Expertise Connector Unveiled: Creating the Bridge among People, Communities, Centers, and Research Stories

Ann Q. Gates
Professor and Chair of Computer Science

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NSF Innovation through Institutional Integration (I3)

Goal:
To establish a culture where sharing of practices and projects results leads to innovation in broadening participation.

Focus:
Develop a CI and communication-based model for sharing information and building communities.

I3 Team:
Junius Gonzales, PI
Patricia Witherspoon
Lourdes Echegoyen
Eric Freudenthal
Andrea Tirres
Denise Carrejo

Ann Q. Gates
Aaron Velasco
Martine Ceberio
Deana Pennington
Patricia Esparza
Michelle Slattery
• **Expertise Connector**
  
  - Provides the face of research at UTEP
  - Highlights components that shape scholarly and educational research at UTEP
  - Provides the following
    - Faculty and staff research profiles
    - Centers profiles
    - I3 Move communities
    - Research stories
GRANT CREATES NEW FACULTY FELLOWS FOR BORDER STUDIES

For more than two decades, UTEP's Center for Inter-American and Border Studies (CIBS)... MORE >>

About Expertise Connector

The Expertise portal is the face of research at UTEP. Through this portal, users can identify and search the various components that shape scholarly and educational research on and off campus. Faculty and staff research profiles, centers profiles, and E3 Move communities. This portal is made dynamic through E3 Move communities -- communities that form around defined topics by the members themselves and invite others to discover them and pursue dialogue. Whether your interests are 3D printing, border social justice, or photovoltaic applications, we encourage you to explore the Expertise portal and get to know the diverse people and resources at UTEP. You may be surprised at what you discover and the people you'll meet.

PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT

GARY FRANKWICK

I conduct research in new product development, marketing strategy, sales, entrepreneurship, business strategy, and international business.

CENTER SPOTLIGHT

CERM

The Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM) provides university-wide leadership and coordination for research, education, and outreach activities. The Scope...

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Undergraduate Research Initiative connects faculty and professional staff with students through research, experiences, and best practices in undergraduate research...

Events

- Apr 25
  4th Annual CIBS Symposium...
  4:00pm

- Apr 24
  2014 UTEP Interdisciplinary Research...
  4:00pm

- Apr 15
  Faculty Engagement Encounter on The...
  4:00pm
Profiles-Faculty and Professional Staff
LOURDES ECHEGOYEN

Dr. Echegoyen is the Director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURT), a unit that opened under her leadership in September 2010. As director of COURT, her goal is to incorporate the best of all high impact educational practices into undergraduate research training to ensure UTEP students achieve academic and professional success. Through collaborations with faculty mentors from all disciplines, COURT’s mission is to enrich the experience of UTEP students by facilitating their training in research, scholarly, or creative activities, enhancing their academic success and their professional development, and showcasing the results of their work. COURT’s responsibilities include increasing student awareness of internal and external research opportunities, organizing and delivering a series of professional development workshops for undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors, writing proposals and assisting faculty interested in including an undergraduate research component in their grant applications, administering externally and internally funded programs, assisting in the development of strategies that integrate research experiences into coursework, hosting two campus-wide undergraduate research symposia per year, providing advice and leadership for the creation of interdisciplinary teams supporting undergraduate researchers, and catalyzing domestic and international collaborative partnerships for undergraduate research participation. COURT runs both domestic and international research programs spanning all areas of STEM and is expanding into the liberal arts and business.

KEYWORDS

- Chemical Education
- global education
- institutional transformation
- research-teaching integration
- STEM Education
- student success
- undergraduate research

UTEP STRATEGIC AREAS

- Education for the 21st Century
- Demographic
- Global Enterprise & Border Studies
- Other

IN THE NEWS

- Undergraduate Research Gives Students Academic, Professional Edge
- Student Researchers Learn to Connect with General Public
- Team Plans Research Opportunities for Underrepresented Minorities

AFFILIATIONS

- Undergraduate Research
• Digital Measures
  o Click on Manage Your Activities-Personal and Contact Information.
  o Update the boxes marked with an asterisk (*)
  o Certify your profile as follows:
    • Click “yes” on the certification message at the top of the page
    • Enter the date under “Certification Date Update.”

• Keep your expertise statement succinct \((\leq 300 \text{ words})\).
• Look for changed profile on the weekend after your update.
Centers
CENTERS

Search

Filter By:

Border Biomedical Research Center
The Border Biomedical Research Center has as its mission to facilitate and expand the biomedical research...

Center for Environmental Resource Management
The Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM) provides university-wide leadership and...

