POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

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James (Jim) C. Free Donates $10,000!

Mr. James C. Free (B.S. 1969, M.P.A. 1972), with the Smith-Free Group Inc. in Washington, D.C., has recently donated $10,000 to endow a scholarship. The **James C. Free Scholarship** will be available to residents of Maury County, Tennessee, who are majoring in political science and can verify financial need.

Mr. Free has been one of the department's most successful alumni. His consulting group is among the leaders in Washington, and he managed the presidential campaign of Al Gore in 1988. In past years, Mr. Free has helped MTSU political science students who wanted to intern in his office. In 1993, MTSU awarded Free one of its Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Mr. Free joins other generous alumni and former faculty members and families of faculty members such as Charles Ray, Norman Parks, and Harry Horne in establishing scholarships for the department.

Jim Free (center) visits with old friends and colleagues former Judge Tom Wiseman (left) and former state legislator Bobby Sands (1972) at an MTSU 2001 Legislative conference.

Words from the Chair

John R. Vile

I want to begin by thanking those of you who continue to send information that we can include in forthcoming newsletters. It is refreshing to read about your achievements; I also enjoy your reminiscences and comments about the department and faculty members who played a special role in your life. It is heartening to know that many of you are still benefiting from instructors who taught here thirty and forty years ago. **James C. Free**, a graduate from the class of 1969, was among those who showed his appreciation by endowing a departmental scholarship over the past year.

Many of you observed that the department was relatively small when you were here. Largely because demand continues to grow for departmental programs, we are still short-handed, but we have fourteen full-time faculty members (all with Ph.D.s) and a num-

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ber of adjuncts. We now have over 500 majors. Some are in the general political science major; others are concentrating in pre-law, public administration, or teacher licensure; and still others are getting degrees in international relations. Faculty members work with a number of minors including Global Studies, African Studies, African American Studies, Urban Studies, Russian Studies, and the like.

Three events helped highlight my work as a faculty member over the past year. One was a wedding I attended in Nashville. The bride, Kim Miller (who was marrying Justin Pitt, a Nashville attorney), while not a political science major, was one our mock trial "stars," and there must have been close to ten such alums (many of whom were political science majors) in attendance. Each had special recollections of their years at MTSU and special praise for MTSU faculty members and coaches who had positively influenced their lives. Almost every one has served as a judge at our mock trial tournament in November that is now one of the largest in the nation.

The second event was an awards ceremony and graduation that I attended for the 225th class of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. As any father would be, I was proud of my daughter, who has put her MTSU political science and French majors to good use. I was also proud to see that another MTSU alumna, Brooks Rodgers (a political science minor), was graduating in the same class and was also being given special honors. It is always a pleasure when I receive a card or see a newspaper article about an alum who has recently completed a law or graduate degree.

A third event was the scandal connected to the Tennessee Waltz sting operation in Nashville that occurred just as the legislative session was ending. Although MTSU has a sizable presence at the legislature, I don't believe that any of our interns were working for individuals who were indicted in the operation. As an essay in this newsletter indicates, the event made a vivid impression on those who were working there. It pointed anew to the importance of integrity in the governing process. I hope and believe that, in addition to the subject matter we teach, we also convey the need to place public good above personal gain, and I know that I am not the only faculty member who tried to caution the media not only about the presumption of innocence for those who were arrested but also about not judging all legislators by allegations of the corruption of a few.

We have designed this newsletter to provide information on current and retired faculty members, on students who are enrolled in our programs, and on alumni. I hope you will share the pride that I take in the diverse array of accomplishments described herein. I hope that you will continue to send information and comments.

Pam's Corner

Pam Davis, executive aide

I realize as I enter my fifth year working for the Political Science Department that I have seen incoming freshmen all the way through to graduation (well, most of you!). I have come to know a whole "class" of political scientists! It is hard to believe that you were once bumbling undergraduates and I was once a bumbling new secretary for a department of 13. Now you are all aspiring or recent graduates, and I am an executive aide for a department of 15. We've all grown in the time we've known each other. Along the way, I have discovered that I have a new sense of pride—pride in this University, pride in this department, and pride in our bright and capable students.

As many of you know, I am an MTSU alumna as well as an employee, so my experience with the University is two-fold. I believe I have a unique perspective from "both sides of the desk," and I have always tried to impart the knowledge I have gained both as a student and as an employee. I have been heartened by the number of students who have felt that I have been of service to them.

On that note, I should tell you that I have decided to pursue a master's in education, majoring in administration and supervision with a specialization in higher education, beginning this fall. This means that I will definitely be here until I have completed the degree. The degree will qualify me to work as an advisor and in several other positions within higher education. This University may never be rid of me! I will no longer be unsympathetic when you have "so much due at one time" or when you have "three exams in one day," or "a huge paper to finish." I will be right there in the trenches trying to meet deadlines as well.

Please stay in touch and let us know how and what each of you are doing. We love to get updates on the lives of our students. It makes us feel like we really are in touch with the outside world.

Japan Field Study Trip 2005

by Dr. Moses Tesi

When I left Nashville with Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito and nineteen others for Japan on May 16, 2005, I expected the trip to be quite fascinating and educational but nothing like what I experienced. I had been to other parts of the developed world before and was not easily impressed by anything marginal that concerned development. Japan Field Study, as the trip was code-named, was organized by Dr. Kawahito of the Economics and Finance Department, as part of the Japan-USA program that he heads and whose mission is to foster better understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

We arrived at Nagoya International airport in central Japan a little after 15:45 on the evening of Tuesday, May 17, 2005. We spent all of Wednesday, May 18, our first full day in Japan, on logistical matters—getting our Japan Rail passes and then traveling to Osaka, where we would be based for the next four days.

Our field study had four components—Japanese history, educational system, economy, and culture and politics. We made Osaka our base during the first four days of our study (May 19–23), commuting from there to Hiroshima, Nara, and Kyoto. During this leg of the trip we focused on Japanese history, education, and some culture. We visited Kishawada High School in Osaka on May 19 where, we observed classes in session, participated in some classroom activities, observed and participated in some extracurricular activities, and had lunch with students and faculty members. While the curriculum was not that different from what one would find in an American high school, extracurricular activities such as the Japanese Tea Ceremony Club, Flower Arrangement Club, Kendo, and Calligraphy were culturally Japanese. Our lunch menu and setting were traditionally Japanese—sitting on the floor with legs folded, sushi, seaweeds, rice, and fish. After touring the Osaka School of Communication Arts the next day, we took a long train ride from Osaka to Hiroshima, where the first atomic bomb was dropped.

This picture was taken on May 27 with a Sheinto Priest at a Sheinto Shrine celebrating good harvest. The ceremony took place on the outskirts of Furkushima, a city in Northern Japan, where Dr. Tesi (third from left) stayed with a family. The man and woman at the extreme left in the picture are the people he stayed with.

Hiroshima is more than 150 miles south of Osaka, but the speed of the trains of Japan Rail makes that distance seem like only a few miles away. Even though we did not know what Hiroshima would be like, we did not expect to see a bustling city that seems to have moved on from the dark days of the destruction and losses it suffered as a result of the atomic attack of World War II. Hiroshima Peace Park and the Atomic Bomb Memorial Museum, located in the area where the bomb was dropped, provide perhaps the most compelling memories of the sufferings that the people went through.

After the somber experience at Hiroshima, we spent Saturday, May 21, learning about Japanese history in Nara and Kyoto. These two cities were once the capitals of Japan. Today, they are preserves of the history and culture of a particular era in the country's long evolution—an era characterized by warlords. The Buddhist shrines in Nara, considered the tallest and biggest wooden structures in the world, were particularly intriguing. Our trip to the two cities also ended the first part of our study program. The following day, Sunday, May 22, we left Osaka for Tokyo.

