



POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

Political Science Helps the Community

By Lisa Riggs

Dr. Maynor's Senior Seminar class has been helping the community in many ways since the spring 2011 semester. In just 5 sections of the class, students have contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Nashville Cares, Salvation Army, Hands on Nashville, various animal shelters, and nursing homes. The push for "service-learning" involves teaching his class in an experiential learning (EXL) format. According to the EXL website <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~exl/>, through the combination of classroom and community interaction, the partners can "encourage diversity and collaboration throughout MTSU and the community."

According to Dr. Maynor, in the last 50 years, society has moved away from participating in activities as a group and instead is involved in individual activities. This is highlighted in the book *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam. Putnam uses the statistic that 62.8% of Americans of voting age voted in the election of 1960, but only 48.9% turned out in 1996 as

demonstration that people are more concerned with their self interests than those of the community.

Not only will students meet their Political Science graduation requirements by taking this class, but they also receive many benefits as well. The benefits for students include learning about social issues, investigating possible careers, connecting to a group you might not have otherwise had contact with, and exploring beliefs and values. Faculty can also benefit by having new ideas added to class discussions, students having firsthand knowledge of community issues, and it may lead them to new areas of research. The organizations that the students partner with receive the benefit of having the issues of the organization more widely known, preparation of future civic leaders, as well as the energy that new volunteers bring.

Many students continue on with their volunteer work after the class project has ended. Through this continued work, the goal is that the students will be more connected with the community, be introduced to ideas and people they never would have had the opportunity to meet before, and build a trust in their community.



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www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/



In the news...***Political Science
Student Advisory Council***

The first meeting of the Student Advisory Council is set for Friday, February 4. Approximately 20 students have accepted the invitation to participate.

The idea behind the creation of the SAC is to provide feedback and advise to the Department on matters of interest to students. It is hoped that the Council can help identify ways to enhance in-class and out-of-class activities and strengthen student involvement in Department activities.

**Political Science tailgate at Homecoming**

Alumni from Urban Planning, Public Administration, and Political Science and former students and colleagues of Professor Currey Peacock, who taught at MTSU from the late 1960's to late 1980's, gathered for lunch during Homecoming.

**Department Programs to undergo
5-year External Reviews**

This spring semester, both the political science and the international relations programs will undergo thorough reviews and assessment by outside reviewers. Dr. Meinhold of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington will review the political science program, while Dr. Adolino of James Madison University will assess the international relations program. Mandated by TBR and tied to performance-based funding, the 5 year periodic review examines all aspects of the department, from student learning and assessment to faculty performance.

Student Handbook for Political Science and IR Majors

This past fall, the Department created a new student handbook containing useful information on everything from program requirements and information on internships and student organizations to tips on writing papers. Available on-line and in the brochure rack outside the department offices.

**Four Secrets to Law School Success, By MICHAEL C. DORF
Monday, August 23, 2010**

With a job market that remains, at best, uncertain awaiting them at the end of their three years, new and returning law students are understandably anxious about what they can do to make the most out of their legal education. In the past, I have offered advice about [the first-year curriculum](#) and [how to think like a lawyer](#). In this column, I share four lessons that I have learned in nearly two decades of law teaching. For complete article, visit our website or writ.news.findlaw.com/0823.html.

Course Number change effective Fall 2011

***PS 2010 American Government and Politics
will now become PS 1005***


Always consult an Advisor when dealing with program and graduation requirements



Political Science Student Handbook

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science



Information for
Political Science and International Relations
Majors

"The mind is a fire to be lighted, not a vessel to be filled"

Department of Political Science
Middle Tennessee State University
Peck Hall 209
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2708
www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience

UPCOMING Events during Spring Semester

Political Science Forum presents...

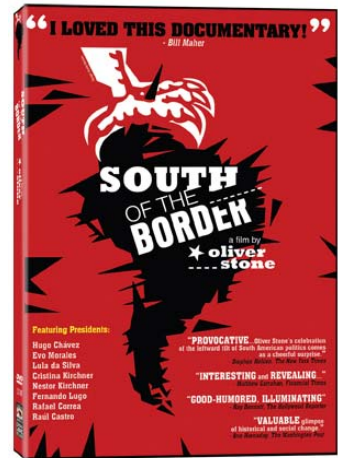
- **Graduate School Workshop for PS/IR Majors**, Tuesday, February 15, 4:30, 116 CKNG (Nursing) Bldg.
- **Career Workshop for PS/ IR Majors**, Wednesday, March 2, 5:30, 105 CKNB (Nursing) Bldg.
- **Oliver Stone's "South of the Border"** March 22, 7 pm, Room 121 CKNB (Nursing) Bldg.
- **Public Service Workshop**, Thursday, April 7, 5:00, BAS S-343

