



Inside EPPS

News from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas



Letter from EPPS Dean Jennifer S. Holmes

As we approach the end of another academic year, we are gearing up for our EPPS Commencement ceremony to honor more than 200 undergraduate and graduate students. Graduation is the highlight of the year as we celebrate the achievements of our outstanding students.

At the same time, we are already looking ahead to fall when we will welcome a record number of new students. We are hosting an admitted student event later this month

with prospective freshmen. We are especially pleased to see a surge in the number of applications to our new BA in Public Health program. To support their career trajectory, we are collaborating with UT Southwestern to create further opportunities for them. We are confident our newest degree will help fill a vital need in a growing career sector.

We have been busy this year offering career guidance to our students. We have had presentations from the Counseling Place, Dallas County Juvenile Department, local police department recruiters and many local city governments and city managers. Our diplomat in residence has presented as have Dallas County judges. We hosted GIS Day and multiple talks on sustainability and cyber policy. This spring, we have had CIA, DEA, and FBI recruiters on campus to meet with students. We have an upcoming speaker for students interested in international business and investment banking.

We are also finalizing a round of faculty hires for Fall 2024, bringing in five new faculty members in cybersecurity, sustainability, criminology, and international relations. Their expertise will undoubtedly enrich our school, reinforcing our commitment to excellence and innovation.

Publications & Accolades



Carol Cirulli Lanham Appointed Fulbright Specialist in Australia

Dr. Lanham, professor of instruction, Sociology, has been chosen as a Fulbright specialist by the U.S. State Department to work on a project called "Co-operative Virtual Learning Across Borders" at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. This initiative focuses on Virtual Exchange (VE)/Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), a method that uses digital technology to connect students and educators across different countries for collaborative learning and cultural exchange. When she travels down under later this year, Dr. Lanham will contribute to the expansion of Deakin's VE/COIL program, leveraging her expertise to enhance international collaboration and intercultural competence among students.

Dr. Dohyeong Kim Completes Two Research Papers

Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Education, Dr. Dohyeong Kim, recently published two dynamic research papers.

"Examining the Association between Medical Marijuana Legalization and Criminal Behaviors: Evidence from a U.S. Representative Sample" examines the association between medical marijuana legalization and criminal behaviors among adults in the United States.

[Read](#)



"Association of Exposure to Indoor Mold and Dampness with Allergic Diseases at Water-Damaged Dwellings in Korea" aims to characterize different levels of environmental pollutants to help identify the association between indoor mold and dampness exposures and childhood allergic diseases using three different exposure assessment tools. Diseases focused on this study include asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis.

[Read](#)



Comments on the Bernoulli Distribution and Hilbe's Implicit Extra-Dispersion

Dr. Daniel Griffith, Ashbel Smith Professor of Geospatial Information Systems, examines Hilbe's theory on hidden variation in binary data and how rounding a specific type of beta distribution to a Bernoulli variable conceals this extra variation. He analyzes a real-world dataset on bell pepper disease to illustrate this concept, highlighting misconceptions about using quasi-Bernoulli random variables in such situations.

[Read](#)

Two Research Projects, Two Papers: Dr. Muhammad Tauhidur Rahman's Latest Work

Associate Professor of Instruction and GIS

Certificate Coordinator, Dr. Muhammad Tauhidur Rahman recently completed two research papers.

"Examining the effect of apartment attributes on their sale prices in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia" uses Hedonic regression to investigate the influence of various attributes on the apartment sale price in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Using a statistical technique and data on hundreds of apartments, the research reveals how features like floor area, proximity to amenities, and even the building's age can impact sale prices.

[Read](#)

"Geospatial approach in modeling linear, areal, and relief morphometric interactions in Dabus river basin ecology for sustainable water resource management" delves into the intricate morphometric features of the Dabus River Basin (DRB) in the Upper Blue Nile, Ethiopia, utilizing advanced geospatial techniques. This comprehensive investigation, conducted within the ArcGIS environment, aims to provide valuable insights for effective land and water management strategies in the region.

[Read](#)



Dr. Meghna Sabharwal: Editor-in-Chief of Leading Public Administration Journal and NAPA Fellow

Dr. Meghna Sabharwal, Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management and Associate Provost for Faculty Success, has achieved two significant milestones. Firstly, she was named Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious public human resources journal in public administration, *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, effective January 1, 2024. Additionally, she has been honored as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), marking her as the first individual from the UT Dallas faculty to receive this esteemed distinction.

