Department Welcomes Dr. Zhen Wang, new assistant professor in Comparative Politics & Global Studies

The Department welcomes Dr. Zhen Wang to MTSU and to the Department. Dr. Wang received her Ph.D. this past June from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Her dissertation, “Career Ambition and Local Compliance: The Political Logic of Tourism Development Policy Implementation in China,” explores relationship between central and local government in China. She has a Master’s in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University and a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of International Relations in Beijing, China. She interned at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia while she was pursuing her Master’s degree in Public Administration.

Dr. Wang’s research focuses on the political economy of local development in China, but she has a broader scholarly interest in East Asian politics and economy, and democratization. Dr. Wang will be teaching courses in Politics of Asia and Comparative Politics and a course under Global Studies.

Department introduces Virtual Mentoring Program

Get advice from those who have come through the program before you!

They have all sat where you sit now and survived. They have taken many of the same classes, probably had some of the same professors, struggled with some of the same challenges, graduated, and today work in a wide range of fields.

They have all VOLUNTEERED to serve as virtual mentors to our current students. They are more than happy to hear from you and offer professional or even personal advice, share their thoughts about career choices and opportunities, or even share stories about their times in Peck Hall and MTSU.

Just Click on: http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/virtu almentoring.php (or follow the link on our webpage) for a list of alumni, grouped by profession, with email addresses. Send them an email. They would be glad to hear from you.
Graduates Spring & Summer 2013

PS Majors
Spring
Luis Alcocer
Michael Allen
John Angell
Stephanie Bagnall
Brittany Barefield
Clifton Barnett
Dana Bowden
Landon Brisco
Kendra Campbell
Ryan Canady
Mary Choate
Alexander Ford
Mark Fyke
Lauren Gaines
Danielle Greene
Constance Gieves
Channing Hatmaker
Joseph Huckleberry
Steven Hunter
Drost Kokoye
William Mayes
Elizabeth McKenzie
Joanna Merritt
Tamra Mezera
Alexandria Miklich
Andrew Mitchell
Danielle Mitchell
Ashley Mosby
Taiylor Mundy
Julie Murrell
Michael Reed
Ashley Rybinski
Cassiah Smith
Stephanie Smith
Daniel Stockdale
Pirjin Tayip
Joseph Traughber
Ida Turner
Andrew Vance
Todd Winters
Summer
Ashley Adams
Wesley Boyett
Kris Brown
Ryan Carson
Jordan Diaz
Chaine Dixon
Andrew Jezewski
Jacob Morphis
Joshua Nipper
George Scarbrough
Coby Sherlock
Matthew Young

IR Majors
Spring
Jihan Abdulla
Mahmud Brifkani
Latashia Cooper
Abdujabbor Djabbarov
Sameera Durani
Tyler King
Kaitlyn Huppmann

Summer
Hannah McCann
Jonathan Jorsch

New Students Fall 2014

Ebram Ibrahim (B.S. MTSU)
Jonathan Morton (MA Dallas)
Cassiah Smith (B.S. MTSU)
Bolarinaw Olaoye-Oyesola (B.S., Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)
John Peters (B.S. MTSU)
Georgianna Giampietro (B.S. Tenn. Tech; M.S.W. UTK)

New Master's Degree Students

Larsen, Tiffany M
Lawson, Austin E
Lovell, Kenneth R
Luna, Yajaira A
Luu, Nam V
Marshall, Karissa J
McDonald, Connor D
McCoy, Verrita A
McNeal, Brooklyn M
McNeal, Carley R
Mejia, Zitali Y
Mercer, Jazmin R
Michael, Jesse A
Midgett, Stevonta M
Miller, Jack V MR
Miller, Jenna L
Minor, Devarius D
Moody, Erica C
Moreland, Daniel M
Mossing, Alison N
Mullendore, Andrew D
Mutukuri, Rosetta
Newton, Nick D
O’Brian, Bradley N
Owens, Summer R
Palombo, Thomas C
Peery, Jason D
Person, Amber R
Peters, Ryan L
Prather, Elijah S
Qunitilla, Ashley J
Redmond, Desiree L
Regen, Sara M
Reif, Kendra K
Ripley, Michael A
Roney, Caleb J
Ross, Emily M
Rushing, William P
Saba, Kamal M
Sanchez, Joseph V
Schewe, Chandler A
Seitz, Jessica L
Smith, Amanda H
Smith, Presley J
Smoot, John T
Stinson, Denarius L
Thomas, Caleb D
Thomas, JaHedi N
Vaughn, Sierra T
Voloshenko, Daniel P
Wade, Rachael L
Walker, Catherine C
Warren, Nathan F
Wayne, Darneisha L
Wessels, William R
William, Hosam N
Williams, Kenneth R
Williams, Khalid R
Williams, Ryan S
Williamson, Sara J
Williford, James J
Woodard, James S
Woody, Willis H
Wysocki, Christopher T
Yah, Shee
UPCOMING Events during Fall Semester

- **New Student Orientation**, Sept 6 @ 1:00, Room 211
- **LSAT Prep Session & Practice Tests**, Sept. 11 & 21
- **Constitution Day**, September 16
- **Cuban Scholar Rodrigo Gonzalez**, Monday Sept 23, 6:00-7:30, COE 164.
- **Tennessee Supreme Court on Campus**, Oct. 1
- **Dr. Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable**, Oct. 2 @ 1:00, Honors College Room 106
- **Mark Hall**, “Should the Young Subsidize Health Care for the Old?” Oct. 7 @ 6:00 LRC 221
- **Internship and Political & Civic Engagement Workshop/Forum**, Oct. 22 @ 2:45, 221 Peck
- **Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Desjarlais TBA**
- **Valarie Kaur** will show her documentary “Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath.” Monday, November 25 @ 6:30 in BAS State Farm Room (S102), (Sponsored by Global Studies, History, Political Science)

