POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Department Welcomes Dr. Vanessa Lefler, new assistant professor in International Relations

Dr. Lefler recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. Her major fields of interest are international relations and formal theory. Her research explores the intersection of international security and the use of intergovernmental institutions. The dissertation, *Bargaining for Peace? Strategic Forum Selection in Interstate Conflict Management*, examines states' strategies in the management of contentious, interstate disputes. It asks why third party management, notably legal arbitration and adjudication, is relatively rare in interstate conflict, despite its well-established success. Through a combination of formal bargaining models and laboratory experiments, she concludes that third party management is rare because states broker bilateral agreements that emulate the features of successful third party tactics. Her current research builds on this work by expanding the scope of her experimental analyses and studying applications to other types of conflict (e.g., civil conflict). Over the summer, Dr. Lefler traveled to China to conduct experimental field research. This semester, Dr. Lefler is teaching PS 3210 International Relations and PS 4860 advanced topics course on Resolving Conflict in World Politics. She will also be teaching international law, and a graduate courses on conflict resolution.

Department Launches new Master's degree in International Affairs

Fall semester marks the beginning of the new graduate program in International Affairs. Nine students make up the initial class, and the Department is conducting three 6000 level courses: PS 6100 Seminar in International Relations (Dr. Tesi), PS 6200 Seminar in Comparative Politics (Dr. Morris) and PS 6500 Research Methods (Dr. Livingston). Students are also taking cross-listed 4000/5000 level courses in State Violence and Terrorism, Russian Politics, and American Foreign Policy.

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www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

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Congratulations

Graduates Spring & Summer 2012

PS Majors

Raven Adair
Michael Bennett
Katherine Bogle
Brandon Chapman
Brittney Crass
Janina Crenshaw
Charles Davis
Jamie Demonbreun
Spencer Douglas
James Edwards
Micah Fouse
Brian Gendron
Ashleigh Gwynn
Julia Hale
Stephen Harford
Kayla Hawkersmith
Alan Herd
Brittany Hurt
Tera Jaynes
Kristin Johnson
Kara Jones
Regina Jones
Robert King
Lukasz Krahel
Davis Lane
Jason Lewis
Jade Linstead
Brandon Lippman
Osmin Majano
Michael Major
Bobby Matthews
De'Antwaine Moye
Jameson Moyer
Amanda Mullins
Jasmine Newsom
William O'Keefe
Maja Opacic
Allison Otting
Sara Page
Eric Pegues
Mariah Phillips
Chanera Pierce
James Plunkett
Catherine Poole
Lisa Riggs
Courtnei Secrest
Eric Sharp
Tiffany Sherrill
Chelsea Smith
Brigette Sullivan
Liala Syler
Melvin Taylor
Brandon Thomas
Erik Villegas
Cristine Vincent
Rodrequez Watson
Bradley Weber
Ken Williams
Patrick Womac

IR Majors

John Colley
Jason Davis
Mandy Davis
Kace Dekock
Denis Duka
Adam Emerson
Rachel Harmon
Thomas Harter
Nathaniel Ives
Daniel Messer
Kahin Mohammad
Alexander Mosley
Colton Parr
Alexandra Pedraza- Romero
Bonner Secrest
Harrison Scoville
Karissa Senn
Alyssa Watkins
Spencer Williamson

New Master's Degree Students

Jason Courtoy (MTSU)
Rachel Harmon (MTSU)
Balen Jalal (U of Kurdistan-Hewler)
Paige Kauffelt (U of Kentucky)
Alexander Mosely (MTSU)
Maja Opacic (MTSU)
James Griffin (UT Martin)
Gabrielle Thompson (MTSU)
Nathaniel Johnson (MTSU)

Welcome

New Students Fall 2012

Anderson, Mary J
Beckworth, Courtney
Becton, William
Bennett, Kaleigh
Bouttavong, Southida
Butts, Dominique N
Clark, Samyria F
Culbertson, Samuel R
Davis, Alexandria M
Davis, Sheneka L
Deal, Jesse L
Eke, Wesley O
Everette, Alisha M
Fisher, Ivan H
Foster, Johnathan L
Garza, Juan M Jr
Goza, Jacob C
Griffen, William A
Griffith, Jonathan G
Hawks, Madeline A
Hickerson, Tiffany L
Johnson, Preston J
Jones, DeAngelo R
Judkins, Alison E
Lowe, Christy L
Loyd, Alvin Jr.
Mcdowell, Charles R Jr.
Nevens, Ryan S
Osborne, Riley O
Paige, Cierra S
Patton, Matthew S
Praino, Michael A
Randolph, Valencia S
Reason, Caitlin A
Redmond, Desiree L
Reed, Taylor P
Rone, Kelsey M
Sanders, Colina L
Satchell, Andrew J
Schilling, Joseph R
Scott, William C
Sharpe, McKenzie E
Singleton, Krystal A
Smith, Edrell L
Soto, Sarah
Stanfield, Morgan L
Stubbs, Matthew S
Syler, Emily L
Tang, Melody L
Turner, Tyrany B
Walker, Alicia B
Warren, Robert S
Wayne, Darneisha L
Westmoreland, John
White, Mercedes M
Willard, Amber N
Williams, Jacob D
Wilson, Tony D

UPCOMING Events during Fall Semester

- ***Constitution Day, September 15***
- **Internship Workshop, Wednesday, September 26 , 3:45 pm (Room 221 Peck)**
- ***"Negative Advertising in Campaigns" October 23, Presentation 3:00-4:00 and Panel Discussion 4:30-5:45.***
- **Election Night Watch Party, Tuesday, November 6, New Student Union Ballroom**

Department of Political Science
Presents ...

