



POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

Vol. 18, No. 1 Fall 2006

Words from the Chair

This has been another busy year for the department. Every five years, we invite outside reviewers to assess departmental strengths and weaknesses. This year we were privileged to have Dr. Bill Pederson, from Louisiana State University–Shreveport, evaluate our general political science programs and concentrations and Dr. Gregory Gleason, from the University of New Mexico, evaluate our international relations programs. While finding that both programs continue to be understaffed and underfunded, both professors expressed admiration for the job that the faculty were doing and reported that students in the department expressed a high satisfaction level.



Faculty members have practically circled this globe over the past year. Dr. Andrei Korobkov gave a paper at the Hague and visited Russia; Dr. Anne Sloan visited France to help set up a university study abroad program; Dr. Karen Peterson attended a seminar on terrorism (described later in this newsletter) in Israel; Dr. Clyde Willis and his wife visited Russia and Kazakhstan; Dr. Sekou Franklin studied in South America; Dr. George Vernardakis visited Greece and Cyprus; Dr. Steven Livingston and Dr. Moses Tesi spent time studying in France; Dr. David Carleton and Dr. Lisa Langenbach cruised the Caribbean; and Dr. Mark Byrnes and John Vile went to Snow Bird, Utah, which, while within the

geographical confines of the U.S., seemed like a foreign country! This is just one indication of the increasing emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum.

Faculty members are now active in a variety of interdisciplinary minors including African Studies, African American Studies, Global Studies, Great Books, Russian Studies, and Women's Studies (Dr. Tesi helped established the African Studies program, Dr. Anne Sloan the Global Studies program, and Dr. Korobkov the Russian Studies program). The department is once again examining the possibility of instituting a master's program in the near future.

We have appreciated your commendations of this newsletter. We get most of our news from your responses and are heartened by your continued interest. Please keep your opinions coming!

— John R. Vile

Welcome

The department is pleased to welcome **Patrick Chinnery** to fill a one-year instructor position. Chinnery, who was editor of *Sidelines* and a member of the mock trial team, graduated summa cum laude from MTSU in 2004 and earned a master's degree in political science from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University where he was a teaching assistant for several courses. At MTSU he will be teaching American government, the presidency, and politics and film and helping with the mock trial program.

Chinnery plans either to return to graduate school at Syracuse or attend law school after his year at MTSU.



Staff News	2
Faculty News	2, 5
Calling All Mockers	2
New Academic Advisors	3
Meet the Adjuncts	4
Department Miscellaneous	6, 7

Awards and Scholarships	8
Foreign Exchange	10
Middle East Conflict	13
Prague Trip Report	16
Student News	17
Alumni News	18

Staff News

Pam Davis, our executive aide, continues in the master's of education program here at MTSU. She is majoring in Administration and Supervision with a specialization in higher education and enjoys her courses. She currently lives in Murfreesboro with her husband, Todd, and two stepsons (now 11 and 14 years old). They do, however, have plans to move toward Franklin to be closer to the boys' school. Guess that means she won't be able to ride her bicycle to work every day! Pam is delighted to help current students and wants to hear from those that have graduated, so please stay in touch.

Calling All Former Mockers!

MTSU will be hosting its fifteenth annual **intercollegiate mock trial tournament** on Friday and Saturday, November 10–11. There will be two rounds on Friday afternoon and evening and two on Saturday. Last year we hosted 66 teams from more than a dozen states, and it appears as though we may even have a larger field this year. The tournament has become so large that we are contemplating splitting into two divisions for the first time. If you participated as an attorney in mock trial at MTSU for two or more years or have since begun or completed law school, we urge you to come and help us judge; also, don't forget to bring attorney spouses. This is a great time to meet friends and to make a continuing contribution both to the education of undergraduates and to MTSU's reputation for excellence in this area. If you can attend, please e-mail the departmental executive aide, Pam Davis, at pdavis@mtsu.edu.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Mark Byrnes has accepted a full-time position as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, a position he previously held on an interim basis. He will continue to teach one class a semester and direct the Legislative Internship Program and the American Democracy Project. He is also serving on the Rutherford County School Board. In addition to responding frequently to media queries about state and local politics, Byrnes has spoken to a number of groups over the past year and headed a panel at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities meeting in Snow Bird, Utah. He is revising an extended chapter on the presidency and bureaucracy for *Guide to the Presidency*, a publication of *Congressional Quarterly*. Mark and Julie's daughter, Abigail, has shown continuing improvement from the results of the stroke reported in the last newsletter.



Dr. David Carleton is a member of the Tennessee Department of Education Task Force on Gifted Identification and a member of the board of the Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform. He is also a volunteer with the Boy Scouts.

Dr. Sekou Franklin has had several encyclopedia entries and book chapters accepted for publication over the past year. He made presentations at the Southern Political Science Association and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He continues his work in the

Nashville area with a number of local civic groups. Franklin took a "reality tour" in Venezuela over the summer sponsored by Global Exchange, an organization that works to promote international human rights.

Dr. Andrei Korobkov published three articles and chapters during the 2005–06 year. He made professional presentations and participated in roundtables at the International Studies Association annual meeting in San Diego, at the Seventh World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies in Berlin, at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Salt Lake City, and at the Millennium Conference of the ISA Comparative Studies Section in the Hague, Holland. In June 2006, he gave a guest lecture, "Migration in the U.S. and Russia: A Comparative Perspective," at the University of Southern Mississippi. In October 2005, he traveled to Russia and Ukraine to arrange for a visit of an MTSU delegation to sign agreements with universities in those regions, which occurred in June–July 2006. Korobkov was part of the group, headed by President Sidney McPhee, that visited about a dozen Russian universities, signing numerous agreements on long-term, bilateral cooperation. Korobkov is working on a committee that is designing a veterans memorial for MTSU.

He also received a summer research grant.

Dr. Lisa Langenbach continues supervising a diverse group of interns for the department and working with the Boy Scouts.

Dr. Steve Livingston published an article in the *Journal of Regional Studies* and continues editing *Global Commerce*. He presented a paper at the International Studies Association and chaired a panel at the New York State Political Science Association.



Livingston also served as president of the Tennessee Political Science Association.

Dr. Robb McDaniel made a presentation to the Honors College over the last year and served as a member of the board of the Tennessee Political Science Association. Robb and wife Liz Jones McDaniel (also a department graduate) are expecting their first child this fall. Dr. McDaniel is pursuing full-time research this fall.

Dr. John Maynor assumed the associate editorship of *Contemporary Political Theory* and published a chapter in a book. He and wife Cecelia welcomed their second child, daughter Kaja, on Sep. 29.

Dr. Karen Petersen received a grant from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies to spend 10 days studying terrorism in Israel and earned a summer grant from the Faculty Research and Creative Projects Committee.

Dr. Mario Perez-Reilly's wife Elizabeth has retired from her teaching job at Maryville College, and they now live in Nashville.



Dr. Sloan says, "French pigeons are really big!"

Dr. Anne Twining Sloan is on leave from teaching to serve as special assistant to the provost for international education. She has spent most of the past year creating a strategic plan for international education at MTSU that has been incorporated in "Student Access, Engagement, and Achievement:

A Comprehensive Plan" prepared for Dr. Sidney McPhee by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and subsequently sent to the Tennessee Board of Regents as part of the University's strategic plan. She is responsible for bringing greater attention to existing international programs such as the major in International Relations, supervising study abroad, promoting faculty development in the international arena, internationalizing the curriculum, and broadening the number of exchange agreements and study abroad opportunities available to students. Her work was featured in the March 13, 2006, issue of MTSU's *Record*. Dr. Sloan still advises International Relations majors and serves on departmental committees. Her daughter, Samantha, is now a junior



Daughter Samantha in London

in high school and recently accompanied her mother to France. Anne wrote a guest commentary on education that appeared in the August 18, 2006, *Tennessean*.

continued on page 16

New Academic Advisors



Albakry



Langworthy

The department is pleased to benefit from the services of two new academic advisors in the College of Liberal Arts. They are **Judy Albakry**, who has a B.A. in liberal studies and an M.Ed. in counseling from Northern Arizona University, and **Lucy Langworthy**, who has two master's degrees from Mississippi College and a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in technical communication from Oklahoma State. They replace Annette Courts who retired from the University. ■

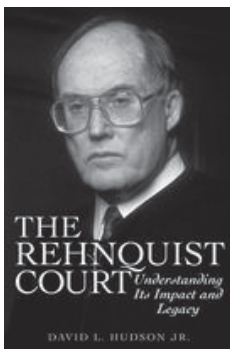
Meet the Adjuncts

Most teaching in the department continues to be done by full-time faculty members, but as full-timers take on administrative responsibilities or other noninstructional assignments and as departmental enrollment grows without additional full-time hires, we often look to part-time faculty to fill in the gaps. Such faculty also fill areas of special expertise. Many adjuncts the department employs have been teaching for many years. Together, they have made an important contribution to departmental instruction.

