



# Inside EPPS

## Inside EPPS

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



### Letter from EPPS Dean Jennifer S. Holmes

The spring, we have a number of exciting initiatives in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

First of all, I am happy to announce that we are about to launch the North Texas Quality of Life Initiative. This project will identify areas of improvement and pride in regional quality of life, highlight areas of contradiction where there is a mismatch of perception and objective indicators, and provide multiple opportunities for our students to work on a high profile, policy-salient project. The goal is to provide high-quality data to inform interested partners

and community leaders of people's demand for, supply of and consumption of public service delivery, and the consequences of that delivery. The core of the initiative is the William C. Short Survey. William C. Short, executive chairman and CEO of A.E. Perkins Holdings Group, previously served on the EPPS advisory council. The annual survey will be a cornerstone of the larger effort to bring decision-makers the actionable information they need to shape the most dynamic region in the country. We will launch the inaugural survey this May around local elections and will reveal the results (with contextual data) this summer.

Second, we have been busy building relationships to expand our public service commitment in EPPS. The school is the sponsor of Army ROTC, so now UTD students can be cadets here on campus, opening up lucrative scholarship and military leadership opportunities for comets on campus. We hosted recruitment sessions for the CIA and FBI and have created a new relationship with our local Federal Executive Board (FEB). The FEB will host a series of events to get our students ready for the federal job market. At the same time, our programs are continuing to strengthen partnerships with local governments, police and fire departments, and regional non-profits.

As always, we welcome alumni back to campus and hope to see you soon. Please enjoy the highlights of the accomplishments of students and faculty.

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## Publications & Accolades



### 2024 New York City Department of Corrections Curriculum Review Committee

Assistant Professor of Criminology, Dr. Alexander L. Burton, was invited by the Deputy Commissioner of Training and Development to serve on the committee, historically limited to those employed by the New York City Department of Corrections.

The Commissioner states in his invitation letter to Dr. Burton: *"I believe your expertise as a correctional scholar will significantly advance our efforts to identify best practices and evidence-based approaches that can be integrated into our curricula and other training-related materials."*

### Tick-Borne Disease Data Guidebook Research Award

Assistant Provost and Associate Professor of Public Health and Public Policy, Dr. Sarah Maxwell, was awarded

\$36,300 under the Lyme Disease Association, Inc. through a competitive application process to create a tick-borne disease county-level data guidebook. This project will develop the most comprehensive tick-borne data resource to date, allowing researchers to access previously unknown and difficult to locate data.



## Blind Trust, Blind Skepticism: Liberals' & Conservatives' Response to Academic Research

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Lauren Ratliff Santoro featured her research in an article published in the *American Politics Research*. The article focuses on understanding how symbols of scientific expertise deliver information in a politicized environment and the corresponding response from liberals and conservatives.

The article gained some media coverage as it was highlighted in PsyPost.

[Read the Article](#)

[PsyPost](#)

## 2023 Outstanding Paper of the Year

Program Head and Associate Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management, Dr. James Harrington, and Clinical Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management, Dr. John McCaskill, received the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award for 2023 from the *International Journal of Public Sector Management*.



This award was for their study titled "Does Goal Setting Matter? The Impact of Employee-Level and Organizational-Level Goal Properties on Public Employees' Perception of Performance Appraisal Fairness".

[Read](#)



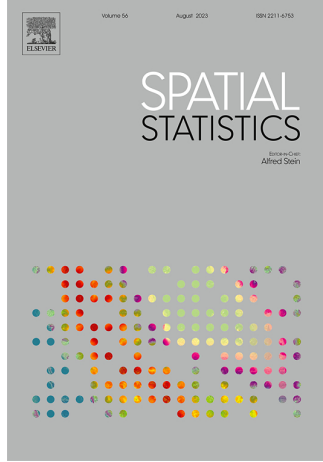
## Dr. Yongwan Chun and PhD GIS Students Collaborate to Research and Publish Two Articles

Professor and Program Head of Geospatial Information Sciences, Dr. Yongwan Chun, in collaboration with his PhD students, showcases research projects in two articles published in *Spatial Statistics*.

"Impacts of Spatial Imputation on Location-Allocation Problem Solutions" is written by Dr. Yongwan Chun, Dongeun Kim, and Daniel Griffith. This article explores how spatial imputation techniques leveraging spatial autocorrelation can improve the estimation of missing values in location modeling weights surfaces, enhancing solutions for spatial optimization problems.

[Read](#)

"Effects of Geographically Stratified Random Sampling Initial Solutions on Solving a Continuous Surface P-Median Problem Using the ALTERN



"Heuristic" is written by Dr. Yongwan Chun, Changho Lee, Daniel Griffith, and Hyun Kim. This article investigates how geographically stratified random sampling (GSRS) improves the ALTERN heuristic algorithm's performance in solving the p-median location problem.