Internship Workshop

- Learn about internship opportunities in the Department
- 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

Wednesday, September 26
3:45
Room 221 Peck Hall

✓ *Earn course credit*
✓ *Apply what you learn*
✓ *Develop practical skills*
✓ *Network*

The Washington Center

Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts
Presents ...

Negative Advertising in Campaigns

Presentation and Panel Discussion

- Dr. John Geer, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University
- Kent Syler, Department of Political Science, MTSU
- Hon. Bart Gordon, former member of the House of Representatives

Tuesday, October 23
Presentation: 3:00-4:00
Panel Discussion: 4:30-5:45
Room TBA

ELECTION NIGHT WATCH PARTY

NOV. 6 IN THE NEW STUDENT UNION

WATCH FOR FLYERS AND ANNOUNCE-MENTS ON DETAILS

DEPRARTMENT PROFILE

Majors (Fall 2012)
Pre-Law 192
General Focus 82
International Relations 71
Teaching Licensure 17
Public Adm. 16
New Freshman Majors 68

378

Graduates (Fall 2011-Summer 2012)
96 (BS Political Science)
29 (BS in International Relations)

125

Classes Taught (2011-12): **137**

Student Credit Hours:
8, 474 (4,175, fall 2011; 4,242, spring 2012)
333 Honors
623 EXL
316 Internships

- ✓ **19 on-line courses & 2 RODP courses**
- ✓ **6 Honor's courses**
- ✓ **21 EXL courses**
- ✓ **49 students in internships (fall/spring/summer)**
- ✓ **24 students in study abroad**

Major Field Test
2011-12 **IR: 572; PS 545**
2010-11 **IR: 584; PS: 533** ***(500 is the benchmark)***

Faculty (2012-13)
Full Professors: 5
Associate Professors: 8
Assistant Professors: 2
Full Time Temporary: 2
Adjuncts: 10

17

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

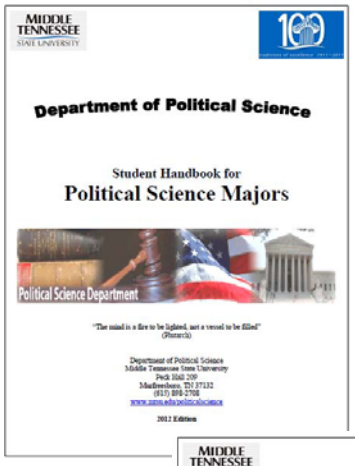
Open to students from all majors, this eighteen credit minor will provide students an active experiential program focused on effective and sustained community engagement.

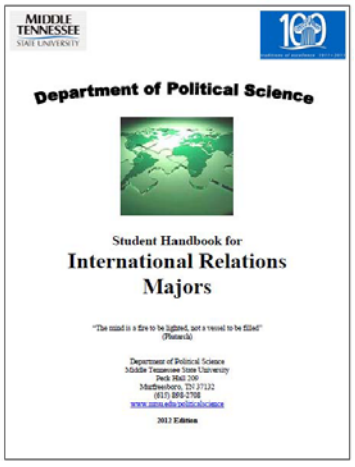
Requirements:
PS 1005 American Government
PS 3550 Democratic Participation& Civic Advocacy
and the remaining 12 hours distributed among...
-1- **Community-Based Research Practicum**
-2- **Internships**
-3- **Study Abroad**
-4- **Skills and Simulation Courses**

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

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 on-line and in the brochure rack outside the department offices.





INTERNSHIPS

Getting Your Feet Wet by Doing an Internship:

Internships are a proven way to gain relevant knowledge, skills, and experience while establishing important connections in the field. Internships are also a way to get your feet wet and find out if a specific field is something you could see yourself doing as a full-time job. Internships may be completed during fall or spring semester or full time over the course of the summer. Unpaid internships may be easier to get but may also pose problems if making money is necessary, especially during the summer. The problem is there are many who cannot afford to work for nothing so that they are forced into doing menial jobs such as wait staff or bartending in order to work their way through college. This may preclude some from doing an internship which may really be a detriment when hoping to get a full-time job.
(from "Is an Internship Really that Important" by Penny Loretto at About.com)

Intern Activity 2011-12

(Fall 2011 through summer 2012)

- Amanda Mullins—Gov Bill Haslam Scheduling Office
- Summer Bright—Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk
- Matt Clyde – Global Fire Organization
- Latashia Kasumi Cooper—(in Japan) teaching English and American culture with English Club
- Michael Abdelnour – Siloam Family Health Center
- Eric Sharp – Young Americans for Liberty
- Wesley Brooks Boyette – Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Dept
- Lauren Campbell – Connor Moss for Murfreesboro City Council
- Jason Lewis – Town of Bell Buckle TN
- Taylor Cheney – Rutherford County General Sessions Court
- Patrick Belton – Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Andrew Mitchell -- Connor Moss for Murfreesboro City Council, Campaign Manager
- Jade Linstead – WSMV-TV news, WKRN-TV news (political news reporting)
- Garrett Crowell – Democratic Party of TN
- Jasmin Gardner -- Democratic Party of TN
- Chad Sweeton – Dickerson for State Senate Committee
- Nejib Adem – Catholic Charities of TN, Refugee Relief services
- Jared Adams -- Dickerson for State Senate Committee
- Bettina Zengotita -- Catholic Charities of TN, Refugee Relief services
- Patrick Morrison – USV International Village, in Colorado
- Boby Matthews – Dyer County Circuit Court Clerk
- Tammy Mezera – PJ Mezera for School Board
- Sierra Baker – Obama for America

Internship 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.

Wednesday, September 26.
3:45 pm
Room 221 Peck Hall

Best and Worst Majors for your Career ???

