PS 4950 Community-Based Research Practicum
This spring, three students are doing community-based research practicums. Janita Hendricks and Camilla Jeralds are partnering with the Stand Up Nashville group—“a coalition of community based organizations and labor unions that represent the working people of Nashville who have seen our city transformed by development, but have not shared in the benefits of that growth.” The students will write 8-10 blogs (400-500 words) that describe the daily realities Nashville residents are facing as a result of development, poverty, and displacement. The course will require students to visit select neighborhoods where they will interview residents and write essays about how economic development and displacement are adversely affecting low-income and working-class residents. Students will essentially operate as citizen journalists. The essays, once approved by the instructor, will be converted to blog posts and then posted on the Stand Up Nashville website (http://standupnashville.org/), the websites of partner organizations, and/or social media sites.

Morris to retire as Chair
The 2016-17 academic year will be the final year in my second 4-year term as department chair. Throughout this time, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my colleagues to increase opportunities for students, promote excellence in the classroom, encourage research, and help create a sense of community. I have been the spokesperson for the faculty, principal organizer of things, attendee of way too many meetings, the author of the Newsletter, signer of many documents, e-mailer to the students and FB post-person, and have tried to carry out the wishes of my colleagues (lead by following). I feel we accomplished a good bit during my tenure, but any success is due to the cooperation and friendship of the faculty and the incredible work, knowledge and simple kindness of Pam Davis. I learned from many, but none more than from Pam.
I will not be leaving MTSU, of course, just becoming the highest thing you can be at a university: a member of the faculty. Next year will be the first time in 28 years that I will not have an administrative role (20 years program director; 8 years department chair). I look forward to being able to focus on my own research and writing. I will still be a member of the department and will continue to work with students and faculty.

At this point, the department does not know who will occupy the large office beginning in the fall of 2017. A search is currently underway to find the most qualified candidate for the position. And whether hockey will continue to be the official sport of the department is not yet known.

DEPARTMENT NUMBERS
MAJORS
60 -- IR
252 -- PS (140 PRE-LAW; 25 PA)
MINORS
115 -- POL. SCI.
29 -- IR
23 -- PARALEGAL
17 -- POL. & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
8 -- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
GRADUATE
17 -- INT. AFFAIRS

www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience
The M.A. in International Affairs seeks to prepare students for careers in an increasingly globalized world by providing a remarkable combination of analytic research and practical applications tools for employment in

- International development and relief
- International business
- International organizations such as the UN and World Bank
- Governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on global poverty alleviation, human rights, or environmental policies
- International security and peace
- Foreign policy think-tanks
- Analysis and risk management firms
- Government and foreign service
- Homeland security
- Military and intelligence services

The ABM program allows qualified students to double-count up to 12 graduate credit hours toward both the B.S. in International Relations and the M.A. in International Affairs.

Requirements
If you meet the requirements as a junior with GPA of at least 3.25 with two semesters of study remaining, you can

- get your master's degree in five years,
- take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework that will count toward both your undergraduate and your master's degrees, and
- avoid the expense of taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Formal application to an ABM program should be made upon completion of a minimum of seventy-five (75) credit hours in the undergraduate program, including Advanced Placement credits. Transfer students must have completed a minimum of two semesters as full-time students at MTSU.

Assistantships awarded on the basis of merit are available.
UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE DEPARTMENT SPEAKER

Mr. Manav Jain, a 15-year veteran of the U.S. State Department will be speaking in two PS classes: Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 2:40 (Rm 205) and Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 2:20 (Rm 215). In addition, Mr. Jain will deliver a public lecture Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7:00 in Parliamentary Room, SU.

A Career Like No Other: An American Diplomat’s Journey Through a Changing Wor

Tuesday, February 7, 2017: COE 164, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Refreshments will be provided after the talk.

Have you dreamed of a career in international affairs?

Are you interested in who is (and is not) allowed to come to America?

Are you interested in combating human trafficking?

