Political Science Department

Newsletter

Department to Adopt ABM (Accelerated Bachelor Master's Degree Program)

The Department has proposed a program that would allow students to earn a B.S. in International Relations and an M.A. in International Affairs in a little over 5 years. The key to the program will be to allow 12 hours of courses to count for both the undergraduate Bachelor's degree and the graduate degree, reducing by about a year the time needed to complete the two degrees separately.

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Department awards its first Master of Arts degree in International Affairs

In December of 2013 Rachel Harmon completed the Master of Arts in International Affairs at MTSU, making her the first graduate of the program that began in fall of 2012. "As happy as I am to graduate, it feels bittersweet because I enjoyed the program and being a part of the department so much. If you are considering pursuing an MA, I highly recommend it! My graduate program allowed me to develop close working relationships with the faculty, who helped me to hone in on my area of study. I particularly enjoyed classes on corruption and conflict, and these prepared me for the position I am in now. In addition to my classes, I enjoyed working as a TA, and I was fortunate to spend about 4 months in Mexico City completing a practicum with Transparencia Mexicana."

continued on page 4

Hybrid Course??

The Political Science Department is now offering a Foundations of Government 1010 hybrid course!

What is a hybrid course and how is it different from the traditional classroom experience?

A hybrid course combines aspects of both on-campus and online learning. Many of the course materials and assignments are online, which allows students to reduce the number of hours they spend on campus by half. But, unlike straight online courses, students still meet face-to-face one day a week for an hour and twenty-five minutes.

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www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

Spring 2014

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Find us on Facebook

Graduates Fall 2013

Congratulations

PS Majors

Jared Adams
Chelsee Arnold
Michael Aucoin
Zachary Barker
Rudy Basaldua
Garrett Crowell
Trenton Deese
Jessica Dowd
Matthew Frasher
Jasmin Gardner
Joirre Gardner
Stephen Gorday
William Hardy
Christopher Kandt
Zachary Kelvas
Morgan Lemaota
Kevin Lopez
Zachary Mallett
Michael Maren
Kelly Mayo
Gavin Mosley
Noah Nielsen
Lucas Osborne
Terry Pyle
Ashley Reed
Leonard Rowan
Mariah Schiff
Ross Thornton

* * * *

IR Majors

Anya Alfano
Jerry Greer
Thomas Hughes
Nicole LeBlanc
Zachary Lyles
Christopher Mcnabb
Hannah Ramey

Welcome

New Majors Spring 2014

Adem, Nejib
Ahmed, Mahmood
Anderson, Drew
Bemis, Joshua
Benitez, Diana
Boakye, Joseph
Burks, Monica
Campo, Leonardo
Cantrell, Haley
Carlton, Callie
Covington, Justin
Crnkovich, Maxwell
Davenport, Natalie
Davis, Ashley
Davis, Matthew
Demisse, Freguenet
Dixon, Darrius
Eagle, Ryan
Elizondo, Ernesto
Faour, MHD
Ferrell, Jennifer
Fisher, Ivan
Fleet, Jonathan
French, Matthew
Garcia Colop, Cynthia
Goza, Jacob
Green, Ashley
Green, Matthew
Hassan, Mohammad
Hayes, Hank
Heath, Renee
Hobby, Brice
Holder, Octavia
Hornsby, Chelsea
Horton, James
Houston, Benjamin
Howard, Traci
Howell, Jamey
Huckaby, Harold
Hurst, Megan
Jacobs, John
Jefferson, Elbert
Johnson, Trevor
Kennedy, Joseph
King, William
Langsdon, Abigail
Lunn, Richard
MacKenzie, John-Riley
Mankin, John
Manning, Robertson
Martinez, John
McCoy, Caleb
Mohamed, Abdishakur
Muderhwa, William
Napier, Armeda
Newton, Benjamin
Nygren, Carrie
Patel, Ashaben
Praino, Michael
Preston, Tyesha
Quigg, William
Rosen, Brian
Samo, Tahseen
Sangetti, Michael
Scales, Nikkira
Schmidtke, Kortnie
Smith, Brianna
Steuber, John
Stratton, Lauren
Taylor, Cameron
Telford, Douglas
Thompson, Amanda
Tibbs, Derrick
Tomlinson, Jessica
Trevathan, Miranda
Turner, Jackson
Valentine, Gary
Ward, Taylor
Whipkey, Ryan
Wilamowski, Casimir
Wilkes, Jessica
Williams, Annalise
Williams, Clarence
Wilson, Alexis
Wiser, Hannah
Wood, Tara
Woodruff, Brandon
Zengotita, Bettina

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

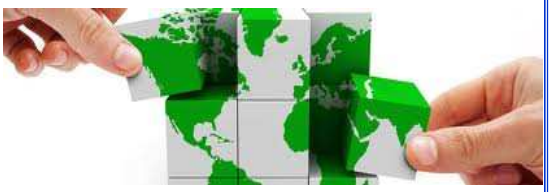
Open to students from all majors, this eighteen credit minor will provide students an active experiential program focused on effective and sustained community engagement.