Dr. Camila Morales Makes Double Impact with New Research

Assistant Professor of Economics, Dr. Camila Morales recently published two articles.

"Dual Language Immersion Programs and Student Achievement in Early Elementary Grades" studies the effects of dual language immersion programs on the academic outcomes of elementary students. Drawing upon data from 10 immersion programs in two public school districts in Georgia, the study reveals an increase in reading and math test scores among students who gained access to dual language education. This paper was published in *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

[Read](#)

"The "Missing English Learner" in Higher Education: How Identification, Assessment, and Placement Shape the Educational Outcomes of English Learners in Community Colleges" examines how identification, assessment, and course placement policies in community colleges affect the educational attainment of English Learners (ELs). Published in *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*, this chapter reviews the existing literature on the effectiveness of assessment tools used to sort ELs into prerequisite courses while identifying research and policy areas to improve the post-secondary outcomes of ELs, charting a course for future action. This research paper was co-written by Dr. **Holly Kosiewicz**, Assistant Professor of Instruction.

[Read](#)





Conducting Ethical Field Research on Rape in West African Settings: Case Study of 2018 Liberian Field Survey

Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy, Dr. Jessi Hanson-DeFusco, collaborated with her team to research the challenges of conducting rape scholarship in West Africa, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive methodologies. It highlights innovative approaches developed through a 2018 study in Liberia, focusing on ethical data collection and collaboration with local experts to ensure contextual relevance.

[Read](#)

Texas Community Colleges and Student Mental Health Support

Dr. Holly Kosiewicz, Assistant Professor of Instruction, led a project with support from Dr. Trey Miller, Associate Professor of Economics, and Dr. Heidi Kane, Associate Professor at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. This project was funded by the Trellis Foundation and aimed to investigate the efforts of Texas community colleges in supporting student mental health. Recently, the RAND Corporation published three publications stemming from this collaborative endeavor.

"Supporting Student Mental Health" discusses research findings that reveal how schools provide a range of mental health support services, but a significant portion of these approaches lack evidence-based foundations. The article further explores how these limitations create hurdles in supporting students.

[Read](#)

"Understanding How Texas Community College Campuses are Supporting" dives deeper into the descriptive study of ten community colleges in Texas, documenting the various strategies and



challenges that they face in their approach to support student mental health.

[Read](#)

"Community Colleges Need Guidance and Money to Meet Today's Mental Health Challenge" takes the research from the two articles and provides commentary on how it applies to the real world.

[Read](#)



Dohyo Jeong Receives SKPA Student Paper Award

Fourth-year Public Policy and Political Economy PhD student, Dohyo Jeong won second place for the SKPA Student Paper Award. The SKPA, which stands for the Section on Korean Public Administration, strives to expand understanding of public administration between the United States and Korea. He will be presented this award at the Annual Conference of American Society of Public Administration at Minneapolis, MN in April.

Mya Miller Awarded the Texas Law Cohort Scholarship

Mya Miller, Graduate Student of Criminology, is one of the five students that received the Texas Law Cohort Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship covers full tuition and fees for all three years of J.D. enrollment at Texas Law during the Fall and Spring terms. In order to qualify, she participated in the Cohort Program, a rigorous year-long test preparation and admissions support initiative tailored for current-cycle law school applicants.





Pyung Kim Selected for UW-Madison's JIST 2024 Cohort

Pyung Kim, third-year Public Policy and Political Economy PhD student, has been awarded a spot on the Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) 2024 cohort at UW-Madison, funded by UW-Madison and the Social Security Administration. Following the workshop, the top five research topics will be selected, with each recipient receiving an additional \$5,000 fellowship.

Program Highlights

PNM Hosts Dr. Alasdair Rutherford



The Public and Nonprofit Management program had the privilege of hosting Dr. Alasdair Rutherford, Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Stirling in Scotland. During his time here at UTD, Dr. Rutherford delivered an enlightening guest lecture on volunteering during COVID. He also spoke with a class on local government about differences between the U.K. and U.S. The highlight of his visit was when he used an immersive, custom-designed game in two undergraduate nonprofit class sessions as a unique approach to learn complex management skills.

