The current academic year has been a truly special one for all of those involved in our educational efforts at The University of Texas at El Paso. Our academic unit was awarded the Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence grant managed by the Defense Intelligence Agency. This critical U.S. Government sponsorship has resulted in our transformation and rebranding as the UTEP National Security Studies Institute—An Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence. This major federal grant, valued at $1.86 million over five years, will continue to create tremendous educational and career building opportunities for our talented students and will help provide for the future security of our nation.

The National Security Studies Institute has grown this past year in other ways. We are absolutely delighted to welcome our new faculty Mr. Stephen Coulthart from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Michael Landon-Murray from the State University of New York at Albany, and Dr. Sara McGuire from McMaster University in Canada. Their research and teaching contributions to our academic enterprise promise to propel our efforts to new heights of excellence.

We are also pleased about the recent approval of our new online Bachelor of Arts in Security Studies by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board last December. This new degree is a terrific partnership between our institute, the College of Liberal Arts, and UTEP Connect. The development of this new online degree, which is aimed at serving current homeland security, law enforcement, and military personnel, was made possible by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant awarded to UTEP’s National Center for Border Security and Immigration. The new undergraduate degree is set to launch in May 2015.

These and other important developments will be further highlighted in this newsletter issue. We hope you enjoy reading more about our current students, alumni, faculty, and ongoing activities.

Please let me extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our many university partners and external stakeholders for their past and continuing support. Due to your help, the future of the National Security Studies Institute is extremely bright. We are dedicated to providing the finest intelligence and security education to our students that can be obtained anywhere in the country. We are proud to serve our students, the Intelligence Community, and the nation.

Go Miners!

Larry A. Valero, Ph.D.
Director, National Security Studies Institute
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CENTERS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE GRANT AWARDED

The Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence grant, managed by the Defense Intelligence Agency, was awarded to The University of Texas at El Paso this past fall. This new federal grant, valued at $1.86 million over five years, will have a significant impact on UTEP’s current and future intelligence and security education activities.

The competition for this major U.S. Government grant was considerable with 54 institutions across the country vying for this special recognition and federal sponsorship. UTEP’s grant proposal was one of only seven successful awards made nationwide. UTEP finished second overall in the national grant competition with 487 points earned out of a maximum of 500 in the final assessment of proposals.

Under the auspices of the grant, a new academic unit called the UTEP National Security Studies Institute—An Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, has been established. The National Security Studies Institute is now the home of UTEP’s long-running and successful teaching arm—the Intelligence and National Security Studies Program and its various intelligence and security-related degrees and certificates.

Also under the umbrella of the new institute, the grant has established a groundbreaking university “think tank” called the Center for Intelligence and Security Research. This new center will facilitate faculty and student research that is relevant to the Intelligence Community’s mission to anticipate and analyze a host of complex national security issues and challenges.

The new grant will also present numerous competitive opportunities for some of UTEP’s best undergraduate and graduate students over the next five years including:

1. Support for student travel to attend and/present research papers at academic conferences;
2. Support for study abroad opportunities for semester and academic year long experiences;
3. Support for immersive strategic language training at leading institutions;
4. Support for student analytical training with top commercial vendors.

The principal aim of these opportunities is to help UTEP students compete successfully for employment in the U.S. Intelligence Community by providing them with needed skill sets and experiences that are in high demand with federal agencies and departments.

This new federal grant will also support the development of a new face to face Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Intelligence and Analysis with a proposed launch in 2016-2017 and a novel Graduate Certificate in Open Source Intelligence Analysis planned to start in 2015-2016. The grant will also foster new student exchange agreements with universities in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Additionally, the grant will enhance faculty expertise by supporting the start-up of two new faculty members for the institute, a Farsi Lecturer in the Department of Languages in Linguistics, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow who will be attached to the new Center for Intelligence and Security Research.

For any questions or further information regarding the new National Security Studies Institute and its intelligence and security education efforts, please feel free to contact Dr. Larry Valero, NSSI Director at lavalero2@utep.edu or (915) 747-5865.

SINS IS BACK!

After a hiatus, the INSS student organization, Students in Intelligence and National Security (SINS), elected a new group of officers for the 2014-15 academic year.

Justin Magee will lead the organization as President; Sean Curtis will serve as Vice-President; and Jorge Rubio and Omar Gonzalez will serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde will serve as the organization’s Faculty Advisor.

Already off to a busy start, SINS has hosted a couple of career and networking functions. In November, SINS hosted representatives from the National Clandestine Service and representatives from the FBI to hold a general information session.