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**Forum on Internships and the Political & Civic Engagement Minor**

- Learn about internship opportunities and the Minor in Political & Civic Engagement
- Listen to current students who have completed internships in:
  - Washington Center Program in DC
  - Tennessee State Legislature
  - Political Campaigns
  - Community organizations
  - Law and political offices

**Tuesday, October 22**

2:45
Room 221 Peck Hall

- Earn course credit
- Apply what you learn
- Develop practical skills
- EXL program

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**Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable**

Meet and hear MTSU alumni and members of the legal community speak on pre-law careers, their education and current positions.

**October 2, 1:00-2:45, Honors College Room 106**
DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Majors (Fall 2013)
- Pre-Law 178
- General Focus 93
- International Relations 64
- Teaching Licensure 23
- Public Adm. 9

New Freshman Majors 39

Graduates (Summer & Fall 2012, Spring 2013)
- 76 (BS Political Science)
- 20 (BS in International Relations)

126 Classes Taught (2012-13), including:
- 40 sections of PS 1005 and PS 1010
- 12 online courses and 3 RODP courses
- 6 Honor’s courses
- 22 EXL courses

Student Credit Hours:
- 8,388
- 237 Honors
- 665 EXL
- 370 Internships

126 Classes Taught (2012-13), including:

Major Field Test
2012-13  IR 534; PS 547
(500 is the benchmark)

With this result the Department has received the Annual Performance Award yet again.

Faculty (2012-13)
- Full Professors: 6
- Associate Professors: 7
- Assistant Professors: 3
- Full Time Temporary: 1
- Adjuncts: 9

Are you Aware of the Minor in Political and Civic Engagement?

Open to students from all majors, this eighteen credit minor will provide students an active experiential program focused on effective and sustained community engagement.

Requirements:
- PS 1005 American Politics
- PS 3550 Democratic Participation & Civic Advocacy
- 12 hours distributed among...
  - Internships
  - Study Abroad
  - Simulation Courses (mock trial, moot court, etc.)
  - Community-Based Research Practicum

For more information, check the website or contact Dr. Maynor or Dr. Morris.

Department of Political Science
STUDENT SERVICES PORTAL

Information on...

Advising, Internship, Careers, Study Abroad, Research Opportunities, and much more.

Student Handbook for Political Science and IR Majors
This past fall, the Department created new student handbooks for each major containing useful information on everything from program requirements and information on internships and student organizations to tips on writing papers. The Handbooks are available online and in the brochure rack outside the department offices.
INTERNSHIP Experiences

Whitney Flatt
During the Spring 2013 semester, I had the opportunity intern with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a bipartisan policy think tank located in Washington, D.C. Within CSIS, I worked for a department known as the Global Food Security Project, and my primary area of focus was on international development as it relates to food security. Being an intern allowed me to get a great deal of hands on experience in several areas. I acted as social media coordinator, building the Project’s online media presence; created an iTunes U course for public use, compiling three years of food security studies and events into an easily accessible online format; organized and coordinated high-level meetings for company executives, senators, and experts in the field of international development; and I also assisted in the research and organization of information for an 18-month study on genetically modified crops and their benefits and drawbacks within developing countries. Overall, my time at CSIS was exciting and eye-opening, giving me an opportunity to delve deeper into my passions of agriculture and international development. It also acted as a springboard to help me begin building my network of important contacts within the international development community. If I could count one experience as invaluable to my academic career, without a doubt, it would be my internship in Washington, D.C.

Blake Taylor
Campaigning for Eric Stewart was one of the best things I have experienced thus far in my life. Even though it got stressful at times, calling people for upwards of ten hours a day and sometimes spending all night putting up signs (no sleep at all the night before election day!) it was still a great learning experience. I made so many friendships and connections that will continue to help me, and I learned so much about how the political system works. Everybody should get a chance to intern for a campaign, it was awesome!

Broniesha Sims
I interned at Providence Community Corrections. This office supervises adult offenders that have been given a suspended sentence by the courts. They have the responsibility of making sure that each offender stays in compliance by completing public safety work, alcohol safety school, anger management and domestic violence classes, or any other court ordered conditions. My tasks were to provide assistance with intakes of new offenders, provide assistance with the facilitation of Domestic Violence and Anger Management classes, provide assistance with office duties needed for daily operation, as well as attend General Sessions court. All of the tasks that I was assigned to complete were all tasks that I had never completed before so those were new things that I learned. I also absorbed a lot of information from being the co-facilitator of the Domestic Violence and Anger Management classes. Those classes taught me information that I would have never thought I’d be interested in learning. Even though I am not a victim of domestic violence or anger management, the information I obtained may help me or help me to help someone else in the future. It is always great to gain knowledge on things that you have little or no knowledge on. I think the internship overall was a great thing to do simply because I gained experience in areas that I was new to and it was also helpful to gain courtroom experience for the first time given that I am studying to be an attorney. I can honestly say that this internship was definitely worthwhile and I would certainly recommend others to take the opportunity to participate in an internship when it is offered!
Do you want a job when you graduate?

Do you want to gain real world professional work experience?

Then you need to do at least one internship as part of your college coursework. Employers in business, government agencies, and non-profits all report that they are more likely to hire people with professional work experience or internships on their resume. In a competitive job market, giving yourself the edge may be all that it takes for YOU to land the job over someone else with similar grades, similar major, and similar background. And SUMMER is a great time to do an internship – you have more flexible time and the weather makes getting to and from the internship easier.