We did not make Kiplinger's list of "10 worst college majors for your career"
http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/10-worst-college-majors-for-your-career/1.html#top

Then again, we did not make Kiplinger's list of the 10 best college majors for your career" either.
http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/10-best-college-majors-for-your-career/1.html

INTERNSHIPS

Report from an intern

Patrick Morrison
"I had the opportunity this summer to work with CISV International (formerly known as Children's International Summer Villages) by serving as staff at a Village program (a four week long camp for eleven-year olds focused on peace education) in Denver, Colorado. At this camp we had thirteen countries (Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the USA). Every activity included ways for participants to improve communication, break down barriers (cultural and language), increase global awareness, and each activity worked around CISV's four education content areas: diversity, human rights, conflict and resolution, and sustainable development. I engaged in several service projects working in river clean ups and with other area non-profit organizations. Each week improves group trust and cooperation to provide the participants with the adequate attitude, skills, and knowledge to be agents of change. This was a great opportunity, and I strongly encourage others to participate in similar programs."

Internships

The **Department of Political Science** offers a number of internships for students interested in applying what they are learning to real world situations. Departmental internships currently include the following:

- ✓ Tennessee Legislative Internship (PS 4360) (Spring Semester only)
- ✓ The Washington Center program (PS 4280)
- ✓ Paralegal (PLEG 4010)
- ✓ Pre-Law (PS 4040)
- ✓ Political Campaign (PS 4270)
- ✓ Public Service (PS 4290)

Availability . Internship opportunities vary from semester to semester. Students enroll in the Legislative Internship program in the spring (applications are usually due in early October). Other internships may be more suitable for summers. Students are typically expected to enroll in internships in the semester in which they are taking them. Students who receive course credit for internships pay regular tuition and fees.

Credit . Internships vary in the amount of credit available. The department typically expects 120 hours of on-site work for each three hours of credit earned, with full-time work required for twelve hours of credit. Internship directors may consider both the quantity and the nature of the work in deciding on course credit. Students who take twelve-hour internships typically may apply only six hours of credit to the major; the remaining hours are used as elective to be counted toward the 120 hours needed to graduate.

Prerequisites . Most internships have prerequisites, including grade point averages. Students participating in internships should recognize that they represent not only themselves but the University.

Finding Internship Opportunities . The department has some recurring internship opportunities for which students can apply, but students often locate other such opportunities on their own. In the latter cases, students are responsible for getting prospective approval of the departmental director of the internship before beginning work or signing up for course credit.

Internship Portfolio. All students completing a PS 4290-Public Service Internship, PS 4270-Political Campaign Internship, and PS 4040-Pre-Law Internship will complete an online portfolio to help them plan for and gain academic and professional insights from their internship experience. The components of the portfolio will be completed within D2L throughout the semester.

Spring 2012

- ✓ **Mandy Davis** (IR major) - worked at The Protection Project, an NGO focusing on human trafficking.
- ✓ **Jason Davis** (IR major) - worked at the Institute of International Education.

Summer 2012

- ✓ **Mahmud Brifkani** (IR major) - worked at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, and also had a separate scholarship and program through the Center for Global Understanding
- ✓ **Mark Fyke** (Pre-Law major) - worked at the White House Office of Drug Policy.
- ✓ **Sergio Zazueta** (CJ major, PS minor) - he worked as a Physical Security Specialist at the National Archives.

Internship Report by Mahmud Brifkani
Washington Center, Summer 2012

My summer internship in Washington DC with the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) was truly an amazing experience that I will never forget. NESA is a government strategic center that works to promote dialogue between the United States and countries in the Near East and South Asia region. As an intern, I got to work with a number of distinguished ambassadors and professors that do research in the field of International Relations. However, my internship was not the only thing that my experience unforgettable. I was also fortunate enough to have a meeting with Congressman Jim Cooper, from Tennessee's 5th congressional district. We had a nice talk about the Kurdish situation in the Middle East. I visited many governmental agencies and departments such as the Pentagon, the State Department, USAID, the Department of Justice, the White House, the U.S Capitol building, and my favorite, the Supreme Court. In addition, I attended many great talks held by think tanks and advocacy groups. On one lucky occasion, I attended the Memorial Day tribute to our fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery where President Obama gave a speech. Doing the internship through the Washington Center program was also important because it added an academic aspect to my experience that was useful. The program included an academic course, a civic engagement project, professional development workshops, and a portfolio that brought it all together. But most importantly, being in Washington DC showed me that there many opportunities for me to seek after graduation. Doing an internship was essential for me and I would encourage all students to do one as well.

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.

The Washington Center

Intern in Washington, D.C. For a semester during the 2011-2012 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 2012 or Summer 2012 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.

(see list of past internships, p. 7)

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
- a 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 7.)

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 2013!

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 2013 session, interns will work from January 7 until May 31, or one week after the adjournment of the session, whichever occurs first. (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 8, 2012** is the deadline for completed applications to be returned.

Dr. Mark Byrnes
Todd Hall 231
Mark.Byrnes@mtsu.edu
615-898-2534

Learn more about the Tennessee General Assembly at www.capitol.tn.gov

Congratulations

Students in the News

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- ✓ **Katie Bogle** (POSC) -- Recipient of the President's Award
- ✓ **Adam Emerson** (IR) -- Recipient of the Provost's Award & Fulbright Award

2012 DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Kristin Johnson
— Norman L. Parks Award
Lisa Riggs
— C.C. Sims Award
Marianne Hoover
— John W. Burgess Award
Adam Emerson
— Jack Justin Turner Award

Meritorious Service Awards:
Lisa Riggs (Dept);
Rachel Harmon (Mock Trial);
Jacob Butler (Moot Court);
Yasser Arafat (Moot Court);
Kristin Johnson (Moot Court);
Alexander Smith (Model UN).