We stayed in Tokyo for four very busy days during which we shifted our focus from history, culture, and education to economics, trade, business, and politics. We held discussions with the economic staff of the American Embassy, on the morning of May 23, on U.S. economic relations with Japan. In the afternoon, we held another session at the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) on Japanese macroeconomy, focusing on international trade and investment. This was followed that afternoon by our third economic session of the day at Nissan, where its global marketing and sales director talked to us about Nissan's past, present, and future competitiveness. During our remaining two days in Tokyo, we visited the Toshiba plant outside the city and attended a presentation on the company's activities, management, and future competitiveness. We also went to JFE Steel, the largest steel company in the world, where we held discussions with authorities on the steel industry and then toured JFE Steel's Keihin Works.

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Special Welcome

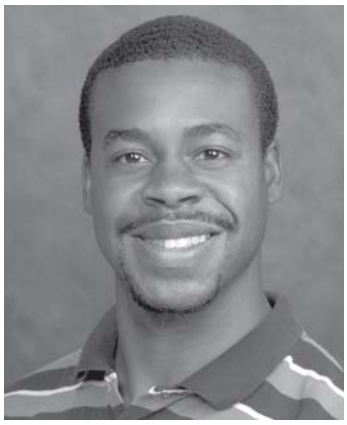
The department is pleased to welcome a new faculty member for the third successive year. **Dr. Karen K. Petersen** joined the faculty this fall. Dr. Peterson graduated in international relations from MTSU in 1998 and subsequently earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. Her dissertation focused on militarized interstate conflict between democratic and nondemocratic states.

Dr. Peterson served as a senior lecturer at Vanderbilt during the 2004–2005 school year. She published three articles in 2004—"Multiparty Disputes and the Probability of War (1816–1992)," which she coauthored with John Vasquez and Yijia Want for *Conflict Management and Peace Science*; "A Research Note: Re-examining Transnational Ethnic Alliances and Foreign Policy Behavior," which she published in *International Interactions*; and "Neutrality, Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the Fourth Pillar of the European Union," which she published in the *International Affairs Forum*.

Dr. Peterson will be taking over a number of classes previously taught by Dr. Anne Sloan, who has now assumed a variety of other administrative duties.

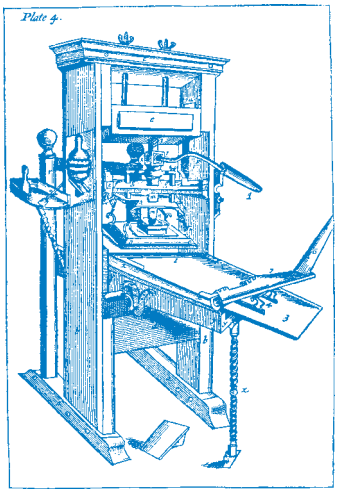
Another Welcome

The department is honored to have **Ray Block Jr.** on campus for the 2005–2006 school year. Professor Block is one of five doctoral candidates visiting the campus as part of the Geier Minority Fellowship. Block earned his undergraduate degree at Howard University, where he was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and where he was chosen to participate in a Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Research Fellowship at the University of Virginia and the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Summer Research Scholarship program. He is working on his Ph.D. at Ohio State University, where his dissertation is "Exploring the Impact of Race on the Correlates and Participatory Consequences of Political Interest." Block will be teaching a section of research methods this fall and another class in the spring.



Broadside

Master cabinetmaker Keith Jenkins and master blacksmith Jeff Henderson of MTSU have constructed a replica of the press that Benjamin Franklin used in the eighteenth century. The press is offering a limited edition broadside of an announcement of John Vile's *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding*. The broadside is handmade by Janet Higgins, Alan Boehm (pictured), and Bill Black. Book artist Claudia Lee has made the cotton paper at her Liberty Paper Mill in Liberty, Tennessee. The illustration of a rising sun emblem is designed and printed from a relief block crafted by Nashville artist Nancy Cooley. The broadsides, which are approximately 14 inches wide and 16 ½ inches high, may be purchased for $10.00 each. Alumni can obtain purchasing information from Bill Black at the MTSU Walker Library at wblack@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-8378.



STUDENT NEWS

Mock Trial News

MTSU hosted one of the largest invitational tournaments in the nation in November 2004, with a total of 62 teams from more than fifteen states.

In addition to this tournament, MTSU teams attended a tournament at Rhodes College, placing tenth.

MTSU qualified two teams for national competition at this year's regional tournament at Samford University, where teams placed second and sixth and captured three attorney and three witness awards. One team went to the National Tournament at Eastern Kentucky University and the other went to the National Championship Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. The team that went to the National Tournament in Kentucky consisted of **Aaron Perry**, **Jason Walker**, **Jamie Bowers**, **Marshall Weber**, **Maryam Kassaee**, **Cortney Simmons**, and **Bryan Cook**.

Top Row (L-R) Jamie Bowers, Lauren Parker, John Vile, Ashley Edgar, Tiffany Walters. Bottom Row (l-r) Matt Orenstein, Ashley Jones, Eric Evans, Kevin Raburn

For the fourteenth successive year, an MTSU mock trial team received an award at the National Championship Tournament in Des Moines. A team lead by **Ashley Jones** received an honorable mention award after splitting each of the four rounds in the tournament. Other team members included **Tiffany Walters**, **Lauren Parker**, **Jamie Bowers**, **Ashley Edgar**, **Eric Evans**, **Matt Orenstein**, and **Kevin Rayburn**.

Public Service and Political Campaign Interns 2004-2005

Summer 2004
Chelsea Nicholson–Rep. Bart Gordon, Murfreesboro
Melanie Sisco–Williamson County Trustee
Justin Brown–House Commerce Office, Tenn. State Legislature
Kyle Bacon–U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo
Daniel Stegall–Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission
Gary Scheider–Department of Veterans Affairs
Dylan Brown–Sen. Bill Frist and House Majority Whip Roy Blunt in Washington, D.C.

Fall 2004
Justin Owen–Senator Bill Frist in Nashville
Christy Holden–Research Department of Tenn. Democratic Party
Jenelle Byrd–Gerald Melton, Public Defender
Jordan Chinooth–Sen. Lamar Alexander, Nashville
Jason Crook–Rep. Bart Gordon, Murfreesboro
Josh Hudgins–City of Murfreesboro, Mayor's office
Sarah Hearld–Tenn. Democratic Party

Spring 2005
Kelly Brad Burns–Metro Police
Elizabeth Underwood–Tenn. Economic Council on Women
Angelique Golden–Metro Human Relations Commission
Tyler Smith–Sen. Bill Frist, Nashville
Mathew Gardner–Tenn. Office of Homeland Security, Nashville
Sara Carter–White House Office of Public Liason, Washington, D.C.

Model United Nations News

MTSU students participated in two Model United Nations competitions over the past year. Dr. Steven Livingston accompanied students on both trips. Eleven students attended a competition in October in Arlington, Virginia. The students were **Neal Adamson**, **Fatima Badreddine**, **Robert Blackwell**, **Suzanne Fisher**, **Dakotah Green**, **Timothy Lord**, **Heather Moore**, **Kevin Stimson**, **Christopher Hurman**, and **Jesse Moore**.