Keep an eye out for emails from SINS regarding upcoming meetings and events. For more information and for general inquiries, please contact SINS at the following: utep.sins.general@gmail.com
INSS GRADUATE AT RAF MOLESWORTH

Graduates from NSSI’s Intelligence and National Security Studies Program work throughout the Intelligence Community, but few have had such a unique opportunity as David Lyons, Class of 2013.

Mr. Lyons works as a contractor supporting the Defense Intelligence Agency’s presence in the European Command’s (EUCOM) Joint Analysis Center (JAC) at RAF Molesworth in the United Kingdom. The JAC is essentially EUCOM’s intelligence hub; and within the JAC, Mr. Lyons works in the Foreign Fighters shop. While his responsibilities are varied, he focuses primarily on the flow of foreign fighters into Syria and Iraq. As a result, Mr. Lyons has to stay current on the Islamic State, the al-Nusra Front, and other terrorist groups that operate in Syria and Iraq.

Due to the large amount of information that foreign fighters post on the internet, Mr. Lyons also stays abreast on current events by analyzing social media networks and online propaganda sites. He was given recently the opportunity to travel to Romania to brief senior civilian leadership and military officers from Eastern European partners on social media and propaganda. Mr. Lyons believes he was given this opportunity because of his INSS master’s thesis titled “Analyzing the Effectiveness of al Qaeda’s Online Influence Operations by Means of Propaganda Theory.”

In addition to being a contractor with Defense Intelligence Agency, Mr. Lyons is also a Naval Reserve Intelligence Officer. This gives him a lot of flexibility if he would like to change positions. However, he loves his job immensely (and his family also enjoys living in the UK). His intelligence products have been viewed by senior flag-level officers and members of the National Security Council. Mr. Lyons says there is a certain satisfaction knowing that your analysis helps inform decision-making.

Mr. Lyons credits much of his success to the opportunities provided to him by the Intelligence and National Security Studies Program. When asked what advice he would give to prospective Intelligence Community applicants, David said “...to participate in as many seminars, training sessions, and trips offered by the [institute] as possible. But above all, work hard, be curious, and always be open to learning.”

NEW NSSI WEBSITE

The National Security Studies Institute is pleased to announce the launch of its new and improved website. The fully revamped website, can be found at academics.utep.edu/nssi/. The new site contains all the information on the various degrees and certificates available as well as a wealth of information on degrees and certificates, faculty, research, job opportunities, and much more.

Links can also be found on the website to NSSI’s social media pages. The Facebook page is titled “UTEP National Security Studies Institute” and the Twitter page can be found at UTEP_NSSI. Follow both pages to keep up-to-date on NSSI news and announcements as well as Intelligence Community and national security news!

We hope you will explore our website and social media pages to learn more about NSSI and the opportunities available through our teaching and research activities. For any questions regarding the NSSI website, please contact either Sean Curtis, Graduate Assistant at (915) 747-6828 or Dr. Larry Valero, NSSI Director at (915) 747-5865.
ANNUAL NATIONAL SECURITY COLLOQUIUM

The National Security Studies Institute will be conducting its annual national security colloquium titled “Cyber Threats to the U.S. Government and Private Sectors” this spring. The event is being organized by Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde, Assistant Professor of Security Studies and Associate Director for Research. The event also marks the official public start of UTEP’s new National Security Studies Institute—An Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC CAE).

According to Dr. Van Puyvelde, “the colloquium will take stock of the field and provide an overall examination of the evolving causes, forms, consequences and responses to cyber-threats across the public-private divide.” The exploration of this timely subject by security professionals and scholars promises to be both stimulating and informative. The event features a number of distinguished speakers and guests including Dr. Michael Warner (U.S. Cyber Command), Dr. Richard Andres (National Defense University), Derek Reveron (Naval War College), Brigadier General Scott Bethel (USAF Ret.), Dr. John Sheldon (The Marshall Institute), and a number of representatives from the El Paso FBI Field Office. Dr. Diana Natalicio, UTEP President, will open the event and welcome those attending the colloquium.

The event aims to draw students, staff, and faculty from UTEP as well as professionals, academics, and interested individuals from the general public. Dr. Van Puyvelde, academics, “We are delighted to host select scholars, practitioners, as well as students both as panelists and speakers. The colloquium will be a fantastic opportunity for UTEP students to learn about the latest trends in cybersecurity from some of the best scholars and practitioners in the field.”

