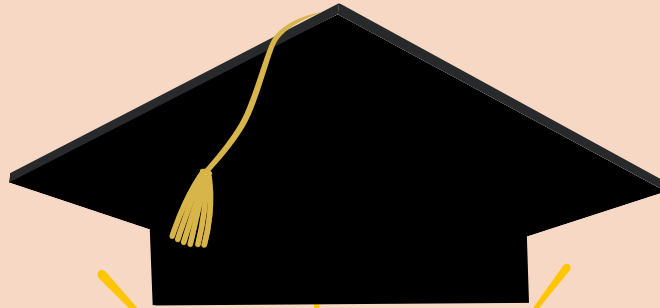


MAY 2023



Congratulations!

**to all our Undergraduates, PhD
Graduates, and PhD students!**

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Graduating NDRB Work Study Students
- Meet our Undergrad Graduates
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Congratulations Graduates!!

As you embark on your new journey, remember our
Roadrunner Creed:

I will:

- Uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity by practicing and expecting fair and ethical conduct;
- Respect and accept individual differences, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person;
- Contribute to campus life and the larger community through my active engagement; and
- Support the fearless exploration of dreams and ideas in the advancement of ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.



Guided by these principles now and forever, I am a
Roadrunner!

UTSA Honor Pledge: "As a UTSA Roadrunner, I live with honor
and integrity."

NDRB would like to extend a heart-felt congratulations to all UTSA Spring 2023 graduates. I hope your time at UTSA was a memorable experience as it was for the NDRB faculty and staff. You are now prepared to move on to the next phase of your life and take on the new challenges you may encounter along the way. As you leave UTSA, remember the experiences created, the knowledge you gained and the relationships you made as they have molded you into the well-rounded, educated person you are today. Be an example! Be an example for your family, friends, and colleagues. Share your experiences and what you learned at UTSA with others. We are proud of you and now go show the world what you can do!

-Dr. Ramos

Congratulations

TO OUR NDRB SPRING 2023 WORK STUDY GRADUATES



Kaylie Manzano
B.S Multidisciplinary
Studies in Neuroscience



Anastasia Magaña
B.S Biology



Carolyn Caraway
B.S Multidisciplinary
Studies in Neuroscience

MEET OUR UNDERGRAD GRADUATES

Carolyn Caraway



Major: Multidisciplinary Studies in Neuroscience

Q: Where is your hometown?

Colleyville, Texas

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to pursue a career in neuroscience research. In the meantime, I'm going to take a year to study for the MCAT. I'm interested in pursuing a career in medicine. While I take that year to study I do plan on traveling to Switzerland again to snowboard.

Q: What is your dream job?

My dream job is to become a neurosurgeon.

Q: What made you choose UTSA for getting your degree

I chose UTSA because it has a strong Neuroscience program. I was drawn to the fact that there were so many opportunities here. The campus has allowed me to learn my own potential and gain a better understanding of inclusive extracurricular activities, including participating in a neuroscience club

Q: What advice would you give to the underclassmen that you wish you had gotten?

One piece of advice I wish I had received as an underclassman is to prioritize self-care and mental health. College can be a stressful and overwhelming time, and it's important to take care of yourself both physically and mentally. This can include getting enough sleep, eating healthily, exercising regularly, and taking time to relax and recharge.

Also, don't be afraid to Get involved in extracurricular activities: Joining clubs and organizations that align with your interests is a great way to meet like-minded people and form friendships college is a time to step outside of your comfort zone and try new things

Q: What was your favorite class at UTSA and why?

My favorite course at UTSA was Cognitive Neuroscience because it provides a fascinating insight into how the brain works and how our thoughts, emotions, and behavior are shaped by neural processes. Its so fascinating and rewarding field of study that gave me a great understating of the human mind and brain

Q: Any favorite things about UTSA you will miss?

What I will miss the most about UTSA were all the cool events it held. My friends and I looked forward to it all the time because when you are so focused on studying you just needed a break.

Ivonne Torres



Major: Neuroscience

Q: Where is your hometown?

Eagle Pass, TX

Q: What made you choose UTSA for getting your degree?

UTSA was the most affordable university closest to home. It called to me once I stepped foot on campus

Q: What are your plans after graduation

I want to explore my options due to newfound interests. I plan to get a job that will help me gain professional experience in my field for the next year or two, then reenter school to obtain a masters in clinical counseling

Q: What is your dream job?

