What goes on in the Political Science Department?
By Lisa Almy

You may be a Political Science major or minor, yet have never had the pleasure of walking into our office. For those who do not know, we are located in Peck Hall, on the second floor, in the red hallway, in room 208. Our friendly department Executive Aide is Pam Davis and she will happily assist you with issues such as: assigning an advisor, helping with add/drop forms, answer questions about what type of major or minor to seek, and more.

Have you ever noticed our conference room? If so, you may many times notice a group of students in there. They may appear to be just hanging out, but in actuality, they are working. How does one have the honor of working in the Political Science department? Our workers are usually assigned to Political Science by the Financial Aid office due to a service scholarship or the Federal Work Study program. These students will run errands for the department, make copies for professors, and sometimes do special projects with a particular professor. It is a great experience to work with the professors, and you gain knowledge that would be difficult to attain elsewhere.

Pam Davis receives Employee Recognition Award

Pam Davis, the department’s Executive Aide and helper of all, received the 2nd quarterly MTSU Employee Recognition Award in honor of her dedication, outstanding contributions, and excellent performance. Ms Davis will now compete for the Annual award which comes with a monetary portion sponsored by the MTSU Foundation. Congratulations, Pam!

Note from New Chair
Stephen Morris

I am excited about coming to MTSU and joining such a strong department. The department sports a wide variety of academic programs, well-established and rewarding internship opportunities and active student organizations, a strong network of alumni, and a collegial and productive faculty. It is also poised to build a graduate program in international affairs that not only will tap the expertise of the faculty, but will also offer new opportunities for students to acquire the skills and the knowledge to work in the global society. As a teacher and scholar, I hope to contribute by teaching courses in the areas of comparative politics, Latin American politics, and political corruption, and remaining active in my research on Mexico. As chair, I hope to contribute by working closely and openly with the faculty to enhance the quality of our programs, to assist them in doing what they do best, and to create a department that is more than the sum of its parts, and an academic experience for students that is more than the sum of their courses. To quote Subcomandante Marcos, I will strive to “lead by obeying.”

By way of background, I am a native of Atlanta and spent the past 20 years at the University of South Alabama where I directed the international studies program. I have taught and studied in Mexico, and most of my published work centers on Mexican politics.

What goes on in the Political Science Department?
By Lisa Almy
Letter from former Chair, “Thanks for the Memories”

I decided to compose this essay on June 30 (2008), my last day serving as Chair of the Political Science Department. I assumed the job on August 1, 1989, so this is just short of my nineteenth anniversary at MTSU. I begin my job as Dean of the MTSU University Honors College on July 1, 2008.

I came to MTSU after chairing a Social Science Department at McNeese State University. I was the Department’s first full-time hire in almost twenty years. During my interview, I found a faculty that was extremely committed to students and willing to meet the challenge of increased research. When I arrived, I brought twin daughters who were entering the fourth grade. Both have now graduated (one from MTSU and the other from UTK) and married. As they attended college, I realized again what important roles faculty members can play. I have tried to treat students as I wanted my own daughters to be treated, and I continue to derive satisfaction from the large number of students who have gone on to law or graduate school and into the work force who continue to correspond and to visit the university.

As I leave, all but two of the faculty that helped hire me have retired. The University has grown from about 14,000 to about 23,000 students. The Department has increased from eight faculty members to fourteen. We now have a computer room and master classrooms. We have increased the number of Honors classes that we offer, we have developed a paralegal minor, altered the teacher education curriculum, and we continue to work on a Master’s degree in International Affairs. Departmental mock trial, mediation, and Model U.N. teams continue to represent the Department well and to maintain close contact between faculty members and students. I trust that the newsletters have fulfilled a similar function in connecting the Department to its alumni. As I leave, four members of the Department are editing journals and most are regularly publishing books and/or articles. One member of the Department is serving as Associate Dean and another works with the Provost on international programs.

I am honored that Clyde Willis has agreed to serve as an interim as the Department looks for another chair. Dr. Willis is a committed teacher who has brought national recognition to our programs through his work with student mediators. I remember how a previous interim, Dr. Frank Essex, did so much to welcome me in the Department. I am excited that Dr. Amanda DiPaolo, of Syracuse University, and Dr. Gregory Ryan, of the University of Tennessee, will both be teaching in the Department in the year ahead.

I am looking forward to the challenge of heading the Honors College, but I will continue to take an interest in the Political Science Department and its graduates. I trust that alumni who visit campus will drop by to see me as well. It has been an honor to serve, and I continue to take pride in the accomplishments of both faculty and alumni.