This two-day opportunity to learn and share cyber threats knowledge will be held from March 18-19, 2015 at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center in the UTEP Union Building. The colloquium is free and open to all who wish to attend from the university or the general public. To RSVP, email Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde at dtvanpuyvelde@utep.edu.

DR. SARA MCGUIRE JOINS NSSI

Dr. Sara McGuire joined the National Security Studies Institute in August as an Assistant Professor of Security Studies and Associate Director for Teaching and Learning. She specializes in international security, homeland security, and national security law. Dr. McGuire received her Ph.D. from McMaster University in Canada and her LL.M. in International Public and Comparative Law from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom. She was able to see first hand a couple of important cases tried before the International Criminal Court, such as the cases of Radovan Karadzic and Thomas Lubanga. Before earning her doctorate and law degrees, she graduated with her Master of Arts degree in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada where she was one of only four civilians in her class. She was taught to shoot various types of firearms at the Royal Military College. The rationale being if she was going to write about firearms she should know how they function.

Dr. McGuire served as the copy editor for the journal Bridges: Conversations in Global Politics and is a member of the Bracton Law Society. After her first semester at UTEP, Dr. McGuire said she was enjoying her role immensely as a faculty member in the the National Security Studies Institute. Outside of academics, she is very keen of pop art. Her favorite gallery in the UK is the Tate Modern and she is particularly fond of the artist Roy Lichtenstein. Dr. McGuire is looking forward to exploring the Southwest region.
The National Security Studies Institute is happy to announce the addition of Mr. Stephen Coulthart to its faculty. Mr. Coulthart is a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Coulthart holds a Master in International Relations and a Master in Public Administration, both from Seton Hall University.

Mr. Coulthart's doctoral work evaluates the U.S. Intelligence Community's effort to implement structured analytic techniques after the 9/11 attacks. He earned the Harold D. Lasswell award from the Horowitz Foundation for this research. His research agenda and conference presentations span the divide between security studies and public policy analysis in the areas of counterterrorism policy and intelligence analysis.

Mr. Coulthart has worked with a number of agencies including the CIA, USAID, and Amnesty International. His most recent publication is a co-authored chapter on combining ethnography with computational social network analysis in a forthcoming edited volume Methodological Advances in the Study of Dark Networks from Cambridge University Press. He is also a reviewer for the Journal of Intelligence Studies.

Mr. Coulthart hopes to travel throughout the region and sample much of the local cuisine. He also hopes to learn salsa dancing as part of his Southwest experience.

Dr. Michael Landon-Murray joins the National Security Studies Institute as our new Visiting Assistant Professor of Security Studies earlier this year. He received his Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His research there focused on intelligence oversight, and intelligence analysis and education. He has been published in the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the Journal of Strategic Security. He has also developed a new course for Intelligence and National Security Studies Program on cultural analysis and awareness in the intelligence realm.

Prior to moving to El Paso, Dr. Landon-Murray held a joint appointment in the New York State Governor’s Office and New York State Department of State as the Special Assistant to the Local Government Policy Advisor. Working on an "academic policy council," he served as an independent research liaison to the Governor’s Office. He also worked with the Local Government Policy Advisor for seven years on high profile projects such as the After Action Review of Hurricane Sandy. Having seen the policy process in its entirety.

Outside of academics, Dr. Landon-Murray averaging a slice of tres leches cake per day and hopes to sample many of the local eateries around town. He too is excited to learn more about and explore the Southwest.

Mr. Stephen Coulthart Joins NSSI

The National Security Studies Institute is happy to announce the addition of Mr. Stephen Coulthart to its faculty. Mr. Coulthart is a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Coulthart holds a Master in International Relations and a Master in Public Administration, both from Seton Hall University.

Mr. Coulthart’s doctoral work evaluates the U.S. Intelligence Community’s effort to implement structured analytic techniques after the 9/11 attacks. He earned the Harold D. Lasswell award from the Horowitz Foundation for this research. His research agenda and conference presentations span the divide between security studies and public policy analysis in the areas of counterterrorism policy and intelligence analysis.

Mr. Coulthart has worked with a number of agencies including the CIA, USAID, and Amnesty International. His most recent publication is a co-authored chapter on combining ethnography with computational social network analysis in a forthcoming edited volume Methodological Advances in the Study of Dark Networks from Cambridge University Press. He is also a reviewer for the Journal of Intelligence Studies.