Requirements:

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

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

Department of Political Science STUDENT SERVICES PAGE



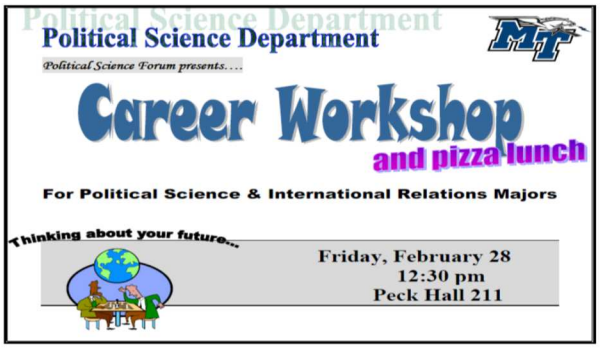
Information on…

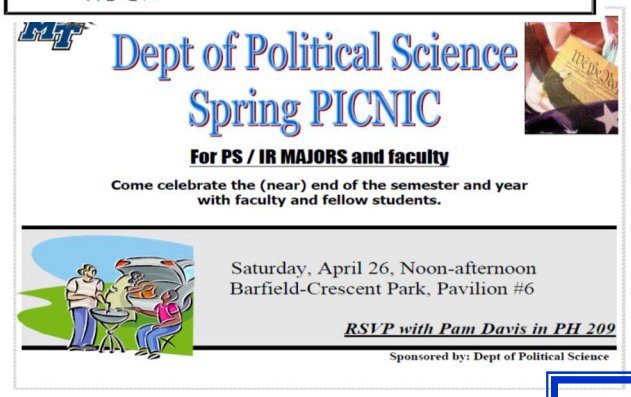
Advising, Internship, Careers, Study Abroad, Research Opportunities, and much more.

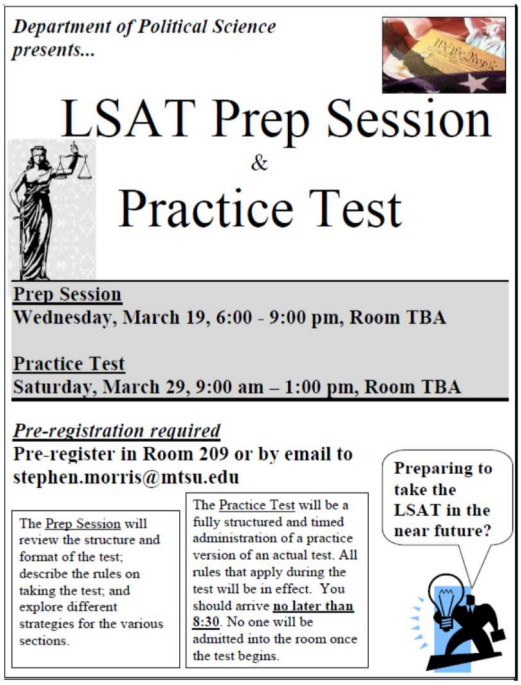
www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-studentservices/index.php

UPCOMING Events during Spring Semester

- ***Alumni Day*, Thursday, February 27 — 9:40 class**
- ***Career Workshop*, Friday, February 28 — 12:30 in Peck Hall 211**
- ***LSAT Prep Session & Practice Tests*, Wed, March 19 at 6:00 pm | Sat. March 29 at 9:00 am**
- ***Scholars Week*, March 17-21 — March 19 *CLA Scholars Day***
- ***Department's Spring Picnic* — Noon, Saturday, April 26 Barfield-Crescent Park**







Guest Speakers in PS 4120 Tennessee Government Class
TR 2:40 Peck Hall 212
(everyone is invited)

Tues. Feb 11 — Billy Stair, Senior Policy Advisor to former Gov. McWherter

Tues, March 25 — Andy Spears, Spears Strategy, State education policy expert

Thur. March 27 — Barry Sulkin, State environmental policy expert

Thur. April 10 — Bill Bradley, former director of the state budget office

Thur. April 17 — Brad Fisher, former Coffee country commissioner and career state employee

2006 graduate and former mocker, KEVIN RAYBURN, will speak during a 9:40 class on *Alumni Day*, February 27. Peck Hall Room 205.