Jay Barger is teaching a class in legal research and writing. A 1998 department graduate, he earned his J.D. from the University of Tennessee and is employed by Kious and Rodgers.



Brandi Bozarth is in charge of the class in courtroom procedures that prepares students for MTSU mock trial competition and also accompanies students to mock trial tournaments. After graduating from MTSU in 1999, Brandi completed her law degree at the University of Dayton. She is married to Shiva Bozarth, who also graduated from the Political Science Department.



David Hudson continues to teach law-related classes. A graduate of Duke and Vanderbilt, he works at the First Amendment Center in Nashville. He has recently completed a book for Greenwood Press on the Rehnquist Court and is coediting (with John Vile and David Schultz) the *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment for Congressional Quarterly*.

Steven D. Malone, who is finishing a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, continues to teach a variety of classes for the department.

Michael McDonald, a department alumnus, is offering a paralegal course on litigation and trial practice. McDonald has a master's degree from Southern Illinois University and a J.D. from the John Marshall Law School.

Stacy Miller is teaching Family Law as part of the department's paralegal studies minor. She is a graduate of Northwestern University who earned a master's degree from San Francisco State University and a J.D. from the Nashville School of Law. She works with the Department of Children's Services.

Steve Robertson, an alumnus who did graduate work at Vanderbilt University, continues to teach a variety of classes.

Steve Saunders, who directs the McNair Scholars Program at MTSU, completed a master's degree at Ohio State University and is doing graduate work at Vanderbilt University. He is teaching an introductory class for the department this fall.

Kent Syler, an aide to Congressman Bart Gordon who completed a master's degree at MTSU, offered another section of his popular course on political campaign management last spring. One of the class projects consisted of designing a logo for a mayoral "candidate".



Jadie Thomas is teaching a section of Legal Writing and Research. She earned a B.A. in political science at Southern Illinois University and her J.D. at the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where she edited the *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy*. ■

Former Faculty

Imogene Bolin was featured in the August 7, 2006, edition of the *Daily News Journal* for her work to restore the Victory House in Smyrna and turn it in to a law office. The home, to which the Victory family moved in 1904, was the site of an annual fish fry from 1970 until 2001 that attracted as many as 1,000 people who, according to the *DNJ*, "ate their way through 400 pounds of fish and 100 pounds of potatoes."

Ray Block Jr. completed his year as a Geier Scholar in the department, completed his Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and has taken a job at Florida State University. He made a presentation at MTSU on April 13, 2006, called "The Racial Gap in Political Interest." Although we are sorry to see him go, we are pleased that he successfully completed his degree and found a position.

Everett Cunningham has yet to report as to the continent where he took his summer vacation, but he continues to send clippings of articles related to legal matters to the department.

Frank Essex lost his dear wife, Betty Wittman Essex, on September 27, 2005, after many years of marriage.

David Grubbs continues his role as an educator by writing periodic letters to the editor of the *Daily News Journal*. He and wife sue traveled to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan in May.



Tyson King-Meadows is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has just coauthored a book with Thomas F. Schaller titled *Devolution and Black State Legislators* as part of the SUNY series in African American studies. The publisher notes that the book "examines whether black state legislators can produce qualitative gains in the substantive representation of black interests."

Aided in part by residences in both Tennessee and Kentucky, **Jack Turner** continues to elude most attempts to locate him.

Tom VanDervort and his wife traveled for about a month to Germany and Switzerland. A daughter and granddaughter also made the trip, which included two visits to the Alps. Tom and Elsa celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on September 15, 2006. Congratulations! ■



Position Open

The department will advertise for a full-time tenure-track position to take over the classes Mark Byrnes has been teaching. We seek someone with a Ph.D. and concentrations in American government. The position will be advertised in the *Personnel Newsletter* of the American Political Science Association.

Department Recognition

The Political Science Department has been recognized once again for above-average scores by students on exit exams. The state takes these scores (which reflect both good teaching and learning) into account when awarding funding dollars to the University, which results in extra money to fund faculty travel.



Donations

Jim Free made another generous contribution to the department this year. **Charles Ray** continues generously to fund four scholarships for four pre-law students. Others have sent contributions to the Alumni Office. In addition to these gifts, we especially appreciate those of you who have designated contributions for departmental activities. There are occasions when we need funds for Model U.N., mock trial, mediation, or other faculty or student needs that we could not otherwise accommodate without such funds. Thank you!

More Advising News

The Department of Political Science hosted its first-ever nighttime advising session for Political Science and International Relations majors on Monday, April 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The University also sponsored a visit by law recruiters on Career Day in September 2006. Dr. John Vile continues to serve as the University's pre-law advisor. Law school admission has grown increasingly competitive over the past few years. Students need to know that the grade point average computed by the LSDAS and used by most law schools (which calculates repeated courses differently) is often lower than reported on university transcripts.



Model United Nations

Twelve students from MTSU's Model U.N. program, who were accompanied and coached by **Dr. Karen Petersen**, attended the Virginia International Crisis Simulation at the University of Virginia in April. Other competing schools included Princeton University, Columbia, Georgetown, Concordia, the University of Florida, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Five MTSU delegates were recognized for outstanding performances. **Jesse Moore** received an award for Best Delegate (the highest honor given at

the simulation) for his role on the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia. **Nathaniel Potts** won Honorable Mention for his role as the ambassador to China on the Russian cabinet. **Garrett Kidd** won an honorable mention for representing Libya on the League of Arab States; **Ben Cooley** won a verbal commendation for his role on the U.S. Supreme Court; and **Sara Fisher** received a verbal commendation for her role as the Hindu Mahasabha on the pre-partition India committee.



Retired faculty member and generous benefactor Bill Windham and wife Doris with Edward Larson, the 2006 Windham lecturer. Larson spoke to a full house earlier this year on creationism vs. evolution, saying, "If history is any guide, then I'd say we're in for heavy weather ahead."

Special Speakers

This year's Windham Lecture in Liberal Arts featured **Dr. Edward J. Larson**, the Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law and the Richard B. Russell Professor of American History from the University of Georgia. The author of several books, Larson gave an illustrated lecture titled "The Creation/Evolution Controversy: From Scopes to Intelligent Design," that was later televised.

Kent Syler hosted **Senator Rosalind Kurita** in one of his classes on campaigns in March 2006. At the time, Kurita was seeking the democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate.



Mock Trial

Sarah Lovery wrote a highly complimentary article on MTSU's mock trial team for the February 23, 2006, issue of *Sidelines*.

MTSU was blessed to have numerous alums at its annual invitational tournament, which had 66 teams in attendance from throughout the nation. This year's judges included **Brandi Snow Bozarth, Shiva Bozarth, Clare Burger, Allison Bussell, Kyle Dodd, Scott Griswold, Michelle Blaylock Howser, Dawn Johnson, Jay Michael, Kevin Latta, Glenda Pipkin, Doug Sadler, and Keith Slocum.**

Two MTSU students, **Jamie Bowers** and **Katie Krytzer**, received top-10 attorney awards at this tournament, and Eric Roberts received a top-10 witness award.

Jamie Bowers won an additional attorney award, and **Eric Roberts** received an additional witness award at the Rhodes Invitational Tournament the following week. Bobby and Cheryl Simmons, the parents of **Kortney Simmons**, generously hosted the MTSU team that attended this tournament for supper at their house.

Although MTSU teams gave it their best, this was the first year that they did not advance out of regional competition, which was moved this year from Birmingham to Louisville. **Jamie Bowers** and **Jason Walker** received attorney awards, and **Eric Roberts** received a witness award at this tournament.

Dr. Clyde Willis accompanied **Kortney Simmons** and **Jason Walker** to the second annual diversity mock trial tournament at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Mediation Team

The MTSU Mediation Team, coached by **Dr. Clyde Willis**, took second place at the Brenau University Mediation Tournament in the fall. **Amy Burnett** took second place as a mediator and **Alan Hughes** and **Ben Cooley** took second place as an attorney/client pair.

Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship

Katherine Crytzer, a graduating political science senior, received one of approximately 60 nationwide scholarships for \$5,000 awarded by the Phi Kappa Phi honor society for graduate study. In addition to many other activities, Katie participated in mock trial last year. She will be attending law school in Virginia and hopes to work for a nonprofit organization representing individuals without representation when she graduates.



McNair Scholars

Three departmental majors participated in the McNair Program this year. **Russell Parman** worked with **Dr. Andrei Korobkov** to author a presentation called "The Social Roots of Terrorism: A Quantitative Approach." **Deidre Cullom** worked with **Dr. Sekou Franklin** on "The Effect of State and Federal Environmental Policies on Poor Communities and Communities of Color: The Case of Tennessee." **Logan Grant** worked with **Dr. Clyde Willis** on "The Case for a Professional Press."

