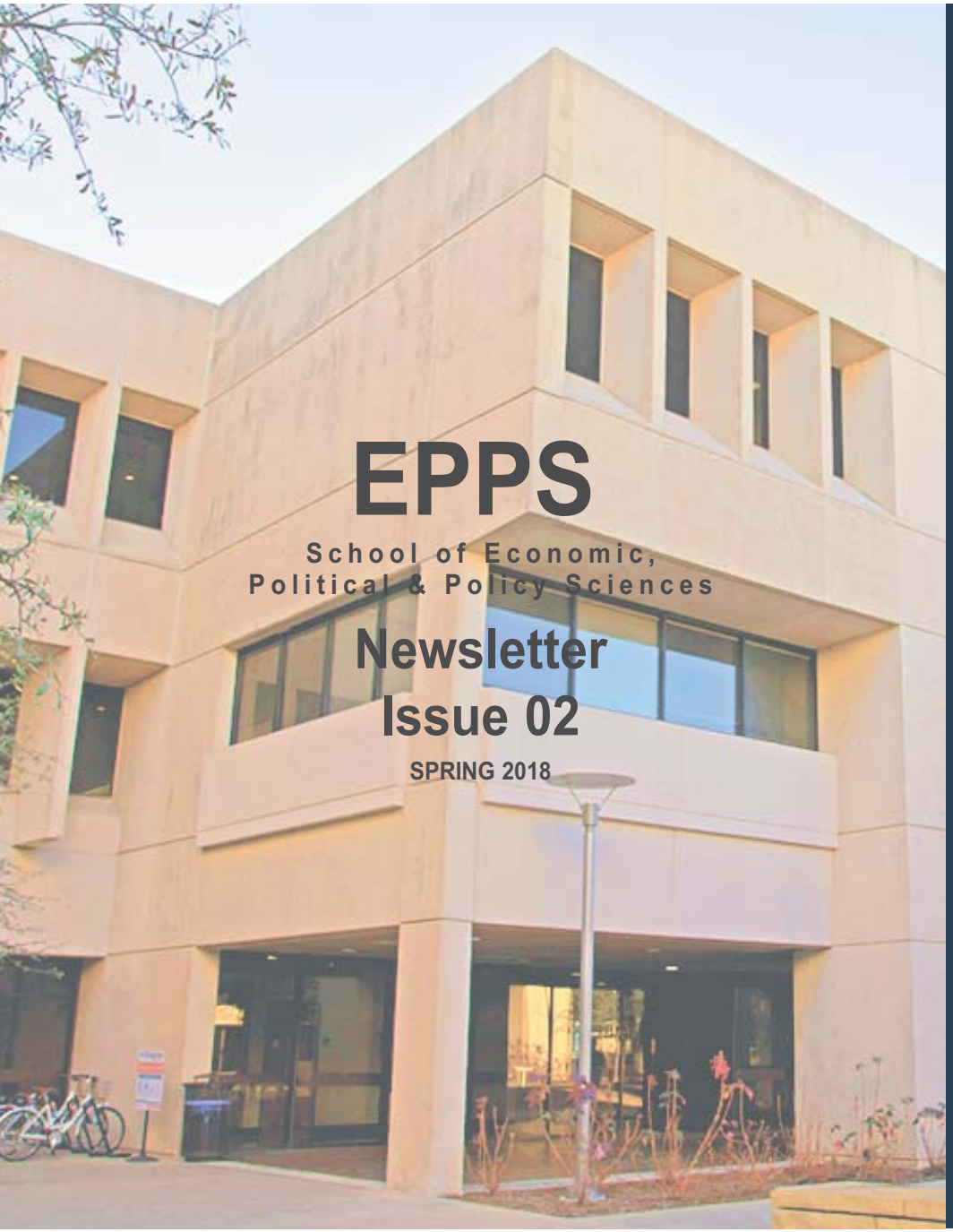


EPPS

School of Economic,
Political & Policy Sciences

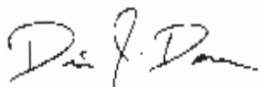
Newsletter
Issue 02

SPRING 2018

From the Dean's Perspective

As another academic year comes to an end, EPPS students, faculty and staff can look back at a remarkable set of past accomplishments, and many exciting new endeavors just getting underway. EPPS teaching continues to win recognitions and awards; in addition to EPPS faculty and students recognizing our own outstanding teachers, EPPS instructors, including one of our Graduate Teaching Assistants, won three of the six annual teaching awards presented by University President Dr. Richard Benson. One of our past Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award winners was named to the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers, the System's highest teaching honor. An EPPS staff member was among the inaugural group of UT System staff members recognized with the Regents' Outstanding Staff Award. Outside the University and UT System, professional societies have recognized the accomplishments of our students and faculty. Our faculty, students and staff have won many other awards and recognitions that space does not allow us to list in this single issue. It is truly gratifying to see the hard work and dedication of EPPS students, faculty and staff recognized in this fashion.