The Political Science Department offers several different internships to meet your needs:

**PS 4270** is for work with non-profits, interest groups, political parties, candidates for election to public office, and any sort of group that is trying to make a positive difference in the world. There are MANY of these groups in the Nashville and Murfreesboro area just begging for an intern this summer! Also, if you want to live at home this summer – whether that is in Memphis, East TN or any place on the planet, we can give you internship credit if you volunteer at a suitable organization. See this list [http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf) or Prof. Langenbach for details.

**PS 4290** is for work with any government agency – national government in Washington or national agencies that are located in Nashville, or with any State of TN offices or with any state’s government, or any local government – city, town, or county. Examples include State Department of Education or Finance, city water or planning or zoning departments, police and Homeland Security, Judges and Courts, and many more. See this list [http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf) or Prof. Langenbach for details. It is not too late to add an internship (or two!) to your summer 2013 schedule. You can get 3 or 6 credits that count toward a **PS major or minor**, an **IR major or minor**, or an **undergraduate degree**. These credits are graded, and thus may help boost your GPA as well. You may earn up to 12 credits from internship that count toward graduation, and the new minor in Political and Civic Engagement urges internship participation as well. Every 120 hours of work equals 3 upper-division credits and it gives you a valuable line on your resume and a step up toward landing that ideal job when you graduate!

Pick up a copy of the Guidelines for PS 4270 or PS 4290 internship forms that are available on the rack of Upper Division Forms in the PS offices or at [http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/politicalintern.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/politicalintern.shtml) and [http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/publicintern.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/publicintern.shtml).

Find an internship where you would be interested in spending some time, call them, arrange an interview, when they offer you the job/internship, you fill out the Application Form and give it to Prof. Langenbach or leave it in her Dept mailbox in the PS main office before May 3 (after May 3, do it by email).

Contact Prof. Langenbach for more information and to register for an internship. [Lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu](mailto:Lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu)

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**INTERNSHIP Opportunities**

**Recent Internships with ...**

- The Tennessee Legislature
- The Near East Center
- Tennessee Republican Party
- Tennessee Democratic Party
- Davidson County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Hispanic Family Center Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families
- Catholic Charities of TN, Refugee Relief Services
- National Council of La Raza
- USV International Village, in Colorado
- The Nashville International Center for Empowerment
- Nashville Conflict Resolution Center,
- Chamber of Commerce, Nashville
- June Anderson Women’s Center
- Project Vote Smart
- Department of Education, State of TN
- Human Rights Commission, State of TN
- Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk
- Among others.

68 students served in internships in 2012-13, including 12 Legislative interns and 6 interns in the Washington Center program.

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“The idea of working on Capitol Hill never crossed my mind until the MTSU political science department sent out an email encouraging students to apply for Representative Scott DesJarlais’ Washington office. I’ve always found policy making and political power intriguing, and I am also a C-SPAN nut, so I immediately was drawn to the opportunity and decided to increase my chances by applying to both Congressman DesJarlais’ and Congressman Black’s offices. ...” [Rachel Islam, who interned this past summer in DC for Representative Diane Black]
PS 4290: Public Service Internship
Jacob Morphis

Where I Interned: Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce!

Major: Political Science
Career Goal: Public Servant (It’s all about servant leadership!)

Year: Spring, 2013

What the organization does and What I did in my Internship:
The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is a liaison between the private sector – Nashville Area Business, and the public sector – our local government and state legislators. They, like any chamber of commerce are an invaluable entity for business and economic growth in the community, and businesses’ advocate for their interests and prosperity.

My job was research mainly legislative issues such as the 2nd Amendment and Dual Enrollment to help propel further the agenda of the Chamber of Commerce, whether it be to better inform their business members how legislation can affect them, or gauge the impact of certain issues on the economic wellbeing of the Nashville Area. I wrote blogs for their website, opinion editorials for later publication and memos to business members, and even assisted in contacting businesses about issues and memberships.

My Experience
I got a lot out of this experience with the Nashville Chamber. I learned research skills, how to navigate and analyze bills that have been passed, and just how to be an overall professional in the office place! I was in the middle of the education and policy branches of the Chamber and saw their day to day activities and services provided to their members. They actually lobby for the best interests of one of the biggest groups there is – businesses! Get in there, grab the job by the horns, always be available for tasks, and have fun. Because of this experience, I am highly interested in working in policy, especially education policy. I encourage all of you to apply!
Department of Political Science, Fall 2013

**INTERNSHIP Experiences, continued**

**My PS 4280 internship with Washington Center Program**

**The organization and their work**

Near East Center South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) is a part of the National Defense University that works on the development of regional relationships through Track II diplomacy. Diplomats and government officials from North Africa across the Middle East to South Asia are invited to NESA each month to take part in conferences and seminars.

**Joey Meyer**

**Stuff I did**

During my internship, I assisted in the coordination of seminars concerning a broad range of topics, including whole of government operations and measures for counterterrorism. I had the opportunity to interact with dozens of foreign officials and diplomats from several countries, including Tunisia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and the United Arab Emirates. I was able to visit several embassies and consulates, and also attended meetings on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon. The Washington Center provided many professional development seminars, including speakers from USAID and the State Department.

**What I learned from the experience**

Perhaps the most important experience I will take away from the Washington Center is the development of a better understanding of how Washington, D.C. works. The Washington Center provides a truly unique window into the complicated world of D.C. business and politics.