Pi Epsilon Alpha Initiates

Dr. Robb McDaniel continues to supervise the political science honor society Pi Epsilon Alpha. The following students were inducted over the past year: **Greg Blackburn, Elizabeth Brown, Paul Fulcher, James Kinslow, Gretchen Jenkins, Anna Marie Manley, Summer Polacok, and Christopher Santirojprapai.** Initiation continues to include anointment with the fragrant scent of Jeffersonian "holy water."





Department Awards

Katherine Crytzer received the department's **Norman L. Parks Award** for having the highest grade point average among pre-law students.

Jason A. Crook received the **C. C. Sims Award**.

Michael A. Jackson, who has held one of the Charles R. Ray Scholarships, was presented with the department's **John W. Burgess Award**.

Charlotte Lewis received this year's **Jack Justin Turner Award** for outstanding performance as a student of International Relations.

Benjamin R. Cooley received the department's award for **Meritorious Service**. He had participated in mock trial, Model U.N., and a number of other activities.

The department awarded **Barbara Sidwell** with an award for being such an outstanding student worker.

and Scholarships

Helen Caddes, a political science senior, was selected as this year's recipient of the **Jo Anne Arnold Scholarship**.

Marcia Hope Diez, who also has a daughter attending MTSU, was chosen to receive the **Jane Henegar Duke Scholarship**.

Courtney Estabrook, an incoming freshman who graduated from St. Agnes Academy in Memphis, has been chosen for the **Harry J. Horne Scholarship**.

Nick Harness, an incoming freshman from Anderson County High School, is the winner of this year's **Norman Parks Scholarship**.

Laura N. Johnson, a graduate of Franklin High School in Franklin, Tennessee, is this year's freshman recipient of the **Charles R. Ray Scholarship**. She joins sophomore **Ashleigh McCain**, junior **Brittany Mebane**, and senior **Stacey Badger** as a recipient of this scholarship.

Trenton Poynter is the recipient of the **James Free Scholarship**. He is a senior who went to Columbia High School in Maury County.

Interns to the Right of Us, Interns to the Left

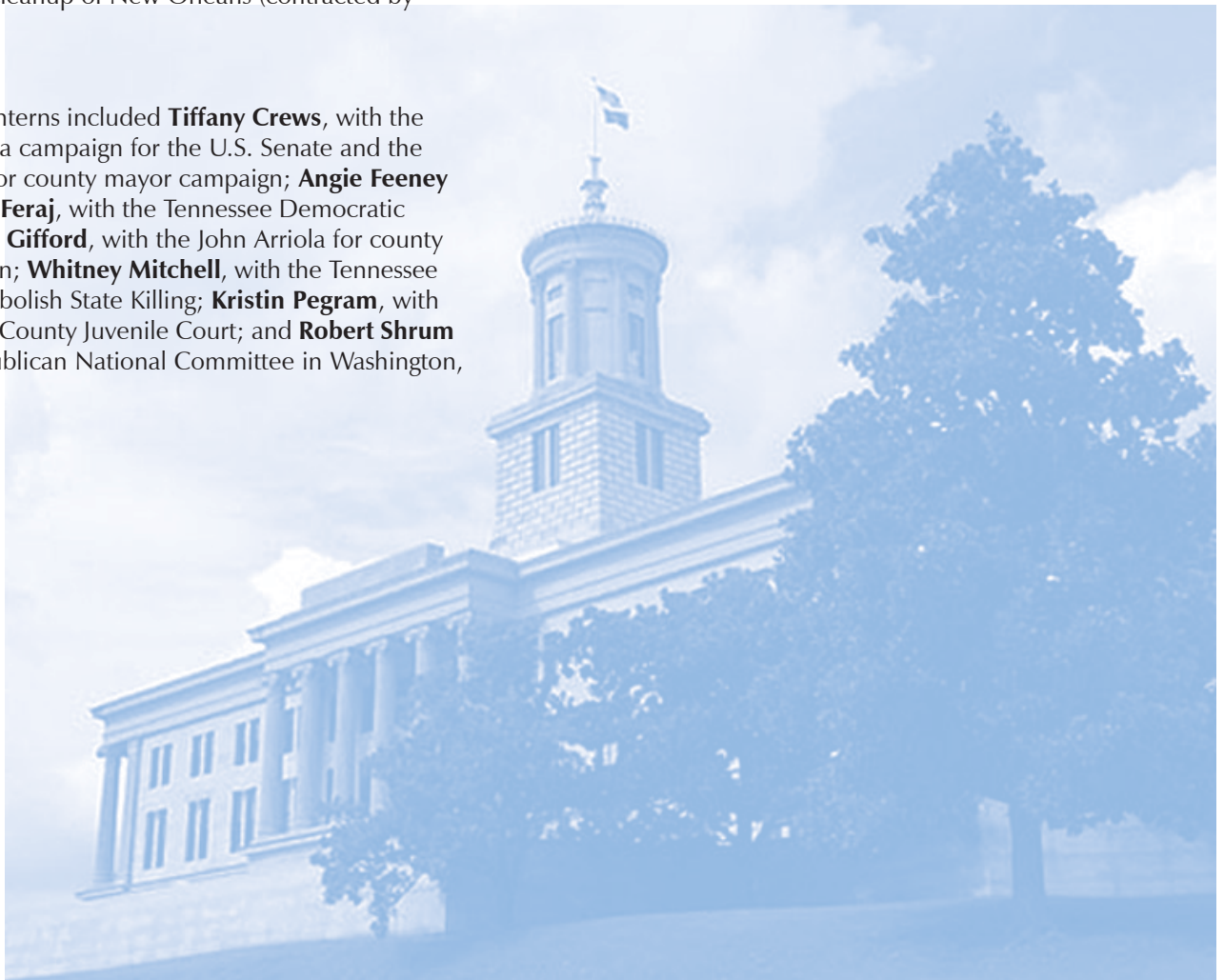
Dr. Lisa Langenbach continues to coordinate the departmental interns who do not work at the state legislature. The diversity of the offices in which they have worked continues to illustrate the variety of opportunities that these internships have created for MTSU students. Interns who worked in the summer of 2005 included **William Huskey**, who worked in the governor's scheduling office; **Anna Manley**, who worked in Bart Gordon's Washington D.C. office; **Lakeska Parker**, who worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee; and **Amy Taylor**, who also worked in Bart Gordon's office.

Fall interns included **Connor Hoke**, with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services; **Michael Landry**, in Senator Lamar Alexander's Washington, D.C. office; **Chris Robinson**, in the Manchester mayor's office; **Kasey (James) Talbott**, also in Lamar Alexander's office; **Matt Visconte**, in the governor's Office of Homeland Security; and **Matthew Young**, with the Ferguson-Harbour Hazardous material cleanup of New Orleans (contracted by FEMA).

Spring 2006 interns included **Tiffany Crews**, with the Rosalind Kurita campaign for the U.S. Senate and the Greg Tucker for county mayor campaign; **Angie Feeney** and **Sherwan Feraj**, with the Tennessee Democratic Party; **Garrett Gifford**, with the John Arriola for county clerk campaign; **Whitney Mitchell**, with the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing; **Kristin Pegram**, with the Davidson County Juvenile Court; and **Robert Shrum** with the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C.

Legislative Interns

This year MTSU had more legislative interns than any other college or university in the state. **Dr. Mark Byrnes** continues to direct this program. This year's legislative interns and the offices in which they worked are as follows: **Andrea Borella**, Rep. John Deberry; **Denon Carr**, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh; **Tracy Evans**, Sen. Roy Herron; **Clay Francis**, Sen. David Fowler; **Jeremy Nickens**, Sen. Steve Cohen; **Randi Baumann**, Rep. Curt Cobb; **Gary Ferguson**, Rep. Charles Sargent; **Ashley Fuqua**, Sen. Jim Tracy; **Tori Jones**, Rep. Kent Coleman; **Brooke Maners**, Sen. Bill Ketron; **Ryan Richards**, Rep. John Hood; **Andrew Southern**, Tennessee Board of Regents; **Brandi Bond**, **Heather Dunagan**, and **Clint Todd**, House clerk's office; **Jesse Alvey**, Sen. Steve Southerland; **Page Barnett**, Sen. Doug Jackson; **Colleen Casamassima**, Sen. Raymond Finney; **Lauren Parker**, Sen. Mae Beavers; and **Michelle Stephenson**, Sen. Tommy Kilby.



Foreign Exchange with Russia and Eastern Europe

Dr. Andrei Korobkov, who has introduced a Russian Studies minor in the department, has been working this year on the development of permanent ties between MTSU and universities in Russia and Eastern Europe. In October 2005, he attended a meeting of the American Democracy consortium in Yalta, Ukraine, and then visited a number of universities in Russia. Following his visit, Dr. Stanislav Tkachenko, vice rector of St. Petersburg State University, came to MTSU on December 8, 2005, to discuss the possibility of exchange programs between MTSU and his institution. Dr. Korobkov hosted him and others for supper.