Seniors again earn the Department Academic Performance Recognition for their scores on the Major Field Test in 2011-12

Congratulations to the top 5 scores

- ✓ James Edwards (POSC-Pre-Law) -- 720 (99%)
- ✓ Colton Parr (IR) -- 703 (98%)
- ✓ Rachel Harmon (IR) -- 690 (97%)
- ✓ Lawrence Richardson (POSC-General) -- 685 (97%)
- ✓ Chelsea Curtis (POSC-Pre-Law) & Alexander Smith (IR) -- 678 (96%)

Scholarships 2012-13

Ray Scholar – **Riley Osborne**
Harry J. Horne – **Joseph Meyer**
Normal L. Parks – **J.D. Thompson**
James C. Free – **Michael Praino**
Jo Ann Arnold – **Lucas Osborne**
Jane Henegar Duke – **Jared Adams**

Scholarships/ Awards / Donations.
The Department awarded over $10,000 in scholarships to students for the upcoming 2012-13 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 $2,859 in donations to various Department and Scholarship funds held by the Foundation.

Political Science Scholarships
Don't forget to check out the scholarship page at:
http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.shtml

Applications are taken in late spring for the fall semester.

Students in the News, continued...

This fall IR student **Kaity Newman** will participate in SIT's Study Abroad program ***Rwanda: Post-Genocide Restoration and Peacebuilding***. This program examines the origins of conflict in Rwanda; the social, human, and psychological impacts of genocide; and the challenges and opportunities of post-conflict restoration. Students learn from Rwandan and Ugandan academics as well as local and international professionals working in the areas of transitional justice, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconciliation. The program also includes field visits to genocide memorials, museums, and commissions working toward reconciliation. Students also learn about post-conflict reconciliation in a very different context during the program's two-week excursion to northern Uganda. Students live with a Rwanda family in Kigali during their 6 week stay. For more information on this program

http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/ssa_rwr.cfm?

Jason Courtoy, graduate student in the new International Affairs program, will be presenting his paper "Global Penetration and State Repression in Asia" at the Georgia Political Science Annual Conference this November in Savannah. Jason crafted his paper in Dr. Carleton's PS 5070 Violence and Terrorism class this summer.

Eric Pegues and **Demetria Johnson** presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in Las Vegas. Eric's paper was titled "Electoral Mobilization and Interest Group Activity of Blacks and Latinos in Middle Tennessee During the 2008 Presidential Elections," while Demetria's paper carried the title "Documentary Filmmaking: Another Look at the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike."

Demetria Johnson (far left) Eric Pegues (second from left) at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists' Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2012.

Report from Honduras Program (Maymester 2012)
by **Whitney Flatt**

I knew Honduras was going to be an experience that would push me out of my comfort zone and challenge my views of government and corruption. I had no idea, however, that I would leave Honduras as inspired as I did, by the people and their struggle. I spent two and a half weeks working with NGOs and meeting with governmental personal throughout Comayagua state. It was exciting to hear about what each of these respective bodies were working on, some on housing, feeding, and educating children, others on governmental reform, transparency, and human rights violations. I was deeply intrigued by the work of one NGO in particular named APUFRAM, especially by their agricultural initiatives. In fact, I was so inspired by their work that I am now pursuing a minor in agriculture. Overall, Honduras showed me that the power of a few concerned citizens really can change a society for the better, and I am hopeful that this country can transcend the chaos that has befallen them. They've clearly got the will to be a stronger country. Now it's just about carving out a way.

Students in the News, continued...

Rachel Harmon and Whittney Flatt study European politics at a conference in Prague
Report by Rachel Harmon

Last Spring, the Political Science Department gave me the opportunity to study at Charles University, in Prague, Czech Republic, along with my friend Whitney Flatt. The academic program focused on the relationship between Eastern and Western Europe, but the lessons I learned on the trip extend far beyond what was taught in the classroom.

During my time in the Czech Republic, I was able to take weekend trips by bus to Berlin, Germany, and Vienna, Austria. One thing I loved about Europe was the affordability and accessibility of travel, both within the city of Prague, and going to Berlin and Vienna. Though my trips outside the Czech Republic were very brief, I was struck by the cultural differences in cities and states only hours from one another. I was also amazed by the incredibly friendly and welcoming attitudes of the German and Austrian people I met. For example, upon arriving in Vienna, we discovered that the banks had closed early that day. That could have been a serious problem, as we had brought only US and Czech currency, leaving us without any euros to spend on food and a hotel. An Austrian man overheard our plight and offered to exchange his euros for our dollars from his own wallet for no fee. His reason for this favor was simple: he had once traveled to the US, and Americans were kind to him. Countless times strangers on the street would go out of their way to help Whitney and me, and the kindness we encountered made me feel as at home in Berlin and Vienna as I would anywhere in Tennessee.

Back in Prague, I gained something unexpected: an appreciation for my own country. I can be pessimistic about the situation in the US, and quick to judge the faults of our government and society. On this trip I realized that every nation has its failings; in the Czech Republic, Roma people are still regularly and systematically discriminated against. While I don't think the US always exemplifies universal equality, I have learned that the problems in the US should not lead me to discount the triumphs and virtues of my country. Having the chance to visit the Czech Republic and see both the good and disappointing parts of the country made me realize I should extend that same fairness and grace to my own home.

