



POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

New & Im/Ap-proved Political Science undergoes curriculum changes

The Department has made some major changes to the curriculum that may affect current students and will definitely affect our future students.



I. Course changes

Besides cleaning the books and eliminating some courses we no longer teach, we made some name and number changes.

- PS 4000 Quantitative Methods will now be **PS 3001** Research Methods in Political Science
- PS 2010 (American Government and Politics) will become **PS 1005** (proposed)
- PS 3220 International and Comparative Politics in Theory and Practice will now be PS 3220 Comparative Politics.

New **POLITICAL SCIENCE FORUM**

The Department has launched a series called the **PS Forum** to present guest lecturers/speakers, special workshops, films, etc.

We began the series with **Senator Jim Tracy** who outlined the work of the state legislature, discussed his campaign for Congress, and answered questions.

In March and April, the **PS FORUM** will present a talk by Retired Commander of Naval Intelligence **Norman Rick Denny** on Iraqi Kurds (March 16) and a **Graduate School Workshop** (April 13). We hope to sponsor 3-5 events per semester. If you have ideas, let me know.

II. Changes to the Majors **Beginning Fall 2010...**

Total hours required will increase from **33 to 36 credit hours** (both Political Science and International Relations majors)

IR Majors will now be required to take **PS 3001 Research Methods in Political Science**

Political Science majors must now take:

- PS 1005 (2010), 1010, 3001 (4000), and 4800 (12 hrs)
- 1 course from each of the following areas (9 hrs):
 - > American Politics: PS 3050, 3060, 3250, 3330, 3370
 - > Comparative/ International Relations: PS 3210, 3220
 - > Political Theory: PS 4230, 4700, 4920, 4930; and
- 15 hours of elective courses (any subfield)

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www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

Curriculum changes, continued...

More changes to the Major

Pre-Law Concentration

The Cognate (taken in place of one minor) underwent a minor change and will now look like this: (18 hrs):

PHIL 2110 Elementary Logic and Critical Thinking; COMM 4650 History, Theory and Criticism of Rhetoric or ENGL 4785 Law and Literature; ECON 2410 Macroeconomics or 2420 Microeconomics; PS 3530 Legal Writing and Research or ENGL 4605 Advanced Composition; PHIL 3150 Ethics; One of the following: PS 3010, 3490, 3500, 4040, 4590.

III. New Courses

To help highlight Special Topics courses, we have created:

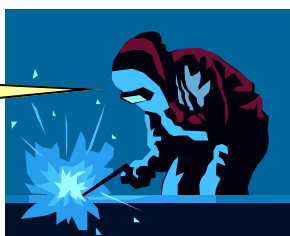
- PS 4820 Advanced Studies in American Government
- PS 4830 Advanced Studies in Public Administration
- PS 4850 Advanced Studies in Comparative Politics
- PS 4860 Advanced Studies in International Relations
- PS 4870 Advanced Studies in Political Theory

Like the old Special Topics courses, content in these may vary and can be repeated for credit. *Look for a few of these in the summer and fall.*

How will all this affect you?

If you are a current student, your requirements do not change. You are bound by the requirements you entered MTSU on. You may, however, voluntarily adopt the new program and thus a more recent Upper Division Form. If you do, you must meet all the new requirements. You cannot pick and choose the changes you like, and ignore the rest. Always consult an advisor... particularly if you find all this confusing. Course and number changes, however, take effect immediately and affect everyone.

Always consult an Advisor when dealing with heavy equipment!



IV. Proposal submitted to create a new cognate and minor in

“Political and Civic Engagement”

The Department has submitted a proposal to create a new cognate for PS and IR majors that will substitute for one minor and a new Minor for students outside the Department in **Political and Civic Engagement**. This program emphasizes hands-on, active learning, the development of practical skills, community involvement, internships, etc. It is designed to help students bridge the theory/practice divide, develop useful skills for employment, or simply acquire the skills to become active citizens.

Requirements for the Cognate (for PS and IR Majors only):

- 18 credit hours from among the following with no more than 9 hours from skills/practicum courses. None of these experiential hours can also be counted to meet requirements in the major.
- skills/practicum courses
 - EXL 2030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1 cr)
 - EXL 3030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1 cr)
 - PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure (1 cr)
 - PS 2110: Moot Court (1 cr) **new course**
 - PS 2120: Mediation Procedure (1 cr)
 - PS 2130: Model UN/Crisis Simulation (1 cr)
 - PS 2140: Tenn Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) (1 cr) **new course**
- internships
 - PS 4040: Pre-Law Internship (3cr)
 - PS 4270: Political Campaign Internship (1-6 cr)
 - PS 4280: The Washington Experience (12cr)
 - PS 4290: Public Service Internship (1-12 cr)
 - PS 4360: Legislative Internship (12cr)
- study abroad
 - PS 3780: Study Abroad (3-6 cr)
- research/practicum
 - PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (3 cr) **new course**

Non-PS/IR Students doing a **Minor** in Political and and Civic Engagement will take 12 credit hours from the above list plus:

- PS 1005: American Politics and Govt (3 cr)
- PS 3550: Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy (3 cr) **new course**

Special UPCOMING Courses in Summer / Fall

Summer

PS 4850 Adv. Stud. in Comparative Pol: **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.