In July 2006, an MTSU delegation led by President McPhee and including Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Faye Johnson, assistant to the provost; and Korobkov made a highly successful visit to Russia. They signed cooperation agreements aimed at the development of student and faculty exchanges and research cooperation with Kaliningrad State University, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State Technical University, Moscow State University, Moscow School of Economics, Moscow University for the Humanities, Moscow International University, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Moscow University of Management, Russian Social State University, and Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In addition, Korobkov visited the New Eurasia Foundation and met with Iosif Ordzhonikidze, vice mayor of Moscow, and Konstantin Zatulin, Russian Duma (Parliament) member. In August 2006, MTSU received guests from Moscow University of Management. We expect that these agreements will boost MTSU cooperation with higher education institutions in Russia and will greatly expand study abroad opportunities for our students. ■



Korobkov in front of Moscow State University, his alma mater



Shown at Moscow University are Andrei Korobkov, Dean Tom Cheatham, Faye Johnson, Seneca McPhee, President Sidney McPhee, and Russian colleague Dr. Alexander Rouchkin, vice president, Moscow University for the Humanities.

Survey

Graduates in International Relations and Political Science Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

The Department has decided to repeat its survey of last year. We are particularly interested in getting information from individuals who did not respond last year or in hearing of developments since that time. Your response will help the Department assess its current strengths and weaknesses and will provide information for our next newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

What was your degree program?

B.A. International Relations B.S. International Relations B.A. Political Science B.S. Political Science

Degree concentration: None Pre-law P.A. M.A. M.P.A. Year you received your degree _____

Do you have a graduate degree? If so, which one(s)?

M.A. from _____ J.D. from _____

M.P.A. from _____ Ph.D. from _____

What is your profession?

Lawyer Judge
 Government official Lobbyist
 Elected official Businessperson
 Teacher Other _____

For whom do you work? Where? _____

What is your title or position? _____

What other positions have you held since receiving your last degree? _____

In retrospect, what were the strengths and weaknesses in your MTSU program? _____

Personal data. Happenings in your life since we last saw you: _____

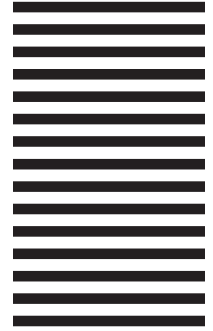
Please feel free to add any additional comments that you think might be helpful: _____



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The Middle East Conflict, Up-close and Personal

by Karen K. Petersen

As an academic fellow for the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD) I was given the opportunity to spend ten days in Israel studying the democratic response to terrorism. Forty-five persons from across the United States (almost all professors) were chosen for the fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to develop a better understanding of terrorism in order to become more effective in classroom discussions on the issue—a timely opportunity given my new course on international conflict (beginning in spring 2007).

We spent the first three days at Tel Aviv University in intense classroom training, being briefed by academic experts, high-level military officials, and officials from various security organizations (at least one of which does not officially exist!). Our time at Tel Aviv University was equivalent to a condensed graduate seminar on terrorism and was excellent preparation for the intense work that followed.

After our classroom time, we embarked on field trips that took us from one end of Israel to the other. We visited a maximum-security prison and were given unrestricted access to 60 convicted terrorists, including leaders from Fatah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. Some of these very young men were fluent English speakers and most were pleased at the opportunity to spread their message. It was an unusual experience—even high-level political figures in Israel are prohibited from entering this facility—and one of the highlights of the trip.

There were several trips to police and military installations, including the naval base at Ashdod that is responsible for patrolling the southern Mediterranean (i.e., Gaza). We were given access to classified footage recovered by military units in which the training of suicide bombers was documented. Demonstrations of suicide bombing tactics, materials, post-attack video footage, and even footage of an attack as it was carried out all served to underscore the bleakness of the terror tactics. Fortunately, the military excursions were not all work. We participated in live-fire exercises with an undercover military unit and watched them demonstrate some of their tactics—a welcome respite from the classroom.

Finally, we visited Beit El in the West Bank, where we met with a victim of a terrorist attack. His wife and 12-year-old son were murdered by three members of Islamic Jihad. He, along with his four surviving children, witnessed the attack. This man stood in his home and recounted the rebuilding of his life after such an appalling event—again, an experience I will never forget. The day I returned to the United States, two of the terrorists who carried out the attack on his family were arrested in a raid in the West Bank.



The infamous security fence separating Israel from the West Bank.

Although most of the field excursions were interesting and productive, the prison visit and the visit to Beit El serve to underscore the primary lessons, at least for me. First, there are no winners in this unconventional “war on terror” that Israel has been fighting for decades. Civilians *always* lose in conflict, and that is evident here. From the training camps for preschool-age Palestinian children dressed as martyrs (many of whom will either die or end up in prisons like the one I visited) to the carnage of suicide attacks in Israel, both societies pay an enormous opportunity cost for this war. Second, the situation is politically complex. The portrayal of Israel as a state united in conquest against the Palestinians is inaccurate, as is the portrayal of the Palestinian “refugees” as a lone people in the wilderness fighting for their land. There is a strong political movement in Israel to withdraw behind the security fence, abandoning the approximately 80,000 residents of the West Bank, in the hope that the violence will end. Unilateral realignment was the term used by the spokesperson for the foreign minister. As current events demonstrate, that tactic is failing in Gaza. On the other side, the Palestinian militant groups are in a state of impending civil war, barely able to hold together the appearance of unity, which explains the political motivations behind the current conflict in Gaza. If attention is turned on Israel, then the split between PLO and Hamas becomes a secondary issue. The other Arab leaders in the region know this and they continue to aggravate the situation—as they have historically—either directly or through support of Hezbollah and the competing Palestinian terror groups.

The norms that govern international relations are strained by the situation in the Middle East, and emotions run high in any discussion of this conflict. I look forward to continuing to explore this case both in the classroom and in my research. ■

[Note: Dr. Petersen submitted this report before the recent conflict between Hezbollah and Israel.]

Portraying James Madison

by John R. Vile



I appear to have been destined to be a political scientist. When I was a boy, I almost always responded to questions about what I wanted to be when I grew up by saying “President of the United States.” It wasn’t until last year that I realized that the president that I wanted to be was James Madison!

I have now been studying the U.S. Constitution for over thirty years, and my studies, especially in early American history, have increasingly led me back to the “Great Little (Jemmy) Madison.” The physically diminutive Madison was born in 1751 and grew up not far from where I was raised in Virginia, where his house, Montpelier, near Orange, is now undergoing extensive renovation. He attended the College of New Jersey (today’s Princeton) and studied under its dynamic president, John Witherspoon. After return-

ing to Virginia, Madison helped draw up the Virginia Declaration of Rights and showed himself to be an early advocate of complete religious freedom. He subsequently served in the Virginia state legislature; represented his state in the Congress under the Articles of Confederation; attended the Constitu-

tional Convention, where he authored the Virginia Plan and took the most meticulous notes; helped write *The Federalist*, defending the new Constitution; was a leader in arguing for the Constitution at the Virginia Ratifying Convention; introduced and pushed for the Bill of Rights in the First Congress; helped found the Democratic-Republican Party; served as Thomas Jefferson’s secretary of state; and was the nation’s fourth president from 1809 to 1817.

When Jefferson picked out three achievements for his own tombstone, he did not list serving as president, and it is doubtful whether Madison’s own

presidential service would rank among his three highest achievements either. The nation suffered through a disastrous war during Madison’s first administration, but in part because of Madison’s temperament, it emerged without the creation of a military state or the suppression of civil liberties, and Madison was widely celebrated when he left office, despite the burning of the nation’s capital. Although he was a hypochondriac throughout much of his life, when he died in 1836, he was the last surviving member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Over the past year, I have donned an eighteenth-century costume and wig to tell Madison’s story and the story of the early republic to diverse audiences of high school and college students, members of the community, and fellow scholars. I have especially enjoyed answering questions in the persona of Madison. I try to answer as honestly as I can. I know that Madison was embarrassed about owning slaves, but I also know that his father-in-law was kicked

continued on page 17

Pursuing Teacher Licensure as a Nontraditional Student

by Anne Bolner

My experiences in dealing with the Political Science Department at MTSU have been wonderful. I am a returning student, and my goal was to take the classes required for an add-on to my Tennessee Teaching License. When I started my classes, I had no way of knowing that I was going to run into the best department at MTSU!