Center for Inland Desalination Systems
The Center for Inland Desalination Systems (CIDS) is a premier research group recognized internationally...

Center for Law and Human Behavior
The Center for Law and Human Behavior has as its mission, to empirically investigate human behavior in...

Center for Research Entrepreneurship and Innovative Enterprises
To develop and execute a plan to stimulate innovation and unify campus initiatives in technology transfer...

Center for Space Exploration Technology Research
The Center activities are aligned with the University of Texas at El Paso's strategies of creating a broad...

Cyber-ShARE
The Cyber-ShARE ("Cyberinfrastructure for Sharing resources to Advance Research and Education") Center of...
National Center for Border Security and Immigration

MISSION AND GOALS

The National Center for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI) is a university-based Center of Excellence (COE) funded by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) Office of University Programs. The NCBSI at the University of Texas at El Paso assists the Department of Homeland Security and its subordinate agencies in meeting their border security and immigration (BSI) related research, education and science and technology needs.

FUNDERS AND COLLABORATORS

As of this year, the NCBSI is funded from a $1.5 Million grant from the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs. This grant is given to DHS Centers of Excellence and is renewable every 5 years. The NCBSI will continue to pursue its core initiatives in order to secure continued funding.

KEYWORDS

- Border Security
- Border Security and Immigration
- Department of Homeland Security
- Homeland Security Enterprise
- National Security

UTEP STRATEGIC AREAS

- Cross-cutting: Cyberinfrastructure and Collaborative Environments
- Cross-cutting: U.S. -Mexico and Latin America: Social and Behavioral Issues
- Education for the 21st Century Demographic
- Global Enterprise & Border Studies
- National Defense & Border Security

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National Center for Border Security and Immigration

CAPABILITIES

Education for Active Stakeholders. As part of its commitment to serving as an integral contributor to our nation’s ongoing BSI-related initiatives, the NCBSI has actively formed crucial partnerships with DHS-related agencies and members of every strata of our law enforcement network (federal, state and local) including CBP, ATF, ICE, Border Patrol, the El Paso Sheriff’s Office and numerous others. Through educational seminars and collaborative projects (responding to specific stakeholder requests) the NCBSI assists our stakeholding agencies through the identification of tactical, social and political areas pertinent to the provenance of our region’s homeland security enterprise.

Education for Prospective and Rising Professionals. The NCBSI is committed to ensuring the continued integrity of our homeland security enterprise network by providing students with the means to develop and explore pre-existing aptitudes in BSI-related fields, thus contributing to forming the future face of our homeland security enterprise. Through educational seminars and programs, the NCBSI connects promising students possessing an expressed interest in BSI-related career fields with agencies and individual stakeholders. Such contact refines the student’s understanding of BSI domains and provides a level of preparation for their potential careers. A sampling of such initiatives (both current and in development) include:
• Homeland Security Summer Scholars Academy
• Online Bachelor of Arts in Intelligence and National Security Studies

Additionally, the NCBSI maintains active communication between other DHS Centers of Excellence (CCE) located at universities across the nation. This provides students with an inter-collegiate network of resources designed to expose students to further opportunities.

KEYWORDS
• Border Security
• Border Security and Immigration
• Department of Homeland Security
• Homeland Security Enterprise
• National Security

UTEP STRATEGIC AREAS
• Cross-cutting: Cyberinfrastructure and Collaborative Environments
• Cross-cutting: U.S. –Mexico and Latin America: Social and Behavioral Issues
• Education for the 21st Century Demographic
• Global Enterprise & Border Studies
• National Defense & Border Security
Center for Law and Human Behavior

MEMBERS

Leanne Alarid
Fellow
Associate Professor
Liberal Arts - Criminal Justice

Stephen Crites
Fellow
Associate Professor
Liberal Arts - Psychology

Theodore Curry
Fellow
Associate Professor
Liberal Arts - Sociology and Anthropology

Todd Curry
Fellow
Lecturer
Liberal Arts - Political Science

Gaspare Cenna
Fellow
Associate Professor
Liberal Arts - Political Science

Harmon Hess
Interim Director
Professor Emeritus
Liberal Arts - Center for Law and Human Behavior

Richard Posthuma
Fellow
Professor
Business Administration - Marketing and Management

KEYWORDS

- Detection of Deception
- Deviance
- Gender and Crime
- Immigration and Crime
- Interviewing and Interrogation
- Legal Decision Making
- Psychopathic thinking

UTE P STRATEGIC AREAS

- Cross-cutting: U.S. - Mexico and Latin America: Social and Behavioral Issues
- National Defense & Border Security
National Center for Border Security and Immigration

As part of its commitment to serving as an integral contributor to our nation’s ongoing BSI (border security and immigration-related initiatives), the NCBSI has actively formed crucial partnerships with DHS-related agencies and members of every strata of our law enforcement network on a federal, state and local level.