Mr. Coulthart hopes to travel throughout the region and sample much of the local cuisine. He also hopes to learn salsa dancing as part of his Southwest experience.

Dr. Landon-Murray New Visiting Professor

Dr. Michael Landon-Murray joins the National Security Studies Institute as our new Visiting Assistant Professor of Security Studies earlier this year. He received his Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His research there focused on intelligence oversight, and intelligence analysis and education. He has been published in the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the Journal of Strategic Security. He has also developed a new course for Intelligence and National Security Studies Program on cultural analysis and awareness in the intelligence realm.

Prior to moving to El Paso, Dr. Landon-Murray held a joint appointment in the New York State Governor’s Office and New York State Department of State as the Special Assistant to the Local Government Policy Advisor. Working on an “academic policy council,” he served as an independent research liaison to the Governor’s Office. He also worked with the Local Government Policy Advisor for seven years on high profile projects such as the After Action Review of Hurricane Sandy. Having seen the policy process in its entirety.

Outside of academics, Dr. Landon-Murray averaging a slice of tres leches cake per day and hopes to sample many of the local eateries around town. He too is excited to learn more about and explore the Southwest.

Student Research

Sean Curtis, INSS graduate student, had a busy summer and fall semester. Last summer, Mr. Curtis was awarded a Provost’s Office Summer Research Assistantship in the amount of $3,000 to conduct an open source research project. His research project focused on the assassinations of exiled Rwandan dissidents. He used structured analytic techniques to analyze the attacks on Rwandan dissidents throughout Africa.

Specifically, Mr. Curtis analyzed whether or not the assassinations of Patrick Karegeya and Seth Sendashonga, and the attacks on Kayumba Nyamwasa could be attributed to Rwandan President Paul Kagame’s regime. Utilizing interviews and extensive open source analysis, he comes to the conclusion that there can be no other actor responsible except for the Rwandan government. Mr. Curtis relied heavily upon academic literature, government websites, and NGO reports to conduct his research. But most importantly, he had extensive contact with journalist Robert Mukombozi and renowned Africanist academics Filip Reyntjens and Gerard Prunier among others.

Always interested in studying Africa and the Great Lakes Region—the Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Uganda quarter), the Karegeya assassination prompted Mr. Curtis to apply for the research grant. In October, Mr. Curtis had the opportunity to present his research at the 8th Annual African Studies Graduate Research Conference at Michigan State University; and in April he will travel to the University of Texas at Austin to present at the Annual Africa Conference.

Mr. Curtis hopes to publish his analytic piece in the Journal of the Middle East and Africa.
The Texas Higher Education Coordination Board approved the online Bachelor of Arts in Security Studies degree proposed by the National Security Studies Institute last December. The new degree’s development was made possible by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant awarded to the National Center for Border Security and Immigration. The degree is a collaborative effort between the National Security Studies Institute, the College of Liberal Arts, and UTEP Connect. The new undergraduate degree is set to launch in late May 2015.

The online bachelor’s degree is designed with active homeland security, law enforcement, and military personnel in mind, especially those seeking to complete their higher education in field relevant to their professional careers. The degree’s curriculum has four concentrations: 1.) cybersecurity, 2.) homeland security, 3.) intelligence and national security, and 3.) security operations.

The new undergraduate program consists of required major courses at the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior levels. There are no major course electives. All students take a standard program of required major courses. This highly specialized online undergraduate degree does not have a minor requirement. The degree plan has the following sequence:

**Freshman Level:**
INSS 1301 - History and Security (3)  
INSS 1302 - Geography and Security (3)

**Sophomore Level:**
INSS 2302 - Security Studies (3)  
INSS 2303 - Writing for Security Professionals (3)  
INSS 2304 - Statistics for Security Studies (3)  
INSS 2305 - Modern Strategy (3)

**Junior Level:**
INSS 3302 - Seminar in Intelligence and National Security (3)  
INSS 3340 - Seminar in Homeland Security (3)  
INSS 3348 - Cyberspace and National Security (3)  
INSS 3349 - Security Operations (3)

**Senior Level:**
INSS 4301 - Intelligence Collection and Analysis (3)  
INSS 4302 - Intelligence and Transnational Threats (3)  
INSS 4303 - Ethics and Security (3)  
INSS 4347 - Critical Infrastructure Protection (3)  
INSS 4380 - Cybersecurity (3)  
INSS 4390 - Senior Capstone (3)

Please contact UTEP Connect for more information regarding admissions to the online Bachelor of Arts in Security Studies.

