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## Department of Political Science Annual Report 2013-14

*[Preliminary Report]*

During the 2013-14 academic year, the Department of Political Science (13 tenured faculty, three tenure-track faculty, one full-time non-tenure-track faculty, nine adjuncts, and one executive aide) conducted 169 classes, including 30 sections of two general education courses and 7 graduate courses, and served 344 political science majors, 63 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 a 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 a range of active learning initiatives, improve self-assessment, and develop and promote enhanced strategies to improve student success and 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, and service with the teaching category expanded to include various departmental projects and events targeted at students and student success. The report is considered preliminary since it does not contain information on assessment owing to the lack of relevant data or plans for the upcoming 2014-15 academic year. The full report containing those two additional sections will be submitted once more information becomes available.

### **TEACHING/STUDENT SUCCESS**

#### *Instruction*

- 169 regular lecture classes enrolling a total of 2,123 students;
- 30 regular sections, seven online sections, and three honor's sections of the general education courses PS 1005 and PS 1010;
- 50 internships totaling 243 credit hours, including one in the Washington Center program and 11 in the Legislative internship program;
- 563 EXL credit hours;
- 3 independent studies courses;
- 7 seminars; and
- 4 master's theses

Majors (fall 2013)

- 344 - Political Science
  - 107 General Focus
  - 196 Pre-law concentration
  - 30 Public Administration concentration
  - 11 Teaching Licensure
- 63 - International Relations
- **407 Total Undergraduate majors**
- 14 Masters in International Affairs

Note: The total number of majors, 421, is down from 449 last year and the peak of undergraduate majors in 2009 at 516.

New Students

- 46 New First Time Freshman (Fall 2013)
- 31 New Transfers (Fall 2013)

Graduates

	<u>Sum13</u>	<u>Fall13</u>
International Relations (BS)	2	7
Political Science (BA)	3	5
Political Science (BS)	9	21
<b>Political Science Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>

Student Evaluations

Student evaluations from past spring and fall 2013 semesters ranked teaching within the Department at or above the averages for the college and the university.

	<b>Department Avg. /College Avg. / University Avg.</b>	
	<b><u>Spring 2013</u></b>	<b><u>Fall 2013</u></b>
Presentation Ability	4.5/4.5/4.5	4.5/4.5/4.4
Organization & Clarity	4.4/4.5/4.4	4.4/4.4/4.4
Assignments & Grading	4.5/4.5/4.5	4.5/4.5/4.5
Scholarly Approach	4.5/4.5/4.4	4.5/4.4/4.4
Student Interactions	4.5/4.4/4.4	4.5/4.4/4.3
Motivating Students	4.4/4.3/4.3	4.3/4.3/4.2
Effectiveness & Worth	4.3/4.2/4.2	4.3/4.2/4.1

Special Recognition

- Recipient of Academic Performance Award for 2012-13

### Student Organizations

#### Mediation Team

Students participated in the national tournament sponsored by the International Academy of Dispute Resolution at Drake Law School in Des Moines, Iowa in November. MTSU finished second in the Mediator category, 10th in the Advocate/Client category, and received the "Spirit of Mediation" Award. Mariah Schiff also won an individual Advocate/Client award.

#### Mock Trial

MTSU Mock Trial started the season with much higher numbers than in the past few years, fielding four teams at four different invitational tournaments in the fall: 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 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, including Brian Crawford, Wesley Eke, Connor McDonald, Clark Palombo, and Davis Thompson. In the spring, Mock Trial sent teams to invitational competition at Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech in January, held a scrimmage in Chattanooga against Kennesaw State, and hosted a scrimmage against a Georgia Tech team in our Honors College. In February, two teams, captained by Davis Thompson and Adam Higgs, competed at Regional competition in Clinton, Mississippi. Both teams qualified to the Opening Round Championship Site tournament, and Samantha Farish and Darby McCarthy earned individual awards. At the end of March, our two teams competed at the ORCS tournament held in Memphis. Although neither team qualified to the National Championship tournament, Darby McCarthy and Elizabeth Bickel were both recognized with individual awards. Our end-of-year awards banquet took place May 3. The Master of Rules award was shared by Davis Thompson and Adam Higgs. Samantha Farish was the recipient of the Pillar of Mock Trial award. The first John R. Vile Spirit of Mock Trial award, recognizing civility in competition, dedication to teamwork, and exceptional work ethic, was awarded to Cole Hodge.

#### Moot Court

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. 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. 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.

### Model United Nations

Students from the MTSU Model United Nations Team attended the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference in the fall and traveled to the United Nations University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica in the spring to compete in UPMUNC 2014. Joey Meyer won the Best Delegate award representing Russia in the Security Council, Erika Helgeson won most in character as Saudi Arabia, and Morgan Hunlen won most diplomatic as Sweden.