**Washington Center Interns — Summer Semester**

Brandon Hill - interned at the Small Business Administration

William King - interned at the Department of the Interior

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**Internship Opportunity in Pre-Law**

Political Science Department participates in a new internship opportunity for MTSU students. With the support of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, MTSU Journalism Professor Wendell Rawls will begin a project for students to intern as students of and reporters of the federal court and federal agencies in the Middle District of Tennessee. The program will draw students from Journalism, History and Political Science. Currently, six political science students may be eligible to participate each fall and each spring semester.

Students will enroll in a twelve-hour internship that includes a specific political science course. They will report to “work” each day at the Tennessean in Nashville and cover the federal courts and federal agencies under the direction of Professor Rawls who will perform the functions of a newspaper editor.

The students will compile news reports based on their observations and after editing by Professor Rawls, the reports will be considered by the Tennessean’s staff for publication in the Tennessean and other Middle Tennessee newspapers that are also owned by the Gannett Corporation, including The Dickson Herald, the Gallatin News-Examiner, the Hendersonville Star-News, the Fairview Observer, and the Ashland City Times. Its circulation area overlaps those of the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle and The Daily News Journal in Murfreesboro. For information, contact Dr. Willis.

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**INTERNERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS**

Learn about internship opportunities, hear from fellow students who have completed an internship, and learn about how to include one in your academic program.

*Tuesday, October 22  2:45 pm*

*Room TBA*
Intern in Washington, D.C.
For a semester during the 2013-14 academic year

The Tennessee Board of Regents will be offering six scholarships for MTSU students to work and study in Washington, D.C. for a semester during the Spring 2014 or Summer 2014 terms.

The internship is run through The Washington Center, a long-standing non-profit organization that supervises hundreds of interns in Washington every semester. Students are placed in an internship based on their career goals four days a week, and attend a seminar course related to their internship topic the remaining day. Students thus earn 12 hours of internship credit and 3 hours of seminar course credit. Throughout the semester, students also have the opportunity to meet and attend talks by elected officials, political reporters, campaign consultants, and so on. Students may stay in either Washington Center housing or private housing.

Scholarship Amount: The TBR scholarships are designed to cover the difference in costs between a semester here at MTSU and the semester in Washington.

Requirements:
♦ junior or senior the semester you will be in DC
♦ GPA of at least 3.0
♦ ALL MAJORS ARE WELCOME
♦ have a real interest in some aspect of public affairs

For Application Materials Visit http://www.twc.edu/prospective/getting-started
(Save an electronic copy and submit a paper copy of all the application materials to Dr. Carleton by October 14).

For more information, contact:
Dr. David Carleton
Department of Political Science
Peck Hall 245 / 898-5461
david.carleton@mtsu.edu

Intern at the Tennessee General Assembly in Spring 2014!

Full-time, paid, credit-bearing positions

Eligibility: Applicants for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program must be enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in degree programs. Many applicants major in political science, history, public relations, social work, economics, sociology, or journalism, but students in any major are welcome to apply. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

Term: For the 2014 session, interns will work from January 13 until May 2. (The appointment period will not be coterminous with the semester calendar, and school holidays such as spring break are not observed.)

Stipend: A stipend of $350 per week will be paid to each intern, plus reimbursement for travel at the rate of 46 cents per mile for one round-trip per month between MTSU and Nashville. A one-time advance payment of $350 will also be granted to each intern to help with start-up and/or relocation expenses.

Academic Credit: 12 hours of academic credit will be granted by the Department of Political Science for participation in the this program.

Duties: Interns will be assigned to work in legislative leadership offices and committees at the Legislative Plaza in Nashville from 8:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. Duties will vary from office to office, but will likely include bill analysis, constituent work, online and library research, and general office work.

Other Requirements: Interns are expected to attend weekly intern meetings, usually held on Fridays. Past speakers have included the governor, the state Attorney General, state supreme court justices, and the Tennessee Constitutional Officers. Interns also have the opportunity to tour Riverbend maximum-security prison, the State Capitol, and the Bicentennial Mall. Other activities have included a visit to the Tennessee Supreme Court, mock legislative session, and playing the legislators in basketball and softball.

Application Procedures: Interested students should contact the official faculty representative listed below for additional information and application materials. October 11, 2013 is the deadline for completed applications to be returned.

Dr. Mark Byrnes
Todd Hall 231 or Todd Hall 129
Mark.Byrnes@mtsu.edu
615-898-2534
**Students in the News**

**2012-13 DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

**Joseph Huckleberry** -- Norman L. Parks Award  
(pre-law major)

**Constance Grieves** -- C.C. Sims Award

**Clifton Barnett** -- John W. Burgess Award

**Kaitlyn Newman** -- Jack Justin Turner Award (IR major)

**Meritorious Service Award**

**Kaitlyn Newman** (Model UN)

**Kaitlin Beck** (Mock Trial and Moot Court)

**Heather Haggard** (Mock Trial)

**Michael Reed** (Moot Court)

**Mark Fyke** (Moot Court)

**Mahmud Brifkani** (Moot Court)

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**Scholarships/ Awards / Donations.**

The Department awarded over $10,000 in scholarships to students for the upcoming 2013-14 year. In the spring, the Department recognized student achievement, presenting four major award (Norman L. Parks, C.C. Sims, John W. Burgess, and Jack Justin Turner awards) and six meritorious awards for students performance in Mock Trial, Moot Court, the Model UN, and within the Department. And over the course of the year, the Department received over $8,000 in donations to various Department and Scholarship funds held by the Foundation.