Kevin graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2006 with a degree in political science, and was active in MTSU's Mock Trial program. In 2010, Kevin received a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Tennessee, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence, cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law. While in law school, Kevin clerked at several law firms and was a clinic attorney for the University of Tennessee Business Law Clinic. He also was an editor for Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law as well as the Baker Center Journal of Applied Public Policy.

Following graduation, Kevin practiced law at a firm in Columbia, Tennessee for two years with a focus on litigation, estate planning, business, and real estate law. In 2010, he helped coach the MTSU Mock Trial Program. Kevin currently is an attorney and policy analyst for Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett. Kevin lives in downtown Nashville with his spouse and fellow MTSU alum, Rachel Harmon.

Department News

ABA Program

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The Department hopes to unveil the program in the fall semester. Students interested in participating in this program will need at least a 3.25 GPA and should apply by their junior year. But students should be thinking about this even earlier so they can adapt their undergraduate course selection accordingly. Acceptance into the ABM program constitutes acceptance into the graduate program. For more information about the ABM program, contact the graduate director, Dr. Moses Tesi or visit the website: www.mtsu.edu/MAIA

Applications for the MAIA (Master of Arts in International Affairs) are currently being accepted. The deadline to begin in Fall 2014 is April 15.

First MA Graduate, Rachel Harmon

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And after the semester ended, Ms Harmon found a job with an NGO called Free for Life International. Free for Life partners with organizations and individuals globally to meet the needs of human trafficking survivors and those at risk. The organization funds monitoring stations on the Nepal/India and Nepal/Tibet borders, and conducts rescue missions for young women and children already being held. After being rescued, life is not easy for a trafficking survivor. Many of the girls come from impoverished backgrounds with little education. For various reasons, they are often unable to be reunited with their families or returned to their hometowns. To break the negative cycle, Free for Life provides scholarships and equipment to start small businesses so that young women can achieve independence. "I love working for Free for Life, and I would not be able to do my job without the skills gained in my graduate program."

Department provides Donuts and Coffee during Exams

As a service to students, the Department offered free donuts and coffee throughout the final exam period in December. We hope to continue to provide this service to our students...
if it will improve final exam grades??!!

continued from page 1 **Hybrid PS 1010 course!**

What are some advantages of this type of course?

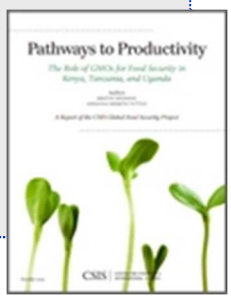
- The significant online component provides students more flexibility and convenience than traditional on-campus courses. The online course can be completed when it is convenient for students to do the work, rather than being in class for set times several times a week. This flexibility will help students juggle college, work, and other responsibilities.
- The classroom component that remains ensures students still know their professor, can ask questions directly, and can interact with fellow students. This addresses the concern and dissatisfaction many students have with straight online courses.
- The basic background and factual information and concepts can be presented online, and, thus, face-to-face class time can be devoted almost entirely to discussion and debate and meaningful interaction. In other words, class time will be more meaningful.

For more information about the Foundations of Government 1010 hybrid course, please contact Dr. David Carleton: David.Carleton@mtsu.edu.

Students in the News

Samantha Hayes was awarded the Ray Scholarship. Samantha is a sophomore in the pre-law program from Murfreesboro who attended Blackman High School. She is interested in pursuing a career as a public defender.

Whittney Flatt presented the paper "Famine in the USSR: Genocide or Political Negligence?" at the 11th biennial International Holocaust Studies Conference on the MTSU campus, Oct. 15-18, 2013. Whitney Flatt also contributed to fhe following CSIS report at The Washington Center. "Pathways to Productivity: The Role of GMOs for Food Security in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda"



MA Student Gabrille Thompson to conduct research in Costa Rica.

Gabrielle Thompson is currently engaged in graduate research in Costa Rica. With an educational background in Global Studies, it is important to include an ethnographic case study as the focal point of her thesis research. Thompson's research examines the development of women, their internal and external influences and, their role in national development. Beginning with Costa Rican history and developmental policies, Thompson will then qualitatively and quantitatively analyze influence(s) on women's socioeconomic development in Costa Rica.

