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## **Department of Political Science Annual Report 2011-12**

In 2011-12, the Department of Political Science (13 tenured faculty, 1 tenure-track faculty, 2 full-time non-tenure-track faculty, 10 adjuncts, and one executive aide) conducted 137 classes, including 40 sections of two general education courses, generated over 8,000 student credit hours, and served 401 political science majors, 90 international relations majors, and a host of minors. The Department and Department faculty administered two baccalaureate programs, three concentrations, six minors, including three interdisciplinary minors, and a number of student organizations and intercollegiate academic teams. The Department also continued to work to strengthen the quality of its undergraduate programs, enhance student participation through active learning initiatives, and improve self-assessment, while at the same time putting in place a new Master's program in International Affairs set to begin Fall semester. In addition, Department faculty contributed to scholarship through research and publications, and actively participated in wide range of professional and institutional endeavors on campus and around the world.

The following report provides an overview of activities, a critical assessment of outcomes, and sketches plans for the coming academic year. It encompasses five sections focusing on teaching, scholarship, service, Departmental affairs and assessment, and plans.

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### **TEACHING**

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#### *Instruction*

- 137 classes/sections (fall, spring, summer)
- 40 sections of the general education courses PS 1005 and PS 1010
- 19 on-line courses & 2 RODP courses
- 6 Honor's courses
- 21 EXL courses
- 49 students in internships (fall/spring/summer)
- 24 students in study abroad
- Special Advanced Studies Courses on:
  - Sustainable Development in Cities
  - Political Corruption
  - American Politics in the Information Age
  - Advertising in American Politics
  - Judicial Decision Making
  - Advertising in Modern American Politics

- Communication and Strategy in the 2012 Presidential Primaries
- India on the Eve of Independence

Credit Hours

- 8, 474 SCH (4,175, fall 2011; 4,242, spring 2012)
  - 333 Honors
  - 623 EXL
  - 316 Internships

Majors (fall 2011)

- 401 - Political Science
  - 104 General Focus
  - 234 Pre-law concentration
  - 24 Public Administration concentration
  - 26 Teaching Licensure
  - 13 not specified
- 90 - International Relations

Graduates (summer 2011/fall 2011/spring 2012)

- 96 Political Science
- 29 International Relations

Highlights in the area of Teaching

- **Mock Trial, Moot Court, Mediation, Model UN** teams competed in regional, national and international competitions. And for the first time, the Department offered a course for students participating in TISL (Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature).
  - Mock Trial teams won the mid-south invitational in the fall and competed in the national championship tournament in Des Moines.
  - The Model UN team participated in the Moscow International Model United Nations Conference in the spring.
  - Turning in its best performance ever, MTSU's Moot Court had three teams invited to the national tournament.
- **Guest speakers** in the classroom, including: Jackie Sims (Founder and Director of the "Beloved Community" Sustainability Project); Dr. Charles Lamb (Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Professor at the University of Buffalo); Joseph Ingle (Prison reform activist and author of *The Inferno: A Southern Morality Tale*); Dr. Joan Fitzgerald (Director of the Law and Public Policy Program at Northeastern University); and Bruce Antrophy (Director of Compliance, National Institute of Health).
- **Student Research and Development.**
  - Two students (Basra Mohamed and Jade Linstead published chapters in a book entitled *Belgrade Dialogue 2011: The Problems of Russia and World History*.
  - Two students presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in Las Vegas.
  - Two students (Rachel Harmon and Whitney Flatt) attended a conference on international affairs in Prague.

- Faculty participated in Faculty Learning Community on Civic Engagement and attended various LT&ITC programs to improve instruction
- Faculty developed a hybrid version of PS 1010
- EXL-designated Senior Seminar course generated over one thousand public service hours.

#### Special Recognition

- Recipient of Academic Performance Award for 2010-11
- Dr. Petersen recognized with the 2010-11 Undergraduate Fellowship Office Exemplary Faculty award, and the 2011 OWLS Professor Award for support of MTSU's older, wiser learners.
- Katie Bogle (POSC major) recognized with Presidents Award
- Adam Emerson (IR major) honored with the Provost Award.
- Karissa Senn (IR major) received a Gilman Scholarship to study in India in the fall semester.
- Kimberly Yarborough (IR), Patrick Pratt (IR) and Adam Emerson (IR) awarded Fulbright scholarships enabling them to conduct field work abroad.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

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#### Research Publications

- Publications (peer-reviewed) by faculty in: 3 Russian-language journals; *CESifo Dice Report*; and *The Latin American Research Review*; and forthcoming articles in *National Political Science Review*, *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, *Politica y Gobierno*; and *Communist and Post-communist Studies*.
- Two Department faculty are working under book contracts. Dr. Franklin with New York University Press on *After the Rebellion: Social Movement Action and Popular Mobilization among the Post-Civil Rights Generation*, and Dr. Maynor with Continuum Publishing on a monograph titled *Modern Republicanism in an Age of Globalization*.