Come hear Manav Jain, an American diplomat with fifteen years of experience, discuss his career, how visas are granted to come to the United States, and the U.S. State Department’s programs to combat human trafficking in Africa.

Manav Jain is a Senior Democracy and Human Rights Officer in the Bureau of African Affairs and has served in Africa, India, and Latin America. He has a B.S. in Political Science from UC Berkeley and a J.D. from Pepperdine University.

Congress to Campus Program

The Albert Gore Research Center and the Department of Political Science and International Relations are sponsoring the Congress to Campus program on February 27 and 28. Former congressmen Ronald A. Sarasin, (R-Connecticut) and Glenn Nye (D-Virginia) will be speaking to classes. The Congress to Campus program addresses the problem of “Red State vs. Blue State” partisanship, and seeks to demonstrate that respectful cooperation is key to a healthy democracy. The former members of congress donate their time and energy in a nationwide and international initiative to promote public service and leadership among college students.

Ronald A. Sarasin
Glenn Nye

LSAT Practice Test and Prep Session

Saturday, March 25 @ 8:00-12:00 (Practice Test) Room 205 Peck

Wednesday, March 29, 6:00-9:00 (Prep Session) Room 215 Peck

Sign-up in Peck Room 209

The Pol. Sci/IR Night at the Predators

March 30 vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
$25 per ticket
Sign up in Room 209 before March 15
Upcoming events, continued

Spring 2017 Department Bike Ride

Saturday, April 8

Following our successful Department rides both last Spring and Fall… we ride again!

Everyone is welcome: Students / Faculty / Family Members / Friends

Info on the specific route will be passed along closer to April, but:

- we ride in Nashville
- the route will be quite flat
- no one gets left behind; we go as fast or slow as people are comfortable with
- there is always a good food stop scheduled
- it’s always very social and fun

Hold the date and pump up your tires.

Questions? – contact Dr. David Carleton, Peck 245, carleton@mtsu.edu

Scholars Week 2017
March 27 – 31, 2017
Submit Your Abstract Proposal for the Scholars Week Poster Exposition on Friday, March 31

Abstract Proposal --
For information go to: www.mtsu.edu/research/scholarsWeek

Spring Picnic
For PS / IR MAJORS and faculty
Come celebrate the (near) end of the semester and year with faculty and fellow students.

Saturday, April 22
Noon-afternoon
Barfield-Crescent Park Pavilion TBA

Coffee and Donuts during Final Exam week
**Students in the News**

**Report on TISL (Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature) from Nick Lembo**

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature is an organization that introduces students to the state legislative process by replicating the General Assembly's function, procedures, and purpose. For the past two years, I have had the opportunity to represent MTSU at TISL and for the first time in MTSU history I was elected to serve as the Speaker of the House for the 48th General Assembly. My experience at TISL has given me a hands on approach to parliamentary procedure, writing legislation, and debating. It's also worth noting that some of the legislation passed at TISL is presented to the state General Assembly and pass. Anyone can make an impact. Attending TISL has opened my eyes to the realities current politicians and citizens face. This upcoming TISL general assembly is November 16-19, but in the mean time I encourage you to research a current problem, reach out to others for their opinion, find a solution and present it to the TISL General Assembly.

-Nick Lembo.

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**PS 2000 comments about Virtual Mentoring system:**

I wrote to a law student who is studying in California, which is where I would LOVE to end up. She has been extremely helpful and we have a lot in common which helps in regards to knowing I'm not the only one in my position who has been able to be successful. The virtual mentoring is an awesome opportunity to have at our disposal.

Aww, that's great that you had a good experience! Mine was fairly helpful as well. I'm glad I learned that Virtual Mentoring was a thing.

Yeah it's definitely an awesome resource that I would not have known about if not for this class. And it's awesome to have the opportunity to switch roles in the future. Definitely something I will always keep in mind!

I agree, the virtual mentoring program is very useful, I wish i would have known about it sooner!