In addition to these past accomplishments, EPPS faculty and students are moving forward in exciting new areas. A few examples are presented in the profiles in this issue, but the breadth of topics covered in EPPS is remarkable – with 28 degrees in 8 different subject areas, and an emphasis on interdisciplinary activities that span multiple subject areas, EPPS offers nearly endless opportunities for new and novel research and teaching. While we are proud of our past laurels, we are excited for our future. We hope you will join us as we make that future.



Denis J. Dean, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Dr.Rodolfo Hernandez Guerrero Receives Association of International Education Administrators 2018 Timothy J. Rutenber Award

The Timothy J. Rutenber Award was established to honor AIEA members who have rendered long-term and outstanding service to the Association.
Hernandez Guerrero has been AIEA Board Secretary since 2012. His board colleagues note that he performs his role "consistently and diligently in an exemplary selfless way."
Hernandez Guerrero is a quintessential international educator. His partnership work on behalf of UT-Dallas demonstrates extensive knowledge of the international education field. His work between Mexican universities and associations and UT-Dallas is particulary noteworthy.

Encore Calls for EPPS's First GIS Workshop

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) in collaboration with its Geospatial Information Sciences (GIS) program offered its first GIS workshop to the UT Dallas community on Friday afternoon, March 30, and Saturday, March 31. The one-and-a-half days event was attended by students and faculty from three different schools at UT Dallas. The workshop was designed to introduce GIS novices to GIS technology, spatial data analytics and a broad range of spatial data sets. A mixture of hands-on tutorials, supporting theory and industry applications provided the participants with tangible experiences on how to incorporate GIS into their decision-making processes and how to enhance their academic and professional portfolios with the help of GIS. A workshop certificate is offered to attendees once they successfully complete a brief GIS project. The end-of-workshop evaluation [a] highlighted the demand for additional – perhaps slower paced – GIS workshops, [b] awarded rave reviews to the talk "The Use of GIS in Cooperate Environments" by the guest speaker Dr. Wayne Gearey, EMSI (http://www.economicmodeling.com), and not surprisingly [c] gave high praises to the pizza lunch on Saturday.
The workshop was organized by a group of GIS graduate and Ph.D. students under the coordination of Dr. Michael Tiefelsdorf. The idea for introducing the UT Dallas community to GISc developed during the eight annual GIS-Day in November of last year. Students celebrate during GIS-Day their chosen field of scholarship, demonstrate their proficiency and share their enthusiasm for GIS with the general public. The GIS software Maptitude, a donation by Caliper Inc. (www.caliper.com), was in particular well suited for the purpose of this workshop as it is tailored towards the needs of general GIS practitioners. Please visit workshop's website at www.exploregis.spatialfiltering.com for more information about this workshop.

Guestspeaker Dr. Wayne Gearey is addressing the workshop participants on Satuday morning

The Geospatial Information Sciences (GISC) program provides a high level research program and excellent education.

The research of its faculty is dedicated to develop and/or utilize powerful information technologies to improve our ability to collect, store, manage, analyze, visualize, and utilize information on the Earth's surface, often with reference to human societies. These technologies include geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing (RS), global positioning systems (GPS), internet mapping, and drones. These new technologies are utilized in various fields, including urban planning and policy, industry (e.g., oil and gas, and real estate), public health (e.g., https://www.cdc.gov/gis/index.htm), intelligence activities (https://www.nga.mil/), disaster management (https://gis.fema.gov/), as well as a wide range of academic research. GIS also helps people to manage geographical (or spatial) information in their daily lives with a high degree of accuracy (such as finding a shortest driving path), similar to that provided by a watch or a clock when it manages time.

GISC Doctoral Student honored at AAG Meeting in New Orleans

Xiaojun Pu received from the Spatial Analysis and Modelling (SAM) specialty group at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in New Orleans, April 9-14, 2018, the second prize for her single-authored presentation and paper "Modeling Network Autocorrelation in Spatial Interaction Data: With an Application using Interprovincial Migration Flows of China". SAM's annual student paper contest is highly competitive. Furthermore, SAM awarded Xiaojun a travel grant to attend the AAG meeting. Xiaojun is a Ph.D. candidate in the Geospatial Information Sciences program in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, at UT Dallas. Her research advances our understanding of interregional migration processes by accounting for the fact that the migration between pairs of origins and destinations is usually affected by interdependencies within the whole regional system. Xiaojun used a Bayesian estimation approach to calibrate her statistical model. She applied a parallel algorithm to gain computational efficiency. In order to follow the academic paradigm of reproducible research, she packaged her data, the code of the used algorithms and the documentation of her research into a library of the open source R software.