The NCBSI assists our stakeholder agencies through the identification of tactical, social and political areas.

In collaboration with the unique expertise of University of Texas at El Paso faculty, the NCBSI performs relevant and cutting-edge research into the needs of homeland security operational components. In order to address the ever-evolving homeland security dynamic, NCBSI-research identifies an extensive and diverse array of fields pertinent to the missions of DHS-related agencies.

The NCBSI is committed to ensuring the continued integrity of our homeland security enterprises network; by providing students with the means to develop and explore pre-existing specialties in BSI (border security and immigration-related fields), thus contributing to forming the future face of our homeland security enterprises.

The NCBSI connects promising students possessing expressed interest in BSI-related career fields.
I3 Move Communities
• I3 Move Communities
  - Based on communities of practice (Dale 2011; Wenger 1998)
  - Engage in activities with a common purpose that defines the existence of the group
  - Connect people with people, people with experts, and people with information

Communities of Practice
Groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. -- Etienne Wenger-Trayner
• **Types of Communities**
  - **Effective Practices**
    - Increase exchange of best practices, guidelines, and procedures
    - Learn from others
    - Accelerate decision making
    - Identify experts
  - **Research-based**
    - Share expertise, knowledge, infrastructure, and information
    - Provide documentation of efforts
    - Provide shared understanding of needs and problems to be solved

• **Example activities**
  - Requesting information
  - Identifying who is doing what on campus
  - Solving problems
  - Reusing assets
  - Discussing developments
  - Sharing results and information
  - Mapping knowledge and identifying gaps
  - Propagating innovation
Communities

Search

Filter By:
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Neuroscience
- Research on STEM
- Undergraduate Research

1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration
   This community consists of those interested in understanding, enabling, leading, evaluating and/or...

2. Neuroscience
   Welcome to the UTEP Neuroscience community! The purpose of the community is to foster interaction among...

3. Research on STEM
   Our interdisciplinary team is comprised of researchers from engineering education, electrical and computer...

4. Undergraduate Research
   The Undergraduate Research iMove Community connects faculty and professional staff who wish to share data,...
Undergraduate Research

DESCRIPTION
The Undergraduate Research iMove Community connects faculty and professional staff who wish to share data, knowledge, experiences, and best practices in undergraduate research, scholarly, or creative activities. UTEP's Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI) serves as the central unit on campus for facilitating undergraduate training in research, scholarly, or creative activities, enhancing student's academic success and professional development, and showcasing the results of their work.

ASPIRATIONS
The community aspires to: - Learn from members - Promote interdisciplinary undergraduate initiatives - Share effective practices - Learn about and disseminate undergraduate research opportunities

KEYWORDS
- Professional development
- Student development
- Undergraduate mentoring
- Undergraduate research
- Undergraduate training

UTEPR STRATEGIC AREAS
- Education for the 21st Century Demographic

NETWORKS
- Add Related Effort
- Add Community Member
- Add Resource
- Add Dialog
- Add Event
- 2 members joined
- Manager: jourdps

EVENTS
- 4th Annual COURT...
Neuroscience

You must login to contribute to this community.

**DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to the UTEP Neuroscience community! The purpose of the community is to foster interaction among its members and serve as a resource for others. This collaborative and interdisciplinary group includes researchers from multiple departments and programs within the College of Health Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science, and the College of Engineering. Members of the community employ a wide range of experimental models and methodologies with the goal of understanding the genetic, biological, environmental, and social factors that affect neurological functions and that contribute to various dysfunctions in neural systems. In addition, our basic and translational research programs involve and support training and education of students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, preparing them for careers in research, medical and biomedical fields, education and healthcare. Our projects are highly relevant to our U.S./Mexico border community, and address critical concerns of the Hispanics representing a major ethnic population in the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez region.