A university department is always based on the quality of the professors, and I have been so pleased by this group of people. Every class I took was interesting and informative. In a time of news reports that universities have been taken over by the liberal tirades of college professors; I must declare that my experience at MTSU was just the opposite. My professors never let their own views cloud their lectures or their classroom performance. It was

quite often that the students would argue, outside of class, over the political feelings and leanings of our teachers. We could not tell what individual inclinations our professors harbored in their hearts. This department is in diametric juxtaposition with the claims of the news media.

I must also comment on the required classes for the addition of certification in government for a teaching license. The course of study is very inclusive of

The American Democracy Project at MTSU

by Mark Byrnes

For the past several years, MTSU has been participating in the American Democracy Project (ADP), a national effort to increase civic engagement among college students. Political scientists have long known that, as a group, 18 to 24 year olds vote at a rate lower than that of any other age group. Scholars have explained this by noting that young adults often have weak ties to their communities. They may be attending college away from their hometowns; they often move for career opportunities; they are less likely to have children in the local school systems; they are less likely to own homes and pay property taxes; and so on. The less engaged people are in their community, the less likely they are to vote.

Overcoming this disengagement poses quite a challenge. To make the effort, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), of which MTSU is a member, gave birth to the ADP. MTSU's provost, Dr. Kaylene Gebert, was an early supporter of the

project and committed MTSU to participate. Today, more than 200 state colleges and universities around the nation are involved with the ADP. I have served as the MTSU coordinator for the project since its inception on campus.

The MTSU ADP has led several initiatives. We have helped bring a variety of speakers to campus, including former Vice President Al Gore, Tennessee Comptroller John Morgan, and, this fall, historian David McCullough. We have worked with the provost's office and the *New York Times* to try to get students to read newspapers regularly. In 2004, we held a major voter registration drive, which included a lively forum on the film *Fahrenheit 9/11* (with the Republican response given by our own Dr. John Vile), a "political karaoke" event at which students gave their political opinions to a large group gathered at the knoll, registration tables, and a mock election. We will do some of the same events in preparation for this fall's elections. In addition, in October we will host a forum for candidates for local state legislative offices.

Also this fall, MTSU will take part in a nationwide experiment, sponsored by AASCU and the national ADP, to see what methods work best at getting college students to register to vote and, even more important, see if the

method used to register them affects whether they actually turn out to vote. Faculty members across campus will be asked to devote 15 minutes or so of class time to register students to vote (some will be registered by the professor, others by fellow students). The results will be sent to the project leader, a political scientist at Indiana University–South Bend, for analysis. MTSU's goal is to obtain new voter registrations from five percent of the student population, which equates to roughly 1,150 students.

Civic engagement encompasses more than just voting and political activities, however. Doing volunteer work, participating in civic clubs, being part of neighborhood associations, and even keeping abreast of current events are all elements of being civically engaged. To foster these kinds of engagement among our students, MTSU has established an active service learning program. Led by English professor Ron Kates, students do volunteer work for community organizations and write reflective papers on their experiences. These projects complement the Political Science Department's highly successful internship programs. They also mesh well with the University-wide effort to emphasize experiential learning (EXL). ■

all of the different aspects of political science. I was required to take classes in international relations, American government, law and the legal system, state and local government, and political theory. The program requirements are very well planned and they are very balanced. This is vital for future teachers in the public school system.

Returning students who wish to meet the requirements for a teacher's license are faced with bureaucratic obstacles

along their path. This process can be very discouraging to adults who have spent years in the work force and are driven by an altruistic desire to begin a second career in teaching. The requirements for the teacher's education program are difficult, and there are many times when a returning student feels like a fish out of water. This is not the case when dealing with the Political Science Department. All of the department's professors and Pam Davis, the department's executive aide,

are driven by a commitment to help students plow their way through the red tape. I cannot say enough about the cooperative nature of this group of people.

The Political Science Department at MTSU is the best department at the University. It is an oasis in a desert. ■

Student Report on Prague Trip

by Russell Parman

With MTSU's support, I had the opportunity to attend the 6th International Student Symposium in Prague, Czech Republic, in January 2006. The event was very educational. The symposium was designed to bring together students from various nationalities in a mutual forum that allowed for dialogue and education about each of our own ambitions as well as our views on the world.

I met with the ambassadors of Finland, Bulgaria, and Canada and toured their embassies. Through this experience, I learned more about the effects of the European Union on the newly admitted states. I also went to visit the Czech legislative government building. It was an experience to learn how the government there makes their laws and elects their government.

While in Prague, I toured the Jewish quarter, which was decimated by the Holocaust. It was very tragic to see how the Nazi regime virtually destroyed this large historical community. It has never recovered, and the number of Jews who live in Prague is still well below the number there before the Nazis took power. Some of the buildings in the quarter are hundreds of years old, and it is very rich in history.

We received lectures from various authorities in various fields. A woman from Radio Free Europe gave a lecture on life in the Central Asian states. She is originally from Uzbekistan and spoke at great length on the Karimov regime and how freedom in Uzbekistan has been stagnated by his actions. She also spoke on the evolving relationship between Karimov and the United States and how the new Shanghai alliance in Asia is a threat to U.S. interests in the region.

While in Prague, I had the opportunity to present my research, which I had completed with the McNair Program the previous summer. With such a diverse audience, the reaction was mixed, although mostly positive. Teach-

ers had warned me that terrorism is such a controversial issue that it would spark an emotionally charged debate, which it surely did. This opportunity has allowed me to present in an environment where I would not ordinarily have the chance to present.

The symposium also included two exercises in debate and diplomacy. We had a U.N. crisis simulation on the Kashmir crisis between India and Pakistan. We also had an international criminal tribunal for an RUF leader in Sierra Leone. This was one of my favorite parts of the symposium because I enjoy debates and the exercise of law. I also learned a great deal about African conflicts.

I would recommend this symposium to any student who has the desire to learn about international politics. The best way to learn about diplomacy is to spend time with people who are different than you, and then learn how to build a bridge over those differences. I want to thank the Political Science Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the McNair Program for enabling me to take part. ■

FACULTY NEWS (continued from pg. 3)

Dr. Moses Tesi has completed a book chapter on Africans in Tennessee that will be published this fall. He continues to serve as editor of the *Journal of African Studies*. He presented a paper at a conference on cultural diversity that was held at the Convention Center in Nashville in November 2005.

Dr. George Vernardakis continues his membership in the Rotary Club and is active in the Alliance Francaise of Nashville. He spent the summer in Greece and Cyprus.

Dr. John R. Vile published a fourth edition of his *Companion to the United States Constitution and its Amendments*

and coauthored with John A. King Jr. *Presidents from Eisenhower through Johnson, 1953–1969*.

(Dr. Mark Byrnes is general editor of the series of which this book is a part.) Vile's *Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding* continues to receive favorable reviews. He is currently coediting *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment for Congressional Quarterly*. Vile has made several presentations in the persona of James Madison including the annual



Seigenthaler Lecture at MTSU and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities meeting in Snow Bird, Utah. He continues to serve as a member of the board of the American Mock Trial Association, where he is a member of the strategic planning committee and rules committee.

Dr. Clyde Willis, in addition to coaching MTSU mediation teams, has conducted mediation training for the office of the vice president for Student Affairs. ■

News from Current Students

Helen Caddes has formed a local rock band and has set up a Web-design company.

Michael Landry has been accepted into the National Security Education Program (NSEP) from the Department of Defense and will be studying in Japan this year.

Logan Grant, a senior political science major, attended the U.S. Model House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., April 17–21, 2007, on behalf of Tennessee's First District. The chair of the Committee on International Relations publicly recognized Logan as an outstanding representative. The trip was partially funded by the University's McNair Scholars Program.

Gina Logue is working on an undergraduate political science degree as she continues her work with MTSU's Office of News and Public Affairs.

Corey Perkins has received a Jasso Scholarship for tuition and room and board to study at Nagoya Gakuin University in Japan during the 2006–2007 school year.

Amy Perry, a junior international relations major, is spending the 2006–07 academic year in Jaipur, India, as part of a program sponsored by the University of Minnesota in International Development. Perry will be staying with a native family and studying at the University of Jaipur during the first semester and will be doing an internship and staying with another family her second

semester. Perry helped prepare for her visit by studying Hindi at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute in Nashville. Perry, who has a Spanish minor, also went on a week-long trip over the summer to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to assist medical missionaries with translation. Perry spent part of her childhood in Reykjavik, Iceland, and in Cusco, Peru. She is looking forward to a career in foreign relations and international development.



Jimmy L. Richardson III ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for a position as a representative to the Tennessee legislature but made a great case for MTSU's need for greater funding that will, it is hoped, have positive long-term effects.



Chris Smith, political science senior, took a class on the Arthurian legend in London from July 6 through August 7. His trip included visits to Bath, Warwick, Stonehenge, Salisbury, and Glastonbury.

Les Trotman, a nontraditional student who serves as a county commissioner for the 12th district of Warren County, was just reelected to a second four-year term.