I chose a lobbyist as my virtual mentor and she was very helpful. She answered all of my questions and actually inspired me to begin looking more into lobbying as a career option. I have to be honest, I was a bit skeptical about hearing back from the mentors, but she was so nice and helpful!

I talked to my mentor as well who worked as a diplomat for foreign services and he taught me many things in just one conversation. It does help a lot.

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**Virtual Mentoring Program**

Contact former students now working in a variety of fields or in law or graduate school. Get tips and advice.

[www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience.virtualmentoring.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience.virtualmentoring.php)
**Internships**

**Fall 2016 Interns**
- Benjamin Arnold—US Senator Bob Corker, Nashville
- Angelique Plasky – Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County
- Freya Cartwright – Bullock Fly Hornsby and Evans Attorneys
- Zac Davis – Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Alicia Borkman - – Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Sara Denman - – Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Kaitlin Hamer – Rick Tillis State Rep 92nd District TN
- Molly Blankenship—TN Democratic Party
- Chris Klytta – Klytta and Klytta Attorneys, Chicago
- Matthew French – City of Millersville TN, Planning and Zoning, and Administration
- Larisa Mona – Hispanic Family Center
- Tess Shelton – TN Democratic Party
- Katelyn Berridge - Rutherford County Juvenile Detention
- Brandon Johnson – Middle Tennessee Law
- April Carroll – Rutherford County Republican Party
- Selvia Sargis - Bullock Fly Hornsby and Evans Attorneys
- Kelly Richardson – Metro Juvenile Court
- Nathan Watkins – Mike Winton for State Senate
- Savannah Stinson – TN Republican Party
- Anthony Mikosobe - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Skye Irish - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- James Fingeroot - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Hannah Moore - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Caroline Morris – MTSU Public Relations and Marketing, Administration
- Olivai Nodine – Rep. Dawn White (Rep) and Windrow Phillips Group
- Morgan Yates – ALSAC St Judes Children’s Hospital, fundraising, administration
- Trey Woodall –Team DRIVE (wounded veterans)
- Madison Jennings – Republican Party of Rutherford County
- Jeannette Stevens – Justin Miller 48th Distriict State Rep
- Kelly Richardson - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office
- Chelsea Reeves - Rutherford County General Sessions Court Judges office

**Spring 2017 Legislative Interns**
- Cooper Byers – Sen. Kerry Roberts
- Aimee Sennes – Sen. Ken Yager
- Caitlin Henderson – Sen. Steven Dickerson
- Sara Moorehead – House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh
- Greg Hazelwood – Tennessee Board of Regents
- Allison Haslett – Sen. Bill Ketron
- Kayla Long – Rep. Mike Sparks
- Justin Lowe – Rep. Tim Rudd
- Kendall Ray – Sen. Jim Tracy

**Spring 2017 Washington Center Interns**
- Beshoy Masood - Agency For International Development, Securing Water For Food program
- Lara Tennyson - United Way Worldwide with the Africa and Caribbean team
- Asha Patel - Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Speak Truth To Power program
- Samuel Musili - Marzulla Law, LLC
PS 4040: PRE-LAW INTERNSHIP
FREYA CARTWRIGHT

Interning with Bulloch, Fly, Hornsby & Evans

My internship with the law firm of Bulloch, Fly, Hornsby and Evans gave me insight into the day-to-day lives of lawyers at a mid-size law firm. Over the course of the semester, I accompanied the firm’s attorneys to court hearings, federal trials, and mediation sessions, where I got to observe their interactions with clients as well as judges. I became familiar with the regular schedules of the attorneys, as well as what their daily responsibilities encompass. This was very exciting for me, as I had little idea what to expect going into the internship; I just wanted to get an idea of what the average day in the life of an attorney would be like. I learned how to handle the many different social situations that attorneys experience every day, as well as the unpredictability of the lawyers’ schedules. Overall, this internship was very informative in showing me what to expect from a legal career.