Spring Picnic – Saturday April 23, Noon, Barfield-Crescent Park (faculty & majors)



Oliver Stone's *South of the Border*

There's a revolution underway in South America, but most of the world doesn't know it. Oliver Stone sets out on a road trip across five countries to explore the social and political movements as well as the mainstream media's misperception of South America while interviewing seven of its elected presidents. In casual conversations with Presidents Hugo Chávez (Venezuela), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Lula da Silva (Brazil), Cristina Kirchner (Argentina), as well as her husband and ex-President Néstor Kirchner, Fernando Lugo (Paraguay), Rafael Correa (Ecuador), and Raúl Castro (Cuba), Stone gains unprecedented access and sheds new light upon the exciting transformations in the region. To view the trailer, go to: <http://southoftheborderdoc.com/>



March 22

Should I go to graduate school or should I just run for president? Will a degree in political science help me get a job at Starbucks?



WORKSHOPS for STUDENTS

Learn about opportunities in the areas of **Graduate School, Careers, and Public Service** through a series of informative workshop. These are informal opportunities to acquire information, ask questions, and help you begin thinking about and planning the future.

What types of jobs are out there? How do you apply? What is graduate school really like?

DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

* * *

April 23, Noon to Afternoon
Barfield Crescent Park, Pavilion TBA
(students & faculty)



Students in the News

The Washington Center Program

Last semester...

In Fall 2010, **Shayna Taylor** participated in the Washington Center program, completing an internship at the Global Centurion. As part of the internship she was responsible for organizing and recruiting members to participate in the annual fundraiser, The DC Walk to Stop Modern Slavery. In addition, she volunteered to organize the Females Genital Mutilation team to have a table at the event where constituents could write a postcard to their representative to support the Girls Protection Act. As part of her semester-long experience funded largely by MTSU, Shayna interviewed the former Ambassador to Pakistan, Wendy Chamberlin, met Senator Lugar to lobby on behalf of the Girls Protection Act, conducted research on human trafficking, and took a course entitled The Millennium Development Goals: Milestones and Challenges taught by Dr. Richard Hoehn for the Ford Motor Company Global Scholars Program.

This semester...

MTSU has 3 students participating in the Washington Center Program, including....

IR major **Jason Courtoy** is interning at the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center (NPEC), a non-profit educational organization that works to promote a better understanding of strategic

IR major **Shaun Guffey** is interning at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS), a part of National Defense University where he is responsible for working with the planners at NDU for conferences making sure that the delegates get everything they need (see Page 5).

Patrick Pratt (International Relations, Political Science 2010) and **Kim Yorborough** have been recommended for a Fulbright grant. Half of the 10 MTSU applicants in this cycle were International Relations majors and two of the three recommended for the grant are IR majors.

Along with four other students, **Kiara Hall**, a junior majoring in Pre-law, traveled to Providence, RI to present her original research in a June 19 session "Supporting, Engaging, Inspiring: Students as Agents and Architects of Democracy" at the national conference of the American Democracy Project of the American Association of State College and Universities, earning EXL credit in the process.

Eric Bisby received a \$24,000 scholarship to John Marshall Law school.

Samuel Keen received a \$60,000 scholarship to John Marshall Law school.

Legislative Intern assignments Spring 2011

Jessica BRYANT with REP. SPARKS
Charles BURNS with SEN. KYLE
Jordan CASSADINE with TBR GREGORY
Samantha FERRELL with SEN. JOHNSON
Nikita GRAHAM with SEN. KETRON
Jared HAGLER with REP. TODD
Garrett HAYNES with REP. CARR
Leslie HICKS with REP. MARSH
Shaun LUBER with REP. WOMICK
Sara PAGE with REP. ELDRIDGE
Tim SIGLER with SEN. TRACY
Patrick WOMAC with REP. SARGENT



Political Science Scholarships

As students are registering for fall classes, the idea of how to pay for those classes comes to mind. Don't forget to check out the scholarship page at:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.shtml>

Report from DC intern,



The Washington Center

Report from Shaun Guffey

I work under the direction of retired Colonel John Ballard. It is the opinion of NESAs that when dialog happens between officials in many different countries they begin to realize that they have a lot more in common than previously thought. In this way, they become friends, and when they are leaders in their respective branches of service or government, they are less willing to go to war and are more willing to diffuse the situation. It is not uncommon for leaders of Palestine and Commanders of the I.D.F. to begin the conferences with heated exchanges and find themselves friends by the end of the conference. As an intern, I help planners execute the conferences, meet with Near East officials and military personnel, and help faculty at N.D.U. with note taking and Research. My first conference will be facilitating events and coordinating with the event planner for CENTCOM meetings.