**KEYWORDS**

- Behavioral disinhibition
- Behavioral plasticity
- CRF
- Dopamine
- Feeding
- Glycine
- Ingestive behavior
- Learning
- Membrane trafficking
- Memory
- Motivation
- Neuromodulation
- Neuropeptides
- Octopamine
- Sensory gating
- Sexual dimorphism
- Synaptic plasticity

**ASPIRATIONS**

The overarching goal of the UTEP Neuroscience community is to contribute to the health and education of El Paso and the border region by improving minority health and eliminating health disparities. In particular, neuroscience research at UTEP aims to develop prevention and treatment strategies for brain disorders relevant to border health through rigorous collaborative science. Such disorders include dementia, substance abuse and addiction, obesity, diabetes, and associated mental illness. For the task, neuroscience research projects focus on basic molecular, cellular, synaptic and neural processes regulating cognition, motivational behavior, motor functions, and behavioral plasticity, and their pathological processes leading to the disorders.

**UTEPA STRATEGIC AREAS**

- Health and Biomedical Sciences and Engineering
Neuroscience

You must login to contribute to this community.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Edward Castañeda**
Member
Professor
Liberal Arts

**Christina Sobin**
Member
Associate Professor
Health Sciences - Public Health Sciences

**Kristin Gosselink**
Member
Associate Professor
Science - Biological Sciences

**Sukla Roychowdhury**
Member
Research Associate Professor
Science - Biological Sciences

**Arshad Khan**
Advocate
Assistant Professor
Science - Biological Sciences

**Kyung-An Han**
Advocate
Associate Professor
Science - Biological Sciences
 RELATED EFFORTS

Neuromodulation Disorders (NMD) Cluster in Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC)
The Center supports neuroscience research through multiple mechanisms including pilot grants, administrative support and seven core labs (Genomic Analysis (sequencing, qPCR, oligonucleotide synthesis, etc.), Cytometry/screening/imaging (cell sorting, confocal microscopy, etc.), Cytology (EN), Biomolecule (proteomics, lipidomics, metabolomics, etc.), Bioinformatics, Statistical Lab, and Community Engagement cores).

Vulnerability Issue in Drug Abuse (VIDA) Project
Funding: NIH/NIDA R24 DA029909
Contact: Edward Castañeda
Website
The Project is aimed at the development of a university-wide, cross-disciplinary drug abuse and research training program that is tailored toward students and faculty members interested in a career in drug abuse research, especially those from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds and communities.

SMART-MIND (Summer Mentoring and Research Training program in Methods in the Neuroscience of Drug-addiction)
Funding: NIH/NIDA
Website
This REU summer program will provide a cohort of participants with a high quality experience that combines education, novel research in state-of-the-art facilities, training in bioethics, one-on-one and group mentoring, and training in other relevant professional skills.
Contact: smartmind@utep.edu

Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center (HHDRC)
Funding: NIH/NIMHD
Website
The HHDRC is an ongoing collaboration partnering the best educational institutions: UTEP College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing and The University of Texas School of Public Health (UT-SPH), west Texas has to offer in terms of Hispanic health disparities research. This successful collaboration has led to a multidisciplinary approach in seeking new and better ways in understanding and helping to eliminate disparities among our rapidly growing Hispanic population.
Contact: ballas@utep.edu

 RELATED CENTERS

Border Biomedical Research Center
Electrophysiological techniques and approaches
Tool
Contact: Karin Fenelon
Dr. Fenelon’s research focuses on the neuronal circuits and cellular mechanisms underlying sensorimotor gating which is an ensemble of neurological processes that allows humans and animals to filter out irrelevant information and help to focus attention. Better understanding sensorimotor gating is crucial because it is impaired in many psychiatric and neurological diseases. Techniques used include acute mouse brain slices, electrophysiology (patch clamp and field recordings) and optogenetics.

Novel techniques in optical microscopy
Tool
Contact: Chunsang Li
Dr. Li’s laboratory develops innovative optical imaging modalities for various applications. Currently we have a two-photon fluorescence microscope for live virus, cells and animal imaging. We are also developing nonlinear optical spectroscopic methods for organic solar cell and petroleum catalysis characterization.

Biomolecule Analysis Core Facility
Service
Contact: Iara Almeida
Resource Link
The BACF specializes in the separation and characterization of biomolecules and is available to all UTEP users and external collaborators. Most instruments are accessible as shared-resources at no charge for the users. Service is also provided for sequencing and identification of proteins and peptides using LC/MS-MS on a recharge basis.

CSI Core Facility
Service
Contact: Renata Aguilera
Resource Link
The CSI (Cytometry, Screening and Imaging) Core Facility is a comprehensive research cell-culturing and cytometry facility, located on UTEP main campus. The facility provides investigators, students and other researchers with “State-of-the-Art” technology to conduct cell-based experiments with modern equipment including fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS) analyzer and sorter), CSI bioimager, automated pipette system and two confocal microscopes.
Neuroscience

You must login to contribute to this community.