For information on STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES, including financial aid, visit the page **<STUDY ABROAD>** on our web page and/or **STUDY ABROAD OFFICE Peck Hall 207.**

THE TOP 12 Majors STUDYING ABROAD in 2011-12

Foreign Language	33
Global Studies	26
Mass Communication	20
English	18
5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	14
Psychology History	14
Recording Industry	14
Speech and Theatre	13
History	10
Organizational Communication	9
12. Political Science	8

Student Organizations

Moot Court

The **MTSU Moot Court team** competes in competitions where students simulate appellate oral arguments before the Supreme Court of the United States in tournament format. Collegiate Moot Court uses real legal precedent to argue a hypothetical legal issue. Entering its fourth year of competition, the MTSU has advanced from the regional tournament to compete at nationals in each of the past three years. The national tournament is always held during the first week of class in the spring semester and has been in Miami, New Orleans, and Anaheim. This January, MTSU looks forward to qualifying for the national competition in Virginia Beach. For more information, interested students should contact Dr. Amanda DiPaolo at Amanda.DiPaolo@mtsu.edu.

The picture below shows the Moot Court team in 2011-12. While some have graduated, those returning include Mark Fyke, Julie Murrell, Michael Reed, Danielle Mitchell, and Davis Seal.

TISL

The **Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature** is a forum for the top echelon of the state's campus leaders to exchange ideas, express their opinions and learn how government works. TISL's Senate and House of Representatives, which first convened in 1966, meet in the legislative chambers of the State Capitol each November. http://www.tislonline.org/ MTSU, through SGA and the 1 credit hour course, PS 2120, send a delegation to participate in the simulation every year. For more information, contact Dr. Morris or Dr. Reed.

United Nations Student Alliance

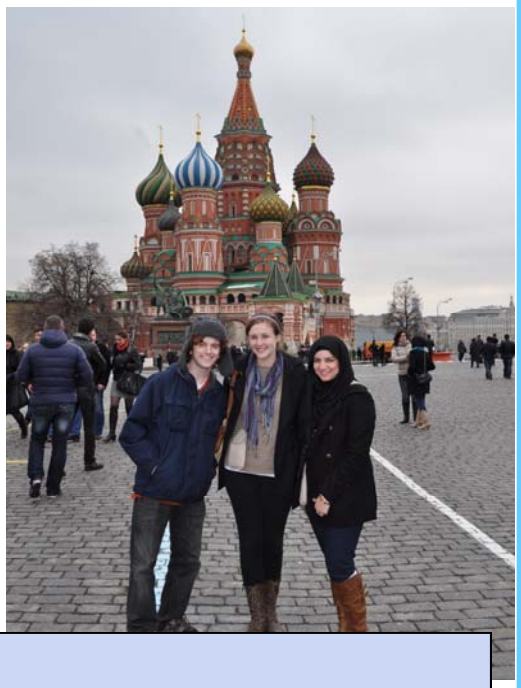
UN Student Alliance of MTSU

It has been almost one year since MTSU's Student Alliance began, and we could not be more excited by the progress we have made or more hopeful for the coming school year. This fall semester, we are looking to continue our fundraising work for the World Food Programme, as well as continue our efforts to educate the student body about relevant, UN-related issues through speaking events and documentary screenings. Additionally, we are very eager to add a new service component to our organization, allowing Student Alliance members to participate in service projects that will benefit individuals right in their backyard.

If you would like more information about how to get involved with the UN Student Alliance of MTSU, please contact Whitney Flatt at unsa-mtsu@hotmail.com or search for "UN Student Alliance of MTSU" on Facebook.

Student Organizations, continued

Model United Nations



In April 2012, three students from the Political Science Department; Joey Meyer, Kaity Newman, and Lema Sbenaty travelled to Moscow, Russia to participate in the Moscow International Model United Nations Conference. The conference was hosted by the Moscow State Institute for International Relations. While in Moscow, the students participated in debates on current issues, including religious defamation and the Cyprus Dispute. The students represented the Russian Federation, Denmark, and Egypt in their respective committees. They debated with students from all across Europe and the former Soviet Union, engaging in constructive discussion during sessions, as well taking part in tours of Moscow, which featured the Kremlin, Saint Basil's Cathedral, the Russian White House, and many other landmarks..

MOCK TRIAL

MTSU Mock Trial is a student organization that teaches the basics of trial courts. Students participate as either witnesses or lawyers. Participants learn to prepare and deliver opening and closing statements, and direct and cross-examinations, and learn how to argue evidentiary objections. Students also become familiar with more subtle aspects of trial work such as courtroom appearance and demeanor. Students are coached by Dr. John Vile, Dean of the College, and local practicing attorneys and Mock Trial alumni, Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth. Last year, an MTSU team placed third in their division at the National Championship Tournament, giving them sixth place over all. They are currently ranked 13th in the nation by the American Mock Trial Association. This year, they look forward to attending tournaments in Kentucky, St. Louis, Memphis, Georgia, Mississippi and the National Championship in D.C. Each fall, MTSU offers the class PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure and meets on Thursday nights from 6-9.The class can also be taken as honors credit. Mock Trial is open to students of all majors and should be considered by anyone interested in pursuing a legal career, honing their public speaking skills, or finding a fun and competitive way to get involved on campus.

To join, add CRN 80584 (or CRN 86738 for honors).

Mock Trial team at the nationals (Kaitlin Beck, Margaret Noah, Brooke Borcherding, Thomas Palombo, Samatha Farish, J.D. Thompson, Rachel Harmon, Constance Grieves).

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

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

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/socsymp/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.

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

Faculty Updates/News

The Department Mourns the Loss of Colleague Dr. Jack Turner

Professor Emeritus Dr. Jack Turner passed away on December 29, 2011. In addition to numerous scholarly writings, Dr. Turner was the author of three published novels, *The Foxes and the Hounds: Big Medicine River Days*, *The Sheriffs' Murder Cases*, and *The Sheriff of Frozen's Murder Cases*. Soon-to-be-published works include *Bluegrass Days*, the second in *The Foxes and the Hounds* trilogy; *The Sheriff of Hell's Murder Cases*, and a nonfiction book, *Maytown Magic and Mayhem: Fifty Years of Mountain Basketball*. In addition to his wife, Judy, Dr. Turner leaves behind several hundred successful former students, and numerous friends and family members who were grateful to have known a person one friend called "a living miracle." Another close friend remarked upon hearing of Dr. Turner's passing, "No one can replace Jack Justin Turner.