John R. Vile
Dean, Honors College

IN MEMORIAM

On April 4, 2009, the Department of Political Science lost a true colleague and friend, Dr. Anne Sloan. Dr. Sloan dedicated herself to her students and to the institution, touching the lives of so many. She will be missed though her many contributions will live on.

Dr. Sloan is survived by her husband, Steve Saunders, Interim Director, McNair Program at MTSU and daughter, Samantha, who is a sophomore at the University of Virginia.

Contributions can be made to the scholarship fund Anne established in her father’s name: the Gene Sloan Scholarship. For more information, contact the Development Office at 898-2502.
News from the department

Are you on Facebook? If so, check out the new Political Science Fan Page by searching for MTSU Political Science!

A Master’s Degree in International Affairs

Is it in our Future?

MA Program in International Affairs
On June 19, 2009, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the department’s application for the graduate program in International Affairs. The next and final step is the approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The proposed Master’s Degree, the product of extensive work by faculty in the department, will feature two concentrations in International Security & Peace Studies and International Development & Globalization. The goal is to develop a unique degree program by combining the tools of analytic research with practical application for employment in international business, domestic and international non-governmental organizations, foreign policy organizations, government, analysis and risk management firms, human rights organizations, homeland security, and the military by molding social science knowledge for practical use in an increasingly skill-based competitive global workforce. The recommended program would include core courses in international relations, comparative politics, global governance and research methods.

Is the program IN NEED OF A FACELIFT?

Curriculum and Program reviews
The Department is in the process of conducting a review of the curriculum. The review encompasses efforts to eliminate courses rarely offered or those that overlap with other courses, rename courses to better reflect their content, consolidate courses in related areas, create new special topics courses for specific sub-fields, redefine the subfields, strengthen and clarify requirements, etc. Feel free to offer comments/suggestions about curriculum or program changes to Dr. Morris at sdmorris@mtsu.edu.

Field test and data
The International Relations majors earned the Academic Performance Award for outstanding performance on the 2008-09 major field test. The department will receive a plaque and $2,500 for the department’s travel budget. The Political Science students scored below last year’s performance which was a bit lower than the year before. A major will qualify for the award if 55% of its graduates exceed the comparison mean of 500.

Field Test — Academic Year 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Median Major Field Test Score</th>
<th>Correlation - Program GPA and Test Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- General PS</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>0.276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pre-Law</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public Admin</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>0.233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>-0.171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>0.224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We can do better, surely!

We can, but don’t call me Shirley!
Is a degree program you’d like to pursue not available in your state? Have you found a degree program at an out-of-state institution, but the higher tuition is a barrier? For more than 50 years, the SREB Academic Common Market has enabled students to pursue out-of-state college majors at discounted tuition rates, through agreements among the states and colleges and universities.

Use the web site to search from more than 1,400 undergraduate and graduate degree programs available in the 16 SREB states. It’s quick and easy. To qualify you must:

- Be a resident of one of the 16 SREB states
- Select a program eligible for residents of your home state
- Complete the admission process at the institution offering the eligible Academic Common Market program
- Certify your residency in your home state

**Eligible programs of interest to Tennessee Residents in the Department:**

- MA in International Affairs at FSU
- MS in International Studies at South Carolina
- MA in International Commerce and Policy at George Mason University
- MPA at UNC Charlotte
- MPA and FSU

For more information go to: http://www.sreb.org/programs/acm/acmindex.aspx

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

*both here and beyond*

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Fund (www.truman.gov) awards college students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. They receive leadership training, graduate school counseling, preferential admission, and merit based aid to some premier graduate institutions, and internship opportunities with federal agencies. The Undergraduate Fellowship Office (UFO) is seeking candidate. Interested students should contact Laura Clippard at lclippard@mtsu.edu.

* * * *

The McNair Program at MTSU offers undergraduate students who are 1) first generation and with financial need or 2) underrepresented the opportunity to prepare and succeed in graduate school. To qualify a student must be a member of the two groups mentioned plus have a desire to earn a Ph.D. For more information go to:

www.mtsu.edu/~menair

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**MTSU and the Political Science Dept**

*team up with the UN*

This semester, MTSU formally joined the UN ACADEMIC IMPACT program. This initiative aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution. The Academic Impact also asks each participating college or university to actively demonstrate support of at least one of these principles each year.

Dr. McPhee authorized MTSU’s affiliation. The initiative is a program of the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information at the UN and it open to all institutions of higher education.