MTSU students **Ashley George**, **Christina Welch**, and **Matthew Wilson** spent the winter break in London, England, where they took a class on British politics and culture.

Student Departures

The department was saddened to learn of the death of **Kaul Mitchell Wilson** in an airplane crash in Pennsylvania. Kaul was an aerospace major with a political science minor. **Christy Blanchard Carter** also passed away suddenly in January. She was a senior political science major who had recently married David Carter of the Enon community. MTSU posthumously awarded Christy her degree in May.

Madison (continued from pg. 14)

out of his Quaker congregation when he went bankrupt, largely as a result of having freed his own slaves. I can explain even in cases where I cannot always justify. I enjoy telling the story about how Madison's principles contributed to his only electoral loss, when he refused to supply the social lubricant to voters that his foe, a tavern owner, gladly offered.

I hope the audience gets a feel for the many contributions that Madison made, but I still haven't quite gotten used to the costume and wig. Perhaps the audience hasn't either. The first thing that a local reporter chose to report about my first talk was my statement that "These tights are really tight!" ■



Amy Perry translates in Ecuador

ALUMNI NEWS



Note: Special thanks to **Jessica Holland** who provided lots of information about alumni who previously served as state legislative interns!

Lauren Gillespie Agee (2001) is employed as a senior legislative advisor for Jim Kyle, Tennessee state senator.

Dasmonda (Bragdon) Allen (1995) earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix and is a support enforcement officer with the state of Washington, where her husband is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force.

Nate Allen is working on the second year of his M.Div. in missions, evangelism, and church growth with an emphasis in international mission work at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Liz Alvey (1999) has a J.D. from the Nashville School of Law and is employed as the research analyst for the state senate and Transportation Committee.

Allison Andraza (2003) is a legislative assistant with the Chief Clerk's Office of the Tennessee State Senate.

Kerry Armstrong (1990) graduated from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and is a senior associate with Steigerwalt and Associates in San Diego, California. Armstrong won a robbery/assault/first-degree murder trial in September 2005 in San Diego.

Greg Atwood (2000) completed his J.D. from the University of Mississippi and now has his own law office in Nashville. He and his wife have a daughter, Ella Grace, who was born in April 2005.

Investigations continue into the death in Iraq of **Kenneth Ballard**, after reports that his death was accidental rather

than a battle-field casualty, as originally reported.

J. P. Barfield (1973) is a partner in the Johnson, Scruggs, and Barfield law firm in Nashville.

Ashle Baxter (1999) has earned master's degrees in international relations from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, and in international economic policy from American University and has been working since April as a trade analyst for Asia Pacific, White, and Case in Washington, D.C., after having previously served as a research associate for East Asia and economic studies with the Council for Foreign Relations.

Larry Beaty (1993) is a corporate auditor with Caterpillar Financial Services in Nashville, Tennessee. He became a certified fraud examiner in early 2005.

Erin Bumbalough Begley (2003) has graduated from law school at Ohio Northern University, where she was a student attorney at the legal clinic, a participant in the Jessup International Law Motto Court team, and the winner of the Dan Guy Oral Advocacy Competition. She and her husband have moved back to Tennessee.

Michael Begley (2004) will finish his law degree at Ohio Northern

University this December. He has been involved in the moot court program and finished second in his class at oral appellate arguments in his first year. He has also been a teaching assistant for criminal law and worked this summer as a law clerk for the Tennessee attorney general's office in the Civil Litigation and State Services

Division. He and his wife, Erin, will be representing Ohio Northern at its booth in the Murphy Center at MTSU on Career Day.

Mike Best (1996) is working as a substance abuse counselor for the Family and Social Services Administration of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction at Richmond State Hospital in Richmond, Indiana.

Brandy Martin Bivens (2001) has done some graduate work at the University of Tennessee in governmental library science and is employed with the state public policy group of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz as a legislative specialist. She is expecting her first Baby Raider in December.

Shiva (1999) and **Brandi Snow Bozarth** (1999) continue their work in the Office of General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Health. Their son, Max, turned four, and they have bought a home in Spring Hill. Brandi continues to coach MTSU mock trial teams.

Dale Bradley (1988) is a technical director with the space and missile test division of the Air Force at Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma and now has eight grandchildren, four boys and four girls. His father, Wayne Wilson Bradley, who turned 80 in March, is an MTSU graduate and former special agent for the FBI.

Karl C. Bren (1967) earned a master's degree from Virginia Tech and is president of Greenvisions Consulting.

Victoria Brittain (2006) is attending law school at the University of Tennessee.

Joel Brown (1984) earned a J.D. from Florida State University in 1987 but has been disabled from a stroke suffered in 2001. He and his wife, Sharon, have a son and a daughter.



William Douglas (Doug) Brown (1992) is working on a master's degree at MTSU and working as a technical services manager in the Rutherford County Office of Information Technology.

Lisa Boaz Bruno (2004), who interned for former Senator Larry Trail in 2003, has been teaching U.S. history and government in Clarksville where she lives with her husband, Chris, and dog, Caesar.

Al Burch (1996) has re-enlisted in the U.S. Army and is in a civil affairs unit in Iraq.

Allison Vantrease Bussell (2001) is putting her degree from the University of Tennessee to good use by working as an attorney for the Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Department of Law after having clerked for a year for Joseph M. Hood of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky at Lexington.

Tinisha Weigelt Buttrey was press secretary for U.S. Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) until July 21, 2006. She now produces and hosts his television show, *Washington Review*, which is broadcast throughout Forbes's congressional district.

Mark Byrnes (1983) is now the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts at MTSU.

Joe Cate (1975) is the city manager of Cleveland, Tennessee.

Patrick Chinnery (2004) completed a master's degree in political science at Syracuse University and is teaching at MTSU this fall.

C. Ransom Clark (1961) earned his J.D. from George Mason University and is now an emeritus professor of political science at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, where he has previously served as a vice president for academic affairs and as an interim vice president for development and vice

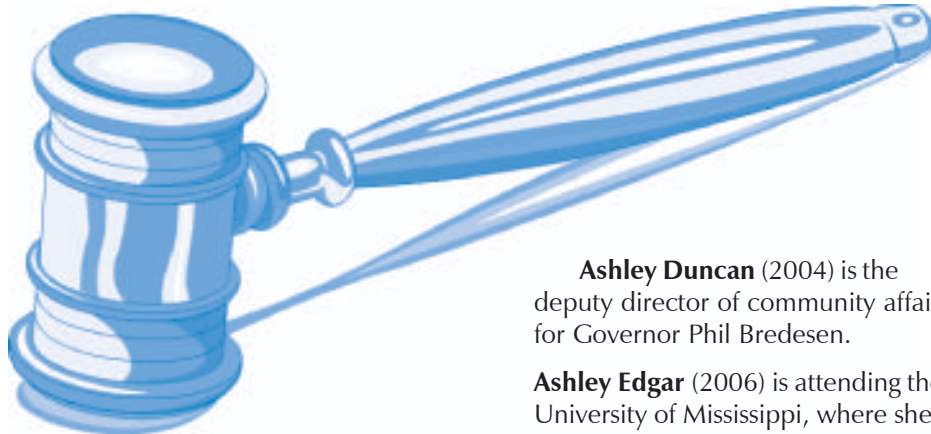
president for administration. He spent 26 years with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Lisa Collins (2004) is in her third year of law school at the University of Houston and works as an intern for the district attorney's office. She was a regional champion and advanced to the national quarterfinals at National Trial Competition last year.

(Mary) Shannon Cragg (1995) earned an M.P.A. from Tennessee State University and is a product line manager for Safeco Insurance Company in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jason Crook (2006) is attending the University of Mississippi Law School.

Katie Crytzer (2006) is attending law school at George Mason University in Virginia.



Deidre Cullom (2006), who was an MTSU McNair Scholar, will be attending the public administration program at the University of Memphis.

After a 16 year career in athletics, **Marlin Curnutt** (1995) has begun a job as the coordinator of enrollment development at Walters State Community College, where he has been teaching U.S. history.

Don Darden (1967) earned an M.P.A. from the University of Tennessee and is now a municipal management consult-

ant with the University of Tennessee in Nashville.

Allen R. Daubenspeck (1999) completed his J.D. from Oklahoma City University and is in private practice in Murfreesboro.

Tasha Dekock (2005) has moved to Nashville. She works with the Boys Scouts of America and goes whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River every chance she gets.

Luke Dickerson (2006) has been awarded a graduate fellowship to attend the University of New Orleans, where he plans to continue his study of international relations.

Kyle Dodd (2002) graduated from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham and is employed as an attorney with the office of Robert D. Massey in Pulaski, Tennessee.

Ashley Duncan (2004) is the deputy director of community affairs for Governor Phil Bredesen.

Ashley Edgar (2006) is attending the University of Mississippi, where she is a graduate assistant. She is working on a master's of business administration degree.

