

Political Science Department



Newsletter



Department to change its name

As of JULY 1
We will become...

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Spring 2015



Inside this issue:

New COLLEGE ADVISORS for POLITICAL SCIENCE and INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Majors



JaNet Davis
Room 117 Jones Hall
8:00—4:30 M-F

Majors w/last names A-J

Your **COLLEGE ADVISOR** can help you with basic questions about academic programs, scheduling, general education requirements, and other more technical-related questions. Plus they are available daily from 8:00-4:30.



Yuchun Schmidt
Room 108 Jones Hall
8:00-4:30 M-F

Majors w/last names K-Z

Your **FACULTY ADVISOR** can help you with career planning; incorporating internships, independent research or study abroad into your program; graduate school or law school; and other more professional-related questions.

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Don't forget!

You should file your Upper Division Form upon completing 75 credit hours – regardless of exactly when you plan on graduating.!

More changes in the department ... on page 4

www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/



Graduates Fall 2014

**New Students Spring 2015
(Freshman and New Transfers)**

030-49-549300

PS Majors

Dylan Chambers
Bridget Chilvers
Cameron Clements
Tameeca Comer
Brian Crawford
Logan Elliott
Michael Finch
Allyson Lynch
Nicholas Mitchell
Sara Murrey
Mark Naifeh
Armeda Napier
Stephan Oskian
Candace Parker
Caleb Pearl
Ryan Peters
Markita Scott
Madison Scribner
Broniesha Sims
Reggie Thomas
Hunter Tjornhom
Hosam William

IR Majors

Leonardo Campo
Kelly Chieng
Lama Shaiekh
Robert Simcox
Nathan Warren

**Masters in
International
Affairs**

Nathan Johnson
Cassis Smith
Balen Jalal Yusef



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PS Majors

Spencer Bristol
Donald Clarkin
Mathew Dwyer
Brandon Faun
Andrew Hawken
Thomas Peterson
Courtney Pouncy
Leunora Ramadari
Linda Roberts
Jaleesa Stinson
Mykuta Stukov
Mayum Tahikheli
Mark Williams

IR Majors

Samantha Burgess
Patrick Murphy
Nicholas Scholten

**New Master's Degree
Students**

Neil Bortz
Orion Douglas
Megan Kiliti
Nicole LeBlanc
Lama Shaiekh

ABM Program
Katherine Stubblefield

**By the Numbers
(Spring 2015)**

MAJORS

General Focus 76
Pre-Law concentration 131
Public Adm. concentration. 19
Teaching Licensure 4
International Relations 68

MINORS

International Relations 41
Paralegal 18
Political & Civic Engagement 13
Political Science 111
Public Adm. 11

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENJORS

As a prospective Spring 2015 graduate , you are required by MTSU and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to complete the **Major Field Test**.

The major field in Political Science test is administered **on the computers in KUC 107 between January 14 and April 17, 2015.**

Please go to <http://www.flashappointments.com/client/launch.cfm?busId=10220> to schedule the time. Possible exemptions for the Major Field Test include residence over one hour or 50 miles distance AND not taking classes on campus this semester, or disability/medical. If you feel your situation warrants an exemption, please send an e-mail to iepr@mtsu.edu, or reply to this e-mail, or contact (615) 494-8803.

UPCOMING Events during Fall Semester

- **Alumni Day Speaker — Larry Harrington — February 24 — 9:40 Peck Hall 215**
- **Political Science Night at the Predators Game — February 26**
- **LSAT Practice Test and Prep Session — March 21 and March 25**
- **Masters International Affairs Practitioner Speaker — TBA**
- **Peace Corps Rep on Campus — April 14 & 15**
- **Spring Picnic — Saturday April 25, noon-afternoon, Barfield-Crescent Park**



POLITICAL SCIENCE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Group Study Break ...

Night at the Predators

\$15

NASHVILLE PREDATORS
vs Minnesota Wild
Thursday (College Rush Night)
February 26, 7:00 pm

\$15 per ticket

\$15

Sign up and pay in the Main Office (Peck Hall 209) by **February 12**

The official sport of the Department of Political Science (and International Relations)

PS/ IR ALUMNI SPEAKER

Larry Harrington



Former:

- Chief Policy Deputy Attorney General for the State of Tennessee
- U.S. Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank in Mexico from 2004 to 2008.
- U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, 1995-2001.
- IR major

Tuesday, February 24 @ 9:40
Peck Hall 215

Dept of Political Science

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 25, Noon-afternoon
Barfield-Crescent Park, Pavilion #6

RSVP with Pam Davis in PH 209

Sponsored by: Dept of Political Science

Department of Political Science presents...

