal with the constant flow of immigrants into this country.

We don't take sides. This is about education. There is much misinformation out there about the problem. When emotions

run high, the facts are often left behind.

We have worked to offer different perspectives, which is always important. While you might not want to hear from folks you don't agree with, it's an important part of the academic process.

This semester, we joined forces with SHSU's Common Reader program. As you may know, this year's common reader is Enrique's Journey. The book chronicles the story of a young boy who

makes a dangerous journey from Honduras to the United States in search of his mother who made the trip before him. Many SHSU students are exploring the themes of the book in class. The author, Sonia Nazario will be joining us on campus. In the book, she doesn't take sides, but as an activist she does. We encourage you to come to her presentations and ask questions. You should also check out the many activities spearheaded by the Common Reader program, whether you

are an aspiring writer or law enforcement official.

Wherever you come down on this issue, it's important to make sure you find out as much as you can. We have a presidential election coming up, and the policies the eventual winner supports could affect this country forever.

Even more important is the duty we all have to be informed citizens so we can contribute to our society in positive ways. We all attend, work for, or support a

University that was founded on the concept of service.

GCJD asked several Barkats to write about their immigration experience. You can read those essays in this edition of the Houstonian. Our students have been out on the mall hosting interactive games, political debates, and demonstrations aimed at provoking thought and intelligent discussion. That's really what being here is all about, isn't it?