Jessa Fahey (2003) is in her second year at the Nashville School of Law and works at the Tennessee General Assembly.

Paul Fakes (2004) is a legislative aide with the office of Senator Bill Frist in Washington, D.C. He handles trade and foreign affairs issues as well as some correspondence.

ALUMNI NEWS (continued)

Eric Felts (2001) has been working in billing for the Renal Care Group of Nashville and completed his teacher licensure in December. He is now teaching U.S. government at Independence High School in Williamson County, where he is also coaching football.

Nathan Fisher (2005) is a medical lab worker with PCA Southeast in Columbia, Tennessee.

William Kelly Fowler (1995) is an airline pilot for United Airlines.

Meagan Frazier (2001) is completing her last year at the Nashville School of Law and works as a lobbyist at Smith, Johnson, and Carr.

James C. Free (1969, 1972) visited the department in the fall and made another contribution to his scholarship fund.

Derek Frisbee (1994), who earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama and is an assistant professor at MTSU, received a grant of \$5,000 from the MTSU Foundation for the campus Veterans Memorial Project.

Dru S. Fuller (1975) is a columnist for GCA Publications and Drue Smith Publications in Nashville. Dru retired from the Texas office of the attorney general and has written *Drue Smith's Amazing Technicolor Dream Life*, which is a biography of Capitol Hill reporter Drue H. Smith.

Matthew Gardner (2005) is a company executive officer assigned to the First Cavalry Division based at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Nathan Gardner (2005) is serving as an armor second lieutenant assigned to the 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Phillip M. George (1975), who graduated from the Nashville School of Law, is an attorney in Smyrna, where he has been practicing for 20 years. He and wife Lydia have two children, Alli and Abby.

Donald G. Goff (1969), who earned his Ed.D. from the University of South Florida, is the president of Roane State Community College in Harriman, Tennessee.



Angelique Golden (2005) has completed a year of service through Americorps VISTA at a program in Nashville called Home of Your Own, a collaborative effort between the Association of Retarded Citizens (The Arc) of Davidson County and the Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee, which is seeking to expand home ownership opportunities for developmentally disabled adults. The program has focused mainly on building new homes, but it is planning to expand to providing various forms of assistance toward the purchase of existing homes.

Bart Gordon (1971) is running for reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Merlin Morris Gracey (1997) is a budget analyst stationed at Lajes Field in the Azores with the U.S. Air Force. She married Dean Gracey in 2004.

Scott Griswold (2006), who competed in mock trial and completed his undergraduate degree in accounting in 2003, returned this summer to complete a second degree in political science. He has finished his second year of study at the University of Tennessee School of Law. Scott has published two articles in

Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law and is a staff member of the journal and chair of the Moot Court Board. He was a member of the Trademark Moot Court Team that was one of four national finalists. His team won awards for the third highest brief in the nation, the best brief in the South, and winner of the South Region. Scott's team placed second in the Ray Jenkins Intramural Mock Trial Competition in 2005.

Jaime Groce (1997) was named interim planning director for the City of Franklin, one of the fastest growing communities in the state.

David Harris (2006) is attending the Nashville School of Law and serving as the staff senior court advocate for the Rutherford County Domestic Violence Center. In this capacity, he is responsible for initiating, filing, and advocating in court for orders of protection as allowed by law and for negotiating case settlements pertaining to orders of protection.

Jessica Holland is serving in the state legislature as executive assistant to Rep. Harry Tindell.

William Huskey (2006) is attending law school at the University of Memphis.

Michael Jackson (2006) is attending law school at Ohio State University.

Joshua Johns (2005) works as an analyst for the Department of Defense at Arnold Air Force Base.

Dawn Johnson (2003) has completed law school at Vanderbilt and has moved to Wisconsin where, at last report, she was studying for the bar exam.

Maryam Kassae (2006) graduated with distinction in the University Honors Program, successfully completed an honors thesis at MTSU under Dr. Robb McDaniel, and is attending law school at the University of Tennessee.

Christopher L. Kelly (1992), who graduated from the Nashville School of Law, is a member of Brogdon, Creasy, Kelly, and Sanders in Dickson. He and his wife, Kim Clifton, another MTSU graduate, have two daughters, Loren (5) and Maura (3).

Ashley (Wilson) Macemon (2004) is working as a campaign associate with the United Way of Greater Knoxville.

Jotrone Marable (2002) is a child protective services investigator for the State of Tennessee.

Gerald Melton (1978) was reelected as the public defender for the 16th Judicial Circuit, which includes Rutherford and Cannon Counties.

Joni C. Martin (1994) is self-employed as a realtor and a real estate counselor in Murfreesboro. She adopted two god-children when their mother, her best friend, died in 2001. Nicole Odom is now a student at MTSU and her sister, Paige Odom, hopes to play softball for the Lady Raiders. They live on a farm in Beech Grove with goats, dogs, and horses.

Amelia Mitchell is employed as a research analyst for the House Children and Family Affairs Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Amber Moore, who served as a legislative intern in 2001, is now employed as the chief bill clerk for the Tennessee House.

Fred W. Moore lives in Adana, Turkey, and writes travel articles for a Web site in Istanbul.

Tina Nemarnik (2005) did independent study with Dr. Mario Perez-Reilly in the fall. She has been accepted into the applied mathematics and statistics Ph.D. program at SUNY–Stony Brook.

Richard Knomo (1984), who completed his M.B.A. at Tennessee State University, is the general manager of Extended Stay Hotels in Chicago. He has previously worked in Africa and Europe.

Bob Nevens Jr. (1997) is the owner and director of Corporate Development and Risk Management in the Heritage Park Plaza in Murfreesboro.

Jeremy Nickens (2006) is a campaign manager for State Senator Bill Ketron and plans to begin teaching middle or high school history in the near future.

Michelle Norris (2005) has been accepted in the master's of public administration program at California State University, Los Angeles.

James R. O'Connor (1973) is the city manager of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Russell Parman (2006), who delivered a paper in Prague in January and was a McNair Scholar, has received a fellowship to attend Vanderbilt University, where he will be pursuing a Ph.D. in international relations.

Frank Parlow (2002) has served a second tour in Iraq and is scheduled to rotate out with his brigade of the 101st this fall.

Mat Pauley (2003) will be graduating in December from Marquette University with J.D. and M.A. degrees in dispute resolution and an M.A. in bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Robert Parris (1995) was among the judges at the Rhodes Mock Trial Invitational Tournament in November. He is associated with the Scholl Law Firm in Memphis. He argued a case before the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2005 and has a number of high-profile capital cases that he is defending. Parris sent special regards to Dr. Tom VanDervort for his advice, "Boil that cabbage down!"

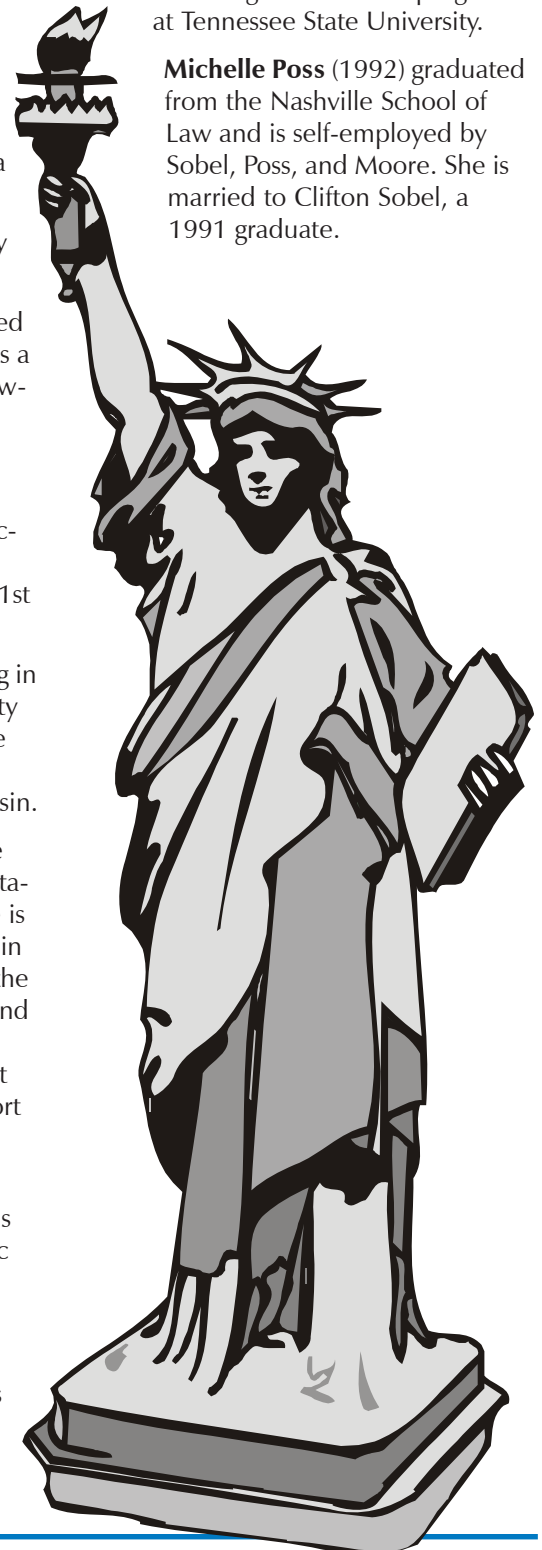
Addison Pate (2006) is continuing his work with the Tennessee Democratic Party.