### Departmental Events / Activities

- New Student Orientation (September 6, 2013).
- Dr. Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable with Senior Judge Don Ash, Attorney Brandi Snow Bozarth, and Attorney Luther Wright, all former MTSU graduates (October 2, 2013).
- Forum on Internships and the Political and Civic Engagement Minor (October 22, 2013).
- Hosted and organized the Annual Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, which included over 30 teams from across the nation.
- Alumni Day speaker, Kevin Rayburn (February 27, 2014).
- Career Workshop (February 28, 2014).
- Brown Bag Presentation – “The Origins of the Crisis in Ukraine” Andrei Korobkov (March 20, 2014).
- LSAT Prep Session and Practice Test by Dr. DiPaolo (Fall & Spring Semesters)
- “Justice for Chiapas: Autonomy and Human Rights for the Indigenous in Chiapas, Mexico” with Azalia Hernandez of the Fray Bartolomé Human Rights Center and Mexico Solidarity Network representative Stuart Schussler, Mexico Solidary Network. Organized by the Department with co-sponsorship from Department of History, Global Studies, and International Affairs (April 2, 2014).
- Practitioner Lecture in International Affairs “Conflict Prevention and Response after Iraq and Afghanistan” with Jason Lewis-Berry, Director of Overseas Operations, US Department of State Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (April 22, 2014).
- Spring Picnic (April 28, 2014)

### Communications

- Publication of Department Newsletter (Fall and Spring)
- Posters on Virtual Mentoring Program and Staying in Touch with Your Department were created and posted.
- Maintain and utilize e-mail list of majors

### Special Projects

- Student Retention Projects. Student retention projects included: New Student Orientation to connect students early on to the Department and to provide information about the programs, the information, and the opportunities the Department provides; the Virtual Mentoring program to put students in contact with former students and to gain practical and professional advise; LSAT preparation and practice test to help students increase their scores on the LSAT; student workshops on internships and careers; coffee and donuts during exam weeks

(funded by the CLA); the development of the on-line Student Portal containing abundant information and links on internships, careers, graduate schools, etc.; tutoring for the PS 3001 Research Methods course; and various special events.

- Virtual Mentoring Program. Created at the end of last academic year, the program was officially launched in the fall semester. Posters announcing the program were placed in the classrooms and included in course syllabi. Dr. Maynor incorporated the program as an assignment in sections of the senior seminar. Student feedback from his classes highlighted the usefulness of the program. Dr. Maynor has suggested we broaden the program to identify alums willing to allow students to job shadow them for a day.
- Internship Bulletin Board and Posters. A new bulletin board was placed outside the main office featuring small posters describing the experience of student interns during the prior year. The purpose is to bring more attention to these opportunities and their benefit. The eye-catching display illustrates to students where fellow students have interned, and briefly describes their semester, and what students gained from the experience.
- Hybrid PS 1010. Dr. Carleton developed and taught in the spring a hybrid version of PS 1010. Blending an on-line and a traditional course, the class meets just one day a week for 1.5 hours and completes assignments on-line. The in-class portion provides an opportunity for greater discussion and student engagement. Student feedback was positive, though marketing the course appears to be a major challenge. The strategic plan is threefold: to provide students with an alternative format that is effective; stretch space resources; and make the on-line materials available to adjuncts, thus facilitating certain control over the content of these courses.
- Research Posters. Consistent with the Department's goal of promoting student research, the spring semester sections of PS 3001 had students prepare and present research posters on designated days at the end of the semester. Students and faculty were invited to view the posters.
- Enrollment in General Education Courses. In response to a noted decline in the enrollment in our two general education courses, Langenbach, Maynor and Syler agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee charged with developing a strategy to reverse this trend. After extensive work, the committee a) recommended that the Department change the names/titles of the two courses to better reflect their content and attract student attention (the request was submitted to the general education curriculum committee); and b) organized a promotional campaign that included campus-wide announcements and meetings with university advisors.
- Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) Program. The Department proposed a program that would allow students to earn a B.S. in International Relations and an M.A. in International Affairs in just a little over 5 years. The proposal was approved by the Graduate College in the spring and will begin this coming fall.

- Office Hours Project. A trusted student worker implemented a simple program during the fall and spring semesters of checking to see if faculty were indeed in during their stated office hours. Overall, she concluded in her report that “all the professors pretty much keep their office hours.” The few exceptions were largely related to absences due to illness. The project included just the faculty in Peck Hall and thus did not include Dr. Livingston or Mr. Syler.

