Criminology
Bruce Jacobs, Professor of Criminology
Bruce Jacobs is currently working with former PhD student Mike Cherbonneau, now Assistant Professor at the University of North Florida, on a qualitative dataset involving in-depth interviews with active auto thieves. Drs. Jacobs and Cherbonneau have published or are currently working on multiple peer-reviewed papers from this dataset. Dr. Jacobs is also working with current PhD student Ashford Dixon on a project involving robbery offenders. The project involves an assessment of offender deterrability. Once the dissertation has been completed, Dr. Jacobs and Mr. Dixon will develop a number of peer-reviewed papers for criminology and/or social science journals.

Economics
Todd Sandler, Vibhooti Shukla Professor of Economics
Todd Sandler completed two new papers. The first, co-authored with Khusrau Gaibulloev and James A. Piazza, deals with “Regime Types and Terrorism.” Regime type has significant effects on terrorism. For example, if a regime allows all viewpoints to be represented, then grievances may be held in check, resulting in less terrorism. Additionally, regimes that value constituents’ lives and property will act to limit attacks. A game-theoretic model, containing a terrorist group and a targeted government, is formulated to capture these opposing forces and support a nonlinear relationship between regime type and terrorism. This novel model indicates how diverse situations seen in the literature can result in different relationships between regime type and terrorism; seldom does it support the simplistic relationships that are prevalent in the literature. We apply a large variety of empirical techniques to show that regime type has a robust inverted U-shaped impact on various terrorism measures. Foreign policy variables are not a robust influence on terrorism.

The second paper, co-authored with Patrick Brandt and Justin George, deals with “Why Concessions Should Not Be Made to Terrorist Kidnappers.” This paper examines the dynamic implications of making concessions and paying ransoms to terrorist kidnappers. We present a game-theoretic model wherein the government chooses its deterrence against abductions and its pledge not to concede to terrorist demands. Terrorists decide whether or not to abduct hostages, based on their perception of logistical and negotiation success and their anticipated payoffs. A repeated version of the model allows terrorists to update their prior beliefs concerning government concessions. Depending on the cohort of countries, terrorist negotiation successes encourage 61% to 97% more kidnappings. Deterrent aspects of authorities’ raids and terrorist casualties are also quantified; the current dominance of religious fundamentalist terrorist means that violent ends generally do not curb kidnappings. Evidence of terrorist casualties reducing kidnappings is also found.

Finally, in September, Oxford University Press published Transnational Cooperation: An Issue-Based Approach by Clint Peinhardt and Todd Sandler.
**Geospatial Information Sciences**

**Michael Tiefelsdorf, Associate Professor of Geospatial Information Sciences**

Dr. Michael Tiefelsdorf, Associate Professor in the Geospatial Information Sciences program, is an expert in addressing geo-referenced research questions emerging from socio-economic, demographic and epidemiological spatial processes.

Under his guidance and with the support, his recent graduate students investigated the impact of meteorological variability on the spatial distribution malaria incidences within the Indian states, and the applicability of von Thünen's economic land use model on the observed land use pattern of an indigenous society. His current Ph.D. students are investigating potential horizontal and vertical inequities the home value appraisals of detached housing units in Dallas county, and the spatial diffusion processes underlying infectious childhood diseases using elementary school attendance zones as basic geographic units. For the Geocomputation conference, which was hosted by the University of Dallas this summer, a Ph.D. student of Dr. Tiefelsdorf presented work conducted under Dr. Tiefelsdorff’s supervision. Misspecified spatial sampling designs were investigated and an alternative variance-stabilizing methodology was developed and tested to overcome inherent misspecification biases.

Dr. Tiefelsdorf is engaged in the effort to establish a census data center at the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. His methodological research focuses on the design of informative spatial analysis methodologies. He is in the process of completing a manuscript, in which an analysis procedure of local and global co-patterning of georeferenced variables is constructed and interpreted. In combination with his curriculum development activities, Dr. Tiefelsdorf creates educational tools based on the open-source data analytics software environment as well as alternative geographic information system's environments.