A second group attended a competition at the University of Virginia in March. These students were **Wes Adamson**, **Robert Blackwell**, **Sara Fisher**, **Dakotah Green**, **Channing Hatmaker**, **Anna Hodges**, **Garrett Kidd**, **Jesse Moore**, **Candice Nunley**, **Russell Parman**, and **Kevin Stimson**. Students placed third in this competition. **Russell Parman** received honorable mention for his representation of China on the Security Council; **Garrett Kidd** got an honorable mention award for representing Syria in the League of Arab States; and **Wes Adamson** was named best delegate for representing Dmitri Ustinov, minister of defense on the 1980s Soviet Politburo.

Student Interns

MTSU's student interns have a sizeable presence in the Tennessee legislature. This year, Dr. Mark Byrnes, who supervises these interns, had a luncheon at the state capitol to which members of the University and the state legislature were invited. Guests from MTSU included President Sidney McPhee, Executive Vice President Kaylene Gebert, Vice Provost Jack Thomas, Assistant to the Vice President Faye Johnson, Dean of Liberal Arts John McDaniel, and John Vile and Mark Byrnes from the Political Science Department. Vice Chancellor David Gregory and Communications Director Mary Morgan attended from the Tennessee Board of Regents. Legislators in attendance included Senator Bill Ketron, Senator Jim Tracy, Senator Diane Black, Representative John Hood, Representative Kent Coleman, Representative Curt Cobb, Representative Joe Fowkles, Representative Charles Curtiss, and Representative Stacy Campfield. Alums attending included Connie Frederick, director of Legislative Administration; Burney Durham, chief clerk and chief of staff, House; Tammy Letzler, deputy chief clerk and chief of staff, House; Alan Whittington, deputy chief clerk and chief of staff, Senate; as well as Donna Morgan, intern coordinator.

MTSU interns worked in the following offices over the past year: **Sonia Jennings**—Representative Jere Hargrove; **Lakesha Parker**—Senator Joe Haynes; **Matthew Parriott**—Representative Phillip Pinion; **Brian Steward**—Senator Ron Ramsey; **Benjamin Cooley**—Representative Curt Cobb; **Ed Evans**—Senator Jim Tracy; **Joshua Johns**—Representative John Hood; **Konstantinos Asimakopoulos**—Representative Kent Coleman; **Amin Salemi**—Senator Bill Ketron; **Andrew Wood**—Representative Charles Sargent; and **Joshua Evans**—Senator Diane Black. In addition, **Leslie Stevens** worked for the Tennessee Board of Regents, **Tommie Norwood** for the Department of Human Services, and **Matthew Coleman** with the Ingram Group.

Special congratulations are due to **Benjamin Cooley**, who was elected governor of the mock legislature that the legislative interns sponsor each year.

Experience of an MTSU Intern, 2005

by LaKesha Parker

Interning for the Tennessee legislature was one of the best experiences of my life. No, I neither made coffee nor got lunch, but I pride myself in being the fastest envelope stuffer there is. I did everything from making copies to answering the phone to helping a lady find a place to live after her house caught on fire. The telephone calls never stopped, but the job was about helping people, learning about the state government, and learning about the people in state government.

I didn't know what I wanted to gain from my internship. Luckily, I was placed in the best office in the Legislative Plaza. I can remember the day I walked up to the office and I read the plate that said, "Democratic Caucus Chair," and found myself working for Senator Joe Haynes. Senator Haynes is a very powerful man who has been working in the legislature for over 20 years. In addition to being a state legislator, he is also an attorney in the city of Goodlettsville, a husband, and a father. He always took the time to talk to his constituents whether they made an appointment or not.

My most vivid moment was near the end of the session. It included cameras shooting from every angle, news reporters trying to get the best story, legislators being arrested, TennCare advocates singing "Amazing Grace" while the legislators were on their way into session, legislators being arrested, a supervisor having a special meeting with the interns to remind us not to go to receptions uninvited, being stuck in traffic on I-24 and I-40, legislators being arrested, and bad parking. Did I mention legislators being arrested? Yes, the intern class of the 104th General Assembly experienced first-hand what is known as the Tennessee Waltz. It was especially exciting for me because my office was between two of the legislators who were arrested and around the corner from another. It was a chaotic day for everyone on Capitol Hill. The capitol and the plaza were filled with constituents, news reporters, and the families of the legislators. The following day, the telephones were ringing off the hook with people from all over calling to request that ethics bills be pushed through and passed into law. But through it all, the legislators still managed to continue with their responsibilities and pass a budget.

As a legislative intern, I made a lot of friends. I learned that in order to survive through the legislative session you need to have a lot of patience and willpower, and you have to be photogenic. If you have these three, then you will make an excellent intern.

Editor's note: In addition to serving as an intern, LaKesha has worked as an aide in the department.

Student Award Winners

Each year the department gives several awards to students for outstanding scholarship and service. This year, **Richard Smith** received the Norman L. Parks Award for being the political science/pre-law major with the best GPA. **Bill Fisher** and **John Miller** shared the C. C. Sims Award, and **Brian Cunningham** received the John W. Burgess Award for outstanding GPAs. **Tim Lord** received the Jack Justin Turner Award for being the international relations major with the best GPA, and **Robert Blackwell** received the Meritorious Service Award for his service to the Model United Nations program.

McNair Scholars

Russell Parham, a senior majoring in international relations, is working with Dr. Andrei Korobkov and the McNair Scholars Program on a project related to terrorism. **Deidre Cullom**, another departmental senior, is doing research on environmental policy with Dr. Sekou Franklin. The McNair Program is designed to prepare first-generation college students for future graduate work.

Charles R. Ray Scholars

Ashleigh McCain of Beech High School in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, is the latest recipient of the Charles R. Ray Scholarship, which the department awards each year to an incoming freshman from funds supplied by Nashville attorney and MTSU alumnus Charles R. Ray. Lisa has been active in numerous high school activities and has taken college prep and honor classes.

Lisa will join **Brittany Mebane**, sophomore; **Stacey Badger**, junior; and **Mike Jackson**, senior, as a Ray Scholarship recipient.

Other Scholarship Award Winners

Luke E. Dickerson has been awarded this year's **George T. Adcock Scholarship**. Luke has a dual major in international relations and German and has studied abroad.

Jason Crook has received the **Jo Anne Arnold scholarship**. He is an Eagle Scout and former state president of Business Professionals of America. He is simultaneously pursuing his political science degree and a degree in business administration. Jason is planning to attend law school after marrying Brittany Sewell and graduating in 2006.

Misty Herndon has been award the **Jane Duke Memorial Scholarship**. Misty is a college senior.

Reflections of a Ray Scholar

by Michael Jackson

My experience at Middle Tennessee State University has been far-reaching. Since first entering MTSU, I have participated in many activities including the honor societies of Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi, the Student Government Association (SGA), and the MTSU College Democrats, all of which have enhanced my knowledge. However, chief among my experiences are those that have taken place in the classroom. Although it can be difficult for college students to find their niche, I found mine while taking P S 2010 (American Government) and P S 2440 (Law and the Legal System) classes. During my first term, I left those classes each day filled with an increased fervor for the law and for political science. It was clear to me that I wanted my future to be filled with arguments, debates, and briefs. Financially, however, I was struggling to pay for tuition, so I did not think that law school (a much more costly endeavor) was realistically within reach.

That spring, I received the best news in a long while from Political Science Chair Dr. Vile. He informed that that due to my high grade point average my first term and my scholastic record from high school, I qualified to be a Charles Ray Scholar. This generous financial award is given to four students (one recipient each in the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes) who have declared a pre-law concentration and intend to go to law school. This scholarship has proven to be a tremendous help to me. It has not only helped me financially but also has shown me that dreams are an impregnable force and that kindness, faith, and hard work can melt even the toughest obstacles. With this sentiment in mine, I would like to thank Mr. Ray for the invaluable role he has played in my education without even knowing it.