As part of our initial involvement in UN ACADEMIC IMPACT, MTSU is sending two students to Costa Rica in January to participate in a seminar focusing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

To learn more about UN ACADEMIC IMPACT go to:

http://academicimpact.org/engpage.php

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**Academic Common Market**

[Image with the Academic Common Market logo]

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**More News from the department**

[Image with the MTSU and the Political Science Dept logo]

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[Image with the McNair Program logo]
You've already heard the warnings about plagiarism. Obviously it's against the rules to buy essays or copy from your friends' homework, and it's also plagiarism to borrow passages from books or articles or websites without identifying them. You know that the purpose of any paper is to show your own thinking, not create a patchwork of borrowed ideas. But you may still be wondering how you're supposed to give proper references to all the reading you've done and all the ideas you've encountered.

The point of documenting sources in academic papers is not just to avoid unpleasant visits to the Dean's office, but to demonstrate that you know what is going on in your field of study. Get credit for having done your reading! Precise documentation is also a courtesy to your readers because it lets them look at the material you've found. That's especially important for Internet sources.

Here are some common questions and basic answers.

**If I put the ideas into my own words, do I still have to clog up my pages with all those names and numbers?**

Sorry—yes, you do. In academic papers, you need to keep mentioning authors and pages and dates to show how your ideas are related to those of the experts. It's sensible to use your own words because that saves space and lets you connect ideas smoothly. But whether you quote a passage directly in quotation marks, paraphrase it closely in your own words, or just summarize it rapidly, you need to identify the source then and there. (That applies to Internet sources too; you still need author and date as well as title and URL. The handout “Standard Documentation Formats” gives examples for a range of types.)

**So what exactly do I have to document?**

With experience reading academic prose, you'll soon get used to the ways writers in your field refer to their sources. Here are the main times you should give acknowledgements. (You'll notice many different formats in the following examples; see the sheet "Standard Documentation Formats" for advice on these systems.)

**a. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries:**

If you use the author's exact words, enclose them in quotation marks, or indent passages of more than four lines. But it's seldom worthwhile to use long quotations. In literary studies, quote a few words at a time and comment on them. In other disciplines, quote only when the original words are especially memorable. In most cases, use your own words to summarize the idea you want to discuss, emphasizing the points relevant to your argument. Be sure to name sources even when you are not using the exact original words. As in the examples below, it's often a good idea to mention the author's name. That gains you some reflected authority and indicates where the borrowing starts and stops.

  e.g. As Morris puts it in *The Human Zoo* (1983), “we can always be sure that today's daring innovation will be tomorrow's respectability” (p. 189). [APA system]

  e.g. Northrop Frye discusses comedy in terms of the spring spirit, which he sees as representing renewal and integration (*Anatomy* 163). The ending of *The Tempest* fits this pattern.

  [new MLA system]

**b. Specific ideas used as evidence for your argument or interpretation:**

First consider whether the ideas you're mentioning are “common knowledge” according to the definition in point 3 above; if so, you may not need to give a reference. But when you're relying on ideas that might be disputed by people in your discipline, establish that they're trustworthy by referring to authoritative sources.

  e.g. In September 1914, more than 1300 skirmishes were recorded on the Western Front.8 [traditional endnote/footnote system]

  e.g. Other recent researchers (4,11,12) confirm the finding that drug treatment has little effect in the treatment of pancreatic pseudocysts. [numbered-note system for biomedical sciences]

**c. Distinctive or authoritative ideas, whether you agree with them or not:**

The way you introduce the reference can indicate your attitude and lead into your own argument.

  e.g. In 1966, Ramsay Cook asserted that Canada was in a period of instability (174). That period is not yet over, judging by the same criteria of electoral changeability, economic uncertainty, and confusion in policy decisions. [new MLA system]

  e.g. One writer (Von Daniken, 1970) even argues that the Great Pyramid was built for the practical purpose of guiding navigation. [/APA system]

Prepared July 2006 by Dr. Margaret Procter, U of T Coordinator of Writing Support, for use at the University of Toronto.

This handout and many others giving advice on academic writing are available online from the list at [www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html)
Faculty Updates