LSAT Practice Test & Prep Session

Practice Test
Saturday, March 21, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, KOM 326

Prep Session
Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Peck Hall 211

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Pre-register in Room 209 or by email to stephen.morris@mtsu.edu

The **Practice Test** will be a fully structured and timed administration of a practice version of an actual test. All rules that apply during the test will be in effect. You should arrive **no later than 8:00**. No one will be admitted into the room once the test begins.

The **Prep Session** will review the structure and format of the test; describe the rules on taking the test; and explore different strategies for the various sections. It will build on your results from the Practice Test.

Preparing to take the LSAT in the near future?

More Changes in the Department

NEW COURSES

PS 2000 Political Science and International Relations as a Profession (1 credit hour).

Beginning Fall 2015, this 1 credit hour course will be required for all PS and IR majors. The course will help orient students about career opportunities and paths. The course will be taken early on in the student's program.

PS 3270 NGOs and Non-Profits (3 credit hours).

This course exposes students to key topics and issues surrounding the political environment and competing pressures that international non-governmental organizations and domestic non-profits confront. NGO's and non-profits face a unique political environment, especially as local, state, and federal agencies increasingly rely on these outside organizations for service delivery. Readings and discussions will be tied to the practices of actual NGO's and non-profits. Students will each focus on one NGO or non-profit of their choosing, and explore how each of the issues raised in class readings and discussions are handled by that organization.

Revised requirements for the Minor in POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (effective Fall 2015)

CORE COURSES (6 credit hours)

Take two of the following courses:

- PS 1005: American Government and Politics (if major is other than Political Science)
- PS 3270: NGO's and Non-Profits
- PS 3550: Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy
- PS 3430: Political Campaign Management

POLITICAL/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ELECTIVES (12 credit hours).

- PS 4290: Public Service Internship (1-12 cr) *
- PS 4270: Political Campaign Internship (1-6 cr) *
- PS 3780: Study Abroad (3-6 cr)
- PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 cr)
- PS 4040: Pre-Law Internship (3cr) *
- PS 4280: The Washington Experience (12 cr) *
- PS 4360: Legislative Internship (12cr) *
- EXL 2030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3 cr)
- EXL 3030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3cr)
- EXL 3020: Leadership Studies Practicum (1-3 cr)
- EXL 4000: EXL Seminar (1 cr)
- PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure (1 cr)
- PS 2110: Moot Court (1 cr)
- PS 2120: Mediation Procedure (1 cr)
- PS 2130: Model United Nations/Crisis Simulation (1 cr)

◆ a maximum of 6 hours for any one of these internships may be counted toward the minor.

New Course Names (tentative for Fall 2015)

PS 1005 will become "Introduction to American Politics"

PS 1010 will become "Introduction to Global Politics"

The Department now offers free tutoring to students in PS 1005, PS 1010, & PS 3001.

Course	Tutor	Time / Location
PS 1005 & PS 1010	Ryan Peters Ryan_peters@live.com (901) 497-3118	Mondays & Tuesdays 1:00-6:00 & by appointment First floor Library Tutoring Area
PS 3001	Liala Syler liala.syler@american.edu (615) 424-5856	By appointment only

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Accelerated Bachelors-to-Masters (ABM)

Get your bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

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.

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information, contact
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Political Science
(615) 898-2708
www.mtsu.edu/MAIA

I AM *true*
BLUE



Rachel Harman (MA International Affairs 2013) served her practicum assignment at the anti-corruption organization Mexican Transparency in Mexico City.



COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNSHIP Experiences

Internships

During the Summer of 2014, I decided to register for PS 4390: Managing Domestic and International Non-Profit Organizations. Little did I know at that time that it would be the most impactful course I've taken during my time at MTSU. Although an internship is not required with this course, it was recommended so I jumped on the opportunity to do one at a nonprofit in Nashville that I had been interested in learning more about- STEM Preparatory Academy.

STEM Prep is a charter school in South Nashville that places special emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) related courses and material and provides a college preparatory education to Middle (and, soon, High) school students who wouldn't have access to it otherwise.