As I complete the final steps toward my degree and the law school application process, I would like to encourage the MTSU political science faculty and alumni to continue to inspire, prod, and challenge students within the department. Each of you possesses tremendous power to affect students and their futures. As this year approaches and passes, I ask each of you to remember this in your most trying times. I certainly will as I prepare to embark upon my journey.

Note: Michael is a senior political science major with a concentration in pre-law and an English minor. He is the senior class recipient of the Charles R. Ray Scholarship.

Experiences of a Departmental Student Aide

by Barbara Sidwell, senior

Barbara Sidwell

Working in the Political Science Department has been an invaluable experience for me. It has given me immense insight into my field of study and, through assisting Dr. John Vile and Dr. Mark Byrnes on various projects, I have further enhanced my research skills. I consider my experience working in the department a sometimes daily adventure and a truly valuable extension of the education I have received as a student of political science.

Both academically and personally, I have found the professors in the Political Science Department to be the absolute best MTSU has to offer, and no other department has an executive aide like ours! I have witnessed firsthand the department's sincere concern for students' well-being. Both Pam Davis and the professors make certain the doors of the department and their offices are always open to students, and those who have ever tried to get anything done at some other places on campus know how lucky we are as students that they make such an effort. Most important, they express a genuine joy for politics and government that is evident in their work and their lives.

As my education at MTSU comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to all the professors in the Political Science Department. From my first class with Dr. King-Meadows my freshman year to my very last, my professors have challenged me to take a deeper look at the world and my own belief structure. Not all students at MTSU will graduate thinking they have received the best education possible. Not all students will graduate with the necessary skills needed to succeed in law school or graduate school, but those students will not be graduating with political science degrees. The political science professors continue to arm their students with a valuable education that will help them succeed in all that they do. For that, you should all be proud!

Bredesen Appointee

Governor Phil Bredesen appointed **Dennis Clark**, a junior political science major, to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth in October 2004. In this capacity, Clark serves as a link between Tennessee state government and youth who are in need. Clark is serving as president of the African American Student Association, and he serves on the University Discipline Community and is active in the Student Government Association.

Helen Caddes Seeks Justice

Political science major Helen Caddes has been working to prove that Kirstin Lobato, who has been sentenced to a life term for a murder in Las Vegas, is innocent. Lobato's story was aired on the Discovery Channel on July 5, 2005. Those interested in further information can find it at www.justice4kirstin.com.

ΠΣΑ

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, recognizes juniors and seniors in the department with a 3.2 grade point average or better. Dr. Robb McDaniel advises this group. New members in 2004–2005 included **Ashley Adams**, **Mariam N. Awad**, **Brian C. Belden**, **Victoria Britton**, **Stewart A. Carlton**, **Joseph W. D'Onofrio**, **Steven S. Fowler**, **Lenore A. Gawf**, **Richard W. Guthrie**, **Misty D. Herndon**, **Christy L. Holden**, **Derek E. Johnson**, **Aaron M. Kean**, **Chastity D. Lark**, **Nathan S. Luna**, **Carla Brooke Maners**, **Whitney E. Mitchell**, **Jason W. Norris**, **Trenton Poynter**, **Amin Salemi**, **Gary A. Schneider**, **Robert N. Shrum**, **Christopher M. Smith**, **L. Michelle Stephenson**, **Kenecia D. Sullivan**, **Tessa Swartz**, **Kristin P. Taylor**, **Shannon R. Thornton**, **James R. Tucker**, **Thomas Vincent**, **Charles Warren Wakeland**, **Kelly R. Warf**, and **Marshall B. Weber**.

Congratulations to one and all!

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Mark Byrnes served during the spring 2005 semester as interim chair of the department while John Vile was on a noninstructional assignment. Byrnes continues to head up University efforts for the American Democracy Project, and he serves as a member of the Rutherford County School Board. Dr. Byrnes successfully hosted a meeting of MTSU legislative interns, area legislators, and university administrators in March, 2005 at the state capitol. (Please also see "Personal News" p. 13.)

Dr. David Carleton has been nominated as one of MTSU's Outstanding Teachers. He continues to work with statewide programs directed to the education of gifted children. In 2004–05 he served on the executive board of the Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform and with the Tennessee Department of Education's Task Force on Gifted Identification. He was presented with both the Senator Curtis Person Advocacy Award and the 2004 Parent of the Year award at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of the Gifted.

Dr. Sekou Franklin has made presentations over the past year to the National Peace and Justice Center Leadership Institute, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the Honors College. He helped plan a campus celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and has been working with the American Democracy Project and with various local committees committed to advancing the public good through political activism.

Dr. Andrei Korobkov coauthored articles in *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* and chapters in *Russia and Ukraine in a Changing World* and in *Post-Communist Countries in a Globalizing World*. Over the past year he served as chair of the International Studies Association Post-Communist Studies. He has also presented papers at George Mason University in Virginia, in Nashville, in Honolulu, in Washington, D.C., in Boston, and in Salzburg, Austria. As a member of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Korobkov has been working on the idea of a campus memorial to students who have fallen in defense of the nation. Dr. Korobkov's oldest son, Andrei, will be attending MTSU as an undergraduate this fall.

Dr. Lisa Langenbach is the first person in the department to have received the Certified Online Instructor designation. Dr. Langenbach offers numerous online classes. In addition to committee work, she works with the Boy Scouts in Franklin.

Dr. Steven Livingston continues editing *Global Commerce*, and he has had an

article titled "Measuring Globalization in a Regional Economy" accepted for publication in a refereed journal. He delivered papers at the International Studies Association and at the annual convention of the Tennessee Political Science Association, for which he served as vice president and program chair. Dr. Livingston accompanied MTSU students competing in the Model United Nations Program.

Dr. Robb McDaniel offered a new course in totalitarianism and is chairing the department's Institutional Effectiveness Study and advising campus Democrats. He served last year as president of the Tennessee Political Science Association.

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Mediation News

MTSU continued its impressive record in National Mock Mediation tournaments by attending a scrimmage at Brenau College and by placing second in the national tournament held at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago last October just behind Boston University and ahead of New York University. MTSU student participants included **Ashley Horn**, **Andrew Johnson**, **Ryan Lorimer**, **Allan Lutes**, **Melanie McDavid**, **John Schlicher**, **Richard Smith**, and **Kenecia Sullivan**.

2004 Mediation Team

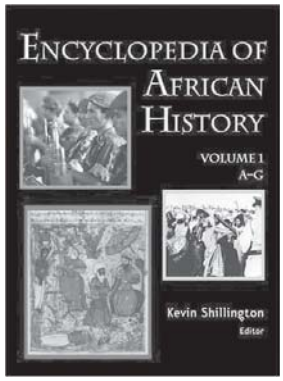
FACULTY NEWS (continued from pg. 9)

Dr. John Maynor continues work editing a book on republicanism, which is also the theme of his first published book. Maynor has been invited to be an associate editor of *Contemporary Political Theory*, and he received a summer research grant. Dr. Maynor has developed new courses on human rights and contemporary political theory.

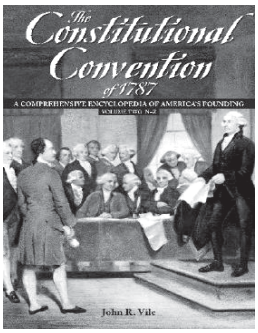
Dr. Mario Perez-Reilly continues to teach introductory Foundations of Government classes as well as classes in quantitative methods and Latin America.

Dr. Anne Sloan has been serving both as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and as an assistant to the University Provost for matters related to international studies. She chaired a panel at the Women and Power Conference over the past year. Her daughter Samantha continues to distinguish herself as a student at Webb School in Bell Buckle. (Please also see "Personal News" p. 13.)