Over the past year or so, the PS faculty has been productive and prolific in pursuing their research agendas. Dr. DiPaolo presented research papers at the meetings of the American Political Science Association and the Midwestern Political Science Association and is awaiting publication this fall of her book Zones of Twilight: Judicial Decision Making in Times of War (Lexington), an article in the International Journal of Human Rights entitled “Procedure vs. Substance: Supreme Court Rationales for Adjudicating Security-Related Cases in Canada and the United States,” and a book chapter -“Presidential Leadership in Times of War. Dr. Franklin presented papers at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and at the Southern Political Science Association meeting. He too awaits publications of a chapter in the book The New Black Politics (ed Andra Gillespie, Routledge, 2009) entitled “Style, Substance, and Situational Deracialization: Racial Polarization and the Tennessee Senate Race,” and “Southern Racial Etiquette and the 2006 Tennessee Senate Race: The Racialization of Harold Ford’s Deracialized Campaign” in the National Political Science Review. Meanwhile, Dr. Korobkov published a number of his recent works, including: a chapter in the book Migration, Homeland and Belonging in Eurasia on post-Soviet migration, the article “Migration Policy in the US and Russia: A Comparative Perspective” in Proceedings of the Russian International Studies Association, and a handful of writings in Russian such as The US Migration Experience: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons for Russia published by the Bureau for Human Rights in Moscow. He also delivered papers at the Woodrow Wilson center for International Studies, the meeting of the International Studies Association, and at a Seminar at the Institute of Demography, The Higher School of Economics State University in Moscow. Dr. Langenbach published the Study Guide for Dautrich/Yalof’s American Government: Historical, Popular, and Global Perspectives (Cengage). Dr. Livingston published U.S. Social Security (ABC-CLIO), and edited four issues of Global Commerce. Dr. Maynor awaits publication of an article, “Blogging for Democracy,” in the journal Critical Review. Dr. Morris published Political Corruption in Mexico: The Impact of Democratization and co-edited a volume entitled Corruption and Democracy in Latin America. Dr. Petersen presented her research at the meetings of the Southern Political Association and the Midwestern Association and awaits publication of a book she has co-authored, Do We Want Democracy in Iraq? (Edwin Mellen), and an article in the Journal of Strategic Security. Dr. Tesi presented research papers at National Security Colloquium, Pilot Center for Academic Excellence in Intelligence Studies at Tennessee State University; Seminaire Internationel sur la Prevention des Crises et la Gestion des Conflicts dans le Cadre de la CEEAC, Yaounde at the Institute de Relations Internationel du Cameroon, Yaounde, Cameroon; and at the Protestant University of Central Africa, Yaounde, Cameroon. Dr. Vernadakis chaired a panel and participated in a round table discussion at the meeting of the International Studies Association.

The PS faculty has also been engaged in a wide range of activities beyond research and the classroom. Dr. Carleton interviewed applicants for the Tennessee legislative internships, served as Campus Liaison for the Washington Center, and coordinated the search for the TBR Washington Center Scholarships. Dr. DiPaolo has put together a Moot Court Team to compete at the intercollegiate level. Dr. Langenbach has developed new online courses. Dr. McDaniel received the MTSU Foundation’s Outstanding Teacher award for 2007-08. Dr. Perez-Rielly served as a consultant on methodology and data processing for a grant project on a Seminar on Bioethics. Dr. Petersen was selected as outstanding advisor in the College of Liberal Arts, and nominated for the MTSU Foundation award for outstanding teaching. She also helped students generate more than $72,000 for internship and study in the USA and abroad, and she received a Faculty Development Grant for CIEE workshop ($700), International Education Funding for CIEE workshop ($5900), and an Access and Diversity Fund grant ($2,039). This allowed her to attend a summer seminar in Peru. Dr. Willis served as interim chair, handling business following the departure of Dr. Vile and ensuring a smooth transition.

New Grants. Drs. DiPaolo, Maynor and Petersen have all obtained a FRCAC grant to support their research projects this coming year. Dr. Maynor’s project, entitled Human Rights in Civic Republican Political Theory, seeks to expand republican theory beyond the confines of the nation-state. His aim is to strengthen the relevance of classic republican theory and apply it to issues of human rights and global justice. Drs. DiPaolo and Petersen are collaborating on a project that uniquely bridges constitutional law and international relations. Titled Presidential Powers and Wartime Judicial Decisionmaking, their project seeks to explore the protection of civil liberties during times of war. Drs. DiPaolo, Franklin, Petersen and Tesi received funding from the Access and Diversity Grant program to support travel to academic conferences during the year.
Some of you may have had the pleasure of taking a class with Dr. DiPaolo since she joined MTSU in the Fall of 2008. For those who know her, or have not had the opportunity to get to know her yet, this should give you some basics on Dr. DiPaolo.

Where are you from?
I'm from Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. It's above the state of Maine.

Where did you go to school and what does your degree focus on?
I did my PhD at Syracuse University. My focus was on Constitutional Law, specifically the war powers of the federal government.

What made you want to come to MTSU?
Honestly, the Nashville Predators. I always say it and I'm not even kidding. I should be kidding, but you need to understand that when you pick an employer, you don't really have that much to go on. The day long interview process is too quick to figure out what a place is like. Besides it is geared for the faculty to get to know the applicant, not the other way around. So, after doing a round of interviews there were a couple spots that fit my preferred criteria of small class sizes and having an opportunity to teach constitutional law. MTSU was in the South and I wanted to move to a region of the United States that I hadn't lived in yet. But the Preds sealed the deal.