Sociology Faculty Profile: Sheryl Skaggs

Dr. Sheryl Skaggs is completing work on a research project that examines the role of state-level legal and cultural factors on nonwhite workplace diversity. In particular, the study considers how state-level regulation of equal employment and state political cultures affect nonwhite managerial representation in more than 170,000 private U.S. workplaces. Statistical models are developed using data from 2010 Equal Employment Opportunity employer reports, a state-level employment law database, and state governmental ideology data source. The findings highlight the importance of progressive state-level fair employment laws and political cultures for increased representation of nonwhites in lower- and upper-level managerial positions. This research project is one of the first to examine the differential effects of such state pressures for the representation of nonwhites in two levels of management. Because workplaces operate within states, and many business firms consider state legal and political climates when examining and planning worksite locations, understanding how state context matters for fair employment opportunities has important implications for business leaders, lawmakers and workers. In addition to this research, Dr. Skaggs continues to work with local and national organizations, leading discussion panels and training sessions on workplace diversity and sexual harassment. Additionally, she serves on the editorial board of two academic journals, and works closely with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in D.C. on planning and research initiatives.

Four EPPS programs ranked in US News in the graduate school rankings for 2018

Criminology
Ranked #15
(tied with 3 others)

Public Affairs
Ranked #64
(tied with 6 others)

Political Science
Ranked #72
(tied with 8 others)

Economics
Ranked #83
(tied with 6 others)

EPPS FACULTY-AUTHOR 2018

The Annual Faculty Author Reception recognizes qualifying works of UT Dallas faculty, students and staff published on paper or electronically. Since 2006, the Dean of the Eugene McDermott Library and the Office of the Executive Vice

Euel Elliott and Doug Goodman

Euel Elliot and Doug Goodman. 2017. Texas: Yesterday and Today—Readings in Texas Politics and Public Policy. Dubuque, IA: Great River Learning. ISBN# 9781680754483.

Alex Piquero

Loeber, R., Jennings, W.G., Ahonen, L., Piquero, A.R., & Farrington, D.P. (2017). Female Delinquency From Childhood To Young Adulthood: Results from the Pittsburgh Girls Study. New York, NY: Springer.

Harold Clarke

Harold D. Clarke, Matthew Goodwin and Paul Whiteley. Brexit - Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Dan Griffith, Yongwan Chun and Denis Dean

D. Griffith, Y. Chun and D. Dean. 2017. Advances in Geocomputation: Geocomputation 2015—The 13th International Conference. Berlin: Springer,

Ted Benavides

Valcik, N., Ted Benavides, T. Jordan and A. Stigdon, 2017. Peer Reviewed City Planning for the Public Manager. ISBN: 978-1-4822-1456-7, American Society for Public Administration Series Routledge/CRC Press/Taylor and Francis, New York, New York.

The National Institute of Standards and Techonology (NIST) sponsoring a project on SAFE-NET

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is sponsoring a project on SAFE-NET: A novel integrated communication and computational platform to support efficient and safe mobilization of resource and personnel for emergency response. In this project, researchers at SMU Civil and Environmental Engineering and UTD GIS in collaboration with the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department (DFRD) to enhance public safety analytics and emergency routing operations in the City of Dallas. Dr. Khaled Abdelghany is the overall PI on the project. Dr. May Yuan leads the UTD GIS team on spatial risk modeling of traffic accidents for emergency vehicle routing. Responses to emergency calls can present a high risk to the emergency responders. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were approximately 31,600 accidents involving fire trucks from 2000 to 2009 in the nation, and 70% of these fire truck accidents occurred while in emergency use. In the period from 1992 to 2011, there were an estimated 4,500 accidents per year involving ambulances. About 60% of ambulance accidents occurred during emergency response operations. Therefore, it is important to consider spatial risk during dispatch. On the three-year project, Yuan and her students at GIS Gaia Lab are developing risk analytics with new approaches to identify network-based hotspots of traffic accidents, model the likelihood of traffic accidents on street segments and over time (hourly), and analyze the effects of traffic accidents on emergency vehicle runs in Dallas. DFRD Chief Daniel Salazar, EPPS MPA 2017, has been providing professional advice and support for the public-academic partnership on the project.