During my time at STEM Prep, I helped with day-to-day operations, organized material for summer training sessions, helped with upcoming strategic planning efforts, among many other activities. The course is truly built around equipping students to make valuable contributions and relationships with the nonprofit they are interested in. Each week, I conducted interviews with various individuals who worked in different topic areas that we were discussing in the course. I interviewed the Chair of the Board, Founder and CEO, Chief of Operations, and others who I now have strong relationships with that I know will help me in my future. If I had chosen to do an internship with this organization without the course however, it wouldn't have been nearly as fulfilling.

The course material is informative and interesting and allowed me to construct a rich internship plan that had amazing outcomes. I finished my 120 hours knowing far more than I ever anticipated and feeling like I made a greater impact than I ever thought I would. I would recommend this course to anyone who has interest in nonprofits, wants to take an interesting course, is interested in doing an internship, or has a heart for volunteerism. You definitely will not regret it!

- Ally Lynch

PS 4290: Public Service Internship



General Sessions - Civil Division

Dylan Chambers

Major: Political Science-Public Administration

Year: 2014

Career Goal: Administration



What my organization does:

General Sessions- Civil Division does many things for the people of Tennessee. Our office primarily files and manages Court files and dockets for the Civil Court. We also cover other civil matters such as :

- Garnishments
- Eviction
- Order of protection
- Mental health committals
- Environmental codes violations.
- Civil warrants

What I got out of my experience as an intern...

What I did during my tenure as an intern:

- A ton of filing
- Execution returns
- A lot of scanning
- Issuing Civil Warrants
- Issuing Executions (Garnishments, Bank levy's, and Property levy's)
- Garnishment Answers

A JOB!!!

Check out other internship experiences from recent interns on the bulletin board outside the main office.

INTERNSHIP Opportunities

Recent Internships with ...

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

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

SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD

Do you want a job when you graduate?

Do you want to gain real world professional work experience?

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

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

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

PS 4290 is for work with any government agency – national government in Washington or national agencies that are located in Nashville, or with any State of TN offices or with any state's government, or any local government- city, town, or county. Examples include State Department of Education or Finance, city water or planning or zoning departments, police and Homeland Security, Judges and Courts, and many more. See this list <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf> or Prof. Langenbach for details.

It is not too late to add an internship (or two!) to your schedule. You can get **3 or 6 credits that count toward a PS major or minor, or an IR major or minor**. These credits are **graded**, and thus may help boost your gpa as well. You may earn up to 12 credits from internship that count toward graduation, and the new minor in Political and Civic Engagement urges internship participation as well. Every 120 hours of work equals 3 upper division credits and it gives you a valuable line on your resume and a step up toward landing that ideal job when you graduate!

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

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

Contact Prof. Langenbach for more information and to register for an internship. Lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu

Mock Trial

The annual Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, co-sponsored this year for the first time by Belmont College of Law and MTSU, was held on MTSU's campus on November 14 and 15. Sixty one teams from thirty two schools attended, including near neighbors Vanderbilt University and University of Tennessee Knoxville, as well as distant travelers such as Fresno State, Wheaton College, and University of Louisiana-Monroe. The competition was divided into two divisions and rounds were held in the Cason Kennedy Nursing Building, the College of Education, and the Business and Aerospace Building. Teams could be heard making their arguments late into the night on Friday and again very early the next morning!



Because of the tournament sponsorship, visiting mock trial students were treated to gifts from Belmont College of Law, pizza at the close of the tournament, information about admission to Belmont Law and its trial team program, and the brand new Raider Hospitality Room. The Hospitality Room was stocked with bottled water, packaged snacks, candy, pain relievers, cough drops, first aid, sewing and shoe shine kits to make sure all competitors were prepared for (almost) any eventuality.

MTSU mock trial coaches Shiva Bozarth and Brandi Snow and tournament coordinator Pam Davis kept things running all weekend by getting teams registered, assigning judges, providing food and supplies for the judges and coaches, and making sure students always knew where they were supposed to be and when. Dr. John Vile, Dean of the Honors College, ran the tabulation room with the help of several visiting coaches. More than two dozen MTSU mock trial alumni were present during the weekend to help out by judging a round or two – several judged all four rounds.

In the end, the two divisions were won by Bellarmine University and UT Knoxville respectively, with UT Knoxville winning the tournament overall. MTSU's Blue team placed fifth in its division, with members Seth Kantorik, Davis Thompson, and Clark Palombo taking home individual awards.