Karen K. Petersen (1998) is an assistant professor of political science at MTSU, where she is leading students in the Model United Nations program.

Rockit Pettijohn (2006) is attending law school at Emory University.

Brooke Ponder, who worked as a legislative intern in 2004, is now a legislative assistant for Adams and Reese/Stokes Bartholomew and will soon be starting on an M.P.A. program at Tennessee State University.

Michelle Poss (1992) graduated from the Nashville School of Law and is self-employed by Sobel, Poss, and Moore. She is married to Clifton Sobel, a 1991 graduate.



ALUMNI NEWS (continued)

Sara Rainwater (2001) is editing the *European Journal* and directing the European Foundation, the UK's leading Eurosceptic publication and think tank. The foundation chair, Bill Cash, is a member of Parliament, and the foundation's patron is Baroness (Margaret) Thatcher of Kesteven. Sara's work takes her to places all over Europe and even to Washington, D.C., where she has briefed White House officials on the state of European integration. She is now organizing a conference with Czech president, Vaclav Klaus, cosponsored by the European Foundation and the president's think tank, the Centre for Economics and Politics, to be held in November in Prague. Sara is buying her first flat and hopes to bring her boyfriend of two years home for a visit next summer.

Jennifer Raulie, who served as a legislative intern in 2000, now lives in Austin, Texas, and works in an administrative position in her church.

Charles Ray (1970) visited Murfreesboro to have lunch with the four Charles R. Ray Scholars he supports.

Kevin Rayburn (2006) is working on his M.B.A. at the University of Tennessee.

Cal Renegar (2000) is in law school at Vanderbilt. He and wife Amanda have purchased a town home in Nashville.

Monike Barncarsweska Ridley (2003) is a law clerk and paralegal at Rogers and Associates and is in her second year at the Nashville School of Law.

Tom Rosensaoko (1975) is the director of Veterans Employment Training Services for the U.S. Department of Labor in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Nicole Lester Russell earned her law degree at the Nashville School of Law and works as a law clerk for Chancellor Robert E. Corlew III. She is married to Joe Russell II, a 1989 MTSU graduate who also graduated from the Nashville School of Law.

Amanda Newman Samsel (2004) is employed at MTSU as the new coordinator for Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services. She officially took office October 2.

Doug Sadler (2002) passed the bar after graduating from Stetson University Law School and is practicing bankruptcy law in Nashville.

Barbara Sidwell (2005) worked from January through May at Walker Management in Nashville doing research on animal welfare. She is now working at MTSU's Walker Library.

Ramon Sanchez-Vinas (1972, 1976) is the general manager of Professional Building Systems of North Carolina, where he helps build more than \$20 million a year in new homes.

Gretchen A. Schulz (1992) is a case manager with the Department of Children's Services in Tennessee.

Bill Shacklett (1973) owns Shacklett's Photography and is a city councilman. Married for 25 years, he and his wife have two daughters. He has served as president of two school PTOs and engages in a variety of community activities, including serving as an elder at First Presbyterian Church.

C. LeAnn Smith (1990) earned her J.D. from the University of Memphis and is a partner with Pobel, Poss, Moore, and Smith in Nashville. Her son, James Howard Hunger, was born in August 2005.

Diane Stockard (1996) visited the department in April. She is the branch director for the Smyrna Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutherford County.



Swift

Michael Swift (2005) continues his service with the Marine Corps.

Sarah Tanksley (2003) is serving as a field representative for the Tennessee Republican Party in middle Tennessee.

Stacey A. Terral (2000) earned his J.D. at the University of Tennessee and is an associate with Brewer, Krause, and Brooks in Nashville.

Jared Leo Thompson (2006), who got a minor

in political science to complement his psychology degree, is training as a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense specialist at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He finished boot camp in April.

Dan Throgmorton (1989) is vice president of economic and community development and enrollment management at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. Dan has a beautiful corner office with a magnificent view, which he graciously showed to John Vile, who was visiting Chattanooga State in June to give a lecture to high school teachers studying the U.S. Constitution.

James Ronald Tucker (2006) will be attending law school at the University of Memphis.

Virginia Vile (2001) and her husband, Keith Wesolowski, are buying a townhouse in Alexandria, Virginia, where she is engaged in trial practice and pursuing an LL.M. degree in litigation at George Washington University while her husband works in a D.C. law firm. Virginia will be joining two faculty members from the College of William and Mary in presenting a class on litigation for CLE credit in Oregon this November.

Miranda McFarland Watkins, who served as a legislative intern in 2001, has completed her master's degree in social work at the University of Tennessee and works as a mental health specialist for the Mental Health Cooperative in Davidson County.

Maria Weir (2002) and her husband Reza Derakhshani are living in Kansas, where she started a Ph.D. program in anthropology at the University of Kansas this fall. She is also working on a master's degree in public health planning in global health security with a focus on central Asia. She will be working closely with the University of Kansas Medical Center; the Anthropology Department; and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. She has received a Nelson First Year Graduate Fellowship from the university.

Carol Hunt Welch (1993) is working on a teaching certificate. She and her husband, Joe, have four children ranging in age from 4 to 11.

Chris Westmoreland (2000) earned his J.D. from Valparaiso University in Indiana and has returned to Tennessee and passed the bar. He is now working with Richard L. Dugger and Associates in Shelbyville.

Jason Whatley (1993), who graduated from the Cumberland School of Law, continues the private practice of law in Columbia, Tennessee. He and wife Lauren are expecting their fourth child.

Marilyn White (2003) is attending law school at the University of Tennessee.

Eugene (Al) Wilkerson (1993) is living in Austin, Texas, where he and his wife, a pediatrician in the army, have a new son, Micah. Al is pursuing a master's degree in organizational leadership from St. Edwards University in Austin and is hoping to make a transition from his work at State Farm into this field.

Katie Williams (2002) completed an M.B.A. at MTSU and is now employed as a special assistant to the deputy

Alumni Departure

Larry Trail (B.S. 1975), passed away after two days of hospitalization on August 20, 2006, at the age of 53. He died not quite three weeks after having been elected (the top vote-getter among three candidates) as a circuit judge in Tennessee's 16th Judicial District, which includes Rutherford and Cannon counties. Trail, a native of Hollow Springs in Cannon County, was to have been sworn in on September 2. He graduated from Woodbury Central High School in 1970 and then from the law school at the University of Tennessee after he graduated from MTSU.



Trail was a lifelong farmer and an attorney for 28 years and had previously served as a Tennessee state senator from 2001 to 2004. He leaves behind his parents, Hershel and Laura Spry Trail; his wife Sandra, who was also his law partner at Trail and Trail; sisters Charlotte (Doyle) Duke, Cathy (Jack) Hyatt, and Lisa Trail (Tim Tipps); sister-in-law Betty Trail Curless; many nieces and nephews; and two children, Matthew and Elizabeth. Matthew has been a Peace Corp volunteer in Albania, and Elizabeth is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee. Representative John Hood noted, "There wasn't any harder working, more dedicated member of the Senate than Larry," according to the *Daily News Journal*. The department grieves over Larry's loss and extends its deepest sympathies to the family. MTSU has set up a Foundation Scholarship in memory of Larry Trail and the many years of generous support he and his family have given to the University.

commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Bill Whitson (M.P.A.), who has previously served as the purchasing agent for Metro Nashville and as the commissioner of general services, now lives in Franklin but continues consultation with Metro Nashville. He has worked over the last year on projects related to the Nashville Fairgrounds and on the Farmers' Market at the Bicentennial Mall.

James Vince Witty (2003) is the program director for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Murfreesboro and has begun a doc-

toral degree program at Tennessee State University.

Shana Q. Wright-Avery (1992) earned her J.D. from Vanderbilt University and is now in solo practice after having associate positions with two previous law firms. She and her husband, Jeff Avery (2001), have three children: Christopher (5), Jaisan (3), and Sean (19 months). ■

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Timmy Gibson continues to update the department Web site. The site has links to faculty members, courses, organizations, degree information, and the like.

We welcome your suggestions as to additional information that you think might be useful. The address is www.mtsu.edu/~polsci/.

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