Read

## Systems Analysis of the Effects of the 2014-16 Ebola Crisis on WHO-Reporting Nations' Policy Adaptations and 2020-21 Covid-19 Response: A Systemized Review

Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy, Dr. Jessi Hanson-DeFusco, with PhD students Min Shi and Zoe Du, collaborated on a research paper that got published in *Globalization and Health*. Their article examines how the 2014-16 EVD crisis influenced nations' readiness for future threats like COVID-19, using the policy legacies framework and literature review.

Read



## Do Preliminary References Increase Public Support for European Law? Experimental Evidence from Germany

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Sivaram Cheruvu, showcased his research in a paper that was recently published in the *International Organization* journal. This article details the relationship between the EU's domestic courts and public support for their legal process.

Read

## Building Student Confidence with Community-Based Learning.

Assistant Professor of Instruction for Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, Dr. Arthur Vasquez, successfully presented a workshop for the Center of Teaching and Learning. This workshop discussed his efforts to work with short-term work group students to build their confidence and create partnerships with organizations.



## Violent Victimization of Youth with Mental Disorders: Does Lifestyles/Routine Activities or Control Perspectives Mediate the Relationship Between Mental Illness and Victimization?

Assistant Professor of Criminology, Dr. Michelle Harris, featured her research in an article published in the journal of *Crime & Delinquency*. Her research details the connection between youth mental illness and violent victimization. Drawing from criminology theory and the Pathways to Desistance Study, she details her findings.

[Read](#)

## EPPS SUCCESS □

Kerrie Ann Hull and Sunmin Hong are both 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD Criminology students who each received a **Distinguished New Criminologist Award** from the University Of Alabama announced on February 12, 2024. The Tuscaloosa Criminal Justice Department held a student diversity competition that was open to students from any criminal justice program across 16 Southern states. Three individuals were selected as final recipients. Both Kerrie Ann and Sunmin will travel to Tuscaloosa, AL on March 27<sup>th</sup> to meet with the criminal justice faculty and

## CONGRATULATIONS

2024

**Distinguished New  
Criminologist Award**  
University of Alabama



**Sunmin Hong**  
PhD Student, Criminology &  
Criminal Justice



**Kerrie Ann Hull**  
PhD Student, Criminology &  
Criminal Justice



present their research to attendees.

## Upcoming Events

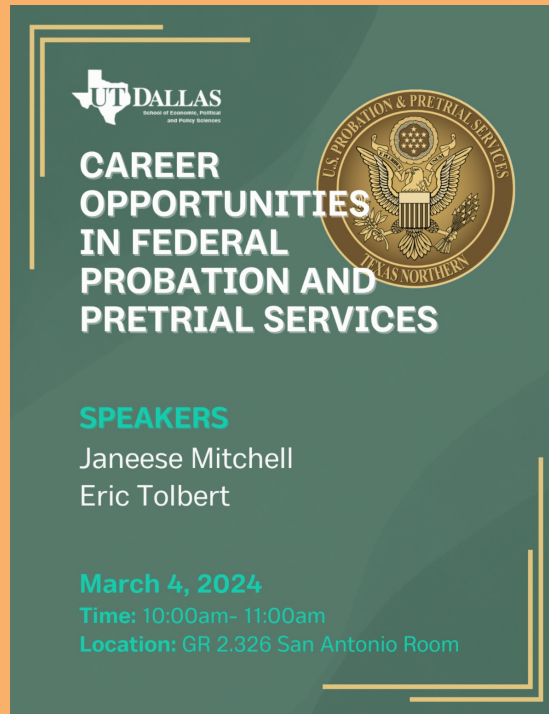
MONDAY

04

March

10:00 am

U.S. Federal Probation & Pretrial Services



The poster features the UT Dallas logo (School of Criminology, Probation and Policy Services) and the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Texas Northern seal. The text on the poster reads: 'CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FEDERAL PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES', 'SPEAKERS: Janeese Mitchell, Eric Tolbert', and 'March 4, 2024, Time: 10:00am- 11:00am, Location: GR 2.326 San Antonio Room'.

11 –

15

March

SPRING BREAK!

MONDAY

18

March

10:00 am

Life as a DEA Agent



# LIFE AS A DEA AGENT

Speaker

**LORENA VALDEZ**

18TH  
MARCH

10 AM-  
11 AM

GREEN HALL  
2.326 SAN  
ANTONIO ROOM



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## EPPS In The News

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

### *CBS Austin*

[Austin is actively searching for the next permanent city manager](#)

### *Fox 4*

[Petition to decriminalize marijuana possession in Dallas seeks 20K signatures](#)

### *Dallas Morning News*

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

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Ways to Give and Make a Difference.

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