MTSU's mock trial's blue squad, captained by Clark Palombo and Cole Hodge, travelled January 25-26 to the tenth annual Ramblin' Wreck Invitational Tournament at Georgia Tech. Though the team didn't place, they did bring home the tournament's "Spirit of AMTA" award for civility and sportsmanship in competition, and Clark Palombo received a "Best Attorney" award for his individual performance. The team, along with the silver squad, will next compete at Regionals in Clinton, MS, February 20-22..



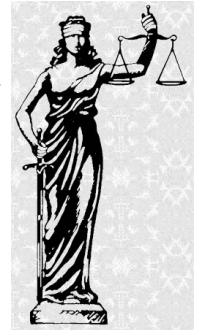
Congratulations to Clark Palombo and Davis Thompson for being awarded outstanding attorneys and Seth Kantorik for outstanding witness at MTSU's mid-South Invitational Mock Trial tournament.

Student Organizations, *continued...*



Mediation Team

The Mediation Team successfully participated in the regional and national/international tournament during fall term.



Pictured from left to right: James (Cole) Hodge, Jodi Shockney, Holly Braswell, Shannon Alvis, Ryan Terrell

Moot Court

MTSU's Moot Court team has remained alive and active this year despite the loss of coach DiPaulo. In the fall the team, composed of Davis Thompson, Clark Palombo, Joseph Kidd, and Nuraldeen Brifkani, competed in Tampa in October and at the regionals in Orlando in November. This semester they participated at a conference in Miami in January.

Moot Court is a student organization that teaches the basic proceedings of the oral arguments process at the Supreme Court. Students participate as lawyers for either the petitioners, questioning the ruling of the lower courts, or as the respondent, arguing for the lower court ruling to stand.



Model United Nations

MTSU Society For International Affairs

MTSU Society for International Affairs Traveled to Washington DC Fall 2014 semester to compete at Georgetown Universities Model United Nations Conference. The group consisted of 8 students 4 men and women along with adviser Rachel Harmon. Students who participated were also given the opportunity to tour the Embassy's of Burkina Faso, Belgium, and Afghanistan.

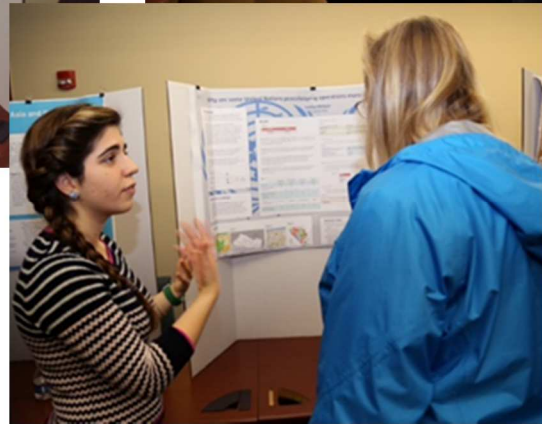
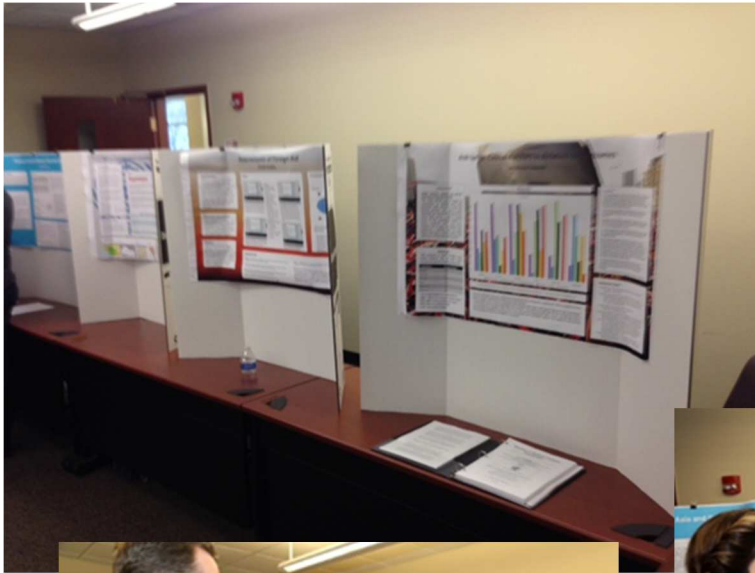
This Semester the MTSU Society for International Affairs will compete in 2 conferences at University of California-Berkeley in San Francisco and Emory college in Atlanta. They will also host a conference on campus this semester with nearby universities. Any student interested in participation may contact club president Erika Helgeson email: elh4k@mtmail.mtsu.edu.