For information on internship opportunities, see:
- Flip chart on bulletin board
- Email notices
- Facebook posts
- See handout available outside main office
- Talk to Dr. Langenbach
Student Organizations

Mock Trial
In Fall 2016, MTSU Mock Trial competed in the Thunderdome Invitational (Wheaton, IL), Owl Tournament (Atlanta, GA), and Mid-South Invitational (MTSU). The team placed 5th at the Thunderdome Invitational. Cole Hodge won attorney awards at the Thunderdome and Mid-South Invitational. Jodi Shockney won a witness award at the Thunderdome Invitational. Nick Lembo won witness awards at the Thunderdome and Owl Invitationals. This spring, students in the program will compete at the Rebel Trojan Invitational (Las Vegas, NV) in January before heading to the Regional Tournament (Louisville, KY) in February. The program also welcomed over 600 people to campus at the November 2016 Mid-South Invitational!

Asha Patel, Molly Gray, Erika Helgeson, Cami Jeralds, and Lauren Bradish at the Trojan, Model UN Conference this past fall in Los Angeles.

The MTSU Society for International Affairs announces with enthusiasm Model UN conference dates for the Spring 2017 Semester

Virginia International Crisis Simulation (VICS XXI)
University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA | 23-26 March, 2017
Committee Include: Global War on Terror Joint Crisis, Historic Partition of India, Middle East Water Wars, Chinese Cyber Warfare and Defense

Chicago Model United Nations (ChoMUN XX)
University of Chicago | Chicago, IL | 13-16 April, 2017
Committees Include: Bootleg Bottle Joint Crisis, Texas 1836, The Court of King Arthur, USNWR UN Organizing Conference

Middle Tennessee Model UN Exhibition (MTMUN)
Middle Tennessee State University | Murfreesboro, TN | 4:00-10:00PM, 21 April, 2017
Committees To Be Determined

College Democrats
of
Middle Tennessee State University

Meeting Dates: Jan. 31st, Feb. 7th & 28th, Mar. 14th & 28th, Apr. 11th & 25th
Meeting Location: Student Union Building (SUB) Room 218
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
-Barack Obama

MTSU COLLEGE REPUBLICANS PRESENTS

ASK YOUR REPS

Feb. 9th
7:30pm
SUB 201

CONGRESSMAN DIANE BLACK

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
JIM TRACY

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SPARKS

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS TO MTSUCR@EAGLEMAIL.COM
THERE WILL BE A Q&A SESSION FROM THE AUDIENCE
Study Abroad

16 Students Study in Cuba in January

For the second year, MTSU sponsored a study abroad program in Cuba. Running January 3-15 and led by Drs. Chaney (Geography and Global Studies) and Morris, students (from Global Studies, Political Science, International Relations, and other majors) spent several days in Havana where they received presentations from an agricultural ecologist, an attorney, a physician, an official at the US Embassy, and others, and visited Hemmingway’s home and the Museum of the Revolution. The group also spent a day engaging in public service activity (painting a local middle school) alongside a local community-based organization, Grupo Espiral. The group then ventured out to the cities of Viñales to learn about the production of tobacco and cigars, the historic city of the Bay of Pigs, the old city of Trinidad (est. 1517) to learn about sugar production and to visit an organic farm, and in the resort beach city of Varadero. It was very interesting to hear the public’s opinion of not only the US but of their own political situation. The people are very critical of their government, but also surprisingly understanding of their government’s unique situation. The people are very aware of the political happenings of their country especially when it comes to the restoration of relations between Cuba and the US. And they love Obama.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Mexico

This program, led by Drs. Chaney (Geography/Global Studies) and Morris, will run from June 1-19, during the summer semester. Students enroll in the 3 credit hour cross-listed course MEXICO IN THE 21ST CENTURY. We explore Mayan ruins, museums, old henequen plantations, and talk to people about current political and economic developments in Mexico. For more information pick up a brochure, ask Chaney or Morris, or visit the Education Abroad office. GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

June Study Abroad

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Mexico
Alumni

Recent (December) graduates Joey Kennedy, Matthew Morrow, Hannah Pack and Jodi Shockney are currently working full-time in the Clerk’s office of the Tennessee Legislature. In addition, Tammy Letzler, MTSU Alumni and former intern, is serving as Chief Clerk of the House, making her the first female to serve as chief clerk of either house of the General Assembly. MTSU alumni and former legislative intern Daniel Hicks is Assistant Chief Clerk of the House, and MTSU Alumni and former intern Kim Cox is Assistant Chief Clerk of the House: the first African-American female to serve in this role.