Fall

PS 4820 Adv. Stud. in American Pol: **Sustainability in Cities** (Dr. Franlin)

This course examines urban development planning, policy, and racial politics in cities, primarily US cities. The term "sustainable development" is used widely by numerous organizations, most of whom define the term differently. In this course, the term "sustainable urban development" is defined as: planning and policy approaches and appropriate technologies that can be used to minimize a city's impact on the environment while providing urban residents with the infrastructure and services they need to sustain a high quality of urban life. The course focuses on 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. The course offers additional insight on green economic solutions and employment opportunities for residents of chronically distressed communities, with a particular emphasis on the burgeoning movement for clean energy jobs."

PS 4850 Adv. Stud. in Comparative Pol: **The Politics of Canada** (Dr. DiPaolo)




It is easier to understand your own country when you compare it with others. With that said, there is no better country to compare the United States with than Canada since the two are and have been partners in so many military and economic endeavors. This course on Canadian government will provide you with an overview of the major political institutions of the Canadian regime. We will examine the Canadian Constitution, the concept of Canadian federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, political parties and the electoral system, and Canadian foreign policy, as well as concepts such as regionalism and the place of Quebec within Canada. No prior knowledge of Canada is required, but this course will be a challenging intellectual experience. Attendance will be mandatory, as will active participation in class discussions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Political Science Forum
*Iraqi Kurds,
 Awaiting the Third American Stab
 in the Back*


Norman "Rick" Denny
 Commander US Naval Intelligence
 (Retired)



Tuesday
 March 16
 4:00
 Room 123 CKNB (Nursing)

Political Science Department
 Political Science Forum presents...
**Graduate School
 Workshop**
 For Political Science and International Relations
 Majors

Thinking about your future...



Tuesday, April 13
 4:00 pm
 Room 123 CKNB (Nursing)

DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

* * *

April 17, Noon to Afternoon
 Barfield Crescent Park, Pavilion # 6
 (students & faculty)



Report from DC intern, Dana Fox

Political Science Newsletter, Spring 2010



The Washington Center Program – Spring 2010

I knew my life and the atmosphere of DC in general was hectic, but for some reason that hadn't really hit me until I had arrived that it would get so crazy, so quickly. When I learned about all of the work I was going to do this semester, which consisted of a full-time internship plus all of the TWC assignments and seminars plus my class assignments from a course we take while up here, I definitely felt overwhelmed; but then realized that it is so worth it. When am I going to have the opportunity to come and live, work, and go to school in DC and not have to pay a dime for the program (I got one of the TBR scholarships).

My apartment is located in Alexandria, VA, on the seventh floor. The view is great, especially considering most of the apartments just get views of the neighboring apartment buildings! Also we are probably a 5 minute walk from the closest metro station so we can hop on and get anywhere in the greater DC area in about 30 minutes or less. Four people live in my apartment, two to a room; living with 3 people is difficult at times especially since I never lived in the dorms, but I've learned to take it in stride. My roommates and I are all from different parts of the world so I've really gotten to experience different foods, cultures, and languages; Katie, who I share a room with, is Korean, she moved to Chicago from Korea when she was 13; and Ary is from Puerto Rico and she shares a room with Jessica who is from New Jersey. I also am lucky to work with other interns who are from the TWC program as well, so we have all bonded easily because we have this built in connection; it's easier because we're

essentially going through this new experience together, so we've come to rely on each other with work and stress in general.

My internship is at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies; The Protection Project. TPP is not-for-profit research and training institute that focuses on human rights and more specifically trafficking in persons. We are responsible for a number of projects related to human rights, including conducting legal research, we're drafting legislation on child protection at the moment that will be introduced at a conference in Singapore in May 2010; editing human trafficking publications, so far we have been doing country reports that will be going to the US State Dept at the end of the month and all the information we have amassed and edited will be included in the State Departments' annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, we have also started editing trafficking manuals that will be going to the United Nations in early fall and will be used supposedly as a final authority in trafficking in persons for countries with no laws or legislations on the subject; we also have assisted in organizing workshops and conferences, our director Dr. Matar actually just got back from a conference in Paris that we helped put together with the Arab Charter on Human Rights and European Convention on Human Rights.