The positive or negatve impacts of economic development policies on women are examined, along with their roles within the developmental process. Issues such as job availability, wage equality, and social mobility are further investigated. Costa Rica's governmental policies and their affect on rural sectors of the economy are explored. Thompson's research is centered on the small town of Santa Clara in Cuidad Quesada in north central Costa Rica. Data are collected from women associated with such institutions as Instituto Nacional de Apredizaje, Asociación de Mujeres Ambientalistas and, Instituto Tecnológico. Thompson's thesis title is *Opportunity in Development: Costa Rican policy initiatives and pathways to women's socioeconomic success.*

MTSU STUDENTS DISSECT STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Students in Kent Syler's Tuesday evening class on political communication watched and commented on President Obama's State of the Union address. The write up appeared in the *Daily News Journal* on January 29. The class includes political science, international relations, communications, sociology, and journalism majors.

INTERNSHIP Experiences

PS 4290: Public Service Internship

Brittany Forrester

Congressman Scott DesJarlais

Murfreesboro Office

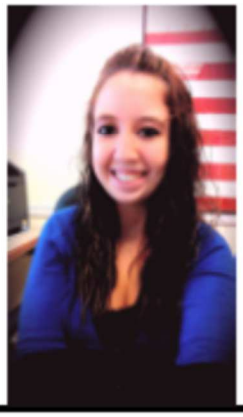
Major: **Year: June-December 2013**

Political Science

Pre-Law Cognate

Psychology Minor

Career Goal: Attorney



What I Did at My Internship:

I worked in the constituent services office of Congressman Scott DesJarlais. They work to help constituents with federal issues such as Veteran Disability, nominations to military academies, expediting passports, health care issues, and answering other policy-related questions. As an intern, I was responsible for manning the phone system, mail, and greeting constituents who visit the office. I also made flyers for events that the Congressman would be attending. I was in charge of scanning the local papers for articles regarding the Congressman which we filed on a board in the office. I was able to represent the Congressman at the Rutherford County GOP Ice Cream Social.

What I Got Out of My Internship:

I learned a great deal from this experience. I improved on my communication skills and my professionalism. I also improved on my office skills and many computer skills. My career goal is to become an attorney in which I will be using the skills I learned and improved upon in this internship daily. I gained several personal contacts and relationships from the internship as well. I had an exceptional time teaming with Kristen researching and working on cases for constituents. I enjoyed working with Tina as the field representative for the Congressman at events like the GOP Ice Cream Social. I feel my time given to this internship was worthwhile. Not only did I advance in my personal skills, but also my knowledge of politics grew.

INTERNSHIP Experiences, continued

PS 4270: Political Campaign Internship

Elizabeth Henderson
Major: Political Science

Apply at: ofatn.com/fellowship

Organizing For **Action**

Organizing for Action (OFA) is a nonprofit grassroots organization established to advance the agenda Americans voted for in 2012.

As an organizing fellow I was part of the ground game advocating for multiple issues and strengthening communities in Tennessee – organizing press conferences, recruiting teams of volunteers, training volunteers on policy and advocacy work, holding one-on-one meetings with new volunteers to help them find ways to get involved. You name it, organizing fellows are probably doing it at some point during their fellowship.

Issues we focus on:

- gun violence prevention
- climate change
- Affordable Care Act
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform

For more information visit:
www.barackobama.com
www.ofatn.com

OFA's Fellowship Program is geared at recruiting the next generation of organizers into the progressive movement. It is looking for passionate new leaders who are interested in exploring OFA's broad scope approach to issue advocacy. Fellows can expect to learn best practices in the areas of community organizing, media relations, and grassroots fundraising.

INTERNSHIP Opportunities

Recent Internships with …

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

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

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 summer 2013 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.du

Student Organizations

Mediation Team

From left to right: Zachary Barker, Morgan Mansourian, Mariah Schiff, Kathen Tate, Amanda Gary, Alexa Sengupta, and Chris Crutcher

MTSU won 2nd place overall as well as the "Spirit of Mediation" Award. Mariah Schiff also won an individual Advocate/Client award.

Zac and Mariah in the final round. Zac as the advocate and Mariah as the client.