Which classes do you primarily teach?
I teach Constitutional Law I (federalism and separation of powers), Constitutional Law II (civil liberties), the U.S. Presidency and American Government. I'd like to set up a problems in government course about the Supreme Court and national security law. I'm also the faculty adviser for the Moot Court team.

What type of things do you enjoy doing in the Murfreesboro area?
This semester I have been going a lot of golfing (and by golfing I mean try to hit the ball) and I like to run (read: jog slowly) when I am not on campus. If there is anything else to do, please let me know. I'm always open to ideas. In Nashville, of course I have a season ticket for the Nashville Predators.

Favorite sports and favorite teams?
Favorites in order of awesomeness: Hockey = Nashville Predators. I'm pretty sure that went without saying. I also like the New York Rangers in the Eastern Conference. I was a Rangers fan for 20 years before moving to TN. Football = New York Jets. NASCAR (no judging) = Jimmie Johnson. Golf = Mike Weir and when it is impossible for him to win the tournament then I am for Tiger Woods... which means I am for Tiger Woods. Baseball = Milwaukee Brewers, Atlanta Braves or the Toronto Blue Jays. NBA = pass.

Majors by Areas (Fall 2009)
Total = 519

Update from
Former Faculty
Former faculty Patrick Chinnery was named a Corboy Fellow as part of Loyola's “elite” mock trial team which competes in at least 6 competitions over the year and regularly practices with practicing trial attorneys and judges.
Perú: A Fusion of Identities Dr. Karen K. Petersen

The theme of the faculty development seminar I attended, Examining Perú’s Complex Past, Present, and Future, could not have been more apt. In short order, we met with academics to discuss topics ranging from Fujimori’s rule and his continuing legacy to Perú’s cultural minorities. Human rights and the violent decade (of Shining Path terrorism) permeated all of the conversations we had with academics, activists, and one another. Excursions to museums and villas in and around Lima supplemented our academic seminars and provided context for an examination of Perú’s future.

Despite the difficult discussions required to understand Peruvian political and social history, I left with the impression of a country on the move in the right direction. Economically, Lima is the focal point for the development that is occurring in Perú; however, the development “conversation” includes the multitude of interests in the far reaches of Perú. Politics in Perú are changing. While we were in Lima meeting with one of the leaders of Perú’s truth and reconciliation commission, Peruvians in the Amazon clashed with police over mineral rights. Rather than completely dismantling the opposition, the government in Lima backed off. Did people die? Yes. Is the process perfect? No. Despite the myriad of obstacles facing Peruvian democracy (and many other developing democracies), political change in Perú is moving the country forward and away from authoritarianism. 

No excursion abroad would be complete without an opportunity to experience the local culture. The best representation of what it means to be Peruvian can be found in the cuisine. Lima is now known as a culinary travel destination and is deserving of its reputation as a first-rate culinary delight. Additionally, Perú presents adventure travelers with a wealth of opportunities ranging from mountain peaks well over 20,000 feet, the Amazonian basin, and almost all imaginable climates in between. We spent a few days in the Incan city of Cuzco and topped that off with a visit to Machu Picchu—a “must-have” life experience. I look forward to the opportunity to return to Perú and experience more of life in the Andes and along the Amazon.

“Celebrating 25 Years of the Women’s Federation at Villa El Salvador” in honor of Maria Elena Moyano, a popular activist murdered by Sendero Luminoso (the Shining Path) in 1992.

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**Spring 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)**

**Political Science** (combined Freshman and Seniors) (selected results)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>POSC</th>
<th>MTSU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asked questions in class</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made a class presentation</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come to class without completing assignments</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked harder than you thought you could</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Updates

Anna Kelma, an International Relations major with a focus on Latin America, and Joshua Fryer, an International Relations major and Model UN head delegate, will attend a Millennium Development Leadership Program in Costa Rica this coming January at the Universidad por la Paz. The program provides participants with the skills and knowledge to start and lead projects related to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (Ending Hunger and Poverty, Providing Universal Education, Ensuring Gender Equality, Delivering Child & Maternal Health, Combating HIV and AIDS, Building Environmental Sustainability, and Creating Global Partnerships). Funding for this trip is provided by MTSU as part of the UN Academic Impact initiative.

Nick Mackie and Shaun Guffey will attend the Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA) at West Point in November with funding from the McNair program. SCUSA is a 4-day conference held annually at The United States Military Academy at West Point. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate interaction and constructive discussion between student delegates in order for them to better understand the intricacies of the challenges that the United States faces in a global society. The theme for this year is “Advancing as a Global Community.”