**Scholarships 2013-14**

Ray Scholar – **Michael Brisbon, Jared Adams**

Harry J. Horne – **Shawn Stickney**

Normal L. Parks – **Emily Ross**

James C. Free – **Jared Adams**

Jo Ann Arnold – **Samantha Farish**

Jane Henegar Duke – **Shannon McCullough**

**Political Science Scholarships**

Don’t forget to check out the scholarship page at: [http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.shtml)

Applications are taken in late spring for the fall semester.
Tyler King successfully defended his thesis "An Examination of the Rates of Democide Found in Various Forms of Authoritarian Regimes." Mr. King is shown here with his thesis adviser, Dr. Petersen.

Kendra Campbell successfully defended her Honor's Thesis: "Medical Malpractice: A Comparative Analysis of German, English, and United States Practice." Ms Campbell is shown here with her thesis adviser, Dr. Morris.

Students in the News, continued

Kaity Newman won the Tennessee Political Science Association undergraduate paper award (and a $100 check!) for her paper "Philosophies of Justice: An Examination of Modernism and Postmodernism in Post-Genocide Rwanda." The TPSA awards a best paper award for undergraduates (with a letter of support from a faculty mentor) and an award for the best graduate paper presented at the conference. The 2014 TPSA conference will be held in Nashville on February 22, 2014. Students interested in submitting papers for the undergraduate award should contact Dr. Petersen (karen.petersen@mtsu.edu).

Adam Hinds attended annual Public Choice Outreach Conference at George Mason University this past August. Among the speakers at were Don Boudreaux, Susan Dudley, and Robin Hanson. Topics covered everything from problems and solutions with voting systems, bureaucracies, special interest groups, federalism, and everything in between. These lectures were given answering many questions in politics with resolutions from economics. Robin Hanson even went as far as proposing a post-democratic system of government based on prediction markets he calls Futarchy. "Imagine using the same tools economists use to study the economy and applying it to other facets of social science. In particular, imagine applying those rules to answer traditional problems in political science. Some scholars and economists are doing just that. They call it public choice. It’s grounded in thought from the likes of Kenneth Arrow, Duncan Black, James Buchanan, Gordon Tullock, Anthony Downs, William Niskanen, Mancur Olson, and William Riker among many others."

Recent Grads

Constance Grieves received the recently established Cafaro scholarship to attend the University of Chicago Law School. Based on a $4 million gift from Debra A. Cafaro, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ventas, Inc., is a full-tuition, three-year scholarship that will enable at least three students to obtain a legal education with no debt every year for the next nine years. Cafaro, a 1982 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, is the first member of her family to attend college, and she credits the opportunity to obtain a Chicago Law degree as a critical foundation in building a stellar business career. After practicing law for 13 years and moving into the business world as President of Ambassador Apartments, Cafaro was named CEO to turn around a deeply troubled healthcare real estate investment trust in 1999. Under her leadership, the performance of that REIT, Ventas, Inc., has been spectacular. Now the largest seniors housing and healthcare REIT in the country, Chicago-based Ventas, a S&P 500 company, has produced compound annual total shareholder return of 25.1% from 2002-2012, far outpacing the S&P 500, while its market capitalization increased from $200 million to over $20 billion.

Stephanie Bagnell began classes this fall at Savannah Law School, a branch of John Marshall Law School.

Chanera Yvonne Pierce recently accepted a fully-funded, Ford Fellowship offer to attend the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). She will begin in the fall. Prior to the fall, she served with AmeriCorps VISTA, University of Illinois, Springfield. MTSU, BS in Political Science 2012.

Alexander Ford received a public interest fellowship to attend law school at UMASS-Dartmouth. He begins in the fall. The fellowship requires that he work in the public sector for four years following graduation.

Paul Richards will begin a graduate program at Indiana University in Second Language Studies. He received a TA position with tuition remission, health insurance, and a $15,000 stipend.

Alexandria Miklich is beginning a master's degree in Political Science at New York University.

Patrick Morrison is beginning law school this fall at the University of Tennessee.
Student Organizations

Moot Court

During the Spring Semester, the MTSU Moot Court team participated at the national tournament, making it to the Round of 16. Kaitlin Beck and Constance Grieves had the best showing of the four MTSU teams competing. Sam Farish and Clark Palombo also made it to the Moot Court playoffs.

This year, our Moot Court team has been invited to two regionals, one competition is the California Fall Classic hosted by California State University at Long Beach. The Club secured $2000 from Belmont Law school to help with travel costs and with use of their moot courtroom. Belmont is also serving as guest justices for nights the team is there. The other invitational is the Southeast Atlantic Invitation in Arkansas hosted by Arkansas State University. Our regional competition is in Orlando where we will be defending champs.

Mock Trial

MTSU Mock Trial has started this season with over thirty students and four teams planning to compete this fall. Last year the team, made it to the Opening Round Championship Series in Memphis, TN before the season ended. Each fall, Mock Trial is offered as a class (PS2100) open to all students regardless of major or year. The team’s coaching staff includes Dean John Vile of the Honors College, local attorneys Shiva Bozarth and Brandi Snow, and graduate student Rachel Harmon. This semester the program will travel to Saint Louis, MO for the Annual Arch Invitational hosted by Washington University and to Louisville, KY for the Kentucky Classic hosted by Bellarmine University. Each November, MTSU Mock Trial hosts the Annual Mid-South Invitational, one of the largest invitationals in the nation that will welcome teams to campus from across the country. The team attends these invitationals to prepare for the competitive season that begins with the Regional Tournament in Jackson, MS in February and ends with the National Championship Tournament in Orlando, FL in April.