Model United Nations

In November 2013, eight students from the MTSU Model United Nations Team attended the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference. Representing the countries of Kyrgyzstan and Djibouti on various committees representing U.N bodies as well as the World Trade Organization, the delegates debated important issues in current events. Topics included terrorism in Africa, law of the sea, and international trade regulations. Our delegates debated with students from across the United States, including Ivy League institutions. This semester, MTSU Model UN will host the second annual MT Model United Nations Conference, with delegates attending from Rhodes College and Sewanee University. MTSU Model UN will also be attending the University of Peace Model UN conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, where our team will compete with delegates from across North and South America. This marks the second international conference for MTSU Model UN, the first being the Moscow International Model United Nations Conference in 2012.

Student Organizations, continued

Moot Court

The 2013-14 Moot Court season wrapped up on January 18th at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law. MTSU was well represented with nine students traveling to Tempe, Arizona. Davis Thompson, Tyler Sanders, Samantha Farish and Clark Palombo were all knocked out of competition just before the round of 32. This places four of MTSU's students in the top 50 collegiate moot court teams nationwide. In the fall, the team of Davis Thompson and Tyler Sanders placed second at the South Atlantic regional in Orlando, Florida where Clark Palombo picked up the award for the best overall speaker and his partner Samantha Farish finished 7th out of 100 competitors. MTSU was also invited to two invitational competitions. With the financial support of the Belmont College of Law, MTSU was able to travel to Long Beach, California to participate in the California Fall Classic. Top schools in moot court programs are invited to attend. Mark Naifeh won an individual speaking award winner at the Arkansas Moot and an honorable mention at the regional competition in Orlando. Tameeca Comer and Nuraldeen Brifkani received an honorable mention at the Arkansas Moot. Joseph Kidd, Markita Scott, Davis Thompson and Tyler Sanders were honorable mentions at both the Arkansas Invitational as well as the Orlando regional. If you are interested in joining the moot court team, please contact Dr. Amanda DiPaolo at amanda.dipaolo@mtsu.edu.

Mock Trial

MTSU Mock Trial started the season with much higher numbers this fall than in the past few years. They fielded four teams that competed at four different invitationals: The Arch Invitational, hosted by Washington University in St. Louis; The Owl Classic, hosted by Kennesaw State University; the Blues City Scrimmage, hosted by Rhodes College; and the Annual Mid-South Invitational, which included over 30 teams from across the nation was hosted here at MTSU. One team received an honorable mention at the Arch Invitational ending the weekend with a record of 5 wins and 3 losses. Another team placed fourth in their division at the Mid-South Invitational with a record of 6 wins and 2 losses. At the Blues City Scrimmage, after consolidating the four teams into two competitive teams, MTSU's A-Team placed second overall and ended the weekend with 7 wins and only 1 loss. Five MTSU competitors received individual awards: Brian Crawford, Wesley Eke, Connor McDonald, Clark Palombo, and Davis Thompson.

The above picture is of the A-Team that placed second at Rhodes.

The picture to the right is of the B-Team that got an honorable mention at Wash U.

Study Abroad

WHY YOU SHOULD TRAVEL YOUNG

By Jeff Goins, *Converge* http://convergemagazine.com/travel-young-5278/

As I write this, I'm flying. It's an incredible concept: to be suspended in the air, moving at two hundred miles an hour — while I read a magazine. Amazing, isn't it?

I woke up at three a.m. this morning. Long before the sun rose, thirty people loaded up three conversion vans and drove two hours to the San Juan airport. Our trip was finished. It was time to go home. But we were changed.

As I sit, waiting for the flight attendant to bring my ginger ale, I'm left wondering why I travel at all. The other night, I was reminded why I do it — why I believe this discipline of travel is worth all the hassle.

I was leading a missions trip in Puerto Rico. After a day of work, as we were driving back to the church where we were staying, one of the young women brought up a question.

"Do you think I should go to graduate school or move to Africa?"

I don't think she was talking to me. In fact, I'm pretty sure she wasn't. But that didn't stop me from offering my opinion.

I told her to travel. Hands down. No excuses. Just go.

She sighed, nodding. "Yeah, but…"

I had heard this excuse before, and I didn't buy it. I knew the "yeah-but" intimately. I had uttered it many times before. The words seem innocuous enough, but are actually quite fatal.

Yeah, but …

… what about debt?

… what about my job?

… what about my boyfriend?

This phrase is lethal. It makes it sound like we have the best of intentions, when really we are just too scared to do what we should. It allows us to be cowards while sounding noble.

Most people I know who waited to travel the world never did it. Conversely, plenty of people who waited for grad school or a steady job still did those things after they traveled.