Chad Lawhorn, Casey Lawhorn, Erika Helgeson, Lisa Starke, Kayla McCrary, Lauren Bradish, Joey Kennedy, and Rachel Harmon

Rachel Harmon, a graduate of our IR program and the first recipient of our Master's in International Affairs, took over as coach/instructor of our Model UN team this past fall.

Students in Carleton's PS 1010 Honors present research posters



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

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

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

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

Why should an undergraduate do research?

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

Scholarship Opportunities

National Fellowships

For Overseas Study

Boren — language training, interest in government; GPA 3.5 — up to \$20,000 to study abroad — Deadline: February

Critical Language Scholarship — Language training in 13 underrepresented languages (Arabic, Azerbaijan, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, Urdu — Deadline: November

Fulbright — research or teaching opportunities overseas; recommended 3.5 GPA; apply junior year of after — Internal Deadline: September

Gilman — study abroad funds for students with Pell Grant — Deadline: varies by semester

Marshall or Rhodes — graduate school study in the UK; GPA 3.7 or higher — Deadline: Early September

Service Oriented Scholarship

Humanity in Action — summer fellowships for those interested in human rights issues

Truman — funding for graduate school for students interested in public service

Udall — environmental scholarships

For more information on these and other national fellowships, talk to your professors, see me, or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/ufo

Departmental Scholarship

Joann Arnold Memorial Scholarship is for students who intend to go to law school. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be a permanent resident of Rutherford or Cannon counties and studying law.

Jane Duke Memorial Scholarship Fund for a full-time junior or senior with demonstrated financial need majoring in Political Science with a minimum GPA of 2.50. Preference will be given to female students.

James C. Free Endowed Scholarship to assist students majoring in Political Science. Preference given to student who graduated from a Maury County, Tennessee high school.

Harry Horne International Relations Scholarship to promote and encourage the study of foreign affairs. The scholarship recipient must have graduated from a Tennessee high school and majoring in International Relations and/or Global Studies.

Norman Parks Scholarship to promote and encourage the study of law. For incoming students interested in studying law.

Charles R. Ray Pre-Law Scholarship for an incoming freshman to promote and encourage the study of law. Award of \$750.00 toward college expenses for each successful semester of full-time study (up to eight semesters). All applications must be postmarked by April 1.

For more information and for application forms visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.php>.

Study Abroad in

Israel

Dates: July 14-24, 2015

Course: PS 4850 The Politics of Being Israel

For information visit: <http://www.mtsu.edu/kpetersen/Israel.php> or contact Dr. Karen Petersen at Karen.petersen@mtsu.edu



Faculty News



Mario Perez-Reilly will be retiring at the end of spring semester. Dr. Perez-Rielley has been with MTSU for 47 years, teaching a wide range of courses.

The Department is in the process of hiring a new faculty member to teach in the pre-law concentration and to coordinate Mock Trial. The search, being led by **Clyde Willis**, is in response to Amanda DiPaolo's departure last year. The new faculty is expected to be teaching PS 3370 in the fall.

Open to Debate:

An Interactive Approach to United States Government and Politics

Joseph Braunwarth, Lisa Langenbach, Karen Stewart with Marcus Stadelmann



Lisa Langenbach is serving as Thesis Advisor for a Central High School student on the role of media in elections. She is also the co-author of a revised text *Open to Debate*, is developing a new online course PS 3320 Public Opinion, and working with **Kent Syler** on course re-design for PS 1005.



Andrei Korobkov presented research during fall semester at the 12th Annual Rhodes "Dialogue of Civilizations" Forum in Greece in September; the Second International Research and Training Conference in Moscow, sponsored by the Moscow City Government, in October; and at the 46th Annual National Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in San Antonio, TX in November. He also published two chapters in a textbook on *The Intellectual Migration in the Modern World*; the article "Pro et Cons of the Russian Intellectual Migration" in the journal *Mir Peremen* published by the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics; a piece entitled "The Refugees Problem in Russia: Myths and Reality" in the *Russian International Affairs Council*; and "The 'Brain Drain' in Comparative Perspective: The US Experience" in: *From Brain Drain to Brain Gain. Russia Direct Quarterly Report*. He is shown here at a conference in D.C. this past Octo-

Vanessa Lefler presented a research poster on "Avoiding Conict, Saving Face: Culture and Interstate Conict Management" at the Peace Science Society meeting in October. She is also working on two papers for publication: "UN Security Council Nonpermanent Membership: Equitable Distribution for Equitable Representation?" and "Throwing Stones in Glass Houses: Transparency as a Solution to Commitment Problems in Interstate Dispute Resolution Settlement Compliance."