My dream job is to become a clinical psychologist.

Q: What was your favorite class at UTSA and why?

I loved Dr. Webb's "Honors Seminar: Moral Imagination and U.S. Incarceration" because it resulted in a lot of personal development through literature, poetry, community, and self-reflection. I also loved Dr. Wicha's "Cognitive Neuroscience" because it sparked an interest in research for me by using the information we were being taught in class to plan experiments

Q: Any favorite things about UTSA you will miss

I will miss sitting in JPL studying or watching Netflix between classes. I will miss the evening walks through campus. I will also miss the UTSA spirit expressed through students and organizations on campus during events.

Q: What advice would you give to the underclassmen that you wish you had gotten

Take advantage of the events and opportunities presented to you. Step out of your comfort zone by doing things you've always wanted to try. The worst thing that can happen is for someone to say no, so don't be afraid to ask or try to make friends. Remember to care for yourself as you navigate through college and life, your health is very important for your success

Karina Galindo



**Major: Biology with a
Concentration in Neuroscience**

Q: Where is your hometown?

Eagle Pass, Texas

**Q: What made you choose UTSA
for getting your degree**

It was close to home, and it seemed like
a good option for me.

**Q: What are your plans after
graduation?**

I plan on attending nursing school to
continue my education.

Q: What is your dream job?

Labor and delivery nurse

**Q: What was your favorite class
at UTSA and why?**

Neurobiology because it challenged me
and taught me a lot of information I
never knew. I enjoyed it so much I
made it my concentration.

**Q: Any favorite things about
UTSA you will miss?**

I will miss my job at the JPL the most.

**Q: What advice would you give to
the underclassmen that you wish
you had gotten?**

Don't stress yourself too much and stay
organized!

Undergraduate Graduates

Jocelyn Barrientos, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

Marcus A Cruz, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

German Cuellar, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

Skanda Hebbale, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

Jaylen Lehman, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

Isha Patel, B.S Biology with a Concentration in Neuroscience

Kaitlyn Kelly, B.S Multidisciplinary Studies in Neuroscience

Kaylie Manzano, B.S Multidisciplinary Studies in Neuroscience

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jaelyn Terrell

Major: Neuroscience with a concentration in Behavioral and Pre-Medical Neuroscience

In her free time, she enjoys volunteering in the community and writing. She is publishing a second book this summer! Additionally, For the upcoming academic year, she will be the Treasurer of the Pre-Medical Society and the Secretary for Woman Of Honor. She is also a member of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Her overall goal is to ensure these organizations continue to run smoothly and leave a positive impact.

Q: Why did you choose Neuroscience as your major?

I chose neuroscience as my major after coming across a TEDx video by Dawn Maslar about the neurochemistry of falling in love. From that point forward, I found myself digging deeper into neuroscience and being intrigued by not only neurochemistry but everything else neuroscience has to offer such as neurobiology.

Q: What was your favorite class at UTSA and why?

My favorite class at UTSA so far is Neurobiology. The class offers such a diverse background of neuroscience from emotions to motor control and establishes a very strong foundation for my upcoming classes.

Q: What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a physician. Currently, I am interested in being a family medicine physician. I also want to be involved in academia in some form once I begin my career.

Q: What campus resources do you find helpful and why?

I find the study rooms most helpful. Booking study rooms across campus is very accessible and easy. Often times, when I am tired of doing homework at home, I will book at study room and still be able to immerse myself in my ideal study environment away from home.

Q: What advice would you give to the incoming new students?

My advice to incoming new students is to figure out what their interest and passion is. Pursuing a degree in something that intrigues has made this journey much more fun than it is for some students. Amongst every major, there will be challenges. Those challenges are a lot more tolerable and rewarding when you have the finish line in sight.

Congratulations to Spring 2023 PhD Graduate

Anukriti Singh

Mentor: Brian Hermann, Ph.D.
Program: PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology



'Primate Spermatogonial Stem Cells and Their Niche:
A Single-Cell View'

Congratulations to Spring 2023 PhD Graduate

Jake Lehle

Mentor: John R. McCarrey, Ph.D.
Program: PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology



'Epigenetic Reprogramming in a Dish – an in Vitro
Model of Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance'



JAKE LEHLE

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE YOUR PH.D. AT UTSA?