Faculty presented research at numerous ***scholarly conferences*** last year, including: the International Studies Association (**Korobkov**, **Livingston**, and **Tesi**); the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (**Korobkov**); the European Consortium for Political Research (**Korobkov**); the NAACP Race Relations Conference (**Franklin**); the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (**Franklin**); a special round-table in Córdoba, Argentina (**Maynor**); the Midwestern Political Science Association (**Maynor, Petersen**); the Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (**Petersen**); Latin American Studies Association (**Morris**); the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (**Morris**); the African Studies Association (**Tesi**); the International Political Science Association (**Vernardakis**), among others.

Faculty also presented work at: the TBR on Tennessee's global competitiveness (**Livingston**) and at the TBR Diversity Conference (**Franklin**); the Hangzhou Normal University in China (**Tesi**); the Center for International Governance Innovation (**Tesi**); the Governor's Innovation Conference (**Livingston**); Universidad de Quintana Roo in Mexico (**Morris**); Mexican Transparency (**Morris**) ; 5th Annual Ethnic Studies Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series (**Franklin**), among others.

Four faculty (**Korobkov, Livingston, Maynor, and Petersen**) received grants to pursue their research.

On-going FACULTY Research

Department Faculty are actively engaged in research on:

- ✓ The use of missing data and Galton's problem (Livingston)
- ✓ Cuba (Livingston)
- ✓ Tennessee international competitiveness (Livingston)
- ✓ Africa-China relations (Tesi)
- ✓ Canadian judicial decisions in the area of national security (DiPaolo)
- ✓ Russian migration and brain drain (Korobkov)
- ✓ Political corruption and rule of law in Mexico (Morris)
- ✓ State violence and eliminationist policies (Carleton)
- ✓ Clean energy (Franklin)
- ✓ John Lilburne (McDaniel)
- ✓ Republicanism and globalization (Maynor)
- ✓ Torture and dictatorships in Latin America (Perez-Reilly)
- ✓ National School of Administration in France (Vernardakis)
- ✓ The judiciary under authoritarian regimes (Petersen)

***Recent* Faculty Publications**

Andrei Korobkov, "Russian Brain Drain: Myths and Reality." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 30, 2012: 1–15.

Stephen Morris, "Drugs, Violence, and Life in Mexico." Review Essay, *Latin American Research Review* 47 (2), 2012: 216-223.

Stephen Morris, "Corruption, Drug Trafficking, and Violence in Mexico." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 18 (11), 2012: 29-43.

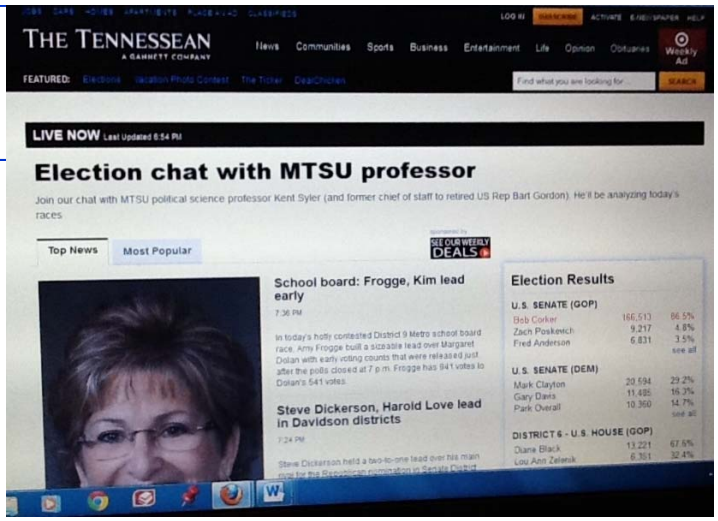
The Department WEB PAGE contains information on:

Careers	News & Events
Internships	FAQ
Law School Info & Advice	Upper Division Forms

And more...

Faculty Updates/News, continued...

With campaign season in full swing, **Kent Syler**, Assistant Professor of Political Science and former Chief of Staff for Representative Bart Gordon, has become the face of the Department, appearing on local news stations and on-line chats analyzing the elections.



Spring Courses

Look for these special courses this spring

PS 3550 Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy, Dr. Franklin

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PS 4820 Advance Studies in American Politics: Environmental Law and Policy, Mr. Francis (MTSU alumnus and Vermont Law School 2010)

A coal ash sludge with waste from power plants blankets a town in East Tennessee; the Deepwater Horizon blowout pours millions of gallons into the Gulf of Mexico; run-off from enormous concentrated animal feeding operations pollutes our clean water supply; global climate change threatens to alter the natural world as we know it.

For the past forty years, politicians on both sides of the aisle have called for a domestic environmental policy that protects our natural resources. Yet, as the varied responses to the examples above demonstrate, the debate about what we should or should not do to save our planet's natural environment is one of the most controversial in American politics. This introductory course will examine the major federal and state statutes and legal cases that constitute the body of U.S. environmental law. Furthermore, this course will delve into the effect humans have on the environment and the responsibilities we have to mitigate that impact, how policy makers can effectively promote environmental preservation, and whether the major environmental statutes provide successful recourse against environmental degradation. Students will follow the case study method that encourages debate and discussion and the practical application of class topics.