I have been at my internship for about three weeks at the NESAs center. I won't lie, the internship is intense. Apparently, it is one of the more prestigious ones and everyone tries to get it. It shows the strength of my application and the education I received from Middle Tennessee. I know you may not hear this enough, but I must thank you for taking an interest in me and pushing me academically. The NESAs center is fully supported by Secretary Gates and it is one of the places he has invested his time and energy and with the new budget cuts we have for the most part been spared. I sat with Ambassador Loroco, who is the director of the NESAs center, and he urged me to take the foreign service exam and to get my Masters degree. We had a talk for about 30 minutes. There are two conferences going on right now. The first is a combating terrorism seminar with majors, Lt. Commander, and colonels from all over the Middle East. I have been able to sit in on some of these meetings. Most do not understand about the separation of powers here. They were stunned to realize that our military is civilian controlled and that congress is the one in charge of funding and maintaining the U.S. military. One Commander from the region asked why don't we get rid of the Joint Chief of Staff. The response was, that may work in your country but the American people will never allow it. He also stated that we learned from WWII about the dangers of having a strong general staff and that Americans have an ambivalent attitude about the military that stems from British occupation in 1763 when the Brits used a military solution for an economic problem. We were also addressed by Hayden who spent years as a White House advisor to President Bush. When it came to Iran, Bush asked what were the options. Hayden responded: we let them have the weapon or we have to go to war. He said Bush was furious and got in his face poking him in his chest saying: How dare you leave me with those two options, find another way, because I will not engage this nation in a regional war.

The second conference in which I have been put in charge is the CENTCOMM conference. The other interns generally defer to me because they say that I have more experience and they like when I'm in charge because there is no clashing

If you are interested in the Washington Center internship program, contact Dr. Carleton and/or visit their website at <http://www.twc.edu/>

of personal ambitions. We just work as a team. We had a foreign ambassadors conference today and it was my responsibility yesterday to call all of the embassies to verify they were coming. The conference today had a speech by the J-5 commander General Mattis who is head of CENTCOMM. I got to speak with him for about thirty minutes. He began introducing us to the ambassadors as if we were his nephews. We also heard from undersecretary Michelle Foinoi (sic). I have another conference tomorrow with the J-5. I am in charge of making sure things go smoothly and we are sort of the pit crew for the conference. We will be part of the meeting, however, they are having a classified meeting in which no one is allowed in. Col Turner is one of my bosses. He has come in every morning and talked to me about the importance of networking and said we are part of a privileged few. Ambassador Loroco has mentioned to my boss that I am one of the hardest working interns he has ever been around. I get in to work early and I leave late.

The purpose of the NESAs center is to bring together mid ranking army officials from all over the Near East and begin to foster friendships between them, that way when they become the leaders of their respective armed forces that the friendship they have developed over time will allow cooler heads to prevail. There are office politics that go on, but I try to rise above the fray and talk with the important member of the center. I have personally sat down and talked with Dr. Robert Boggs, who used to be a member of the state department and spent many years in Pakistan. We talked about Tunisia and he read my conclusion for my McNair paper. In my paper, I had said that Tunisia hadn't suffered the fate of its neighbors because the middle class looked the other way when the autocratic regime crushed Islamic extremists. I had also said that if democratic revolution took place, it would take hold in Tunisia if the status quo ever changed. Dr. Boggs smiled and said I had been ahead of everyone else, it was only too bad that I was just an undergrad.

For my civic engagement project, I must lobby the commission on the hill about Israel-Palestine. The object is to get Israel to stop settlements and condemn Hamas. I can get behind two or three of the recommendations. There is one that I am opposed to but it lets me see how the Hill works and a different side of the equation. I know this has been a long e-mail but a lot has taken place. I also have to create an Internal Development plan. This is not just read by you Dr. Carleton but I must submit it to Dr. Dean Ballard, the Dean of NDU. He wants to read it before I conduct my interview.