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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

- Amanda DiPaolo and Karen Petersen, “Jackson’s Zone of Twilight: Foreign Intelligence Surveillance and Federal Court Decision Making” *Homeland and National Security Law Review* (forthcoming).
- Andrei Korobkov, “The Pluses and Minuses of the Russian Intellectual Migration” *Mir Peremen* (The Changing World) (peer refereed journal).
- Andrei Korobkov, “The Brain Drain in Comparative Perspective: The US Experience” *Russia Direct Quarterly Report* (a Foreign Policy US journal and the Rossiiskaya Gazeta newspaper joint publication).
- Andrei Korobkov, “Russia and the US Migration Experience.” *Migration—21<sup>st</sup> Century Journal*. November-December 2013.
- Sekou Franklin, *After the Rebellion: Social Movement Action and Popular Mobilization among the Post-Civil Rights Generation* (New York University Press, 2014).
- Sekou Franklin, “The Elasticity of Anti-Civil Rights Discourse: Albert Gore, Sr., Richard Russell, and Constituent Relations in the 1950s and 1960s, *Social Identities*, 2013.
- Robb McDaniel, “The Self-Incriminator: John Lilburne, the Star Chamber, and the English Origins of American Liberty,” in *Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana*.
- Stephen Morris, “Cambios en la opinión pública sobre la corrupción en México: 2004 al 2010.” *Política y Gobierno* Volumen Temático “Desafíos de la política mexicana”, 2013: 59-82.
- Karen Petersen (co-author), “Comparing Student and Faculty Perceptions of Online and Traditional Courses” *The Internet and Higher Education* Vol. 19 (October 2013).

### Conference Presentations

Faculty presented over 20 scholarly papers at such academic conferences as: the African Studies Association, American Association for Chinese Studies, the American Political Science Association, the AUBER conference, the European International Studies Association, the International Studies Association, the Latin American Studies Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the National Conference of Black Political Science, the Peace Science Society, the Russian International Studies Association, the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, the Southern Political Science Association, and the World University Forum.

### Special Presentations

- Faculty offered numerous special presentations at: the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the Second International Forum of Russian-speaking Science and Technology Professionals, the Tennessee NAACP State Conference Day on the Hill, Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH) Summit, the State Conference of the Tennessee State Conference of NAACP Chapters, the Neighborhood Resource Center Transportation Conference, and the University of Memphis.
- Kent Syler appeared twice on WTVF Morning Line, four times on WTVF Open Line, three times on WTVF Inside Politics, three times on WGNS The Truman Show, was quoted in articles in the Tennessean, Daily News Journal, WGNS, WTVF, and Murfreesboro Post, and had The Daily News Journal and Sidelines join his Advertising and Communications class to watch the State of the Union address and report on the students reactions.

### Grants

- Dr. Korobkov -- Rhodes Forum Travel Grant; a Science Research Grant for a Foreign-Based Russian Project Director (projects on Migration in Siberia at the Irkutsk State University and the Russian Brain Drain with MGIMO - University) from the Russian Ministry of Education; US-Russia Social Expertise Exchange Travel Grant; the International Forum of Russian-speaking Science and Technology Professionals; a Woodrow Wilson Center Travel Grant; a World University Forum Travel Grant; and European Commission PF7 Research Grant from "GREEN: Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks."
- Dr. Franklin – Non-instructional Assignment Grant for fall 2014
- Dr. Petersen – Co-PI, NSF ADAVANCE grant application
- Dr. Wang -- FRCAC grant to conduct further field work in China over the summer on her project "Government Word Reports: A Proxy for China's Cadre Evaluation System?"

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## **SERVICE**

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

### Faculty Awards

Two faculty received special recognition during the year:

- Dr. Franklin received the John Pleas Award for demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and service by a minority faculty member; and
- Dr. Langenbach received the Distance Educator Award, and an Outstanding Advisor Award in the College of Liberal Arts.

### 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.
- Course Redesign project for PS 1010 Foundations of Government (Carleton and Lefler)

For the University

- Dr. Carleton -- Honor's College representative on the Distinguished Lecture Fund Committee, the Teacher Education Council, MTSU Liaison to the Washington Center, and member of the MTSU Advisory Board for the American Democracy Project.
- Dr. Franklin – Faculty Senate
- Dr. Langenbach -- Online Faculty Mentor, RODP master course developer, and member of the Online Faculty Committee
- Dr. Livingston -- University Academic Master Plan Steering Committee, vice-chair of the University Academic Master Plan Partnership Committee, MTSU Statistician Network Faculty, and Senior Research Associate in MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center
- Dr. Maynor -- University's Distance Learning Commission, the President's Commission on the Status of Women, and on the EXL Scholars Program Advisory Board.
- Dr. McDaniel -- chair of MTSU's Veterans Memorial Committee
- Dr. Morris -- Scholar's week judge
- Dr. Tesi --International Education and Exchange Committee (IEEC) and its scholarship subcommittee; the Advisory Committee to the Vice Provost for International Affairs
- Dr. Wang – Scholar's week judge

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*.
- Dr. DiPaolo served as a member of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association, and developed the case that will be used in next year's national Moot Court competition.
- Dr. Tesi served as consultant for the Operations Department of the African Development Bank in Tunis,
- 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.

*Submitted by Stephen D. Morris  
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