DIALOG SOURCES

I3 Move Communities provide a way to share expertise, resources, and community information to the general public. There are numerous tools available, both open source and proprietary, for engaging in dialog and sharing information and knowledge within a closed group.

Communities have access to IBM SmartCloud, a tool that provides a Cloud Computing solution for sharing files, defining activities, creating blogs, developing wikis, and promoting ideas. To request an account and training on IBM SmartCloud, contact econnect@utep.edu.

This community engages in dialog as follows:

Neuroscience Community Online Collaboration Tool
Link: IBM SmartCloud
Public view:
- Expertise Connector
  - Related Efforts
  - Resources

Private view:
- IBM SmartCloud
  - Activities—To do lists
  - Blog/Ideation blog
  - Forum
  - Wikis
  - Subcommunities
  - File/Folder sharing—Media gallery
  - Document creation (concurrent editing) and version control
Setting Organizational Framework in SmartCloud

Yesterday 1:28 PM | Tags: neuroscience Add or Remove Tags
This is a summary of the questions that Andrea Tirres posed at the 1-14-14 meeting on defining the Neuroscience Community and the responses that were provided at the meeting and added in SmartCloud.

What could be activities of the Neuroscience Community?
These are the verbal responses submitted at the 1-14-14 meeting.
1. Summer Research Program
2. Vida Conference
3. BEBC Neuroscience
4. Brown Bag Lecture Series
5. Alzheimer’s Walk
6. Project Move
7. Conferences
Suki Roychowdhury asked about what Project Move and Andrea responded:
Project Move site: http://projectmove.utep.edu/
This is what I found on UTEP’s website regarding Project Move (excerpt below):
http://linewsac.utep.edu/finder.php?date=2013-06-20&What%20is%20Project%20Move%3F
The large-scale day of service is tied to the University’s efforts to give back to the community, which is home to a vast majority of its students, faculty, staff and alumni. Those involved have said the experience broadens perspectives of citizenship, leadership, community needs, civic engagement and the basic satisfaction of helping others.

What could be the subcommunities of the Neuroscience Community?
1. Addiction
2. Motor
3. Metabolic disorders
4. Signal transduction
Suggestion from Arshad to add to this list
Research Stories
RESEARCH STORIES

72 Research Stories

1 • 2 • 3 • 15 • Next »

Grant Award Announcement: Proof-of-Concept Grant for Collaborative Research
04-2-2014

KTEP Centennial Series Focuses on UTEP’s Diverse Research
03-31-2014

Grant Creates New Faculty Fellows for Border Studies
02-14-2014

Mexican Immigrants’ Resiliency Leads to Better Mental Health
01-30-2014

Improving the Odds Against Lung Cancer
01-23-2014

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FORMER PROFESSOR WORKS TO BRING GROUNDBREAKING ALZHEIMER’S DRUG TO MARKET

In the late 1990s, 15 patients with Alzheimer’s disease participated in a clinical trial in Mexico with the drug methanolsulfenyl fluoride (MSF).

The results were remarkable...
Undergraduate Research Gives Students Academic, Professional Edge
Date: 15 February 2013 21:28

German Rosas-Acosta, Ph.D., remembers the days in the not too distant past when the chances of undergraduates doing research were slim to none. Even good grades did not guarantee a seat with a research team.

However, the assistant professor of biological sciences was "lucky" enough to land an assignment during the late 1980s at the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia.

Full story: [ Link to University Communications ]
LOURDES ECHEGORYEN

Dr. Echegoryen is the Director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI), a unit that opened under her leadership in September 2010. As director of COURI, her goal is to incorporate the best of all high impact educational practices into undergraduate research training to ensure UTEP students achieve academic and professional success. Through collaborations with faculty mentors from all disciplines, COURI’s mission is to enrich the experience of UTEP students by facilitating their training in research, scholarly, or creative activities, enhancing their academic success and their professional development, and showcasing the results of their work. COURI’s responsibilities include increasing student awareness of internal and external research opportunities, organizing and delivering a series of professional development workshops for undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors, writing proposals and assisting faculty interested in including an undergraduate research component in their grant applications, administering externally and internally funded programs, assisting in the development of strategies that integrate research experiences into course-work, hosting two campus-wide undergraduate research symposia per year, providing advice and leadership for the creation of interdisciplinary teams supporting undergraduate researchers, and catalyzing domestic and international collaborative partnerships for undergraduate research participation. COURI runs both domestic and international research programs spanning all areas of STEM and is expanding into the liberal arts and business.

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