Student Organizations

Model United Nations

The **Model United Nations team** at MTSU competes in regional and national competitions structured to simulate the workings of the United Nations. In the past we have represented various countries on various topics including human rights, nuclear proliferation, and the international effort to curb the arms trade; the team has also participated in several crisis committees. Last fall, we attended the National Model United Nations competition in Washington, D.C. at Georgetown, and this spring we are planning to attend the National Model U.N. competition at UCLA. Our team competes with hundreds of students from many universities such as Harvard, Princeton, and Georgetown. If you are interested in MUN, you can participate in the one credit hour class that is taught in the fall or directly through the MUN student organization. For more information, email Kaity Newman at kjn2p@mtmail.mtsu.edu



Students bring home honors in mock-trial tourney

An MTSU mock-trial team placed second in its division and MTSU students received the top number of individual awards at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament held at MTSU Nov. 12-13.

Sixty-four teams from colleges and universities as far away as California, Texas, Utah, Minnesota and Florida participated in the four-round tournament, which, after 20 years, is one of the longest continuously running invitational tournaments in the nation. In it, teams of six to eight students argue each trial over roughly three hours before two attorneys.

MTSU senior Rachel Harmon of Atlanta was named one of the tournament's top attorneys. Senior Karen Lenoir of Antioch, Tenn., freshman Megan McClarty of Smyrna, Nashville junior Constance Grieves and freshman Lisa Starke of Euless, Texas, were included in their division's top-10 witnesses.

Three MTSU mock-trial teams participated in the two-division event.

One MTSU team came in second overall with a record of 7-1 by capturing two ballots against Bellarmine University, splitting ballots with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, gaining two ballots against Southern Methodist University and winning both ballots against Rhodes College. The team included students Harmon, Nathan Brown and Zac Barker as attorneys and McClarty, Jordan Cassadine, Ashley Fuqua and Andrew Mitchell as witnesses. Only the eight ballots won by the University of South Carolina, which won both the division and the tournament, bested their efforts.

A second MTSU team brought home a 5.5-2.5 record and included David Haggard, Lee Whitwell and Samantha Farish as attorneys and Karen Lenoir, Kristin Johnson, Lexi Sengupta, Kayla Crabtree and Ryan Williams as witnesses. That group carried two ballots against Georgia Tech, had a win and a tie with Rhodes College, lost two ballots to North Alabama and won two ballots against a second team from Georgia Tech.

MTSU's third mock-trial team included Grieves, Kaitlin Beck and Heather Haggard serving as attorneys and Jessica Seitz, Mariane Schiff, Lisa Starke and Andrew Dellinger serving as witnesses. That team had a 5-3 record, winning both ballots against Fresno State University and Georgia Tech, losing two ballots to Bob Jones University and splitting ballots with the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



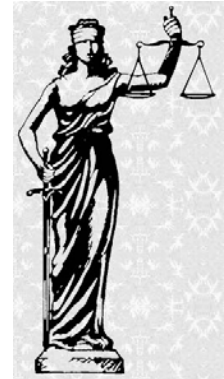
The tournament is directed by Dr. John R. Vile, dean of MTSU's University Honors College, in conjunction with fellow coaches Brandi Snow, Shiva Bozarth and Kevin Rayburn, who are local attorneys and MTSU mock-trial alumni, and Pam Davis, the administrative assistant in the Department of Political Science. (Taken from *The Record*, Vol 19/No. 11. Nov 29, 2010.)

Student Organizations, cont.

MOOT COURT

This year's MTSU Moot Court team was very successful. At the regional competition, the team placed 5th out of 32 teams. The 5th place finish was good enough to earn a berth to the National Competition in New Orleans. In New Orleans 64 teams from around the nation competed. Eric Bisby and Sam Keen, both of whom will be attending John Marshall Law School next year in Chicago, made the playoff round when the field was cut to only 32 of the top teams in the nation, but were knocked out of the competition by the number one seed of the tournament.

The Moot Court team is currently recruiting students for the fall. If you are interested in Moot Court please contact Amanda DiPaolo at dipaolo@mtsu.edu



Academic Success Series

Sponsored by University College Advising Center & Walker Library — **Walker Library Room 264A 4:30pm.**

February 8th - Study Skills & Test Taking

Presenter: Gia Jones, Advisor, University College Advising Center

February 15th - Library BINGO

Presenter: Kristen West, Instruction Librarian, Walker Library

February 22nd - Academic Integrity & YOU:

The Role All Students Play in Upholding MTSU's Values

Presenter: Amanda Newman Samsel, Coordinator, Judicial Affairs & Mediation Services

March 15th - Captivate and Educate: Essential Presentation Skills

Presenter: Brian Walsh, Admissions Counselor, Undergraduate Admissions

March 22nd - Advising showers bring Registration flowers!