It reminded me of Dr. Eisenhautz and the men's locker room. Dr. Eisenhautz was a German professor at my college. I didn't study German, but I was a foreign language student so we knew each other. This explains why he felt the need to strike up a conversation with me at six o'clock one morning.

I was about to start working out, and he had just finished. We were both getting dressed in the locker room. It was, to say the least, a little awkward — two grown men shooting the breeze while taking off their clothes.

"You come here often?" he asked. I could have laughed.

"Um, yeah, I guess," I said, still wiping the crusted pieces of whatever out of my eyes.

"That's great," he said. "Just great."

I nodded, not really paying attention. He had already had his adrenaline shot; I was still waiting for mine. I somehow uttered that a friend and I had been coming to the gym for a few weeks now, about three times a week.

"Great," Dr. Eisenhautz repeated. He paused as if to reflect on what he would say next. Then, he just blurted it out. The most profound thing I had heard in my life.

"The habits you form here will be with you for the rest of your life."

My head jerked up, my eyes got big, and I stared at him, letting the words soak into my half-conscious mind. He nodded, said a gruff goodbye, and left. I was dumbfounded.

The words reverberated in my mind for the rest of the day. Years later, they still haunt me. It's true — the habits you form early in life will, most likely, be with you for the rest of your existence.

I have seen this fact proven repeatedly. My friends who drank a lot in college drink in larger quantities today. Back then, we called it "partying." Now, it has a less glamorous name: alcoholism. There are other examples. The guys and girls who slept around back then now have babies and unfaithful marriages. Those with no ambition then are still working the same dead end jobs.

"We are what we repeatedly do," Aristotle once said. While I don't want to sound all gloom-and-doom, and I believe your life can turn around at any moment, there is an important lesson here: life is a result of intentional habits. So I decided to do the things that were most important to me first, not last.

After graduating college, I joined a band and traveled across North America for nine months. With six of my peers, I performed at schools, churches, and prisons. We even spent a month in Taiwan on our overseas tour. (We were huge in Taiwan.)

As part of our low-cost travel budget, we usually stayed in people's homes. Over dinner or in conversation later in the evening, it would almost always come up — the statement I dreaded. As we were conversing about life on the road — the challenges of long days, being cooped up in a van, and always being on the move — some well-intentioned adult would say, "It's great that you're doing this … while you're still young."

Ouch. Those last words — while you're still young — stung like a squirt of lemon juice in the eye (a sensation with which I am well acquainted). They reeked of vicarious longing and mid-life regret. I hated hearing that phrase.

I wanted to shout back,

"No, this is NOT great while I'm still young! It's great for the rest of my life! You don't understand. This is not just a thing I'm doing to kill time. This is my calling! My life! I don't want what you have. I will always be an adventurer."

In a year, I will turn thirty. Now I realize how wrong I was. Regardless of the intent of those words, there was wisdom in them.

As we get older, life can just sort of happen to us. Whatever we end up doing, we often end up with more responsibilities, more burdens, more obligations. This is not always bad. In fact, in many cases it is really good. It means you're influencing people, leaving a legacy.

Youth is a time of total empowerment. You get to do what you want. As you mature and gain new responsibilities, you have to be very intentional about making sure you don't lose sight of what's important. The best way to do that is to make investments in your life so that you can have an effect on who you are in your later years.

I did this by traveling. Not for the sake of being a tourist, but to discover the beauty of life — to remember that I am not complete.

There is nothing like riding a bicycle across the Golden Gate

Study Abroad

continued from prior page…

Bridge or seeing the Coliseum at sunset. I wish I could paint a picture for you of how incredible the Guatemalan mountains are or what a rush it is to appear on Italian TV. Even the amazing photographs I have of Niagara Falls and the American Midwest countryside do not do these experiences justice. I can't tell you how beautiful southern Spain is from the vantage point of a train; you have to experience it yourself. The only way you can relate is by seeing them. While you're young, you should travel. You should take the time to see the world and taste the fullness of life. Spend an afternoon sitting in front of the Michelangelo. Walk the streets of Paris. Climb Kilimanjaro. Hike the Appalachian trail. See the Great Wall of China. Get your heart broken by the "killing fields" of Cambodia. Swim through the Great Barrier Reef. These are the moments that define the rest of your life; they're the experiences that stick with you forever.

Traveling will change you like little else can. It will put you in places that will force you to care for issues that are bigger than you. You will begin to understand that the world is both very large and very small. You will have a newfound respect for pain and suffering, having seen that two-thirds of humanity struggle to simply get a meal each day.

