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## Department of Political Science Annual Report 2012-13

During the 2012-13 academic year, the Department of Political Science (13 tenured faculty, two tenure-track faculty, two full-time non-tenure-track faculty, nine adjuncts, and one executive aide) conducted 126 classes, including 40 sections of two general education courses and 7 graduate courses, generating over 8,000 student credit hours, including 370 hours in internships, and served 361 political science majors, 76 international relations majors, and an assortment of minors. The Department and Department faculty administered two baccalaureate programs, three concentrations, six minors, including three interdisciplinary minors, a number of highly active student organizations and intercollegiate academic teams, and launched a new master's degree program in international affairs. The Department also continued its work to strengthen the quality of its undergraduate programs, enhance student participation through active learning initiatives, improve self-assessment, and develop and promote enhanced strategies to improve retention. Department faculty also contributed to scholarship through research and publications, and actively participated in wide range of professional and institutional endeavors on campus, in the community, and around the world.

The following preliminary report provides an overview of the Department's activities for the academic year. It presents sections on teaching, scholarship, service, and Departmental affairs. The report is preliminary since it does not contain information on assessment or plans for the coming 2013-14 academic year. The full report containing those two additional sections will be submitted once more information becomes available.

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### TEACHING

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#### *Instruction*

- 126 classes/sections (fall, spring)
- 40 sections of the general education courses PS 1005 and PS 1010
- 12 online courses and 3 RODP courses
- 6 Honor's courses
- 22 EXL courses
- 68 students in internships (summer/fall/spring), including 12 Legislative interns and 6 interns with the Washington Center program
- Special Advanced Studies Courses on:
  - Constitutional Law and Moot Court
  - Political Corruption
  - Communication & Strategy in 2012 General Election
  - Advertising and Communication in Modern American Politics

- Advertising in American Politics
- Resolving Conflict in World Politics
- Judicial Decisionmaking
- American Politics and Media in the Information Age
- Totalitarianism

Credit Hours

- \*\* SCH (4,359 fall 2012; 4,029{corrected}, spring 2013)
  - 237 Honors
  - 665 EXL
  - 370 Internships

Majors (fall 2012)

- 361 - Political Science
  - 109 General Focus
  - 209 Pre-law concentration
  - 23 Public Administration concentration
  - 20 Teaching Licensure
- 76 - International Relations

Graduates (2011-12)

- 89 Political Science (BA and BS)
- 27 International Relations

Special Recognition

- Recipient of Academic Performance Award for 2011-12

Departmental Activities

- New Student Orientation, September 5.
- Internship Workshop, September 26
- Presentation “Negative Advertising in Campaigns” by Dr. John Geer, Vanderbilt University and Panel Discussion with Bart Gordon and other guests. Organized and moderated by Kent Syler, October 23.
- “Global Weirder: Designing Law and Policy to Stop the Climate Crisis” by Clay Francis, March 26.
- LSAT Prep Session and Practice Test by Dr. Diapolo in both Fall and Spring semesters.
- Career Workshop, March 1.
- Reflections on World Affairs, Seminar Series, “Syria, North Korea, and US Leadership in the World.” Panel discussion with Rev. John Hinkle, Shiekh Dr. Ossama Bahloul, and Sheldon Lutz, April 25, 2013
- Publication of two Political Science Newsletters (fall and spring)

The Department also Co-sponsored:

- Election Watch Party, November 6.

- “Islamic Pacificism: Global Muslims in the Post-Osma Era,” Arsalan T. Iftikhar, November 13, 2012.
- History Department Brown Bag series, Prof. Silke Hensel of the University of Münster, Germany, "Legitimizing a New Order: The 1822 Coronation of Agustin, Emperor of Mexico." March 20, 2013.

Mock Trial, Moot Court, Mediation and Model United Nations Student Organizations

- Mock Trial. Various teams of mockers participated in Vanderbilt's Commodore Classic, Georgia Tech's Ramblin' Wreck invitational, and the Regional Tournament in Jackson, Mississippi. At the Ramblin' Wreck, MTSU finished with a 5-3 record, putting them eighth overall. Two students earned individual achievements: Margaret Noah, a senior psychology major, was awarded an outstanding witness award and Samantha Farish, a senior majoring in political science and psychology, received an outstanding attorney award.
- Moot Court. At the Regional tournament in Orlando, one MTSU team composed of Constance Grieves and Kaitlin Beck won the regional championship and a total of four MTSU teams qualified for the national tournament in January. At the national tournament, the MTSU Moot Court team made it to the Round of 16. Kaitlin Beck and Constance Grieves had the best showing of the four MTSU teams competing. Sam Farish and Clark Palombo also made it to the Moot Court playoffs.
- Model UN. The Model UN team traveled to Washington, D.C., in October to compete at the Georgetown National Collegiate Security Conference. Students represented Israel in several committees. The group also competed in St. Louis and Atlanta during the Spring semester.
- Mediation Team. In October, members of MTSU's Intercollegiate Mediation Association participated in a regional mediation tournament at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. The regional event featured students from sixteen schools engaged mediating actual disputes. Three members earned top ten awards: Allison Cain, Danielle Horn and Mirah Schiff.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

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Department faculty engaged in a wide range of scholarly activity, publishing research in a variety of outlets, presenting papers at regional, national and international conferences, and offering talks at events throughout the world.