Model United Nations

In the Spring Semester 2013, MTSU Model United Nations attended the First Annual Emory Model United Nations Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. At the conference, MTSU delegates represented various countries and political personalities on a number of committees modeling historical events, such as the Yugoslav Wars and the Antebellum South. This semester, MTSU Model UN will be attending the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. MTSU delegates will serve on a variety of committees, from large plenary sessions to smaller committees focusing on specific international crises.
ISRAEL

This summer, Drs. Brynes and Petersen led a study abroad program to Israel. Students learned about the country of Israel through presentations, journeys and visits throughout the nation. Student feedback offers a sense of the experience:

Rhi Brown
This was an amazing trip, and I was completely surprised at the sheer volume of knowledge and experiences that can be gained in ten days. I would recommend it to anyone because it really is an interdisciplinary experience. I can see it being applicable to a huge variety of majors and it was an extremely valuable opportunity for me.

Elizabeth Chitwood
I would highly recommend studying abroad to every student. Traveling is a wonderful, eye-opening experience, and it will never be more affordable or convenient as right now. I could write an essay over why they should choose this trip specifically, but I will try to be succinct. The history and information is astounding. You actually get to sit in a Roman theatre! You touch columns and structures built thousands of years ago. One can imagine and understand the trade routes, conflicts, and civilizations that surround and fill the country. It makes the Bible (or Koran, I suppose) come to life in a way I would not have believed. I learned so much as a believer, but also as a person. Where else would I get a chance to barter a boy vendor on some harem pants in two different currencies at once? I had so much fun, and it was very meaningful. I made lots of new friends, and even a proposal to stay for all the camels I wanted. My own misconceptions (many of which I had no inkling) were quickly corrected, and I am only now, talking with people from home afterwards, realizing how pervasive these misconceptions are throughout society. This was an extremely valuable, fun learning experience, and I cannot wait to help correct these misconceptions and further educate society.

Israel Study Abroad 2014
The summer 2014 trip will take place July 15-25. Interested students should contact Dr. Petersen for more information.

Study Abroad Info Sessions

Three Information Sessions will be held during the Fall 2013 semester. Info Sessions provide very general information for students who just want to learn the basics and are typically only beneficial to students who have NOT already participated in an individual advising session in the Office of Education Abroad.

INFO SESSIONS, Student Union, Room 221
✓ Wednesday, September 25th, 2:00pm
✓ Tuesday, October 22nd, 2:00pm
✓ Thursday, November 14th, 2:00pm

Office of Education Abroad
www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad
STUDY ABROAD REPORTS

ISRAEL

Report from Whitney Flatt
This summer I was fortunate enough to take part in MTSU’s faculty-led study abroad program to Israel. The ten-day trip centered on the political, religious, and social aspects of Israeli society as well as on international issues encountered by the country. Led by Political Science professor, Dr. Karen Petersen, and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Mark Byrnes, our group of nineteen students explored various historically significant sites throughout the northern and central parts of the country.

Our journey started along the Mediterranean coast, taking us to places such as the Roman stronghold of Caesarea. We then spent several days hiking the fertile plains of the Galilean Valley, getting a history lesson on Israel’s independence, settlement, and advances over the last 60 years. We ventured into the Golan Heights to spy Syria from a distance, explored the fortress of Masada, floated in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea, and our journey was then capped off by a three-day trek through Jerusalem, easily one of the most diverse and electric cities on the planet. Everything we encountered along the way—all the sights, sounds, people, food—gave us a new appreciation for this rich and thriving country.

As an international relations major, I can say without a doubt that this trip to Israel was probably one of the most necessary and revealing trips I could have taken. Although my time in the country was only a mere ten days, the experience was highly informative, as it clarified and corrected many preconceived notions I had developed via western media as well as in my academic career. If I could give one piece of advice to other students interested in Israel, international politics, and the Middle East, it is this—go. You have to go to know. Studying in Israel made me more objective and well-rounded in my understanding of the country and nineteen students explored various historically significant sites.

Israel Study Abroad 2014
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THE TOP Majors STUDYING ABROAD in 2012-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Global Studies</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mass Communication</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Foreign Language</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. English</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Political Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Research

Mohamed Basra published “Is the feminist critique of liberalism successful?” in the Belgrade International Conference Journal, 2011;


Dr. Lefler’s spring PS 4210 International Conflict class did poster presentations of their research. Students applied theories to case studies. Topics ranged from conflict cycles in countries to the impact of domestic politics on foreign policy behavior in Argentina and North Korea.

Mark Hooper is shown with his research on the impact of the intent to intervene on the duration of a conflict.

Mahmud Brifkani won first prize in scholars week poster competition with his research “Islamic Law in International Relations: A Case Study of Iran and the Conflict over its Nuclear Program.”

Shown here with Dr. Lefler, Simeon Ayton’s research focused on the role of domestic politics in shaping policy in Falklands Island.

Check later our Red Peck Hall for a display of Research Posters from PS/IR students.
Promoting Student Research

Political Science and International Relations majors are strongly encouraged to engage in undergraduate student research, and to take advantage of the opportunities to secure funding and to present their research. Faculty are available to work with students through independent research courses to help develop research skills and projects. Students might also consider presenting research done as part of an upper-division course.

The Department currently offers students two independent research options for credit:

**PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 credit hours).** In this class, students work with a community-based organization on a practical research project designed in part by the organization.

**PS 4970 Undergraduate Research (1-6 credit hours).** Students pursue their own topics and fields of concentration under the supervision of a political science faculty member. Working with the faculty member, the student will design and conduct independent research, with the final paper presented at a conference or a public forum on campus.