Presenter: Travis Tipton, College Advisor, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

March 29th - Spring Break Career Party

Presenters: Bill Fletcher, Director, Career Development Center
Katy Francisco Riddle, Publicity & Outreach Coordinator, Career Development Center

April 19th & April 26th - Put a Spring in Your Final Exam Preparation

Presenter: Laura Clippard, Academic Advisor, University Honors College

Profiling Adjunct Faculty

Kevin Duong has wide-ranging interests in the history of political thought and contemporary political theory. These include the disparate traditions of: feminist politics and queer theory; critiques of capitalism, particularly Marx's legacy in contemporary political theory by the Left; and the thought of philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. He earned his Masters at the University of Chicago, where he worked to specify how conceptual handovers from feminist theoretical debates in the 1990s has worked to occlude, for feminists today, more capacious and radical visions of democratic politics. Currently, his dissertation work examines how the philosophical problem of skepticism serves to underwrite (and entangle) the crises of socialist and feminist politics after the break up of the New Left. The long-term aim of his project is to offer serious reconstructions of feminist politics by diagnosing the nature and conditions for collective political action within contemporary capitalism. Kevin teaches PS 1010 while completing his dissertation at Vanderbilt.



Why Every Student Should Study Abroad

November 29, 2010, 3:56 pm

By **Gina Barreca**

When I left for London in 1977 for my junior year abroad, I was weighed down with enough paraphernalia to guarantee a safe trip. I had two rosaries, one rabbit's foot, several notes of support, a lucky necklace, and a hardcover copy of *Gravity's Rainbow*.

More experienced students carried only sleeping bags, backpacks, and paperbacks.

We choose our own baggage, I have since learned, but I wasn't aware of that in 1977. I took everything with me because I had no idea what to expect.

Along with the amulets, I carried the piece of paper from the Study Abroad office to reassure myself that this was all perfectly normal, but there were elements I found less than reassuring in this document. One of the items, for example, indicated that I might want a "rucksack."

I figured that I wouldn't need this mysterious item because I didn't have a ruck.

As a scholarship student, I traveled on the cheap and lived on the cheap. I took public

transport, schlepped my too-stuffed suitcases, and wept when I saw the concrete building where I'd be spending the next several months. My section of London looked about as quaint as Flatbush. It was about eighty degrees (although they used that weird centigrade business) and all I had with me were heavy sweaters and flannel skirts.

The first few days, I was miserable. I'd sit in my room on Gower Street and listen to people talking and laughing from the street below. It struck me as unbelievably odd that for everybody else it was simply an ordinary week. I wanted to phone home, but I couldn't afford it; I wanted to leave but I'd taken out all those extra loans. There was nothing to do except to stay.

Since I couldn't just sit in my room all day, I decided to do the only thing I could afford to do: I went for walks.

I walked to the law courts and admired the buildings. I walked to Kew Gardens. I walked down the Strand and went into bookstores, walked through the Regent's Park Zoo. Finally, when I was thoroughly exhausted at night and could sleep without wondering every 15 minutes what time it was "at home," I started wondering what I was eating while I was eating Toad-in-the-Hole. I regained my sense of curiosity. I smiled. And even the staid Brits smiled back.

During those first days I groped around as if I were exploring a dark cave, not realizing that I carried a light with me—even though I had packed poorly.

One fine day I walked to the British Museum. I felt safe in museums and immediately started searching for a place where I could buy a cup of coffee (always my first stop). I happened to pass a manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales*.

This wasn't like anything I'd ever seen at home. This was Something Else, with a history longer than anything I could imagine. People had looked at this manuscript before it became required reading. These luscious pages weren't hidden away in some small room for the exclusive and fetishistic gaze of serious scholars but were instead right there on the ground floor. Suddenly it felt as if there were enough of everything to go around.

I knew then, with smiling relief, that I wouldn't have to be too scared to be across the Atlantic anymore. I'd found a place of safety. If this manuscript could be safe here, then so could I.

Within a month I'd seen 12 plays, made good friends, and fallen in love. But those first few days had as much learning as anything that followed, even if it wasn't part of the curriculum, even if what was necessary—a little courage, a little imagination, a little belief in the possibility of unforeseeable happiness—hadn't been listed as a suggested resource.

I left London with less baggage than I'd come with, and what I left behind was at least as important as what I took with me. I've heard the same stories from nearly every one who has studied abroad.

You learn that you carry the ability to make a life for yourself wherever you are.