#### Research Presentations

- Faculty presented research at a score of scholarly conferences including: the International Studies Association (Korobkov, Livingston, and Tesi); the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (Korobkov); the European Consortium for Political Research (Korobkov); the NAACP Race Relations Conference (Franklin); the Black Political Scientists and Annual Meeting of the National Conference (Franklin); a special round-table in Córdoba, Argentina (Maynor); the Midwestern Political Science Association meeting (Maynor, Petersen); the Peace Science Society Annual Meeting (Petersen); Latin American Studies Association meeting (Morris); the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (Morris); the African Studies Association (Tesi); the International Political Science Association (Vernardakis), among others.
- Faculty also made presented work at: the TBR on Tennessee's global competitiveness (Livingston) and at the TBR Diversity Conference (Franklin); the NAACP Race Relations Conference in Nashville (Franklin); the Hangzhou Normal University in China (Tesi); the Center for International Governance Innovation (Tesi); the Governor's Innovation Conference (Livingston); Universidad de Quintana Roo in Mexico (Morris); Mexican

Transparency (Morris) ; 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethnic Studies Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series (Franklin), among others.

- Three faculty (Livingston, Maynor, and Petersen) received grants to pursue their research.

#### On-going Research

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

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## SERVICE

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Faculty engaged in a wide range of service activities to students, the Department, the College of Liberal Arts, the university, the profession, and the community. Highlights include:

#### For Students

- Coordinating Washington Center Program, Tennessee legislative internship, TISL
- Coordinate interdisciplinary minors in: African Studies, Russian Studies, Urban Studies
- CLAS's Diversity Grant Award Committee
- Faculty advisor for: SUASA student organization, College Democrats, Amnesty International, Rotaract, Students for Obama.

#### For the Department

- Implementation of new Master's degree in International Affairs
- Successful search for new faculty member in International Relations
- Internal committees, including P&T, Budget, Institutional Effectiveness, Student and External Relations

#### For the College

- TBN College of Liberal Arts Liaison with the College of Education on Ready-2-Teach
- Chair, Search for Chair of the History Department
- Teacher Education Council; Distinguished Lecture Fund committee

For the University

- International Education and Exchanges Committee; the Veterans' Memorial Committee; the MTSU Holocaust Committee; the Normandy Exchange Commission; Advisory Committee to the Vice Provost for International Affairs; EXL Advisory Board; Advisory Board of the American Democracy Project
- Online Faculty Mentor Committee and active Online Faculty Mentor.
- MTSU Statistician Network Faculty
- Scholar's week judge
- Planning for conference on Gangs with the FIRE
- Faculty Senate

For the profession

- Faculty organized and co-sponsored a conference on Corruption in Mexico, Russia and the United States at Vanderbilt University.
- Co-organized international conference on migration at the Higher School of Economics in Russia.
- Faculty serve as editors of *Global Commerce* and *Journal of African Policy Studies*
- Service on editorial boards for *Contemporary Political Theory*; *The Latin Americanist*; and *Carta Economica Regional*.
- Member of the Fulbright Review Committee for the Council of the International Exchange of Scholars in Washington, D.C.
- Co-chair for Undergraduate Research at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Science
- Membership in: Board of the Research Institute for European and American Studies; the Russian-American Center Advisory Board, Vanderbilt's working group on the post-Soviet Region; President of the Post-Communist Systems of the International Studies Association; Executive Committee of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies; Book award committee for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies; essay award committee for Latin American Studies Association; ICPSR Advisory Group

For the community

- Faculty affiliation and involvement with: Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform; Citizens Calendar Committee; Tennessee Alliance for Progress Long Haul Awards committee; the Green-Collar Jobs Task Force; the NAACP and Southern coalition for Social Justice; the Step Up Women's Network, Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP; the Leadership Committee of the Nonviolence Resistance Movement; the Urban EpiCenter & Tennessee Citizen Action; Democracy in Other Lands within the American Democracy Project; Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce; among others.
- Faculty contributions to WMOT News, the *Final Call*, the *Daily News Journal*, *The Tennessean*, in *The Daily Beast*, radio interviews in Puebla and Oaxaca, Mexico,

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**DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS & ASSESSMENT**

- New Master's Program. Over the summer 2011, the Department received word that its proposed Master's in International Affairs had finally been approved by THEC. The Department thus devoted significant attention over the course of the academic year to

launching the new program. This encompassed final agreement on the specific requirements, preparation and publication of promotional materials, and preparation and submission of course proposals for approval. In accordance to Department by-laws, a Graduate Studies Committee and a Director of Graduate Studies were appointed and began their work at the beginning of the spring semester. Nine students were admitted and will begin this fall.