While you're still young, get cultured. Get to know the world and the magnificent people that fill it. The world is a stunning place, full of outstanding works of art. See it.
You won't always be young. And life won't always be just about you. So travel, young person. Experience the world for all it's worth. Become a person of culture, adventure, and compassion. While you still can.

Do not squander this time. You will never have it again. You have a crucial opportunity to invest in the next season of your life now. Whatever you sow, you will eventually reap. The habits you form in this season will stick with you for the rest of your life. So choose those habits wisely.
And if you're not as young as you'd like (few of us are), travel anyway. It may not be easy or practical, but it's worth it. Traveling allows you to feel more connected to your fellow human beings in a deep and lasting way, like little else can. In other words, it makes you more human.

That's what it did for me, anyway.

Education Abroad and Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad (EA) assists MTSU students in fulfilling their academic goals while participating in an education abroad program and supports the University's mission to serve as an emerging center for international study, understanding, and exchange. Students can choose from a wide array of program options in over 65 countries to earn credit toward their MTSU degrees. Most students choose to participate on MTSU faculty-led group summer programs, which are typically 2–4 weeks in length and work well for those who have not traveled abroad previously and are seeking more guidance and support. However, students can also choose to participate in semester or yearlong options as well as service-learning or internship programs.

All MTSU students wanting to receive academic credit for an international experience need to work with the Office of EA and meet the deadlines and predeparture requirements. The Office of EA offers three Informational Sessions each semester in the Student Union as well as an annual Study Abroad Fair in the fall. Details regarding deadlines, application cycles, scholarship opportunities, and the steps to studying abroad can be found on the EA website. The application process to participate in an education abroad program is lengthy, so meeting with EA during the first year at MTSU is advised.

Interested students should visit the Office of EA during the walk-in advising schedule to participate in a thirty-minute session with an EA Advisor. Students are encouraged to search for options on the website and become familiar with the various program types before their advising session. The EA Advisor will guide students through the process of program research, course choices, scholarships, budgeting, and application procedures.

For more information: Office of Education Abroad, Peck Hall 207, 898-5179
Email: educationabroad@mtsu.edu
Website: www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad
Office hours: M–F, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Walk-in advising schedule: M–W, 1–4 p.m.

Promoting Student Research

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

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

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

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

Opportunities at MTSU to Present Research

Scholars Week

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

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

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

For more information, visit: http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars_week.shtml

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

Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research.

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

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

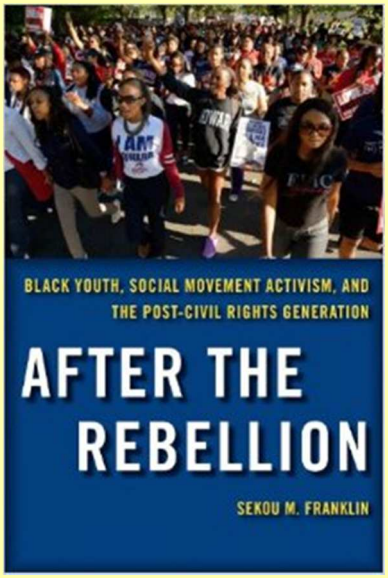
Faculty Updates/News

Dr. Langenbach received the 2013 Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award

Kent Syler participated on openline this past October to talk about the government shutdown.

Dr. Moses Tesi presented a paper titled "Parties, Politics and Power in Cameroon's Tumultuous and Uncertain Path to Democratic Change," at the 56th Annual meeting of the African Studies Association, in Baltimore, MD November 21-24, 2013. He also continues to edit the *Journal of African Policy Studies.*

Upcoming Faculty Publications



New book by Sekou Franklin will be out this July.
After the Rebellion: Black Youth, Social Movement Activism, and the Post-Civil Rights Generation.
New York University Press
What happened to black youth in the post-civil rights generation? What kind of causes did they rally around and were they even rallying in the first place? *After the Rebellion* takes a close look at a variety of key civil rights groups across the country over the last 40 years to provide a broad view of black youth and social movement activism.Based on both research from a diverse collection of archives and interviews with youth activists, advocates, and grassroots organizers, this book examines popular mobilization among the generation of activists – principally black students, youth, and young adults – who came of age after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Franklin argues that the political environment in the post-Civil Rights era, along with constraints on social activism, made it particularly difficult for young black activists to start and sustain popular mobilization campaigns.