It is a lesson that should never be underestimated; it is one of the few lessons on which we are all tested again and again.

Chronicle of Higher Education Nov. 30, 2010.



Faculty Updates/News

Research Update

Dr. Karen Petersen is currently working on a project with Rodelio Manasca, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Sewanee, that will look at how human rights are affected in non democratic countries. The research project, which is still in its developmental stages, plans to initially look at the court systems of these countries and see how the human rights of citizens in those countries are affected by the decisions of the courts. Eventually the project will move onto what impact courts have in other aspects of life in non democracies.

Dr. Karen Petersen published an article, "Conflict Escalation in Dyads with a History of Territorial Disputes," in *International Journal of Conflict Management*, Vol. 21, No. 4 (2010). Building on a long scholarly tradition and literature focusing on the causes of war, Dr. Petersen tests the impact that the historical relationship, particularly prior territorial disputes, has on the eventual eruption of war. Though past work has shown that territorial disputes make war much more probable, such studies failed to consider how such disputes might lead to the escalation of subsequent conflicts. In the sophisticated and clearly "not-for-kids" quantitative section, Karen employs a duration model using time as a proxy measure for the role of previous interactions. She then explores the impact of prior disputes to predict hazard rate ratios for war using data from

1816 to 2001. This approach also allows her to assess the impact over time of prior disputes and the likelihood of war and the impact of territorial disputes across time. In the end, Dr. Petersen shows, as she notes, that history indeed matters, and that humans have memories that color the present and the future. The study shows that pairs of states with a territorial dispute tend to have more conflict leading to a breakdown of their relationship. Indeed, her estimates suggest that "for dyads with a history of territorial conflict 75 percent go to war within 17 years of entering the data set [and] if the dyad also happens to contain two major powers, that time drops to 14 years.

This past October, **Dr. Karen Petersen** spoke during the Fourth Buchanan Fellows' Inauguration: the formal ceremony welcoming the 20 new freshman in the program. The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize recipient.

In late January, **Stephen Morris** presented research on public opinion toward corruption in Mexico at workshop "Desafios de la Política Mexicana: Visiones desde el Barómetro de las Américas" [Challenges of Mexican Politics: Visions from the Barometer of the Americas] sponsored by Vanderbilt, CIDE and Data OPM in Mexico City. Based on data from the 2010 Latin American Public Opinion Project poll on Mexico, the research compares results to the 2004 poll to demonstrate how the per-

ception of corruption has increased in recent years.

Stephen Morris published "Continuity and Change in Mexican Politics: The Legacies of the Mexican Revolution" in a special issue on the centennial of the Mexican revolution and bicentennial of Mexican independence in the journal *The Latin Americanist*.

Dr. Sekou Franklin published *The State of Blacks in Middle Tennessee*, a publication of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee in partnership with the Urban EpiCenter and the Center for Community College. The overall report profiles the current situation of blacks/African Americans in Middle Tennessee focusing broadly on education, housing, employment, voting, criminal justice, faith, child welfare, higher education, health care, politics, and immigration. The report not only documents the challenges faced by blacks, the persistence of racism, racial steering and the black-white achievement gap, but it also describes the initiatives of activists and advocates to improve the status of African Americans in the region. Beyond his role as editor, **Dr. Franklin** also wrote two sections: "Driving Towards Poverty: African Immigrant Taxi Cab Drivers in the Athens of the South" and "Racially Polarized Voting in Nashville's 2007 Mayoral Election." **Dr. Moses Tesi** authored one section of the report entitled "Africans in Middle Tennessee" that profiles the immigrant community, their challenges and contributions.

News Administrative Tasks

Dr. Lisa Langenbach is serving as our representative on a state-wide committee that is developing common guidelines for transferring credit for political science courses. The basic idea is for students to know in advance what courses they can take from another institution and use for their major after transferring to another institution.

Dr. Karen Petersen has accepted the position of Coordinator of Assessments and Institutional Planning for the College of Liberal Arts. This means that she will teach fewer courses for us, but will be playing a major role in helping departments assess learning outcomes and in preparing us for the upcoming SACS review.

Dr. Amanda DiPaolo has been appointed to the university's athletic committee. If we are lucky, she will bring hockey to MTSU.

Special Courses for Fall 2011

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PS 4850 Adv. Studies in Comp Politics: Political Corruption (Dr. Morris)

In many parts of the world, corruption is almost more the rule than the exception. This course focuses on the growing study of political corruption and explores the causes, consequences and dynamics of corruption. Focus is broadly comparative, but includes attention to US politics.