Dr. Moses Tesi continues to edit the *Journal of African Policy Studies*, and he serves on the board of the *Journal of Third World Studies*. He prepared a chapter on the Ivory Coast for a reference volume titled *Governments of the World*. In April he presented a paper at the Academy of African Business and Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Tesi recently published an essay titled "Cameroon's Endangered Environment: Economic Policy and Forest Loss" in *Agenda Setting and Public Policy in Africa*, ed. by Kelechi A. Kalu (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004). He published a chapter on Cameroon's environment in a book titled *Agenda Setting and Public Policy in Africa* and published four entries in the *Encyclopedia of African History*, published by Rutledge, Taylor, and Francis. He served on a panel at the November 2004 meeting of the African Studies Association in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tesi traveled with a group of MTSU faculty members and students to Japan in May and June.



Dr. George Vernardakis served on a number of University committees over the past year.



Dr. John R. Vile coedited (with David Schultz of Hamline University) a three-volume work, *The Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America*, which M. E. Sharpe published in January 2005 and to which a number of departmental faculty members and alumni have contributed. The volumes have been favorably reviewed in a number of journals. Dr. Vile also authored *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding* (two volumes), which ABC-CLIO published in June 2005 along with a third edition of his *Pleasing the Court: A Mock Trial Handbook*. Vile continues to coach MTSU mock trial teams. Over the past year, Vile attended conferences on legal issues at the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia and in Santa Monica, California. Vile received an award from the College of Liberal Arts for Outstanding Advising.

Dr. Clyde Willis continues coaching MTSU mediation teams, which placed fourth in the nation this year.

Meet the Adjuncts!

The Department of Political Science depends chiefly on full-time faculty, but we also rely on adjuncts to teach specialized courses (especially in paralegal studies) and to meet demand in introductory classes. Here are brief introductions to our adjunct faculty members this year.

Jay Barger (1998) is teaching a Legal Research and Writing class. A departmental alumnus, he earned his J.D. from the University of Tennessee and is employed by Kious and Rodgers.

David Hudson is teaching American Constitutional Law. A graduate of Duke University and the Vanderbilt Law School, he is a research attorney with the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt. He has an extensive record of publications and speeches.

Michael McDonald (1979) is teaching Litigation and Trial Practice. He is an MTSU alumnus who earned his master's degree from Southern Illinois University and his J.D. from the John Marshall School of Law. He served for more than ten years as the Davidson County Election Commissioner.

Steven D. Maloney is teaching two sections of American Government. He is working on a Ph.D. specializing in political theory at the University of Maryland, College Park.

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

Steve Robertson is teaching two sections of Foundations of Government and a Women and the Law course. He is an alumnus of the MTSU Political Science Department and has done graduate work at Vanderbilt University.

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Survey

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

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

Name _____

Adress _____

What was your degree program?

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

Degree concentration: ☐ None ☐ Pre-law ☐ P.A. ☐ M.A. ☐ M.P.A. Year you received your degree_____

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

☐ M.A. from _____ ☐ J.D. from _____

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

What is you profession?

☐ Lawyer
☐ Government official
☐ Elected official
☐ Teacher
☐ Judge
☐ Lobbyist
☐ Businessperson
☐ Other_____

For whom do you work? Where? _____

_____

What is your title or position? _____

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

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

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FACULTY NEWS (continued from pg. 10)

Personal News

Dr. Anne Sloan had cancer surgery this summer but is recovering nicely and is exhibiting her typical pluck in the face of adversity. This is the second operation she has had, but the second cancer does not appear to have been caused by the first and the surgery appears to have been a success.

Abigail Byrnes, the four-year-old daughter of **Mark and Julie Byrnes**, was hospitalized with HUS, a type of kidney failure that was probably triggered by E. coli. This, in turn, appears to have led to one or more strokes. Her kidney functions have returned, and in early July she was moved from Vanderbilt Children's Hospital to Atlanta, where more extensive physical therapy is available. She is now continuing with therapy in Murfreesboro.

Both families have appreciated your prayers and expressions of support.

Adjuncts *continued from page 10*

Steve Saunders is teaching a Foundations of Government class. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree from Ohio State University and was recently selected to head MTSU's McNair Program. Steve is married to Dr. Anne Sloan.

Kent Syler, an aide to Congressman Bart Gordon, has been offering a Political Campaigning course that has proved to be particularly popular over the past several years.

Brandi Snow Bozarth (1999) is teaching Law and the Legal System and is helping coach MTSU mock trial teams. She is a Political Science alumna and earned her law degree from the University of Dayton. She is married to Shiva Bozarth, another departmental alum.

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

Retired Faculty

Dr. Everett Cunningham continues a lively interest in politics and sends articles of interest to the department from time to time.

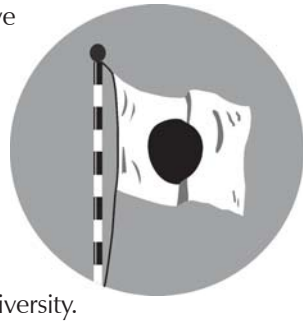
Dr. Frank Essex continues to reside in Murfreesboro with his wife, Betty.

Dr. David Grubbs and his wife, Sue, continue to reside in Murfreesboro.

Dr. Tom Vandervort was featured in the March 9 issue of *Rutherford A.M.* for woodwork that he has made and exhibited in local craft shows. Tom and his wife, Elsa, were among those who attended the wedding of Virginia Vile and Keith Wesolowski in Williamsburg, Virginia. Although he missed the tournament last year because he was vacationing in Europe, Tom plans to judge at MTSU's annual mock trial tournament on November 11 and 12.

MOCK TRIAL
NOV. 11–12

Japan Trip (continued from pg. 3)



On May 26, we left Tokyo for Fukushima to the north. Fukushima is a city of about 300,000 people and home to Fukushima University. Fukushima University, located in a beautiful rural setting of hills and valleys, is a sister university of MTSU. The university authorities received us very well and coordinated our field study in the area. Our learning activities returned to education at the primary school and university levels on our first day there. In addition to meeting with university officials, we visited Fukushima Third Elementary School, where we observed different classes in session and later had lunch with the students. During the remaining two days in Fukushima, our emphasis shifted to a focus on experiencing Japanese culture, with each of us staying with a Japanese family. This gave us the opportunity to interact with them a lot more directly—on our own in their homes and at places they took us to.

On May 29, we returned to Tokyo from Fukushima to complete our program before returning to the States. On the morning of May 30, we visited the Bank of Japan (Japan's version of the Federal Reserve) and listened to a presentation by its deputy director for public relations (a Vanderbilt University graduate) on how the bank used unprecedented means to tackle the Japanese banking crisis of the late 1990s. Our afternoon program included a visit and tour of the Japanese Diet (Congress) and a discussion meeting with the deputy editor and one of the editorial writers of the Nikkei, the largest publisher of business and financial publications in the world. On the morning of May 31, we left Tokyo for Nagoya, where we took the plane that evening for Chicago.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Sam Adams (2004) is studying for a master's degree in student affairs administration in higher education at Texas A&M University.

Jeremy Allen (2005) graduated as a cadet colonel and a wing commander in charge of the training and progression of over 100 cadets.

J. Nathan Allen II (2001) has for the past two years been volunteering time to do international mission work with the Southern Baptists. He has worked on a variety of tasks in Rio de Janeiro, periodically returning home to raise money. He is hoping to enroll in seminary in Louisville this August to work on a master's degree in missions.

Gaines E. Anderson III (1986) is president of Dr. Drew Inc. in Sarasota, Florida.