*Go to: [http://online.utep.edu/](http://online.utep.edu/)*  
*Call toll-free: 1-800-684-UTEP*  
*Email: utepconnect@utep.edu*
March 2015

INSS students, Analicia Banales, Sean Curtis, Pedro Garcia, and Gustavo Sias, participated in a Structured Analytic Techniques training course at Lockheed Martin’s Center for Security Analysis in Alexandria, Virginia, March 2-6. Mr. Mark Gorman participated in this training course with the students.

Dr. Larry Valero served as an external program evaluator for the M.A. in National Security Studies program at California State University, San Bernardino on March 5.

INSS students, Michelle Esparza, Lupe Rodriguez, Crystal Sanchez, and Victor Trujillo, participated in an Intelligence Writing and Briefing training course at Lockheed Martin’s Center for Security Analysis in Alexandria, Virginia, March 9-13. Dr. Sara McGuire participated in this training course with the students.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde was selected to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Young Professionals Day in Washington, DC later this spring. The two-day event, sponsored by the Atlantic Council and the NATO Allied Command Transformation, is a strategic outcome-oriented exercise designed to constructively engage the next generation of international security leaders in the process of developing innovative solutions to NATO’s challenges.

Dr. Larry Valero has been selected as a proposal evaluator for the National Science Foundation’s Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace – Education grant competition, March 23-24.

February 2015

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde published a book review for H-Diplo on Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones’ In Spies We Trust: The Story of Western Intelligence (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2013).

Dr. Sara McGuire and Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde met with legal and law enforcement officials from several countries across Latin America on February 6. The visit exploring the theme “Combating International and Organized Crime: A Regional Project for the Western Hemisphere” and was sponsored by the El Paso Council for International Visitors and the U.S. Department of State.

Dr. Sara McGuire published her latest article titled “NORAD’s Evolving Role in North American Homeland Defense” in E-International Relations on February 13.

Mr. Stephen Coulthart, with Dr. Matthew Crosston of Bellevue University, presented a paper titled “Failure to Launch?: Analyzing Post-9/11 Intelligence Degree Programs” at the International Studies Association’s 56th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, February 18-21.


Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde presented a paper titled “Fusing Intelligence to Counter Narcotics: The El Paso Intelligence Center” and chaired two panels titled “Global Health and Intelligence” and “Globalizing and Diversifying International Studies Pedagogies: Innovative Lesson Planning for a Changing Discipline” at the International Studies Association’s 56th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, February 18-21.

Congratulations to INSS students Pedro Garcia and Christopher Reilly for being selected to study abroad by the National Security Studies Institute for the Summer 2015 semester. These awards are worth up to $12,000 for coursework in cultural/regional studies, history, international relations, and strategic languages in Oman and Jordan.

Dr. Larry Valero provided a research seminar titled “The Historian’s Craft: Archival Research and the Study of Intelligence” for the Center for Intelligence and Security Research on Feb. 27.

Congratulations to Mr. Stephen Coulthart who was accepted to participate in the highly competitive 2015 International Policy Summer Institute at American University in Washington, DC! This is an outstanding opportunity which will allow Mr. Coulthart to network with policymakers, senior scholars from academia and the policymaking community, as well as media experts.
January 2015

Dr. Larry Valero served as an American Council on Education faculty evaluator for a U.S. Coast Guard course and occupational review at the Aviation Training Center, Mobile, AL, January 20-23.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde published an opinion piece titled “We can’t expect intelligence services to prevent every terrorist attack” in The Conversation US.

Dr. Michael Landon-Murray was selected to be the guest editor for the Journal of Strategic Security. He will be editing the proceedings of this year’s IAFIE Conference at Marymount University in northern Virginia.

December 2014

Dr. Larry Valero served as an American Council on Education faculty evaluator for a U.S. Navy course and occupational at the Center for Information Dominance Unit Hampton Roads, Dam Neck, VA, December 2-4.

Congratulations to INSS students Analicia Banales, Juan Berumen, Sean Curtis, Nicholas Rocha, and Victor Trujillo who have been selected by the National Security Studies Institute for summer immersive language training. These awards fund up to $10,000 toward the study in strategic languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Hausa, Mandarin, and Russian at leading language centers and institutes across the country.

Tricia Devine and Bryan Card, INSS graduate students, were honored as the outstanding Master of Science in Intelligence and National Security Studies graduates at the College of Liberal Arts Winter Pre-Commencement and Hooding Ceremony on December 11.