PS 4930 Special Topics: Sustainability in Cities (Dr. Franlin)

This course examines urban development planning, policy, and racial politics in cities, primarily US cities. The course focuses on an ecologically and socially responsible planning, policy, and management of the urban infrastructure in five critical areas: water supply and management, waste minimization and management, energy production and use, transportation, and food systems.

Faculty Updates/News, continued...

Zdravstvujtye from MTSU!

by Gina K. Logue

To get even 10 minutes of access to a major head of state is a gift that would make thousands of lobbyists giddy with anticipation.

Dr. Andrei Korobkov, MTSU professor of political science, spoke with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev for two hours at a Nov. 4 state reception and dinner at the Kremlin.

Korobkov encountered Medvedev at the fourth annual Assembly of the Russian World Foundation, which took place Nov. 2-4 in Moscow.

"The organization is actively supported by President Medvedev, who is very interested in pushing it and considers it a way to reestablish links with the Russian diaspora abroad," says Korobkov. "Increasingly, he is getting interested in bringing back Russian intellectuals who left."

Medvedev has poured a great deal of his political capital into the Skolkovo Project, an attempt at a Russian Silicon Valley north of Moscow. He has obtained monetary contributions from Microsoft, Cisco and several Japanese companies.

"Huge amounts of money are being invested there, but for now, their attempts to bring large numbers of Russian academics are in vain, basically," Korobkov says. "I have been studying this problem for a long time, so I gave the main presentation at the conference."



BEHIND THE SCENES—MTSU Professor Andrei Korobkov, right, greets Russian World Federation Executive Director Vyacheslav Nikonov, center, and an unidentified friend at the RWF Assembly.

Korobkov says he emphasized to Medvedev that Russian intellectuals who have achieved tenure at universities in the West will not be inclined to return to their home country, especially given the degree of interaction with the Russian government they would be expected to endure.

"To imagine that in Russia it would be possible to leave academics alone is very hard, because it's an extremely bureaucratized country, and it became more bureaucratized than it was under the Soviet regime, ironically," he says.

The MTSU professor says he suggested to Medvedev that incentives be provided to lure Russian academics back for short periods so they could give crash courses to top-flight graduate students and set them on the path toward becoming the country's new "brain gain."

On a personal level, Korobkov says Medvedev operates as a person accustomed to having power and not shy to show it.

"He is not used to people disagreeing with him," Korobkov says. "And a couple of times he was kind of sharply, angrily asking me, 'So, what, you disagree with me?'"

Korobkov also talked politics with Vyacheslav Nikonov, the Russian World Foundation executive director, who has been a Kremlin insider for some 20 years and an adviser to both Medvedev and the Russian prime minister, Vladimir Putin. Nikonov is the

grandson of Vyacheslav Molotov, former Soviet prime minister and then foreign minister under Joseph Stalin after Stalin assumed the prime minister's title.

"He is a kind of shadow operator who has access to the highest echelons of power," says Korobkov. "Nikonov is very smart, very well-educated, pretty calculating, a typical political consultant. If you look in the U.S., you can probably compare him to David Axelrod working for (President Barack) Obama or Karl Rove working for (President George W.) Bush."

Before attending the Russian World Federation conference, Korobkov participated in an Oct. 27-30 gathering in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, sponsored by the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

Members of parliaments, committee chairs, representatives of international organizations and the European Union, as well as academics, discussed security and stability in Central Asia and Mongolia. Korobkov says the countries of this region face great challenges due to water shortages and governments that are either openly authoritarian or lean in that direction.

However, some of these countries, which include the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, are rich in important substances, including plutonium, platinum, oil and natural gas.

"There is a huge flow of migrants from those countries to Russia and from Russia to other parts of the world," Korobkov says. "Second, this region is becoming increasingly the traffic route for drugs from Afghanistan."

Korobkov says it would be unlikely, however, that these countries would be invited to join NATO or the European Union as a way of protecting them from totalitarian takeovers.

"After the Georgian-Russian War, it became very dangerous to expand NATO because, in NATO, an attack against any member is an attack against every member," he says. (*The Record*)

Alumni Updates/News

J. P. Urban was accepted at Vanderbilt Law School!

Rachel Jackson, informs her former professor Dr. Willis that since graduating she has worked as a Senior Immigration Paralegal for a couple of Immigration Law firms in addition to using her Spanish skills to assist immigrants and local law enforcement officials. She is currently being considered for a position at the Department of Homeland Security. "Tell your students that if they are planning on going into the legal field, they will need to know where to find cases and how to cite them!!!! SO LEARN THE SYSTEM!!!!"