PS 4820 Advance Studies in American Politics: JUDICIAL DECISION MAKING, Dr. Willis

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PS 4820 Advance Studies in American Politics: POLITICS IN THE INFORMATION AGE, Mr. Syler

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PS 4850 Advance Studies in Comparative: TORTURERS AND DICTATORS, Dr. Perez-Reilly

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PS 4850 Advance Studies in Comparative: POLITICAL CORRUPTION, Dr. Morris

Corruption has become a hot topic in comparative politics, international relations, and even in US politics. This course explores the booming study of political corruption focusing on the causes and consequences of corruption and efforts to fight corruption at the domestic and international levels.

PS 4870 Adv. Studies in Political Theory: TOTALITARIANISM, Dr. McDaniel

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Alumni Updates/News

Karissa Senn has begun an internship at the Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law through Regent Law School in Virginia Beach. She is working on the Model City Project and the Human Trafficking Initiative. The Model City Project aims to create a model set of policy, institutions, and practices that make Human Trafficking impossible in Virginia Beach. They work with governors and congressmen from across the country, as well as the governments of Mexico, Panama, and Colombia to begin to create and implement policy and practice from the ground up. The Human Trafficking Initiative is very similar, but it more broad in scope. It aims to address the "big picture" of human trafficking. Basically, instead of coming at the issue from just a law/policy perspective, we're working with Freedom Firm, Operation Blessing, USAID, and other organizations to help stop trafficking in the first place, but then to keep victims from being prosecuted as criminals and help restore them after rescue. "I love it! It's very fast paced! I've already had the opportunity to meet a lot of amazing people who are heroes on this issue. I'm looking to start Law School here next Fall, and I'm thinking about adding an LL.M. in Human Rights law because it would only be an extra semester."

Liala Syler (PS 2012) is beginning an MA in Sociology at the American University in Washington DC.

Aaron M. Shew works for an agribusiness called Agrisoya: a company started by the non-profit organization, SALT International. Following a few years of research trials, the company is now working with farmers in Iraq to help them grow soybeans as a cash crop. Aaron's official role is Director of Training & Research, which means "I will (eventually) spend most of my time assisting the Chief Agronomist and conducting seminars, field days, and training sessions with the university, Ministry of Agriculture, and farmers." Aaron arrived in Iraq this past June and maintains a blog at: http://work-travel-think-live.blogspot.com/2012/08/life-business-not-so-typical.html?spref=fb.

Matthew Hurtt (PS 2009) was elected this summer at the Republican Party of Virginia State Convention to serve as one of 13 At-Large Delegates to the Republican National Convention in Tampa on their "unity slate," which had a proportional number of Ron Paul activists and "Establishment" types. I was one of the libertarian Republicans selected. Matthew travels frequently to help Republican candidates, including Scott Brown in Massachusetts in January 2010 and Scott Walker in Wisconsin in the lead up to the recall election this year. He is also a contributor to a number of websites, including America's Future Foundation, where he writes about government regulations, and the Washington Examiner's Red Alert Politics blog, where he writes about youth politics. Of particular importance to current students, he loves trying to help MTSU grads find work in the DC area, so feel free to contact him at: matt.hurtt@gmail.com

Adam Emerson (IR 2012) will travel to Izhevsk, Russia (birthplace of the AK-47 and former "closed" Soviet city) as an English Teaching Assistant for the **Fulbright Program**. While in Izhevsk, he will work with both undergraduate and graduate students in Udmurt State University's translation programs. Additionally, he will lead weekly meetings of the university's English Club, participate in international American Studies conferences hosted by the university, and serve as a goodwill ambassador for the United States in Izhevsk and other Russian cities. Upon his return to the USA, he will begin studying for his PhD in International Relations (with a concentration in Political Psychology) at Washington State University.

The Fulbright's purpose is increasing mutual understanding between the United States and other countries by exchanging people, knowledge and skills. A Fulbright grant gives a U.S. student the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year.

Eligibility requirements include:

- U.S. citizenship;
- receipt of a bachelor's degree before beginning date;
- a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher; and
- language proficiency sufficient to communicate with the people of the host country.

Candidates who haven't had opportunities for extended study or residence abroad (except military duty or study abroad) will receive preferential consideration. In some countries, preference is given to graduate students conducting research.

Students may learn more about the program by contacting the UFO at 615-898-5464 or by emailing UFO Coordinator Laura Clippard in the University Honors College at *lclippar@mtsu.edu*. All applicants should meet with Clippard before beginning their Fulbright applications. For more information, visit *www.fulbrightonline.org*.

Alumni Updates/News, continued

Marlin Curnutt (Political Science 1995) was recently promoted to Associate Director of Enrollment Development at Walters State Community College in Morristown. Curnutt serves the College in a number of ways which include faculty advisor for the Tennessee Intercollegiate Student Legislature as well as the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. In those capacities, he was instrumental in reorganizing the Walters State TISL organization and has taken students on several mission trips which include Joplin, Missouri during this year's Spring Break to assist with tornado relief. He serves as a member of the TBR e-Learning Student Services Mobilization Team which helps formulate policies that will assist students with the latest in technology on campuses across the state as it relates to Student Services. Additionally, he has served as an AP U.S. History reader for the past three years. Curnutt graduated from Liberty University this Spring with an Ed.S. degree in Educational Leadership.