Kevin Thomson, INSS graduate student, defended successfully his master’s thesis titled “Operational Code and Al-Ikhwan: An Assessment of the Evolution of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Operational Code and Possible Public Diplomacy Options for the United States” on December 15. Dr. Nikolas Gardner of the Royal Military College of Canada and Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde of the National Security Studies Institute served on Mr. Thomson’s thesis committee.

November 2014

Sean Curtis, INSS graduate student, was awarded a UTEP Graduate School Travel Grant valued at $850 to present a paper based upon his thesis research at the Annual Africa Conference at The University of Texas at Austin. Congratulations to Sean on this well-deserved award!

Dr. James Wood from the UTEP Psychology Department with Dr. Misty Duke provided a research seminar titled “Using Experiments to Address Issues in Intelligence and National Security” on November 21. This was the first research seminar in what will be a regular series for the new Center for Intelligence and Security Research.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde presented a paper titled “The U.S. Intelligence Community and the Private Security: How Rational Are Privatization Rationales” at the joint annual conference of the International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association and the International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin, November 14-16.

Dr. Sara McGuire presented two papers titled “Companies and Combat Operations: Regulating Private Military Companies after the War on Terror” and “Live From New York, It’s the War on Terror! Media Framing in the New Security Environment” at the joint annual conference of the International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association and the International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin, November 14-16.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde met with the Director of Exhibitions & Programs and the Curator of the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC to discuss their next exhibition examining intelligence in the non-English speaking world.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde delivered a research paper titled “Information Security in the U.S. National Security Enterprise: Bridging the Public–Private Divide” at the Five Eyes Analytic Workshop sponsored by the Defense Intelligence Agency and held in Pentagon City, Virginia, November 5-7.

A representative from the National Security Education Program met with INSS students to discuss Boren Fellowships and Scholarships on November 5.
A representative from the National Clandestine Service spoke with UTEP students about careers in that organization on November 5. This event was sponsored by the University Career Center, Students and Intelligence and National Security, and the National Security Studies Institute.

Dr. Larry Valero provided a presentation on the new National Security Studies Institute to the Rotary Club of West El Paso on November 3.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde published an op-ed in the National Interest titled, “The Next Big Gun Debate: 3-D Printed Firearms.”

October 2014

A representative from the Central Intelligence Agency visited the National Security Studies Institute promoting careers in the Directorate of Intelligence and meeting with interested students October 6-7.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde published an op-ed in The Conversation titled “We Need to Fix the Way We Talk about National Intelligence” on October 10.

September 2014

Dr. Larry Valero was recognized by UTEP’s Office of Research and Sponsored Projects for outstanding efforts in securing extramural funding on September 23.

Congratulations to INSS students Jose Contreras, Stephen Duran-Tobias, and Jacob Silva for being selected to study abroad by the National Security Studies Institute for the Spring 2015 semester. These awards are worth up to $12,000 for coursework in cultural/regional studies, history, international relations, and strategic languages in Estonia and Taiwan.

August 2014

Congratulations to Justin Magee, INSS graduate student, for receiving a $9,900 Graduate Student Research Assistantship from the Center for Law and Human Behavior! Dr. Misty Duke will work with Mr. Magee and serve as his research supervisor.

The INSS Program received an award to hire two undergraduate assistants through UTEP’s On-Campus Student Employment Program. The new undergraduate assistants will support faculty research and conduct outreach activities for the program.

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde published an article titled “Intelligence, Democratic Accountability, and the Media in France,” in the journal Democracy and Security.

July 2014

Dr. Damien Van Puyvelde was elected Faculty Senator by the INSS Program. Congratulations to Dr. Van Puyvelde!

June 2014

Dr. Larry Valero provided a presentation on the Intelligence and National Security Studies Program to the Law Enforcement Breakfast meeting at Ft. Bliss on June 5.

Dr. Larry Valero served as an American Council on Education faculty evaluator for a Navy course review at the Center for Information Dominance, Corry Station, FL from June 10-12.

The Intelligence and National Security Studies Program welcomes Ms. Moraima Aguero as our new Administrative Assistant. Ms. Aguero has much experience providing academic support to faculty, staff, and students at other institutions. She will also support the Master of Public Administration Program and the Master of Leadership Studies Program.
The educational mission of the UTEP National Security Studies Institute—An Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence is to prepare academically and professionally the most highly qualified and diverse student body for potential employment in the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC).

“Serving UTEP students, the U.S. Intelligence Community, and the Nation”