**Political Science**

**Paul Diehl, Ashbel Smith Professor of Political Science**

Paul F. Diehl is an Associate Provost and an Ashbel Smith Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas-Dallas. Previously, he was Henning Larsen Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He currently serves as President of the International Studies Association. His areas of expertise include the causes of war, UN peacekeeping, and international law. His next book, *The Puzzle of Peace: The Evolution of Peace in the International System* (Gary戈ertz, Paul F. Diehl, and Alexandru Balas) will be published by Oxford University Press in February 2016.

This book documents and explains the increasing peacefulness of the international system of states. As such, the research moves beyond debates about the decline of war by reconceptualizing peace as more than the absence of war and by providing the first data set on peace in the international system. Indeed, it is the only work to systematically trace the evolution of peace in the international system. The authors conclude that interstate rivalry has declined and positive peace relationships (e.g., the European Union) have significantly increased, and these trends are evident since 1945.

The book also offers a theory for the rise of peace based on the management of territorial conflict facilitated by various international norms and conflict management institutions. International peace has increased because international society has developed a set of norms dealing with
territorial conflict, by far the greatest source of international war over previous centuries. These norms prohibit the use of military force in resolving territorial disputes and acquiring territory, thereby promoting border stability. This includes the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by military means as well as attempts by secessionist groups to form states through military force. International norms for managing international conflict have been accompanied by increased mediation and adjudication as means of managing existing territorial conflicts and facilitating the development of cooperative interactions.

**Public Policy and Political Economy**

**Rubia Valente, Post Doctoral Researcher for Public Policy and Political Economy**

Brian J. L. Berry and Dr. Rubia Valente are currently working on a paper that examines the school satisfaction of senior high school students and nontraditional students in Brazil using a large dataset drawn from the *Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio* questionnaire (ENEM). Using ordered logistic analyses, we examine the relationship between school satisfaction and peer victimization among 2.4 million Brazilian high school students and 78.7 thousand nontraditional students. Several types of victimization are explored including discrimination due to race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability and other types.

Dr. Valente is also working with Dr. Jennifer Holmes and Dr. Sheila Piñeres to assess how public policies can improve quality of life in Bogotá using data provided by the *Encuesta Bienal de Culturas*. Alongside, Dr. Valente is working on a paper that examines religion satisfaction in Latin America and the Caribbean to explore the relationship between belonging to a religious institutions and believing in God to people’s overall wellbeing.

Concurrently, Dr. Valente is working on the camera ready proofs of three manuscripts that have been accepted for publication this summer. The first article, forthcoming at the *Race Ethnicity and Education* journal focuses on the effects of race and class on university entrance in Brazil. There are those who claim that racial disparities in the educational system are a result of students' social status and not a result of racism, while others believe race is an important factor that superposes the effect of class. This study also uses national data from Brazil's ENEM to examine the relationship between race and access to higher education of high school students between 2004 and 2008. The results document a vicious circle which connects the schooling of the young with their race, socio-economic status, and university attendance.

The second article in joint collaboration with Dr. Berry, examines the performance of students admitted through Affirmative Action in Brazil and has been accepted at the *Latin American Research Review*. Following the implementation of Lei das Cotas (Affirmative Action Laws) in Brazil in 2012, there has been debate on whether or not students who were admitted through affirmative action perform at the same level as students who were admitted through traditional methods. Using data from the *Exame Nacional de Desempenho dos Estudantes* (ENADE), we find that students who were admitted to public universities under affirmative action perform at similar levels to students who were not, while quota students in private universities perform slightly better than students admitted through traditional methods.

The third article, also in collaboration with Dr. Berry, evaluates life satisfaction in rural and urban areas in Latin America. Our findings indicate that, unlike the United States, in Latin America there is no evidence of rural-urban happiness differences. In Latin America familism is the key driving force, aspatial and transcending location. This paper has been accepted at *Cities.*