(from) **Sarong Vit-Kory** (International Relations 2007). "After graduating from MTSU in 2007, which is 5 years now, I left to live aboard in Cambodia - the country where my parents are from. After taking my upper division courses in International Relations and especially after my summer study aboard experience, I knew that I had to leave the U.S. to simply learn more about the rest of the world. Well, after my 1 year in Cambodia, I returned back to the states to apply for a graduate degree in international development. I was enrolled in the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in the degree program of Sustainable International Development from 09-11. Within this time, I also left back to Cambodia to conduct my 6 months practicum there. Following my graduation, after gathering all my experiences together, I decided to establish a nonprofit organization in TN with a cause for Cambodia. You can visit the website at : http://cambodiantevoda.org/ and you can read about my Cambodia experiences at : http://cambodiantevoda.org/the-founders-story.html. I have been in Nashville for the past 1 year but will be leaving to Cambodia to develop the organization. As Nashville and MTSU is becoming more intercultural, I would like welcome MTSU students who would be interested in volunteering or conducting a internship with Cambodian Tevoda Organization. Cambodia is still a very poor nation, and one of the mission of the organization is to contribute to alleviating the country's poverty. I look forward to hearing from you and would be glad to meet you as well."

Rodriguez Watson entered University of Memphis Law School after taking a couple of courses in the Summer.

Academic Success Series (Fall 2012)

Sponsored by: University College & MTSU Walker Library
These one hour workshops are designed for any student who needs help or wants to learn more about the topic area.
We hope these sessions will help spring into a successful semester!

Sept 11 — "How to Use Your Time Wisely"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Sept 11 — "How to Be a Successful Veteran Student"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 248

Sept 18 — "How to Study and Prepare for Tests"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Sept 25 — "How to Set Goals and Stay Motivated"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Oct 2 — "How to Give a Winning Presentation"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Oct. 9 — "How to Maintain Academic Integrity"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Oct. 9 — "How to Make Study Abroad a Part of Your Academic Plan"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 248

Oct 23 — "How to Use the Library"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Oct. 30 — "How to Use Your Academic Advisor"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Nov. 6 — "How to Choose the Right Career for You"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Nov. 13 — "How to Unwind, Relax, Chill and Still Be a Successful Student"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446

Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 — "How to Prepare for Final Exams"
4:30pm - Walker Library Room 446 & December 4th at

Have Questions?
Contact Brandie Nelson at the University College Advising Center at (615) 898-2339.

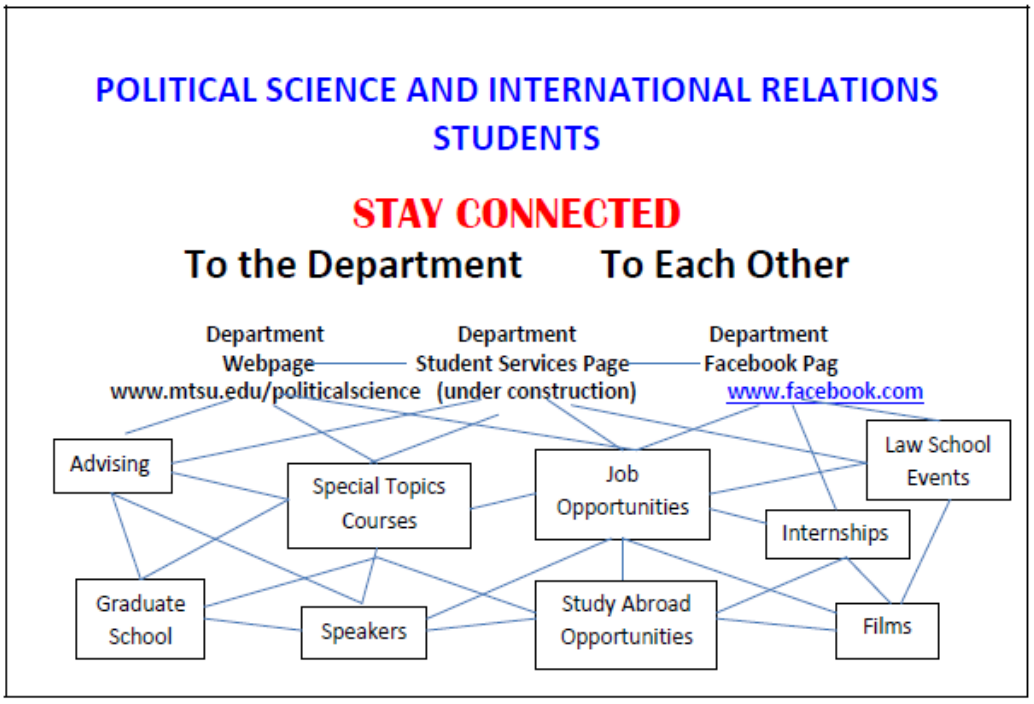
POLITICAL SCIENCE / INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Check sheet for success

- ✓ Understand the requirements for major and minors and what it will take to complete the requirements in the time period desired
- ✓ Take advantage of Academic Success Series, Writing Center, other services on campus
- ✓ Attend on-campus talks/presentations
- ✓ Do an Internship
- ✓ Do a Study abroad
- ✓ Do Public service
- ✓ Consider and apply for scholarship opportunities
- ✓ Attend Departmental Workshops
- ✓ Do Research – participate in Scholar's Week – present your research
- ✓ Work with the Career Development Center

DEPARTMENT GOALS

- *Promote excellence in the classroom.*
- *Offer a diversity of courses across sub-fields and opportunities for experiential learning, practicum and internships.*
- *Improve student preparation for and entrance into graduate school.*
- *Increase the quantity and quality of out-of-class experiences for students.*
- *Increase the number of majors, retention, graduates, and SCH.*
- *Improve the availability of advisors and the quality of advising.*
- *Promote and encourage faculty professional development (participation in public service, research and publications, improving instruction).*
- *Improve assessment*



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Newsletter produced by Dr. Morris with the assistance of Pam Davis. Send comments or suggestions (kind ones only) to : sdmorris@mtsu.edu

http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/ Political Science Newsletter, Fall 2012