Matthew Barber, who attended MTSU from 2000 to 2002, has graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. He teaches dance and is hoping to complete his undergraduate degree at Fordham University.

Jay Barger (1998) earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee and is practicing law for Kious and Rogers in Murfreesboro.

Michelle Blaylock-Howser is working as an administrative assistant for Judge J. Mark Rogers in Murfreesboro and completing her fourth year at the Nashville School of Law. She is married to Eric Howser. They are raising Hannah Blaylock, 8, and Drew Howser, 7. Michelle has helped mock trial teams secure access to the Rutherford Judicial Building for scrimmages and has solicited information from alums for this newsletter. Thanks!

Brandi Snow Bozarth (1999), who graduated from the University of Dayton, is working for the state of Tennessee and helping coach MTSU mock trial teams.

Shiva Bozarth (1999) is a lawyer for the state of Tennessee.

Tracy Brakebill (1993), a former mock trial participant, is working as an associate publisher with Panache Partners Publishing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Karl E. Bren (1967) earned an M.A. from Virginia Tech and is president of Green Visions in Richmond, Virginia. He has now been married for 37 years and has done some teaching at Virginia Commonwealth University and at the University of Richmond.

Sylvester Brooks (1970), graduated from the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in 1973 and now lives in Macedonia, Ohio, where he is assistant director of the UAW Legal Services Plans for General Motors and other car manufacturers. The youngest of his four children recently passed the bar exam in Maryland and works in the office of general counsel at HUD headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Leah Erin Bumbalough (2003), who continues to study law at Ohio Northern University, married Michael Thomas Begley on July 30 at the First Baptist Church in Manchester, Tennessee. May they both live happily ever after!

Claire S. Burger (2000) received her J.D. degree, cum laude, at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. She received the Litigation Skills scholarship award for 2003. She has joined the law offices of Burger, Siskin, Scott and McFarlin in Murfreesboro.

Tinisha Buttrey (1999) has been serving since January of 2004 as a deputy press secretary for Congressman J. Randy Forbes of the fourth district of Virginia. She previously served from 2002 to 2004 as director for community relations for Mercy Ministries of America and from 2000 to 2002 as a legislative liaison for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Tinisha married Matthew D. Weigelt, a legislative correspondent for Congressman Mark Souder of the third district of Indiana, on July 30, 2005, in Bon Aqua, Tennessee.

Mark Byrnes (1982), Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, continues teaching in the Department of Political Science at MTSU and is serving on the Rutherford County School Board.

Abigail Cadle (1998) is an international trade specialist with the U.S. Department of Commerce and is working in New York City, where she has been for the last five years.

Roger Carson (1972) earned a master's degree in city and regional planning at the University of Memphis in 1981. He is now a commercial real estate appraiser and consultant working in Georgia. He and his wife, who is an artist, have two children.

Larry Cox (1968) is president and owner of Homestead, Inc., a wholesale food distributorship in Knoxville. Larry served on the Knoxville City Council from 1984 to 2003 and is now serving as a field representative for Congressman John J. Duncan Jr. He and wife Brenda Mize have two children, Shane, 25, who graduated in May 2004 from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and works for the Knoxville Boys and Girls Club and Brooke, 21, who is a junior at East Tennessee State University. On April 17, 2004, the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame presented Larry with the Distinguished American Award as someone "who has set a standard of excellence in a life of service to the community."

Andrae Crismon (2000), who completed his law degree at Vanderbilt, is working for the Office of General

Council at the Tennessee Department of Health.

Marlin Curnutt (1995) earned a master's degree in history at Southeast Missouri and works as a media relations director and adjunct professor of history at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee. He began further graduate study in political science at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville in the summer of 2005. He dropped by to visit the department in June on his way to a meeting in Nashville of the Tennessee Sports Writers Association.

Don Darden (1967) earned his M.P.A. from the University of Tennessee and works as a municipal management consultant for the University of Tennessee. He and wife Dianna Darden have five children. Greg is an army officer in Korea, Jack is a network administrator, Emily works for a cardiology group, David is a junior at MTSU, and Steven is a senior in high school.

Kyle Dodd (2002) earned his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law.

Harold B. Duff (M.A., 1965) earned a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and now serves as a county commissioner in Lenoir City, Tennessee, after retiring as superintendent of schools.

Steven D. Ervin (1996) has earned an M.B.E. from MTSU. He is a teacher and marketing director at Lighthouse Christian School and is especially proud of his six grandchildren—Lane, Abby, Marissa, Isabella, Gabe, and Gabby.

Thomas C. Faris (1975), who has been a practicing attorney in Winchester, Tennessee, since 1978, was elected general sessions judge of Franklin County in August 2004. It includes jurisdiction over criminal cases, small claims, juvenile court, and probate matters.

Kevin Fowler (1987) earned his J.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and works for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands.

Dwayne Fulmer (1995) is working with the Drug Enforcement Agency in the Milwaukee District Office, where he describes himself as a "jack of all trades." His work includes case support, quarterly reporting, and representing the DEA at conferences, roundtables, and meetings involving other local and federal law enforcement agencies. He and his wife, Kristie, have two children: Reilly, 4, and Kelsey, 2.

Nathan Gardner (2005) is stationed at Ft. Lewis where he is in charge of the TOC, the office that acts as the central point for all incoming and outgoing information. He is also overseeing four reserve soldiers.

Brian Gilbert (2001) finished his M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary and is an associate pastor of Madison St. United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. Brian dropped by to visit the department in June.

Lauren Gillespie (2001) is now working as an aide to Senate Democrats in the Tennessee legislature.

Donald G. Goff (1969) earned his M.B.A. from Southwest Missouri State University in 1976 and his Ed.D. from the University of South Florida in 2004. He is now the vice president for business and administration at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida. He served for 30 years as an army ranger and was academic dean at Hillsborough before taking his present position.

Bart Gordon (1971) continues to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from the Murfreesboro area.

Jaime Groce (1997) is a senior city planner with the city of Franklin, Tennessee.

Ensley Hagan (2004) is enrolled in the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis, where he received an award for best memo for his legal methods section.

Joshua S. Haley (1999) completed two years of graduate work at the University of Texas at Austin in government and foreign affairs before enrolling in the law school at Southern Methodist University, where he earned his degree in 2004. He married Sylvia Martinez, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and is now a staff attorney for the Texas Municipal League after having previously worked in the law office of Jamie Balogia in Austin.

Nick Harris (2000) graduated in May 2005 from the Nashville School of Law.

Mary Katharine Harvey White (1993) graduated from the law school at the University of Tennessee and is an assistant district attorney in Smyrna, Tennessee. She and her husband Bryan White have a 4-month-old child, Katharine Elizabeth (Katie Beth).

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Constance (Connie) Anne Fouts

The department is saddened to report the death of Constance (Connie) Anne Fouts in July of 2005. Connie graduated from MTSU with a major in political science in 1971 and subsequently went to Southern Methodist Law School.

She was a member of a two-member law firm in Dallas for about 35 years. Dr. Anne Sloan, a classmate, was among those giving eulogies at her funeral. Connie is survived by her mother, Leola Page Fouts of Murfreesboro, and by sisters Collene Lumpkin and Deborah Coburn, and brothers Gary Fouts, Duane Fouts, Doug Fouts, and Tim Fouts.

ALUMNI NEWS (continued from pg. 15)

Daniel Hayes (1999) and his wife have moved to Baton Rouge and are expecting their first child. He has been working on political campaigns in Virginia and in Louisiana. He has finished his master's degree in modern European history and received an award from his department for his thesis on the Bulgarian Secret Central Committee in the 1860s and '70s.