MTSU ADJUNCT **MARGARET HUFF** APPOINTED TO NATIONAL ETHICS POSITION AT ABA

Adjunct Prof. Margaret M. ("Marnie") Huff was appointed by the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution to a national ethics position. She will serve as Section representative on the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility/Section Officers Conference Joint Committee on Ethics and Professionalism. A Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator, Huff owns and operates Margaret Huff Mediation. In additional to her new leadership position with the ABA, Huff is an elected member of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Council and co-chair of the Section's Advanced Mediation and Advocacy Skills Institute, to be held in Nashville November 21-22, 2013. She teaches Legal Writing and Research at MTSU.

Alumni Updates/News

(from) Mandy and Jason Davis
"Things are going well, Mandy and I are both still out here in DC since graduating in 2012. Mandy is working as a Human Rights Specialist with The Protection Project (TPP) at Johns Hopkins' under the auspices of SAIS. She works primarily on acquiring and competing for new grants from USAID or Dept. of State as has developed quite the knack for proposal writing. Mandy has a brief description under the 'About Us' tab on the org.'s website and then under Key Staff.
I was working with the implementation of the Fulbright scholarship for Middle East grantees over at AMIDEAST, but recently made the transition to Program Associate with the International Bar Association, who've opened up a brand new DC office. We're seeking to identify where our main thrust will be, but initially we will be contacting many of the big-to-do law firms to encourage group membership for their staff in the IBA…although individual partners and counselors may seek individual memberships, and also we have student and university rates at a much lower cost. I anticipate the IBA may seek to get into State Dept. funding for various overseas initiatives as well, mostly due to the ease in which the IBA's brand will go over with partners on the ground as opposed to the ABA for instance.
This has all evolved for us after completing The Washington Center internship that we were able to take part in during our final semester at MTSU. We certainly are enjoying the professional experience here, but the city culture can get you down sometimes, it's light-years from the gentility and warmth of the majority of Tennessee. Events like what has transpired today at the Navy Yard annex with the deadly shooting, for obvious reasons, are difficult to adjust to. "

Patrick Pratt is a Foreign Policy and African Affairs specialist with experience in research and advocacy, U.S.-Africa relations, human rights and governance in Africa. Program management, study and independent research in East and Central Africa. Currently a student at George Washington University: M.A. International Affairs, with a concentration in Security and Governance in Africa. Preparing for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Karissa Tillotson stated a new job with some of the same people she worked for in Virginia, but here in Nashville, Engage-Together. "It's really exciting. Right now, I'm working with primarily anti-human trafficking NGOs, but we are soon to launch our Foster Care/Adoption and Juvenile Justice initiatives." Ms Tillotson hopes to begin the Masters in Social Work program at MTSU in the fall.

Vanya Hadzhieva Hession passed the Illinois bar in the fall and began practicing immigration law at Immigration Attorneys, LLP in Chicago.

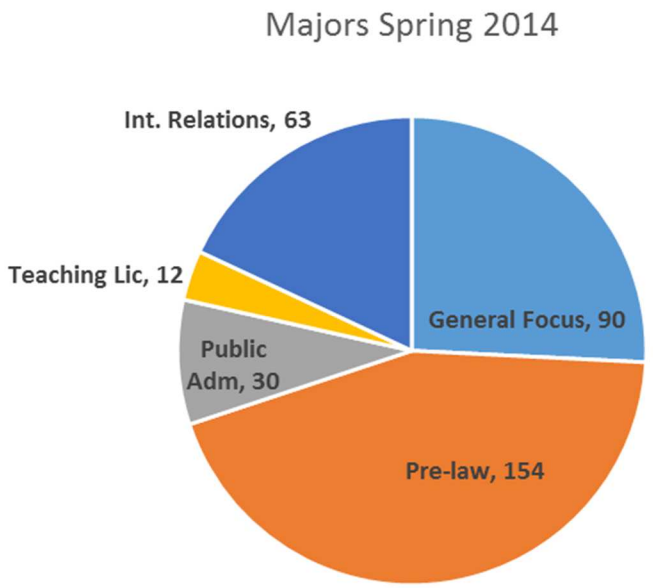
Chris Young (IR, 2010) is studying at Texas A&M's Bush School of Public Policy working on a Master's in public policy.

Virtual Mentoring Program

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

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.

Alumni interested in participating in the Department's **VIRTUAL MENTORING PROGRAM,** please contact Dr. Morris (Stephen.morris@mtsu.edu).



Check sheet for success

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

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.

Find us on Facebook

(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

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 the Departmental Office in Peck 209.

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

http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/ Political Science Newsletter, Spring 2014