In August 2009, Danielle Mitchell, a graduate of Page High School in Franklin, received the Charles R. Ray Scholarship. During her high school years, Ms Mitchell was active in volleyball, drama and Distributive Education Clubs of America, and excelled in advance placement classes in calculus, history, English and statistics. Ms Mitchell, who has wanted to be a lawyer since she was 11 years old, aspires to perform legal work for a nonprofit. The Charles R. Ray Scholarship is presented annually to a student who intends to major in political science with a concentration in pre-law at MTSU. Charles Ray was a prominent Nashville attorney and MTSU alumnus who personally funded the scholarship. It provides money for college expenses for each successful semester of full-time study (up to eight) provided the recipient maintains a 2.5 GPA or higher and continues in the pre-law program. Previous winners currently attending MTSU are Eric Pegues (senior), and Rebekah Horton (sophomore).

Patricia Pratt, a 25 year old senior double majoring in International Relations and Political Science, was able to study international relations and Swahili at United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya this summer on a Boren Scholarship. Boren scholarships provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students for study in areas that are critical to national security but underrepresented in study-abroad programs. To prepare for spending an academic year in Nairobi, Pratt interned with Constituency for Africa, a Washington D.C. based nongovernmental organization concerned with raising awareness about African issues and influencing U.S. policy.

Aaron Shew, International Relations and Plant & Soil Science double major, was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study Urdu in India this past summer. The Critical Language Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and funds seven to ten week periods of intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment experience held overseas at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. This scholarship is very competitive, with only 1/3 of the applicants making it past the first stage of the competition. Shew took five hours of classes for five days a week while living with a host family in a town near Delhi. His interest in Asian culture came to be when he was younger and his own family had hosted a student from Nepali.
2009 Washington Legislative Interns

When participating in the Washington Experience, an internship through The Washington Center, you are placed in an internship based on your career goals for four days a week, and attend a seminar course related to your internship topic the remaining day. Periodically throughout the semester, you will also have the opportunity meet and attend talks by elected officials, political reporters, campaign consultants, and so on.

Previous MTSU students who have interned with The Washington Center have worked in the Vice-President’s office, in Congressional offices, for lobbying firms, in the State Department, in law offices, and for news organizations. It is a great opportunity for any student interested in any aspect of politics, public policy, or government.

In Spring 2009, Priscilla Kinney had the opportunity to intern in the office of State Rep. Kent Williams, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives. To the right, the Political Science senior is pictured with (from left to right): Rep. Williams, Kinney, MTSU President Dr. Sidney McPhee, and John Hood of the Office of Community Engagement and Support.
Student Organizations

Moot Court, Mock Trial, Model UN, Pi Sigma Alpha, Internships (the list goes on and on...)
By Lisa Almy

You’ve heard some of these names thrown around, either by students discussing it, or even seeing the bulletin boards in the red hallway of Peck Hall. They are all wonderful experiences for students, but just what are they exactly?

Moot Court is a student organization that teaches the basic proceedings of the oral arguments process at the Supreme Court. Students participate as lawyers for either the petitioners, questioning the ruling of the lower courts, or as the respondent, arguing for the lower court ruling to stand. Participants learn to prepare and deliver arguments in front of the Court and must be prepared to answer questions of law when interrupted by the justices.

Because Moot Court works as teams of two at regional competitions and because each school is limited to 4 teams at a regional competition, the MTSU Moot Court team is limited to 8 students. While it is primarily designed to further the experience of pre-law students, students of any major are able to join.

Moot Court, like the other student organizations affiliated with the political science department will help students think analytically and will improve their public speaking abilities.

Students interested in the Moot Court team should email Dr. Amanda DiPaolo directly at dipaolo@mtsu.edu. As of now, there is no class for Moot Court, but it does serve as an extra curricular activity.

* * *

Mock Trial is another excellent student organization for students who are seeking a career in the legal system. Working together with faculty and local attorneys, students learn how the courtroom works. The students take turns acting as lawyers and witnesses, learn how to argue a case, cross examine a witness, and what the proper actions in a courtroom are. As a trial lawyer, you are required to be professional and speak publicly, and Mock Trial is a great way to learn how to do that. Many former members of the Mock Trial team have gone on to become trial lawyers. In order to participate in Mock Trial, you must sign up for PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure. For more information, please contact Dr. John Vile at jvile@mtsu.edu.

* * *

Model United Nations is a program open to anyone of any major. It is a realistic reflection of the actual United Nations, as well as other international crisis management bodies. As part of the MTSU Model United Nations, you will attend competitive conferences where, along with other top universities, where each team represents one or more countries, with each country sending delegates to various committees and councils. Some delegates may also participate in specialized bodies that address specific world crisis situations. While Model United Nations is a great addition to your resume, it is also a wonderful program to be involved in. Debate, research, and diplomacy are just a few of the respected features one can acquire as part of this program, along with it being educational, engaging, and fun. For more information, please contact Dr. Karen Petersen at (615) 494-8662.