PSCI Faculty Briefs

Vito D'Orazio has been working with a team of undergraduate and graduate students to develop TwoRavens, a Web-application for data analysis and exploration. In one implementation, the purpose is to make political event data more accessible and usable for academics, policy-makers, and various other analysts. In another implementation, TwoRavens is being developed to enable subject matter experts to easily apply machine learning methods to study their topics of interest. This work is funded by NSF and DARPA.

Patrick Brandt has been working with a team of graduate and undergraduate students on a project to encode information about political and international conflict events from news reports using computer algorithms to code the data. We are also extending this to work in Spanish and Arabic, and have been employing teams of native Spanish speaking students to help with the former. In partnership with colleagues from UT Dallas Computer science we have built a real-time system that delivers updated events from news reports in a cloud architecture.

EPPS Spring 2018 Scholarship Recipients

Fred Hill
Mariya Siliankina
Hunter Stephens
John Van Der Schans

Irving J. Hoch
Minyu Han

John Forrest Kain
Zahra Lodhi
Ruth Varghese

Charles C. McKinney
Maryam Ahmadi
Zhengyang Chen
Luis Fernando Colungo
Aoyu Hou
Dong Fang Hou
Wukki Kim
Sebastian Montenegro
Rasoul Ramezani
Tianjian Shi
Yue Wanwan
Jin Luo

Bernard F. Parson
Andres Lopez-Videla

Vibhooti Shukla
Caroline Koech
Meredith Wingate

Keith Lankford Taylor
Rasoul Ramezani
Jeremy Ritchey
Danielle Zaychik

Larry D. Terry
Yong jun Park
David Tenga
Chaitanya Yadav

2018 EPPS Recipients and Nominees

Ariel Arguelles

President's Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching Assistants

EPPS Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant

Alex Piquero

Granted Membership in UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers

Nominee for the 2018 Provost's Award for Faculty Excellence in Graduate Research Mentoring

Jonas Bunte

President's Teaching Excellence Award in Undergraduate Instruction

EPPS Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Carol Lanham

President's Teaching Excellence Award in Online/Blended Instruction

Nora Hernandez

Regents' Outstanding Employee Award

Patrick Larue

Nominee for the 2018 Provost's Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Bobby Alexander

Nominee for the 2018 Provost's Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Brian Berry

EPPS Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring

PNM Briefs

*Dr. Meghna Sabharwal is working with Ms. Rebecca Reyes, fast-track student in the Public and Nonprofit Management Program on research related to glass-cliffs in the local government. Ms. Reyes was awarded the Undergraduate Research Scholar Award, a one-time competitive award made by the Office of Undergraduate Education, designed to reward the contributions and facilitate the professional development of undergraduate researchers at UT Dallas. Reyes and Sabharwal interviewed over 20 women leaders in cities around the Dallas metroplex to understand the challenges that women encounter in these senior management positions. Thus, this research project will aim to fill that gap by exploring the experiences of female department directors and city managers (those who have broken through the glass ceiling) through an in-depth qualitative study. Reyes presented the results of the study at a poster competition in mid-April. Dr. Meghna Sabharwal received the 2018 Marcia P. Crowley recognizes outstanding service to the Section for Women in Public Administration by the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA).

*The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations (SPALR) awarded Dr. Doug Goodman the Stephen E. Condrey Award for Outstanding Service to the Section at its annual meeting in March. Dr. Goodman has served on the SPALR executive board since 2006. He served as chair of the section for the past two years.

*The American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) selected five editorial team members, including Co-Editor-in-Chief Dr. Paul Battaglio, from UT Dallas earlier this year for its flagship journal Public Administration Review (PAR). PAR is the second-ranked journal covering of Public Administration and Public Policy. Selection of two of our graduate students for the editorial team signifies our commitment to providing students with meaningful opportunities in both the academic and non-academic arenas.

Students at GAIA developing Campus GIS project

With collaboration among GIS, Geosciences, and Facility Management, students at Gaia (Geospatial Analytics and Innovative Applications) research lab have been developing Campus GIS project since the fall of 2016 with a vision to realize Smart UTD Campus. To date, key progresses include 3D GIS building footprints and building interior information models (28 buildings completed, 18 buildings pending), geospatial cloud services, air quality sensors, indoor location beacons, and an unmanned aviation system (UAV) with a high-performance drone and a collection of thermal and HD cameras, and a flying air quality laboratory. Expanding upon the GIS campus databases, several student projects are underway, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, real-time air quality monitoring, and indoor location services based on photos, beacons, and wifi hotspots. Teaming with UTD OIT and Computer Science, Gaia Lab will participate in the Summer Research Program for the Incoming Freshmen Sponsored by the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College on projects to develop applications for UTD indoor navigation systems.