Opportunities at MTSU to Present Research

**Scholars Week**
Scholars week includes departmental / college events in discipline-specific venues for presentation of graduate, undergraduate, and faculty scholarship, such as:

- Oral Presentations
- Multimedia presentations
- Posters
- Performances
- Kick-off Luncheon
- Demonstrations
- Speakers
- University-Wide Exposition - The celebration culminated in a University-wide showcase of posters, multimedia, and performance.

For more information, visit: [http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars_week.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars_week.shtml)

**Social Science Symposium.** Conducted annually in the fall, the Social Science Symposium features student research at MTSU. The event includes a student paper competition and guest speakers. For more information visit [http://www.mtsu.edu/soc/sosymp/index.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/soc/sosymp/index.shtml)

**Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research.**
Scientia et Humanitas publishes original undergraduate and graduate research from the natural and social sciences and from the humanities. Articles are now being accepted for the 2011-12 issue from MTSU students and recent graduates either by themselves or in conjunction with a faculty mentor. Articles may be submitted through the online submission system at their website, [www.mtsu.edu/~scientia](http://www.mtsu.edu/~scientia).

**MTSU’s Undergraduate Research Center** is an umbrella organization at MTSU, created in 2004 to promote research at the undergraduate level to students, faculty, administrators, and legislators, and to provide university support for undergraduate students and the faculty members who mentor them in scholarly and creative activities. Their web site contains information on grants, [http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/index.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/index.shtml)

Why should an undergraduate do research?

* Nurtures your curiosity
* Integrates coursework through ‘hands-on’ projects
* Creates independence
* Resume-builder
* Great preparation for graduate school, where a main goal is a research project
* Develops ‘soft skills’ important for entering into and succeeding in the job market
**Faculty Updates/News**

Dr. DiPaolo authored the case for the American Collegiate Moot Court Association that will be used in next year’s national Moot Court competition.

Dr. Franklin was appointed to the Committee on the Status of African Americans in the South by the Southern Political Science Association.

Dr. Korobkov was invited to serve as US Co-Chair of the US-Russia Civil Society Partnership Program’s Working Group on Migration.

Dr. Tesi served as an expert consultant to the African Development Bank’s Institute’s “Ideas and Knowledge” seminar for the Bank’s top level Development Officials in November and was invited by the Operations Department of the African Development Bank in Tunis to review its Strategy Paper.

Dr. Vanessa Lefler spoke at the Rotary Club luncheon in March 2013. She is talking to Daily News Journal Editor Clay Morgan.

**Recent Faculty Publications**


- **Petersen** (with coauthors Scott Seipel, Tim Graeff, Becky Alexander, Carol Boraiko, Joey Gray, Kim Sandler, and Ryan Otter) “Comparing student and faculty perceptions of online and traditional courses.” Forthcoming in *The Internet and Higher Education*.


**Scholarly Presentations**

Department Faculty presented research in 2012-13 at: the Australian and Pacific Association of African Studies (Tesi), International Political Science Association (Vernardakis), the International Studies Association (Korobkov, Lefler, Livingston), a special conference on Labor Migration in Eurasia at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, a conference on Mexican politics at American University (Morris), at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Korobkov), the Midwestern Political Science Association (Lefler, Maynor, McDaniel), and the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies (Morris).

**Grants and Funding**

- Dr. Livingston received a $42,000 Energy Foundation grant to explore international competitiveness of clean technology in Tennessee.
- Dr. Lefler obtained a MTSU FRCAC research grant for $4,781 to support the project “Testing Multiple Waters: A Cross-National Analysis of Interstate Conflict Management Bargain Shopping.”
- Dr. Maynor received a Summer Research Grant to write a paper on Cosmopolitan Republicanism.
- Dr. Korobkov acquired a year-long grant from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science for a Foreign-Based Russian Project Director, a Russian World Foundation Travel Grant, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, a Rhodes Forum Travel Grant, a Russian International Studies Association Travel Grant, and a Carnegie Foundation grant.
Alumni Updates/News

IR Graduate Receives Prestigious Charges B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship

IR graduate Patrick Pratt has received a 2013 Rangel International Fellowship. Extremely competitive, the award includes many benefits, including: up to $20,000 annually toward tuition for a two-years masters program; a stipend up to $15,000 per year, an 11 week internship on Capitol Hill; a 10 week overseas internship in a US Embassy; assistance in preparing for a career with the foreign service; among others. Patrick is the first graduate from a Tennessee university to receive this honor.

Aaron Shew has received the Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Arkansas to pursue a PhD in Environmental Dynamics. The fellowship covers tuition expenses for four years and pays a decent living wage, as well. He was offered funded placements at CU-Boulder and UC Santa Cruz doctoral programs, but after much deliberation decided that the offer from the University of Arkansas was indubitably the best fit for his research interests. Aaron will become an expert in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) during the first two years, completing an MA in Geography. Then, he will carry out dissertation research using GIS to assess various food insecurity issues, such as the tensions between natural resource management, sustainability, and industrialization. He hopes this research will help practitioners and policy makers become more effective at reducing food insecurity and provide solutions for natural resource management in the developing world.

Matthew Hurt works in Washington as a copywriter for Response America ["I write direct mail fundraising copy for high-profile Republican candidates and committees. In my two years on staff, I’ve raised more than $2 million for candidates for Congress and the Committees (RNC, NRCC, NRSC)"]; and as a Guest Lecturer for the Leadership Institute ["I have trained thousands of conservative/libertarian activists nationwide through LI, a non-partisan, non-profit educational organization. Topics include: grassroots organizing, conservative activism (with a focus toward on-campus activism), handling media, campaign strategy"]). He also served as an At-Large Delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa from Virginia and writes for a number of outlets, including (if my editor would get the lead out) Reason Magazine.