Rotaract of Middle Tennessee State University is a Rotary-sponsored service club for MTSU staff, faculty, and students of any major who are aged 18-30. The purpose of the Rotaract of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) is to foster international and local civic service, leadership skills, and all other ideas associated with the national constitution of Rotary International. For more information, or to join Rotaract, you can send an e-mail to mtsurotaract@gmail.com.

* * *

Pi Sigma Alpha
You may have heard this name thrown around, but never knew what it was. In the mix of all the fraternities, sororities, and honor societies on campus, the entire Greek alphabet can start to run together. Pi Sigma Alpha stands out though, as it is strictly for those enrolled in political science courses.

The requirements for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha are: + Junior standing + At least 10 credits of Political Science classes, with an overall 3.2 GPA.

You do not have to be a Political Science major to be in Pi Sigma Alpha

* * *

Internships.
The Department sponsors internships in a number of different areas. PS 4360 Legislative Internship, PS 4040 Pre-Law Internship, PS 4270 Campaign Internship, PS 4290 Public Service Internship. For guidelines and information visit the Department web site.
Alumni Updates

- Neely Campbell, Andrew Cates, James Greer and Carlissa Shaw have begun their work at the University of Memphis Law School. The four graduated with an avg. GPA of 3.30 and an average LSAT score of 155.

- First Lt. William Eric Emmert, a Political Science minor who graduated in 1999, was killed in Iraq on February 24, 2009.

- Dawn (Johnston) Garcia opened a law office in Franklin in 2008. She also graciously donated to the MTSU Mock Trial Fund.

- Lyn Graves, 1991 graduate, recently joined the firm Price & Tidwell in Murfreesboro.

- Christopher Kelly is Senior Vice President and Head of the Trust Department and Pinnacle National Bank in Murfreesboro. After graduating, Mr. Kelly studied law at the Nashville School of Law and worked for Corely & Kelly and Brugdon, Creasy, Kelly and Sanders law firms.

- Kasey Talbott has accepted a generous offer from the University of Memphis in the Department of City and Regional Planning as a Graduate Assistant. He is hoping to use his eventual degree to find a job in the Middle or East Tennessee areas to help solve some of the serious issues affecting those regions in the decades to come involving growth.

- Katie Williams married Shane Stromei in October 2008 and is working for the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in both fiscal and human resource issues. She is also working on completion of the general science courses at MTSU to strengthen her educational background. She also graciously donated to the MTSU Mock Trial Fund.

Exert from a letter from Law School

From: Loren A Sanderson <loren.sanderson@gmail.com>
Subject: Greetings from the Windy City
To: rmedanie@mtsu.edu

Hi Dr. McDaniel!!

How are you? How is the McD family? All are well I hope! I’ve been meaning to write you for weeks now, but apparently there’s this phenomenon that occurs when you enter law school— you forfeit all free time and semblance of a normal life. :) I wanted to share with you that I was accepted to DePaul University here in Chicago, and I started at the end of August. I was very excited to be accepted to such a great school, and I owe you a big thanks for that. I really appreciate your taking the time to write a letter of recommendation for me last year! School is good so far... nowhere near as fun as your classes (I miss poli sci in general so much) but I’m enjoying it nonetheless. My Contracts professor reminds me of Dr. Carleton, so that’s a funny little bit of home. And how can one complain when studying in the heart of The Loop! Two MTSU students, Sarah Farthing and Andy Dunkin, are just next door to me over at John Marshall which is nice as well. We’re bringing the Middle Tennessee contingent in full force! Everyone here thinks I have a funny accent, but I’m finding ways to turn my differences into advantages.

BY THE NUMBERS

As of September 2009, the Department has a total of 2,645 living alumni:

- > 361 with degrees in International Relations,
- > 136 in Public Administration,
- > 2,148 in Political Science.

Keep us Posted!

Send news and updates to: Pam Davis (pdavis@mtsu.edu) or MTSU, Box 29, Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Donations

The Department greatly appreciates the many donations that help us serve our students.