Vickie Coe completed law school in 2008 and worked for the Michigan Court of Appeals as a research attorney. She currently works for a small law firm (LaPointe & Butler, P.C.) in Okemos, Michigan specializing in disabilities law.

Grace Johnson graduated in August 2010, Political Science / Summa Cum Laude / a past Washington Center intern –has accepted a position working in D.C. at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Diane J. Stockard (PS and IR, 1996 graduate) worked as Unit Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rutherford County until summer of 2010 when

she accepted a position with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis as the Vice President of Operations. Diane is the President of 6 large Clubs, 1 Training Center for young people from the ages of 16 - 21 and 125 acre Campsite. She supervises 8 Club Directors, 8 Program Directors and 50 plus employees. Her Board consists of 160 Central Board Members, 180 Club Board Members. Diane was asked to be one of the 25 chosen in Memphis to be on the National Children's Educational Committee. She is also a member of the Shelby County Commission for Children. Diane is still an artist by trade and has art in several galleries across the country. She recently won an International Art contest. Not only is she a Vice-President of one of the largest Children's organizations in the country and an artist, she is writing a book (*The Eyes of the Unknown*), which she hopes to have published in 2011.

Charlene Boyd Notgrass (Political Science, 1974 graduate) and **Ray Notgrass** (History major, Political Science minor, 1974 graduate), who met as work study students in the Political Science Department, are partners with their adult children in Notgrass Company, which produces curriculum for homeschoolers. They specialize in history and related social studies for middle and high school, including Exploring Government, a one-semester high school government course. Visit their website at www.notgrass.com.

NLC honors Fann's service

Michael G. Fann, director of loss control for the TML Risk Management Pool, was presented the John G. Stutz Award by the National League of Cities (NLC) on October 27, 2010, for 25 years of "contributions made to the advancement of municipal government through outstanding and faithful service rendered to cities and state municipal leagues." NLC grants the Stutz Award to any league director, pool administrator, or staff member who has completed a total of 25 years of service with one or more state municipal leagues.

Fann began his service to the Tennessee's municipalities upon graduating from MTSU in December 1983 with a degree in public administration. He served as the full-time, paid Legislative Intern for the municipal league from January through June of 1984. Upon completing his graduate degree, he then began his risk management career in January, 1986. Currently as Director of Loss Control for the TML Risk Management Pool, Fann is responsible for a department that provides loss control assistance and services to roughly 500 participants in the risk management pool. He also coordinates a state-wide program for liability loss control and safety training.



New Student Learning Outcomes and Department Goals Adopted

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

knowledge

Political Science (General Focus) majors will acquire a working knowledge of the related fields of American government, public administration, comparative political systems, international relations, and political theory.

International Relations majors will acquire a working knowledge of the main approaches in comparative politics and international relations, including American foreign policy.

Pre-Law majors will acquire a working knowledge of American politics and a basic understanding of the American judicial system and decision-making.

Public Administration majors will acquire a working knowledge of American politics and public administration.

Teaching Licensure students will acquire the knowledge and skills to teach at the high school level.

All majors will integrate knowledge of the various subfields of political science consistent with their particular program and concentration through critical reflection on politics, law, ideology, and culture from a domestic and/or a global perspective.

skills

All majors will be able to produce written work consistent with that required for entry level jobs or graduate study in political science.

All majors will understand the principles of the scientific method of inquiry, and be able to interpret research in the discipline, and plan and conduct basic research.

All majors will be able to critically analyze arguments and will have developed a basic level of information literacy.

Values

All majors will develop an understanding of a diversity of views, of different cultures and values, and recognize ethnocentrism.

All majors will develop a sense of public and civic responsibility at the local or global level.

All majors will learn to work in collaboration with others.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

- Promote excellence in the classroom.
- Offer a diversity of courses across subfields and opportunities for experiential learning, practicum and internships.
- Improve student preparation for and entrance into graduate school.
- Increase the quantity and quality of out-of-class experiences for students.
- Increase the number of majors, retention, graduates, and SCH.
- Improve the availability of advisors and the quality of advising.
- Promote and encourage faculty professional development (participation in public service, research and publications, improving instruction).
- Improve assessment

Department of Political Science
Peck Hall 209
Box 29
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Phone: 615-898-2708
Fax: 615-898-5460
E-mail: sdmorris@mtsu.edu

**Middle Tennessee
State University**



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Send comments or suggestions (kind ones only) to : sdmorris@mtsu.edu