Publications

- “African Americans and Obama’s Domestic Policy Agenda: A Closer Look at Deracialization, the Federal Stimulus Bill, and the Affordable Health Care Act,” *Polity* December 2012 (Franklin co-authored)
- Vyzhivet li Amerikanskii Plavil’nyi Kotel” (“Will the American Melting Pot Survive?”). Rossiyskiy Sovet po Mezhdunarodnym Delam. December 2012 (Korobkov) .

- “Russian Brain Drain: Myths and Reality.” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* Special Issue on Disintegration of the Soviet Union. Twenty Years Later. Assessment. Quo Vadis? Richard Sakwa and Andrey Kazantsev, eds., vol. 45, no. 3-4, September-December 2012, 327-41 (Korobkov co-authored)
- “The Russian Migration System in Comparative Perspective.” In: Cynthia Buckley, ed. *Labor Migration in Eurasia: Links to Global Migration and Human Security Trends.* Woodrow Wilson Center and New York University Press (Korobkov)
- “The US Migration Experience and the Russian Migration Reform.” Russian International Relations Council, 2013 (Korobkov).
- “Corruption, Drug Trafficking, and Violence in Mexico.” *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 18 (11), 2012: 29-43 (Morris).
- “The Impact of Drug-Related Violence on Corruption in Mexico.” *The Latin Americanist*. 57 (1), 2013: 43-65 (Morris).

#### Under Review or forthcoming

- Department faculty have research at various stages in the review process or forthcoming with *American Politics Research* (Franklin), *Community Development Journal* (Franklin), *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (Petersen and Lefler), *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration Journal* (Vernardakis), *Internet and Higher Education* (Petersen), *Journal of Black Studies* (Franklin), *Journal of Law and Courts* (Petersen), *Politica y Gobierno* (Morris), *Review of International Organizations* (Lefler), *Social Identities Journal* (Franklin), and *Trends in Organized Crime* (Morris).

#### Scholarly Presentations

- Department Faculty presented research at: the Australian and Pacific Association of African Studies (Tesi), International Political Science Association (Vernardakis), the International Studies Association (Korobkov, Lefler, Livingston), a special conference on Labor Migration in Eurasia at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, a conference on Mexican politics at American University (Morris), at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Korobkov), the Midwestern Political Science Association (Lefler, Maynor, McDaniel), and the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies (Morris).

#### Grants

Faculty obtained a number of grants to support research or conduct seminars and speaking tours. These include:

- a \$42,000 Energy Foundation grant to explore international competitiveness of clean technology in Tennessee (Livingston);
- a FRCAC research grant for \$4,781 to support the project “Testing Multiple Waters: A Cross-National Analysis of Interstate Conflict Management Bargain Shopping” (Lefler);
- a Summer Research Grant to write a paper on Cosmopolitan Republicanism (Maynor);
- a State Department’s Speakers Grant to Honudras (Morris); .
- a US Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Eurasia Foundation in March, a year-long grant from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science for a Foreign-Based Russian Project Director, a Russian World Foundation Travel Grant, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, a Rhodes Forum Travel Grant, a Russian International Studies Association Travel Grant, and a Carnegie Foundation grant

(Korobkov). These grants enabled Dr. Korobkov to travel to offer numerous talks, seminars and workshop during the course of the year at the Russian State University of the Humanities in Moscow Temple University under the Carnegie Foundation Program in Kichkine, Crimea, Ukraine, and Irkutsk State University in Irkutsk, Russia in February.

#### Other Professional/Scholarly Highlights

- Dr. DiPaolo authored the case for the American Collegiate Moot Court Association that will be used in next year's national Moot Court competition.
- Dr. Morris served as an expert witness on political corruption in Mexico on a federal bankruptcy case for the Mexican firm Vitro.
- Dr. Tesi served as an expert consultant to the African Development Bank's Institute's "Ideas and Knowledge" seminar for the Bank's top level Development Officials in November and was invited by the Operations Department of the African Development Bank in Tunis to review its Strategy Paper.

### **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 the Washington Center Program and the Tennessee legislative internship.
- Coordinating interdisciplinary minors in: African Studies, Russian Studies, Urban Studies
- Faculty advisor for: SUASA student organization, College Democrats, Amnesty International, and Rotaract.