Donors of $100 or more to Political Science Department since July 2007

Douglas Neil Blackwell (BS/CRJU ’94 & MCJ/CRJU ’99)
Billie Jo Bowling
Abigail Lynn Cadle (BA/INRE ’98)
Donald H. Carter and Pamela Casey Carter (BS/POSC ’70)
James M. Crytzer
Karen L.C. Ellis
Frank W. Essex
James Free (BS/POSC ’69 & MPA ’72)
Dawn (Johnston) Garcia
Laura Whitehurst and Dr. Robert K. Glenn
Dr. Charles F. Hermann
Phillip L. (BS/BIOL ’70 & MS/BIOL ’73) and Dr. Sherian S. Huddleston (BS/BUED ’72 & MED/ADSU ’80)
Rosemary Anne Kew
Sue Anderson Male (BS/URBN ’84)
Bernard J. Milano
Jim and Dr. Loretta Diane Miller
Thomas Miller
Thais E. Mootz (BS/CRJU ’96)
Karen Elaine Northcutt (BS/POSC ’72)
James Hughes Perry (BS/POSC ’96)
Tracy Annette Perry (BBA/ACTG ’93)
Glenda Hawkins (BS/POSC ’98) and Marcus Brooks Pipkin (BBA/FIN ’97)
Petis Malvin Powell (BS/POSC ’65)
Sandra and Charles Ray (BS/POSC ’70) (deceased)
Phillip Wayne Ryan (BS/URBN ‘76)
Stephen Saunders and Dr. Anne Sloan (BA, INRE.’71) (deceased)
Katie Williams Stromei
James B. Sutton (BS/POSC ’01)
Elizabeth V. (BS/INTR ’98, MED/ADSU ’00, & EDS/ADSU ’02) and Nicholas William Utter (BS/POSC ’99)
Linda Kay and John Vile
Bertram Fredrick Wakeley (BS/POSC ’66)

For information or to give, contact Robyn Kilpatrick, College of Liberal Arts (898-5223; rkilpatr@mtsu.edu). Or Director, Development Office
P.O. Box 109
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Donations can be designated to any of the following Departmental endowed accounts and scholarship funds:

• Charles R. Ray Pre-Law Scholarship
• Frank Essex Visiting Practitioner Program
• Gene H. Sloan Scholarship
• George T. Adcock Memorial Annual Scholarship
• George and Cynthia Vernadakia Scholarship
• Harry Horne International Relations Scholarship
• James C. Free Endowed Scholarship
• Jane Duke Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Joann Arnold Memorial Scholarship
• MTSU Mock Trial Fund
• MTSU Society of International Affairs
• Norman Parks Scholarship
• Political Science Enrichment Fund
• W.T. Grant Foundation
Good Luck to New Students and to Graduates

**FRESHMAN**

**Fall 2009**

Jasmine Adams
Nicole Allman
Brittany Austin
Colton Bane
Chante Bennett
Mahmud Brifkani
Rachel Burch
Ryan Canady
Mary Choate
Darren Collins
Wesley Cook
Charles Davis
Chlaine Dixon
Samantha Farish
William Fiveash
Alexander Ford
Jasmin Gardner

Joindre Gardner
Ryan Gowler
Sara Hamawandi
Bryan Hayes
Jensen Hebert
Samuel Hubbard
Joseph Jackson
Adam Johnson
Whitney Johnson
William Jones
Kailea King
Whitney King
Zachary Mahoney
Stephen Manuel
Bryan McDougal
Andrew Mitchell
Danielle Mitchell
Tyler Moore
Blanche Mukendi
Julie Murrell
Sara Murrey
Kaitlyn Newman
Rebecca Phelan
Ashley Rybinski
Sierra Scivally
Coby Sherlock
Kathryn Smith
Selena Smith
Stephanie Smith
Mackenzie Snow
Joshua Spurlock
Jessica Tate
Victoria Tillson
Alexandra Warner
Courtney White
Jasmyn Williams
Joseph Wilson

**SPECIAL COURSES for SPRING 2010**

PS 4390 Special Topics: Judicial Decision Making with Prof. Willis, TR 2:40

*Always look for SPECIAL TOPIC courses for something new!*

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**Set to Graduate!**

Lacey Buchanan
Jodi Davidson
Brittany Davis
William Gang
Kristen Halverson
Tiffany Johnson
Brett Kennedy
Jessica Krekelor
Brittany Lafferty
James Lamb
Jasmine Landon-Staley
Gary Laubheimer
Lance McAllister
Lauren Miller
Sherman Neal
Lindsay Nollner
William Norwood
Misty O’Neal
Vivian Onwuka
Laura Pendleton
Adam Robertson
Eli Strange
William Taylor
Nicholas Teeples
Ebony Thomas
Kimberly VernierW
Warren Wells

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**The Political Science Newsletter** is a collaborative effort edited by Dr. Morris. Students, faculty and alumni are all welcome to submit any items of interest for inclusion in a future issue. Feel free to share any ideas regarding future stories or features. Send items or comments to: sdmorris@mtsu.edu

To save on costs, the *Newsletter* is made available primarily through the Department web site.

[www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/index.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/index.shtml)