I chose to pursue my PhD at UTSA to follow my interest in studying the mechanisms that regulate the proper establishment of epigenetic programming following embryonic and germline reprogramming events and how changes to the epigenome due to chemical exposures during these developmental windows have the potential to predispose the onset of disease states that can be maintained across multiple generations. I was given an opportunity to work on this research question in Dr. McCarrey's Laboratory and decided this was the best fit for me.

Q: WHAT HAS BROUGHT YOU THE MOST ENJOYMENT IN THE PROGRAM?

The friendships and comradery I feel with the other students and faculty, but another equal high point from the end of the program is the confidence that I gained by believing in myself and completing my degree in the face of many setbacks during my studies. The program gave me a sense of worth in that regard.

Q: ANY FACULTY KUDO?

I of course have to thank my dissertation committee members Dr. John McCarrey, Dr. Brian Hermann, Dr. Chin-Hsin Annie Lin, Dr. Christopher Navara, and Dr. Bruce Blumberg for mentoring me throughout my doctoral degree. I would also like to thank members of the NDRB Department Janice Marshall, Wanda Guntz, Antonio Alvarez, and Katherine Silva who have been a huge help to me with behind-the-scenes magic that made my research and studies possible here at UTSA. Finally, I would like to thank the UTSA core faculty Dr. Sandra Cardona, and Sean Vargas who have all the best scientific toys and are nice enough to let me use them.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?

I have accepted a postdoctoral position at The University of California at Irvine with Dr. Bruce Blumberg where I plan to use what I have learned while at UTSA to continue to work on the same area of research, but now with a broader understanding that the disease states that can occur from exposure to chemicals during developmental windows is really due to the dysregulation of cell identity for tissues and cells exposed. Thus, I want to continue to study this area of research to gain a better fundamental understanding of cell identity and fate through development.

Doctorate Investiture Ceremony Program

Welcome & Introduction by Chair

Dr. Jenny Hsieh

Introductions by Graduate Advisors of Record

Dr. John R. McCarrey – Developmental & Regenerative Sciences

Dr. Matthew Wanat - Neuroscience

Presenting PhD Graduate Jake Lehle

Dr. John R. McCarrey

Dissertation Title: “Epigenetic Reprogramming in a Dish – an in Vitro Model of Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance”

Presenting PhD Graduate Anukriti Singh

Dr. Brian Hermann

Dissertation Title: “Primate Spermatogonial Stem Cells and Their Niche: A Single-Cell View”



Photos from our NDRB Doctorate Investiture & White Coat Ceremony





White Coat Ceremony Program

Spring 2023 Doctoral Candidates

The White Coat Ceremony honors PhD students who have passed their qualifying exams, transitioning from a PhD student to a PhD candidate.

Name, Program, Advisor

*Laura Chavez, DRS, Dr. John R. McCarrey
Shannon M. Landon, DRS, Dr. Lindsey Macpherson
Adedayo Ogunware, DRS, Dr. George Perry
Veena Prasad, DRS, Dr. Chris Gamblin
Christian Ray Serrano, DRS, Dr. Melanie Carless
Olivia Shi, DRS, Dr. Robert Renthall*

*Antonio Allevato, Neuroscience, Dr. Nicole Wicha
Uchit Bhaskar, Neuroscience, Dr. Melanie Carless
Nicole B. Cook, Neuroscience, Dr. Isabel Muzzio
Tara L. Flaughner, Neuroscience, Dr. Nicole Wicha
Celia Gagliardi, Neuroscience, Dr. Isabel Muzzio
Charles Garcia, Neuroscience, Dr. Chris Gamblin
Morgan P. Johnston, Neuroscience, Dr. Matthew Wanat
James Jones, Neuroscience, Dr. Charles Wilson
Won-Haeng Lee, Neuroscience, Dr. Hyoung-gon Lee
Matthew Lopez, Neuroscience, Dr. Isabel Muzzio
Karina Meyer Acosta, Neuroscience, Dr. Jenny Hsieh
Bahram Pahlavan, Neuroscience, Dr. Fidel Santamaria
Kannan Thangamani, Neuroscience, Dr. Guoquan Zhang
Ryan Wood, Neuroscience, Dr. Lindsey Macpherson*











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