#### For the University

- CLAS's Diversity Grant Award Committee; 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; the TBR College of Liberal Arts Liaison with the College of Education on Ready-2-Teach; the CLA Special Planning Committee; the Distinguished Lecture Fund Committee; Distance Learning Commission; the President's Commission on the Status of Women; the EXL Scholars Program Advisory Board.
- Online Faculty Mentor Committee and active Online Faculty Mentor.
- MTSU Statistician Network Faculty
- Scholar's week judge
- Faculty Senate (Maynor)
- Chair of the Search Committee for the Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research (Petersen).

#### For the profession

- Faculty serve as editors of *Global Commerce* and *Journal of African Policy Studies* and on the editorial boards for *Contemporary Political Theory* and *The Latin Americanist*.
- Member of the Fulbright Review Committee for the Council of the International Exchange of Scholars in Washington, D.C.

- Dr. DiPaolo was elected to the American collegiate Moot Court Association Executive Committee.
- Dr. Franklin served on the Music City Nashville Delegation, Empowerment Congress Leadership Institute in Los Angeles, on the Executive Committee of the Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP, the Coordinating Committee, Operation W.A.V.E. (Wake Up and Vote Early), and on the Coordinating Committee of the Nonviolent Resistance Movement and Social Justice, coordinating three workshops on nonviolent resistance.
- Dr. Langenbach serves as an Online Faculty Mentor, and RODP master course developer, and on the Online Faculty Committee.
- Dr. Livingston served as an advisor on the Tennessee Clean Energy Business Council, as a consult to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, as a member of the board of the Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce, as a participant on the Southern Growth Policies Board Conference, and made presentations to the Central Illinois World Affairs Council and at Tennessee Tech. Kent Syler appeared on WTVF *Morning Line* four times, WTVF *Open Line* twice, WTVF *Inside Politics* twice, *Tennessean* live online election commentary three times, *Tennessean* live online Q&A about swing states with his *Communication and Strategy in the 2012 General Election* class, and WGNS *The Truman Show* twice. He was quoted in *Tennessean* and *Daily News Journal* and *CNN.com*, and interviewed by *Huffington Post* about congressional redistricting.
- Dr. Willis serves on the Board of Directors for the American Intercollegiate Mediation Association.
- Faculty report membership in the following organizations: 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

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## DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS

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- New Student Services Portal. To provide relevant information to students, Dr. Carleton put together a user friendly web site providing students with links and detailed information on graduate schools, careers, internships, etc. To promote this new service, the Department created a poster on how students can “Stay Connected” to the Department and incorporated the information into course syllabi.
- LSAT Prep Session and Practice Test. In an effort to improve LSAT scores among our majors and other majors, during both the fall and spring semesters Dr. DiPaolo offered a 3 hour workshop to help students prepare for the law school entrance exam, followed two weeks later by administering a practice test. Interest and attendance were high. The Department will continue to build this initiative and hopefully improve LSAT scores.
- Tutoring for PS 3001. For the first time, the Department offered tutoring to students in the research methods class. Already with a reputation for being difficult, the tutor stayed busy assisting students in the course.
- Subscription to the Journal of Political Science Education. To improve instruction, the Department has subscribed to the American Political Science Association's journal on

teaching. The availability of the journal, along with email notices of the articles, encourages the faculty to explore new ideas for the classroom.

- Hosted Dr. Husan Duran. The Department hosted visiting scholar Dr. Duran of the Department of Public Administration, Dumlupinar University, Kutahya, Turkey.
- Departmental Newsletter. The Department published two newsletters during the year.
- New Master's Program. The Department successfully launched the Master's in International Affairs in the fall with an initial class of 9 students. Three new graduate courses were taught in the fall and the spring semesters and a few students will begin thesis and practicum work over the summer. As part of the new program, Dr. Tesi, the graduate director, and the Graduate Studies Committee, put together to produce a Student Handbook for the graduate program.
- New Faculty Hired. As part of the new graduate program, the Department was given a new tenure track line shared with Global Studies on Asia. Chaired by Dr. Karen Petersen, the search committee reviewed over 40 applicants for the position. Following a series of interviews, the Department successfully recruited Dr. Zhen Wang, a recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Wang specializes in Chinese politics 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. The decisions were made by the Student Relations Committee. 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.
- Program Revisions. The Department revised the International Relations program in line with a recommendation from the external reviewer. The Department also began the process of completing a major revision of the Teaching Licensure program.
- Virtual Mentoring. Toward the end of the year, the Department put together a virtual mentoring program that allows current students to communicate with former students. Roughly 60 alumni agreed to participate in the program. Information available on-line lists the position and profession of the alum and the contact information. The program will be officially promoted and launched in the upcoming fall semester.

*Submitted by Stephen D. Morris  
May 2013*