John Maynor presented a paper entitled "The bastard child of the cat listicle and the concern troll": Soft-news, Social Networks, Democratic Practices and Domination" at the meeting of American Political Science Association.

Robb McDaniel completed a 34-page book chapter titled "Watching the Defectives: Identity, Invisibility, and What the Squib Saw" for a book of Harry Potter scholarship.

Steve Morris will be traveling to Tlaxcala Mexico this March to observe a unique community-based Study Abroad program organized by the Autonomous University of Social Movements in Chicago.

As part of MTSU's "Course Redesign" Initiative, **David Carleton** and **Vanessa Lefler** redesigned PS 1010 Foundations of Government this past fall semester to incorporate more student engagement and improve student performance.

This semester, **Lisa Langenbach** and **Kent Syler** will be working on a redesign of PS 1005.

Kent Syler is frequently quoted in news stories, most recently:

- in a Murfreesboro Post story on Common Core. <http://www.murfreesboropost.com/ketron-feds-should-stay-out-of-local-schools-cms-41390>
- in the DNJ on the MTSU poll <http://www.dnj.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/06/mtsu-poll-governor-general-assembly-gain-support/22976287/>

Alumni Updates/News

Latest news from Whitney Flatt (IR, 2014)

Hi again from Bungu!

Month two in Tanzania has come and gone, and I've started to adjust to village life quite well! My Swahili is coming along nicely, carrying water up the mountain to my house is becoming increasingly easier, and my relationship with the Bungu partners has gone from the awkward, getting-to-know-you stage to a place where we joke around and interact with ease. I've also had a baby named after me! Little Whitney was born about three weeks ago to the sister of one of our partners. She's got precious chubby cheeks and enormous brown eyes! Aside from all the personal excitement that's been happening, the Bungu Project has also been going full steam ahead. The following are just a few of the things we've been up to!

• **Seed Distribution & Planting**- Every month, Project Coordinators (that's me) make seed purchases on behalf of project partners. In order for seed purchases to be made, 5,000 shilingi must be deposited by each partner into their individual 2Seeds savings account. In previous months, members have struggled to make the proper deposits, therefore preventing them from acquiring seeds/planting during certain periods; crop output as well as consistent sales to buyers have suffered because of this. **HOWEVER! This month, 100% of partners have paid into their individual accounts, allowing everyone to move forward in the planting process!! Go Bungu!!!!**

• **Project Site Meeting** – Each month, a different project site throughout the 2Seeds Network is tasked with hosting Project Coordinators (PCs) from other villages. Not only does this allow PCs to connect with partners throughout the Network, but it also gives them the opportunity to get ideas and inspiration that they can take back to their own farmers groups. In early October, we spent two days escorting PCs through group members' shambas (small farm plots), giving each partner the opportunity to go into detail about their farming strategies. I have never seen our partners smile so much! They were beaming with pride as they showed off their land to our colleagues!

• **We Have An Official Bank Account!!!!!!!**— In my last update, I discussed how opening an official bank account for the group's savings is a top priority for the Bungu Project. After making 8 million copies of different documents, running down town and district officials for stamps and signatures, then making the three hour trek to the "local" bank, **I am proud to share that the Bungu Project finally has its first official bank account!!! Attached are some photos of our big day!**

Thanks for letting me share what we've been up to in Bungu! Until next month!



Whitney is shown here on the far left.

A note from Lorel Holsinger (IR, 2014) from the University of Colorado

Just wanted to let you (Dr. Carleton) know, I am 4 weeks into Data 1 here at Boulder and I am grateful EVERY DAY that I took your Methods class in undergrad. Learning this stuff the second time around (albeit in greater detail) is much, much easier.

Also, I'm teaching recitation sections (where the kids see the prof twice a week and me once) of Intro IR. I have 60 students now!