Building off her summer internship, Erica Helgerson began a position with the FBI.

Kayla McCrary has begun graduate school at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England (MA in International Relations with International Law. She is also now participating in the Virtual Mentoring program.

Rachel Harmon (B.S. International Relations; M.A. International Affairs) is in her second year at Emory University working on a PhD in political science and graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Atlanta, Georgia. She is working as a research assistant for a professor who studies gender and race in politics while her own research focuses on conflict, gender, human trafficking, and corruption. Over the past summer she conducted fieldwork in Nepal with local NGOs working against transnational trafficking of women and girls. “I trained local staff on data collection software and set up surveys that will be implemented over the next few months. This work was supported through a competitive grant awarded by the Institute for Developing Nations and The Carter Center. In between the MA program at MTSU and starting at Emory I worked for an NGO called Free for Life International.” She continues to volunteer with the organization as a board member. She attended the Peace Science conference last semester and will be presenting at the Midwest PS meeting in the spring.

Deanna Mix was recently named as a semi-finalist for a research Fulbright to Poland. She graduated fall 2016 with a major in International Relations. Deanna has a Polish heritage and has a significant academic interest in international migration and plans to pursue a Ph.D. Fun fact: She studied abroad in Scotland and was able to take part in an archaeological dig.

Faculty

This spring, Zhen Wang will be presenting her research at: 1) MTSU CBAS Research Exchange; 2) the meeting of the International Studies Association; 3) Scholar's Week; and 4) the IE&C brown bag lunch series. Her article "Transforming the Economy While Battling Corruption: How the Chinese Communist Party Motivates Its Local Workforce" is currently under review at The China Quarterly.


Donald Campbell presented (with Dr. Marcus Hendershot) the paper “Do Interest Groups Get it Right? An Evaluation of Vetting Efficacy for USCA Nominees,” at the Southern Political Science Association meeting in January in New Orleans, and also served as a discussant on a
**Faculty, continued…**

Panel titled “Examining the Role of the Senate in Selecting Federal Judge.”

Kent Syler represented MTSU in a trans-Atlantic video-conference from Sciences Po University in Reims, France with the University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs. MTSU graduate and former congressman Bart Gordon was also on the panel. The program’s topics were: What is the most important lesson from Trump’s victory and what will be the main challenge for the new administration?

This past October, Stephen Morris delivered a keynote address on political corruption and culture in Mexico for Mexico’s national Institute for Access to Information’s (INAI) seminar Construcción de Ciudadanía y Transparencia. During his visit, he was a guest on the TV news program “Opiniones Encontradas” with José Buendia. Morris also published “La corrupción en México a través de los años: continuidad y cambio” [Corruption in Mexico through the years: Continuity and Change] in the Mexican monthly, Este País.


In addition to his research on migration, Andrei Korobkov has become more of a public intellectual writing regularly for Russia Direct.Org, providing analysis and insight into US policy toward Russia and related topics. His most recent article on USFP can be found at http://www.russia-direct.org/…/what-obamas-foreign-policy-l…
Check out the STUDENT RESOURCES PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE for:

- Upper division forms
- Student handbooks
- Student Services Portal (with links to information on internships, study abroad, graduate school, law schools, and CAREERS)
- Virtual Mentoring Program
- Scholarships and Awards

Department Scholarships
Applications for department scholarships for 2017-18 are due APRIL 1. For information and application forms, go to: http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.php#Scholarships