- New Faculty Hired. As part of the new graduate program, the Department was given a new tenure track line. Chaired by Dr. Steven Livingston, the search committee reviewed over 120 applicants for the position in international relations. Following a series of interviews, the Department successfully recruited Dr. Vanessa Lefler, a recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of Iowa. Dr. Lefler specializes in international conflict and formal theory and will be a welcomed addition to the Department. She begins this fall.
- Scholarships/ Awards / Donations. The Department awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to students for the upcoming 2012-13 year. In the spring, the Department recognized student achievement, presenting four major award (Norman L. Parks, C.C. Sims, John W. Burgess, and Jack Justin Turner awards) and six meritorious awards for students performance in Mock Trial, Moot Court, the Model UN, and within the Department. And over the course of the year, the Department received \$2,859 in donations to various Department and Scholarship funds held by the Foundation.

#### **Department Events & Publications** (hard copies and on-line)

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- New student picnic (Sept 7, 2011)
- “Corruption in Mexico, Russia, and the United States” Symposium co-sponsored with Vanderbilt University and the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation, Vanderbilt Campus (October 13-14)
- “Corruption and Democracy in Mexico and Russia,” John M. Ackerman and Andranik Migranyan, MTSU campus (October 13, 2011)
- “Little Town of Bethlehem” Documentary, co-sponsored with UN Student Alliance of MTSU (October 25, 2011)
- Career Workshop (March 19, 2012)
- “Attack Ads, Super PACs and Angry Voters: A Preview of the 2012 General Election,” Kent Syler (March 27, 2012)
- Human Trafficking Symposium, Sponsored by students of Dr. Maynor’s PS 4030 Human Rights class (April 6, 2012)
- Spring Picnic (April 21, 2012)
- Fall and Spring Newsletters
- Added features to the Department Web Site
  - FAQ
  - Staying Informed on International Political Issues
  - Thinking about Law School
  - Student Research Opportunities
  - History of the Department as part of MTSU’s Centennial celebration

### Assessment

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The following is a summary of the Department's annual assessment of student learning outcomes and goals for the academic year. The Department's Institutional Effectiveness Report provides a more thorough and rigorous assessment of student learning outcomes and Department goals:

- Overall scores for both Political Science (POSC) and International Relations (IR) majors on the **Major Field Test** surpassed the 500 score benchmark, earning the Department the academic performance award again this year. Based on the results from the various sections of the senior exam, 64% of POSC majors and 73.9% of IR majors met the learning expectations, while 25% of POSC majors and 26.3% of IR majors exceeded expectation by obtaining scores above the 77 percentile mark.
- On the **General Education exam** from 2011-12, the average scores for both POSC and IR majors surpassed the average score for students from the College of Liberal Arts on the General Education exam. They also scored at or better than the college in each analytical category.
- On the **Senior Survey** over 75% of POSC majors responded "good" or "excellent" to 13 of the 21 questions pertaining to the major degree program and more than 60% responded "good" or "excellent" for the other 8 areas. Among IR majors, over 75% responded "good" or "excellent" to 18 of the 21 questions, and more than 65% on the remaining 3 questions.
- On the **Senior Survey** 76% of POSC majors and 95% of IR majors rated their faculty advisor as "good" or "excellent." On the supplemental survey, 61.5% indicated that their advisor was always available.
- **Student evaluations** of teaching by Department faculty placed at or above the College and University averages in all categories.
- **SCH production** for the year (8,474) was down considerably compared to the average over the prior 5 years (10,011).
- The **number of majors** in the fall semester (491) was down slightly from the average over the prior five years (500.8).
- In the area of **retention**, data from 2010-11 indicate that while 72% of freshman POSC and IR majors returned to MTSU the following year, only 36.4% of IR majors and 28% of POSC majors returned to that major. As would be expected, the retention of juniors in both majors was considerably higher: 65% of IR majors and 87% of POSC majors returned in the major for their senior year.

- Faculty developed and administered **assessment** tools for 6 courses/sections and conducted syllabus review for 5. This is in addition to the assessment tools developed for 13 courses last year and 2 syllabus reviews.

### **PLANS FOR 2012-13**

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The following highlights some of the plans for the upcoming academic year:

- Launching of the new Master's degree in International Affairs. Three graduate seminars will be offered in both fall and spring semesters. The Department seeks to expand enrollment to 20 students by next year.
- A review and possible revision of the International Relations curriculum.
- An expansion of student involvement in internships, public service activities, community-based and field research, and study abroad programs.
- A revised "Student Handbook" designed to contribute to improving student advising and planning with separate editions for International Relations and Political Science majors.
- A "New Student Orientation" in the fall to enhance student engagement and communication.
- An increase in funding for student organizations and travel and faculty travel, and additional staff.
- The development of a program to better prepare MTSU students for the LSAT and the exploration of a possible minor in Constitutional/Legal Studies.
- The development of a mentoring program for students.
- An increase in scholarly endeavors by faculty.
- A strengthening of ties with alumni and the community.
- Requests for two additional faculty lines in the area of pre-law and Asian studies, and requests for an increase in funding for both student and faculty travel.

*Submitted by Stephen D. Morris  
August 2012*