Hope everything is going well back at MTSU.

Nathaniel Greene (PS 2011)

Since graduating in 2011, I attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee College of law, summa cum laude. I also passed the Tennessee bar, was admitted to practice in the state, and have started working with the firm H3GM in Nashville.

<https://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2015/1/12/h3gm-adds-two-associates>

Just wanted to let the department know that, as a somewhat recent graduate, the instruction that I received from the Political Science Department at MTSU was instrumental in helping me get to where I am today.

Alumni Updates/News, *continued...*

Nathan Ives (IR, 2012)

After MTSU, I spent a year abroad working for two non-profits. The first was in the Philippines for Just Projects International, where I lived in the jungle in the conflict zone in Mindanao. I was doing development projects involving a few remote villages. (a lumber salvaging project that I coordinated with the DENR, and a school building project to keep children from child soldiering). The second was in Myanmar working for the Free Burma Rangers, a group of radical people training Karen, Shan, and Karenni people in Myanmar to provide relief, human rights violation recording, and statistics on the Myanmar. With them I did a variety of training classes for the groups going into Myanmar. After coming back to the states early this year I decided to pursue a law degree, and began with those preparations, but decided that with the high price of the degree something geared towards my language learning ability would be more effective. (I speak Japanese, and Cebuano).

Rachel Harmon (IR, 2012; MA in International Affairs, 2013) has accepted a fellowship to begin her Ph.D. in Political Science at Emory this coming fall. Rachel . Hopes to continue her work on security and corruption.



Joey Meyer (IR, 2014) from George Washington University

Classes are going well. George Washington's sales pitch about 'practical IR and policy education' is very true. I have one professor who is a current employee at State and another who is a former ambassador. There's a lot of focus on bridging the gaps between theory and practice, which is what I was looking for.

We are required to take 'professional skills' courses as part of our curriculum and I am in one called International Crisis Diplomacy, where we are given hypothetical scenarios and required to submit policy memos regarding them. Model UN definitely helped me prepare for these kinds of assignments.

Virtual Mentoring Program

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

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

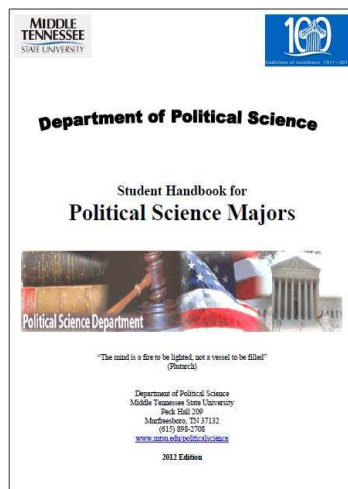
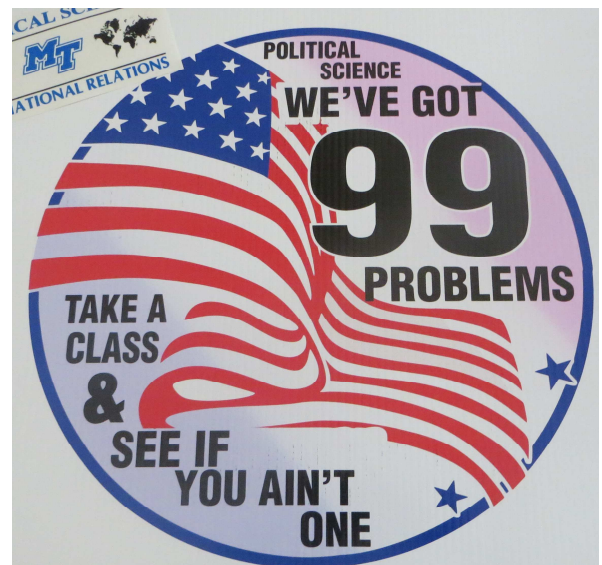
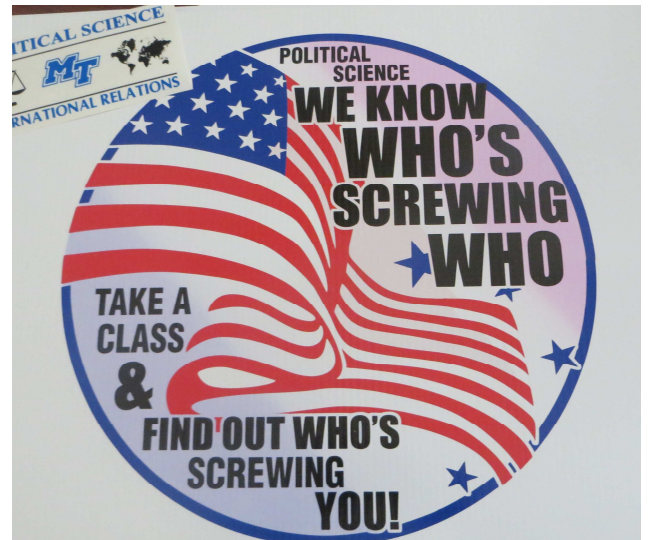
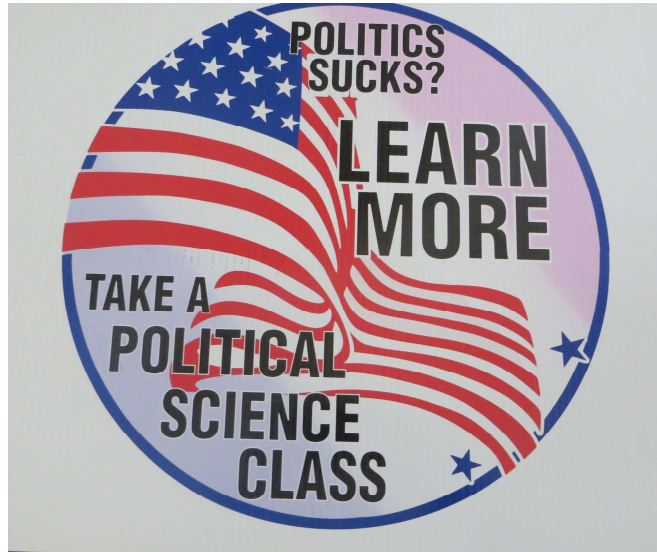


