CENTER FOR EXPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

creative expression meets technical innovation

WHO WE ARE
A dedicated, interdisciplinary group of faculty and students who are interested in the intersection of the technical, the creative, and the human with a focus on creative expression, technical innovation, and community engagement.

WHAT WE DO
We excel in small, hands-on projects that push technological and expressive boundaries and emphasize environmental and social sustainability, while developing Cal Poly students’ problem-solving and collaboration skills. We collaborate with a wide variety of public and private partners on a range of activities:

- From artistic expression in cinematic, theatrical, music performances and constructed architectural spaces to digital archives of collected history.

- From developing apps that help us tell stories about our past and present using geo-location to designing and interpreting systems of crowd sourcing and participation to engage citizens.

- From the animation for interactive entertainment to the thematic design of physical and virtual spaces.
POLYGHOST
CET worked with the Kennedy Library Special Collections & Archives Department to create a mixed-media show and interactive ghost story using the university’s collection of early local photographs. These histories, photographs and stories were then captured in a smartphone app that took users on a guided, interactive tour of the Cal Poly campus.

RE/COLLECTING
Under the direction of Dr. Grace Yeh (Ethnic Studies), the CET helped to capture and present the histories of the Filipino- and Japanese-American communities of the Central Coast, including letters, family photos and audio/video interviews.

THEATER PRODUCTIONS
CET worked with students in the Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies Program to help with creative and technical expressions in several community and campus theater events, including “Trojan Women 2.0” (interactive set pieces and animatronics) and “8” (audio soundscape and video scenery creation).

INTIMATE TRANSACTIONS
CET worked with the College of Architecture & Environmental Design and a visiting media artist from Australia to develop a temporary theater space to house his interactive gaming devices. In collaboration with the Transmute Collective of Australia and the National Art Museum of China, the interactive art exhibit was presented as part of the pre-Beijing Summer Olympics show, “China International New Media Arts Show 2008.”

As we continue our work with expressive technologies, the center is pursuing a number of exciting initiatives that capitalize on our interdisciplinary expertise and focus on creative expression, technical innovation, and community engagement, including:

CET@CP GRANTS – YEARLONG
Mini-grants to support student and faculty innovation and collaboration. Example projects may include digital humanities projects, interactive theater, film, gaming, and community engagement work.

POLYXPRESS@THE ARB – YEARLONG
Working to bring visitors an interactive, educational tour of the Leaning Pine Arboretum at Cal Poly using the geo-locational, story-making Web application, PolyXpress.

DESIGN & DEV HACKATHON – WINTER 2015
Supporting the Design & Dev Hackathon event.

SLO IFF – MARCH 2015
Hosting of panel and screening connected with the SLO International Film Festival.

CET SHOWCASE – SPRING 2015
Festival showcasing center-supported projects across the university at the intersection of technology and expression. We are particularly interested in focusing on experimental film and theater for 2015.

MINIMAKER FAIRE – SPRING 2015
Supporting the production of the third annual Mini Maker Faire.
GET INVOLVED

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD
This committee is comprised of key representatives (executives, designers, technologists, division managers) from the industries and professional organizations connected to important expressive technology research, design and production in California. The committee provides annual advice to the Center for Expressive Technologies about marketplace trends, recommends guest artist/technologists for project involvement and campus residency participation, promotes the interests of the center in the U.S. and abroad, and helps to solicit new expressive technology projects for Cal Poly and the center.

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD
Lorraine Donegan | Graphic Communication
Thomas Fowler | Architecture
David Gillette | English, Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies
Michael Haungs | Computer Science
Jane Lehr | Ethnic Studies, Women’s & Gender Studies, Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies
Elizabeth Lowham | Political Science, Director
Josh Machamer | Theatre & Dance
Zoe Wood | Computer Science

QUESTIONS?
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