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY

02

2:00 pm ET

Federal Executive Board Campus Series -
Session 1: Navigating USAJOBS (Finding and

SESSION

1

Navigating USAJOBS (Finding and Applying for Federal Jobs)

This will cover key aspects of USAJOBS, the main online portal for Federal employment. The session includes how to create and manage a USAJOBS account/profile, tips on searching for Federal jobs, reviewing job announcements, applying for jobs, and how to follow up.



Tuesday, April 2, 2024



2:00pm - 3:30pm ET



SCAN TO REGISTER

**2:00 pm ET**

Federal Executive Board Campus Series - Session 2: Writing Your Resume for Federal Jobs

SESSION

2

Writing Your Resume for Federal Jobs

This session reviews unique aspects of writing a resume that is specifically customized to apply for Federal jobs. Learn what information is required for a résumé that will make you more effective in the Federal hiring process. You will learn what to include, things to avoid, and what makes a resume for Federal employment different from those used for private sector and other employment.



Tuesday, April 9, 2024



2:00pm - 3:30pm ET



SCAN TO REGISTER



THURSDAY

11

April

2:00 pm ET

Federal Executive Board Campus Series - Session 3: Interviewing for Federal Jobs

SESSION

3

Interviewing for Federal Jobs

Participants will be equipped to prepare for and engage in successful interviews for Federal jobs. We will cover actions you should take prior to, on the day of, and after your interview. Also, you will learn about the kinds of interviewing methods used by Federal agencies, the types of questions that may be asked during the interview, and how best to respond.



Thursday, April 11, 2024



2:00pm - 3:30pm ET



SCAN TO REGISTER



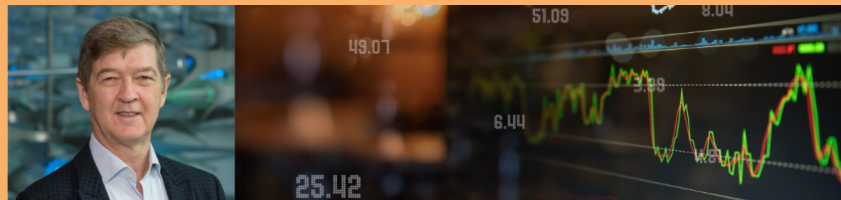
FRIDAY

12

April

3:00 pm

Pathways to Employment - Meet Dr. Andrew Nevin - Research Professor and Inaugural Director, The Brainomics Venture



THURSDAY

18

April

2:00 pm ET

Federal Executive Board Campus Series - Session 4: Pathways Programs for Students and Recent Graduates

SESSION

4

Pathways Programs for Students and Recent Graduates

Participants will learn about the three Pathways Programs, i.e., the Internship Program, Recent Graduates Program, and Presidential Management Fellows Program. You will know eligibility requirements for each Program, i.e., what is the same and what distinguishes the Programs from one another. You will learn how you can find and apply for positions under each of the Pathways Programs.



Thursday, April 18, 2024



2:00pm - 3:30pm ET



SCAN TO REGISTER



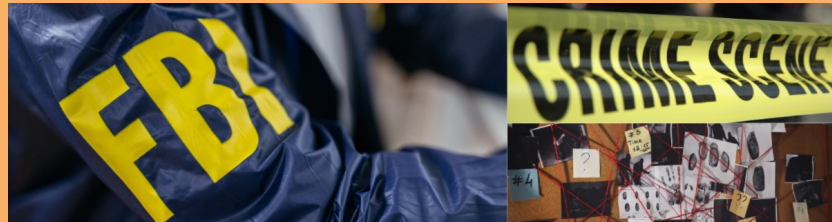
FRIDAY

19

April

3:00 pm

Pathways to Employment - Meet FBI Agent Laritza Diazgonsen



EPPS In The News

A curated look at recent articles featuring EPPS faculty, students, and alumni.

Dallas Morning News

[Brace Yourself for Traffic After 2024 Solar Eclipse in Dallas-Fort Worth](#)

The Dallas Express

[Dallas Cop Shortage Hinders Sex Trafficking Victim Support](#)

Dallas Morning News

[Will Arlington see a long-term boost from hosting nine World Cup matches?](#)

Ways to Give and Make a Difference.

We hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends! Send your updates or suggestions to epps-marketing@utdallas.edu.

Visit the EPPS Website

University of Texas at Dallas | 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080

[Unsubscribe epps-marketing@utdallas.edu](mailto:epps-marketing@utdallas.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by [epps@utdallas.edu](mailto:byepps@utdallas.edu)