They have all VOLUNTEERED to serve as virtual mentors to our current students. They are more than happy to hear from you and offer professional or even personal advice, share their thoughts about career choices and opportunities, or even share stories about their times in Peck Hall and MTSU.

Just Click on:

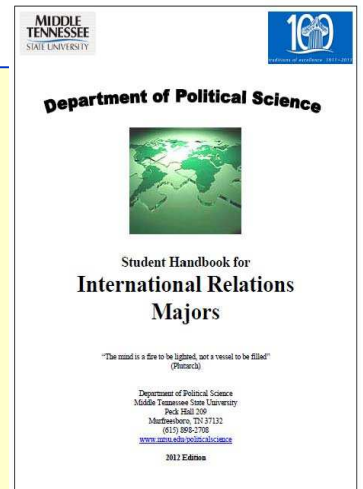
<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/virtualmentoring.php> (or follow the link on our webpage) for a list of alumni, grouped by profession, with email addresses. Send them an email. They would be glad to hear from you.

Signs of the Times? — too much?



**Student Handbook
for Political Science
and IR Majors**

Newly revised versions of the student handbooks for each major are now available. The handbooks contain useful information on everything from program requirements and information on internships and student organizations to tips on writing papers. The Handbooks are available on-line and in the brochure rack outside the department offices.





Stay Informed Stay Connected



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

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

MTSU Political Science Facebook Page

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

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



(search for MTSU political science)

Department of Political Science Web Page

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

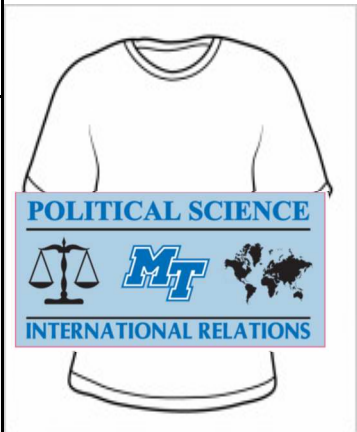
Please bookmark the site and check it often and whenever you have questions.
<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/>

PS / IR Student Services Page

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

Please bookmark the site and really use it to get the most out of your time in the Department.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-student-services>



Department T-shirt (\$5) and car decals (\$1) available in the office

Low-Tech, Physical Communication

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

Department of Political Science STUDENT SERVICES PAGE



Information on...

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

<http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-studentservices/index.php>

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

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[http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/Political Science Newsletter, Spring 2015](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/Political%20Science%20Newsletter,%20Spring%202015)