Cynthia J. Cline (1984 B.A. major political science) served as Co-Counsel at trial and appeal for Prosper Mugiraneza who was the former Minister of Civil/Public Service in Rwanda and who was charged with genocide before the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda located in Arusha, Tanzania along with her team obtained an acquittal for Mr. Mugiraneza. At trial. Mugiraneza received 30 years. He was acquitted by the Appeals Chambers on February 4, 2013. Ms Cline was the Norman L. Parks Scholar winner in 1979 and also President of the MTSU Pre Law Society.

Thomas Harter “Just to fill you in on my status in graduate school, I am currently looking to transfer from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and seek a Masters degree at some other schools that are more along the lines of my interest in aviation.

This fall, Adam Emerson started his Ph.D. program in political psychology at Washington State University.

Jeffery S. Roberts (’93 B.S Political Science) will be attending a month long course at Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming. He was the only person from Tennessee to be selected. Mr. Roberts’ law partner attended this course last summer, so upon my graduation they will be the only two man law firm in Nashville who will have both attorneys as graduates.

Alumni interested in participating in the Department’s VIRTUAL MENTORING PROGRAM, please contact Dr. Morris (Stephen.morris@mtsu.edu).
Update from Karissa Senn, Staff Intern, Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law:

“January's Symposium was a wild success. We had over 350 in attendance to the three day event, and our panelists addressed issues related to foster care, adoption, child welfare systems, human trafficking, and juvenile justice. I got to meet some phenomenal people at the state, national, and international level. I made some friends with some British Parliament folks who are working on policy reform, the founder and CEO of Hope for Justice and one of the founders of the A21 Campaign Ukraine branch. Locally, I made a friend with the Consortium Chairman for the Fatherhood initiative in Virginia Beach. I also got an offer to be hosted in Rajasthan, India at a medical services NGO if I choose to return for a summer. The networking through these work events has been more than I could have dreamed, and it’s so exciting! Though there is a lot of grunt work involved, being the intern and main point of contact for events has had excellent perks.

Law school wise, I got accepted into Regent and Belmont (still no word from Vanderbilt) and was offered a 63% tuition remission at Regent, and 67% at Belmont, so I’ve decided to come back to Nashville. Hope for Justice is in the works of opening a satellite office in Nashville, and we are dear personal friends of the Abolition International Shelter Association, so I know that I can get plugged in with great experience just as much as the ABA will let me. I’m still considering applying for Regent’s summer in Strasbourg program after my 2L year, but I don't feel like I'll be missing out too much by coming back even if it is to a new program. It’s a very exciting time. I’m more and more glad every day that I decided to take the gap year between undergrad and law school. I know it’s not the right choice for everyone, but I have had nothing but opened doors in exchange for my experiences.

Larry Cox '68 (B.S. in Political Science)
Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the Community

Larry Cox is a well-known volunteer and philanthropist in the Knoxville area. The list of his nonprofit involvement is very lengthy as are his awards. He is the owner of Homestead Egg Co., Chicken City and Cox Family Leasing. He is also a field representative for Congressman John Duncan. He was nominated several times this year and had over 10 letters of recommendation including letters from Governor Haslam and the mayor of Knoxville.

Aaron Carlton '05 (B.S. in Foreign Language/International Relations)
Young Alumni Achievement Award

After serving in the Army, Aaron joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer. While serving in Uganda, he drafted the Department of State's annual reports on human rights, human trafficking, child labor and religious freedom. He also assisted the Ugandan government in starting their own Prevention of Trafficking office and task force. Aaron moved on to serve as a reporting officer and advisor at the United Nations in NYC. He is currently in training for his next assignment as a Consular Officer in Venezuela.

PS/IR Alumni to Receive MTSU Alumni Awards

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Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the Community

Larry Cox

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Newsletter
Stay Informed
Stay Connected

Students who are the most successful—in their courses, graduating on time, finding jobs and developing careers in the field, getting into law school and graduate school, and just getting the most out of their college years—are those that stay informed about all of the opportunities and events they can take advantage of, and stay connected to the Department and other students.

Please use these resources to both stay informed and stay connected—and succeed.

MTSU Political Science Facebook Page
We use Facebook to notify our students of upcoming events and opportunities for PS and IR majors and minors.

Please “like” the page so you are always in the loop.

Department of Political Science Web Page
This is a huge resource of information on majors, minors, program requirements, faculty contacts, the Student Handbook, Newsletters, and much more.

Please bookmark the site and check it often and whenever you have questions.
http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

PS / IR Student Services Page
This site provides easy access to info on advising, law school, grad school, careers and job search, study abroad, internships, and much more to help you succeed.

Please bookmark the site and really use it to get the most out of your time in the Department.
http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-student-services

Low-Tech, Physical Communication
Much of this information—program requirements, Student Handbook, Newsletters, upcoming events, and so on—are available on the racks and bulletin board outside

What skills do employers consider important?
♦ Work ethic
♦ Oral communication skills
♦ Motivation
♦ Ability to work with others
♦ Problem solving skills
♦ Adaptability/flexibility
♦ Written communication skills
♦ Decision making
♦ Understand / use technical information
♦ Creativity
♦ Potential to lead or guide others*

* Timothy R. Graeff, “MTSU, Employer Satisfaction Focus Groups, Fall 2012/Spring 2013”