Thomas S. Hirsbrunner (1995) earned his law degree at the Thomas Cooley Law School and is in solo practice in Lansing, Michigan.

L. Craig Johnson (1986) has been serving since 1998 as a circuit court judge in Coffee County. Johnson has 21 years of military service including time in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in 1997 as president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; he was on the Manchester YMCA Start-up Committee; and he has been a member of the Democratic Executive Committee for Coffee County. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Johnson (also an MTSU graduate), have three sons: Matt and Kyle, 8, and Nicholas, 3.

DeAnna Jones (2002) is an office manager for First Defense Fire Protection in Huntersville, North Carolina. She is working on a second undergraduate degree in accounting and hopes to get an M.B.A. at UNC Charlotte afterward. She has been volunteering through the United Way with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and likes to get back to Colorado as much as possible.

Sheryl Bauer Jones (1997) finished her J.D. at the Nashville School of Law and is now self-employed as a residential contractor. She married Jennings H. Jones in 2000.

Kelly Kirby (1998), a former mock trial participant, is working in pharmaceutical sales with Pedinol Pharmacal in Nashville. She is married to John Piovarcy.

Matthey Komisky (2004) is a center manager in training for FedEx/Kinko's of Nashville. He married Maria Chamberlain in December 2004.

Nathan J. Landkammer (2001) is a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service in Nashville. He has conducted a number of criminal investigations in Nashville and served on protection details for President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and former presidents Bush, Carter, and Clinton.

Rebecca Lashbrook (2000) is serving as a paralegal/executive assistant to attorneys M. Keith Sisken and Ben Hall McFarlin III in Murfreesboro. She and her husband, SFC Charles Lashbrook, have two children: Sydney Ellen, 3, and Jackson, 21 months. Rebecca reports celebrating her tenth wedding anniversary and earning a Ph.D. in motherhood.

Tammy Letzler (1993) is deputy chief clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Cara Loeffler Harr (1993) is working in Gallatin, Tennessee, as an administrative judge. She and her husband, Aaron Harr, have a five-year-old son named Madison.

Duane Lowe (1999) has earned an M.A. from Cumberland University and teaches at Friendship Christian High School in Franklin, Tennessee, where he has been since graduating. He and wife Cathy Rogers Lowe (another MTSU graduate) had a daughter, Bailey Lowe, in May 2003.

Michale W. Lutche (M.P.A., 1975) earned a master's degree from the U.S. Naval War College. He is now semiretired from positions as director of human resources, city manager, and Pacific Command Intelligence Liaison to the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees. He describes his current position as "Honey, take care of this since you're not working."

Joyce Davie McClaran (1967) lives in Franklin, Tennessee, but is vice president for Policy Studies Inc. of Denver, Colorado. She previously served as director of child support service with the Tennessee Department of Human Services (1983–1998), as director of Medicaid policy and procedures with the Tennessee Department of Health (1982–1983) and as director of Medicaid eligibility with the Tennessee Department of Human Services (1980–1982). Joyce has two children, Molly and Matt, and four grandchildren. Molly (O'Neal) received her master's in school counseling from MTSU in 2003.

Johnny McGraw Jr. (2000) graduated from the University of Michigan and is practicing law with the firm of Sennenschein, Nath, and Rosenthal in the Sears Tower in Chicago. Johnny made a generous contribution of $300 to the departmental mock trial program.

Lori McKee (1997) is a casework director in the McMinnville District Office of Congressman Lincoln Davis (4th District, Tennessee). She plans to graduate from the Nashville School of Law in May 2006.

Jotrone R. Marable (2002) is a probation officer in Murfreesboro. He has joined the NAACP and plans to graduate from MTSU with a master's degree in criminal justice administration in 2006.

Gerald Melton (1978) is the Public Defender for the 16th Judicial Circuit, which includes Cannon and Rutherford Counties. He is teaching a class in criminal law at MTSU for the Criminal Justice Administration Department. He also coordinates the Continuing Legal Education credits for public defenders throughout the state. He and his wife have five children. The three eldest sons and one daughter-in-law have all graduated from MTSU. A daughter and son are still in high school. Gerald dropped by the department in early September.

Forrest L. Moegle (1995) finished his J.D. at Mississippi College and is now an associate attorney with Hayes, Harkey, Smith, and Cascio in Monroe, Louisiana. His wife, Steele, is a professor of music at Louisiana Tech and also an MTSU alum (B.M. '93, M.A. '95). Their daughter Alma is 3 and their son Riley is a newborn.

John Mulvey (1997) and his wife recently completely renovated another old house that they purchased in Nashville.

Nicole Lester Russell (1998) has graduated from the Nashville School of Law, passed the Tennessee bar exam, and is a law clerk for Chancellor Robert E. Corlew III in Murfreesboro. She married alumnus Joe L. Russell II (B.S. '89).

April Phillips Huffines (1997) is working as a stockbroker and financial advisor with the Harris-Huffines investment group in Graham, North Carolina. In 2000, she married Benjamin Huffines.

Frank Parlow (2002) is in the 101st Airborne Division and is gearing up for a year-long deployment in Iraq. After his return, he hopes to enroll in graduate school at MTSU.

A. Michell Poss (1991) has helped form the firm of Sobel, Poss, and Moore to do litigation in Nashville.

Richard D. Pugh (M.P.A., 1986) is the senior auditor for the University of California at Los Angeles. He has worked at UCLA since 2001, having previously served as a state legislative auditor in Tennessee, New Hampshire, and Nevada.

Thomas B. "Tom" Norris (1982) earned his J.D. from the Nashville School of Law and is a sole practitioner in Nashville, where he is also vice president of Nutrionics. He published an article in the November 2004 issue of the *Tennessee Bar Journal* titled "The New Salary Exemption Tests."

Karen K. Petersen (1998) has completed her Ph.D. in political science at Vanderbilt University and has been hired to teach in the Department of Political Science at Middle Tennessee State University.

Walter M. Ragsdale II (1969) is a lead man senior meter technician with the Nashville Electric Service. He has several children and is looking forward to retiring soon.

Sara Rainwater (2001) graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2003. She is now editor of *The European Journal*, the European Foundation's main publication. She also manages the day-to-day operations of the office and specializes in relations between the European Union and the U.S.

Cal Renegar (2000) has entered Vanderbilt Law School. He and his wife Amanda have moved to Nashville.

Charles R. Ray (1970) continues to support four Ray Scholars majoring in political science.

Brooks Rodgers-Miller (political science minor, 2000) graduated from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in May 2005. Brooks received a dean's certificate for her work on behalf of the law school, a legal scholars award for her performance in legal skills classes, and an award from the National Association of Women's Lawyers for her work as editor-in-chief of the *William and Mary Women and the Law Journal*.

Doug Sadler (2002) has graduated from the Stetson University School of Law and is now practicing law in Nashville.

Sean Scally (1984) earned his J.D. from Washburn University and an LL.M. from Georgetown. He works as a legal counsel and tax attorney for Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt Medical Center. He and his wife have two children: Casey, 10, and Molly, 7.

Darren Scoggins (1994) completed his law degree at the University of Tennessee and is working in criminal defense in Columbia, Tennessee.

Tracy Seaman (1993) is a director of sales for Hypercom in Centennial, Colorado.

Landon Sessoms (2003) is a projects manager with the Cavender Financial Group Inc. in Murfreesboro. He served as an assistant soccer coach for Oakland High School in the spring of 2004, where he is also a team leader for Young Life. He married **Alice Wisecarver**, another MTSU graduate, in June 2005.

Anne Sloan (1971), Ph.D. Ohio State University, is serving as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and as an advisor to the MTSU Provost's Office.

