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Inside EPPS

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



Letter from EPPS Dean Jennifer S. Holmes

Dear Students and Alumni,

As a Minnesota native, I'm no stranger to snowstorms. But this year marked the first time in my 25 years at UT Dallas that a cold snap kept everyone at home on the first day of classes. While the campus may have been quiet, a lot has been happening behind the scenes as we gear up for a new spring semester.

If you have been to campus in the last few weeks, you've probably noticed the

construction fences around the building next door to Green Hall. This marks the beginning of the demolition of Green Center and the construction of a new Student Success Center/Student Union. This project promises to transform our campus and become a central hub for student life and activities. We're all excited to see this development take shape over the coming months – even if it does mean giving up some of the best parking spots on campus.

On a different note, I'm happy to announce an upcoming event that is sure to be a highlight of this semester. On February 1st at 6 p.m., the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences is hosting members of The Slants. This synthpop/dance rock group is recognized not only for their music but also for their advocacy, having won a landmark Supreme Court case. They've turned a derogatory term into a symbol of empowerment and resilience, standing for First Amendment rights.

This event, blending music and storytelling, promises to be an inspiring showcase of the impact of artistic expression in our cultural and legal landscapes. Don't miss this unique opportunity to engage in contemporary discussions about freedom of expression.

In the meantime, I encourage you to read this Inside EPPS newsletter and catch up on what our professors have been doing over the last few months: conducting groundbreaking research, writing books, and winning grants.

Looking forward to an eventful and productive semester!



Comet Calendar

Publications & Accolades

New Book by Professor of Political Science

Dr. Thomas Brunell has recently published a book titled *How Polarization*



Begets Polarization. This book provides insight into political causes and establishes logical foundation for understanding polarization.

Read

Beyond Deforestation Reductions: Public Disclosure, Land-Use Change and Commodity Sourcing

Assistant Professor of Political Economy and Sustainability Dr. Elías Cisneros has co-authored an article about how global commodity supply chains contribute significantly to environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. The article is set to be published in March 2024.



Read



Linking Primary Voter Mindsets to General Election Enthusiasm

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Lauren Ratliff Santoro, published an article on how voters make decisions in the primary elections and campaign dynamics in an era of hyper-partisanship and nationalized politics.

Access

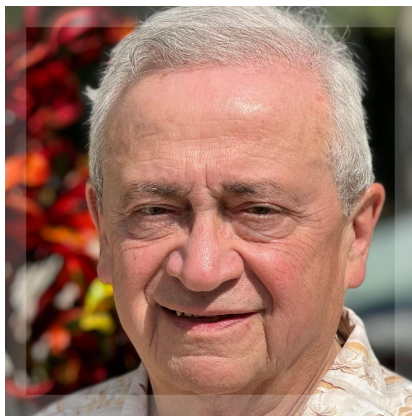
Publications and Accolades

College Students' Attitudes Toward Denying Admission to Prospective Students with Criminal Records

Dr. Alex Burton, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Program,

has co-authored an article with Haley Puddy and Sunmin Hong, both second-year Criminology PhD students. The article examines perspectives on denying students with a criminal record college admission.

Read



Associate Professor of Public Policy and Political Economy Gets Grant

With support from the Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT), two nonprofit organizations that serve justice-involved youth and young adults - Youth With Faces (YWF) and Café Momentum (CM) - have awarded a \$200,000 evaluation research grant to Dr. Simon Fass of UT Dallas.

YWF provides juveniles in Dallas and Collin County residential facilities with career training, paid work experience, support for community reentry, and life-skills education. Through these and related activities encouraging development of employment and networking skills, YWF helps justice-involved youth become productive community participants.

CM is a Dallas County restaurant with an integrated paid internship program that provides justice-involved youth with occupational training and education in accountability, problem-solving, self-reliance, and other life skills. CM's goal is to equip young people with the wherewithal to reach their full potential as valued members of society.

The research grant aims to strengthen the capacity of YWF and CM to self-assess and to enhance the effectiveness of their efforts to improve the life course trajectories of young men and women in North Texas.

Dr. Fass, Associate Professor of Public Policy in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, has an extensive, award-winning global career in program design, evaluation, and statistical analysis. Working with him is Dr. Chung-Ron Pi (UT Dallas PhD, 1994), Principal Program Analyst, State Bar of California.

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY

6:00 p.m.

01

February

The Slants: Performance and Storytelling

Join

EPPS In The News

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

Community Impact

[UT Dallas conducting quality-of-life survey in North Texas](#)

The Associated Press

[With patriotic reggaeton and videos, Venezuela's government fans territorial dispute with Guyana](#)

Dallas Morning News

[Tiffany Gomas, the 'not real' woman on a D-FW flight, opens up about her internet infamy](#)

NPR

[Why passengers have been more unruly since the pandemic](#)

The Associated Press

[Can the new film 'Uncharitable' change people's minds about overhead at nonprofits?](#)

KERA

[North Texas cities are losing billions of gallons of water to old infrastructure](#)

Spectrum 1 News

[Despite good jobs reports, Texans remain fearful of recession](#)

KRLD/Ask the Expert Podcast

[What happens now that the House has a new speaker?](#)

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@utdallas.edu.

Visit the EPPS Website

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

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