Doug Sloan (1994), who graduated from the Nashville School of Law, works for the city of Nashville.

Keith Slocum (1998), who graduated from the Nashville School of Law, continues to do bankruptcy law in Nashville with Rothchild and Salas. His wife, **Jenna**, (1997) is doing marketing/communications for Corrections Corporation of America.

Byron Smith (1984) earned an M.B.A. at the University of Chicago in 1986 and works for Asurion, which he helped relocate from the Silicon Valley in California to Tennessee. He is serving as the EVP and chief marketing officer. Byron was selected to participate in the 2004–05 class of Leadership Nashville and was named to the board of directors of the Adventure Science Center in Nashville.

continued on page 18

ALUMNI NEWS (continued from pg. 17)

Karl Smithson (1971) remains homeless in Nashville. Over the years Smithson has been an outspoken advocate for the homeless. Many of you will remember that Karl won the C. C. Sims award for his undergraduate record. Mark Byrnes, Anne Sloan and John Vile were quite pleased to see him several years ago at a book presentation that they made in Nashville.

Clifton B. Sobel (1991) has helped form the firm of Sobel, Poss, and Moore to do litigation in Nashville.

Aspen Stewart (2004) is working on her law degree at the University of Tennessee.

Tim Stone (1996) is now the manager of the Murfreesboro FedEx/Kinko's office, after having previously managed two such stores in Nashville.

Ralph Swindler (1988) earned his M.A. from Miami University and is now a senior director and mission crew commander in the Florida Air National Guard. Ralph looks back fondly to the days when he worked as an intern for Representative Bart Gordon and on Senator Andy Womack's first state senate primary campaign. He and his wife, Laura Taylor Hill, have two daughters: Reagan, born in 2001, and Morgan, born in 2004. Ralph has worked on air defense for the U.S. and has been deployed several times to Nashville to support security for President Bush.

Beth Tidwell (1992), a former mock trial participant, is a sales and marketing coordinator with Ripple IT in Atlanta, Georgia.

Barry Toyit (2005) has been accepted into the Nashville School of Law and is also contemplating pursuing an M.B.A. degree.

Virginia Vile (2002) graduated from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in May 2005. She received a dean's certificate for her work on behalf of the law school, was inducted into the Order of Barristers, and received one of two awards from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association for her skills in legal advocacy. Virginia was one of two winners of the Laurence W. I'Anson Award (named after a former Virginia Supreme Court Justice), which the faculty awards for professional promise, scholarship, character, and leadership. Virginia was married to Keith Wesolowski, a graduate of Yale and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, at a ceremony in the Wren Building on the William and Mary campus in early March. They have moved to Crystal City, Virginia, where she is studying for the Virginia bar exam. She has accepted a pro bono job with the public defender's office in Alexandria, Virginia.

Greg L. Wade (1977) is a general manager of Deep South in Brentwood, Tennessee. He and his wife have three children. Greg has visited 13 countries and 46 states since graduating. He also reports having written articles for history publications.

Lisa Wagner (2002) is a judicial commissioner with Judge Christopher Coats of the Smyrna Municipal Courts. She is also a volunteer for a local cancer society.

Maria Weir (2002) is a senior research coordinator at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where she coordinates various research projects aimed at addressing health disparities among underserved populations. She is planning to apply to some Ph.D. programs this year in the hope of getting a degree focusing on health and human rights in Central Asia.

Al Wilkerson (1993) is a facilities management supervisor with State Farm Insurance in Austin, Texas. He has been pursuing a master's degree at St. Edwards University in Austin and he and his wife Rochelle L. Cason-Wilkerson (a medical doctor) are expecting a child.

MOCK TRIAL

November 11–12

We Need Your Help!

If things go according to plan, alumni will be receiving this newsletter earlier in the year than usual. One reason we have aimed for an earlier date is that we want alums who are in law school or who have earned law degrees to know about our mock trial tournament and to consider helping us judge.

MTSU's invitational tournament is now one of the largest in the nation. For the last few years now, we have had 60 or more teams participate each year. This tournament not only provides incredible publicity for MTSU but also provides an opportunity for MTSU to enter its own teams (we usually have four to six) without having the expenses of going on the road.

This year's tournament will have four rounds—two beginning on Friday afternoon and two beginning Saturday morning. The single biggest obstacle to the further growth and prestige of this tournament remains securing an adequate number of judges. If you are a law student or an attorney, you probably already know the value of this activity. Please consider volunteering for this event! In addition to doing a great service for our undergraduates, this is often a good way to meet alumni with whom you graduated or participated in mock trial or other extracurricular activities.

Japan Trip (continued from pg. 13)

Dr. Moses Tesi

During the fifteen days that we were in Japan, I fell in love with the country. Although the trip was very tiring, we learned a lot about the country and its people. I was amazed at how highly organized and structured the people were. Everywhere we went, our receptions and programs were scripted almost on a minute-by-minute basis. This applied to small family functions as well as big corporate and government activities. I was also struck by the humility of the Japanese people. Even in Hiroshima, we found the people to be very receptive, respectful, and humble. There was no visible sign of anti-Americanism, even though they would have had all the reasons in the world to exhibit it after all that happened to them. Japanese people are very interested in learning English. Some even went out of their way to change seats in the train in order to sit next to me so as to practice their English when they recognized that I was from the U.S. I was also amazed to see that even though Japan is so industrialized and, as a country, has gone out of its way to embrace much of Western culture—Western dresses, movies, music, foods, and habits of other types—it continues to cling to and preserve its own culture and beliefs. Indeed, Japan is still largely a traditional society in the sense that traditional beliefs, norms, and values continue to govern certain areas of society. Its various temples and castles remain centers of spiritual guidance and renewals. Shinto services to pray for good harvests remain to this day. My experience at such a ceremony during my stay in Fukushima was truly humbling. Tea ceremonies, flower arrangements, kendo, etc., continue to thrive and serve important social functions. I was also surprised that crime was so low in the country. Even at night, we moved without fear through the towns and cities we visited.

Japan has not quite decided where its future economic direction as a country

in this age of globalization lies—whether in Asia, in which case Japan would need to work with China (before it fully becomes dominant) to ensure a strong leadership role for it in the region, or whether it sees its future direction being with the U.S. We found the country to be flooded with cheaply produced Chinese goods in the same way one finds them in the U.S. Moreover, Chinese immigrants are entering the country at a rate that is similar to the influx of Mexicans coming to the U.S. in search of jobs and a better life. What is interesting is that Chinese who have studied English in China find that skill in high demand in Japan. Our interpreter at the school of communication arts and digital animation, for example, was a young Chinese woman who had studied English in China. Most foreign students at the various institutions of higher education we visited were from China, with large numbers also coming from South Korea and other East Asian countries. In our discussion at Toshiba, Nikkei, and the other companies we visited, we found out that the companies were outsourcing most of their low-end production activities to China.

Many Japanese look up to the U.S. Although they see the relationship as one that is very good, some friction is inevitable. They see trade frictions between the two countries as minor issues compared to some of the problems they have with China. Problems with the U.S. are generally resolved amicably.

I went to Japan to enhance my research and teaching. As the second largest economy in the world, economic activities and decisions in Japan have immense effects on the operation and functioning of the global economy. Only fifty years ago, the Japanese economy was largely underdeveloped; it is now one of the most industrialized and economically influential countries in the world. The story of this development is of continuing interest to all students of Third World development.

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Timmy Gibson continues to update the department Web site. The site has links to faculty members, courses, organizations, degree information, and the like. We welcome your suggestions as to additional information that you think might be useful. The address is www.mtsu.edu/~polsci/.

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