DC is a great place to live, I've enjoyed it immensely there are never ending possibilities of things to do on weekend. So far, I've been to the Georgetown area as well as Chinatown; I've toured the Washington National Cathedral, the Library of Congress and the Capital building; seen most the monuments (it's cool on the way to work I actually get to see the Washington and Jefferson Memorial every day); and visited a couple of the Smithsonian museums. There are endless rows of restaurants and bars all over DC as well, I could probably visit a different one everyday I'm here. I love DC, I would recommend that if anyone has the opportunity to come here with TWC or any other program they take it, because it's so worth it for the experience, the opportunities, and what you learn along the way.

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



Ready to Graduate!

Candidates for Spring 2010



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (11)

Mary Bozeman
Gatrek Chuang
Gabriel Fuenmayor
Nader Hobballah
Kaitlyn Jones
Mary Poe
Patrick Pratt
Jesse Rawls
Kyle Stack
Marlon Umeadi
Brenda Wells

POLITICAL SCIENCE (38)

Samuel Bennett
Ashley Benson
Christopher Bonham
Dustin Brandon
Taqesha Brandon
Wesley Clark
Samuel Duncan
Joshua Fitzpatrick
William Forgety
Amber Hazel
Miso Hrgota
Lauren Jeffcoat
Melanie Jones

Roger Layne
William Lockhart
Jesse Lords
Shelley Maddox
Kelly Martin
Neema Mason
Bobby Matthews
Kathryn Miller
James Mitchell
Isabel Noel
Christopher Pryor
Austin Purvis
Amy Richter
William Ridley
Alice Robinson
Christopher Robison
Jennifer Roddick
Antoinette Stout
Jacob Strait
Vincent Taite
Heather Thoe
Daniel Vaughan
Marquesa Videau
Matthew Waddell
Deidre Wood

Congratulations! Good Luck!

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>

Student Updates/News

Lacey Buchanan (PS, Pre-Law) completed and successfully defended her Honors thesis *The Impact of Lobbyists on Legislative Behavior: An Examination of the Tennessee General Assembly* during the Fall 2009 semester, and graduated with Honors this past December.

Kovan Murat is currently on the executive board of the local Tennessee Kurdish Community Council (TKCC). The organization is working to promote the vote in the upcoming Iraqi election.

MTSU Political Science

Top 10 things to do in college,
at least once...

10. Go to the library
9. Attend a public lecture
8. Work on a group project (and do your part)
7. Participate in a student organization
6. Use the services of the career center to help transition to the "real world" after you graduate OR, if you really enjoy being a student (and thus living in what must then be described as the "unreal world"), consider going on to Graduate School. Finding a job is a full time job with no pay.
5. Study abroad
4. Do an internship (not to be confused with Do an intern)
3. Figure out how to learn, and how to enjoy it (it does make it easier)(Study hard/play hard)
2. Get organized (like plan to do the other 9 things on the list), and if you can't become a great and efficient procrastinator, then put that task off for another day.
1. Graduate

(From MTSU Political Science Facebook)

Summer Classes Available!

By Lisa Almy

Want to get ahead on your degree, maybe retake a Political Science class, or discover classes you had not considered taking? Summer is a great time to take classes! This summer we are offering sections of: Foundations of Government (PS1010), American Government and Politics (PS2010), State and Local Government (PS2020), Research Methods in Political Science (PS3001, formerly PS4000), British Government and Film (PS3200), International Relations (PS3210), Political Parties (PS3330), Interest Groups and Social Change (PS3350), American Constitutional Law (PS3370), International Law (PS3500), Legal Writing and Research (PS3530), Pre-Law Internship (PS4040), Classical Political Theory (PS4230), American Foreign Policy (PS4240), American Political Thought (PS4700), Russian Political (PS4770), Senior Seminar (PS4800), and Political Corruption (PS 4850). Check [RaiderNet](#) for the exact schedule of class offerings.

Student Organizations

MOOT COURT

By Neil Lund

Undergraduate Moot Court challenges participants to compete against other schools in arguing a fictional Constitutional law case using real case law. As a participant in MTSU's first Moot Court team I was given an opportunity to develop and use the skills required for effective advocacy in any field. Moot Court rewards research, preparation, oratorical and logical skills, as well as a strong grasp of the political and legal issues surrounding each case. Arguing this years case allowed me to have a deeper understanding, not just of the Constitutional issues involved, but of the process of interpreting and creating law.

Though the case argued each year is fictional, the precedents used to argue the case are from real Supreme Court cases. Reading and researching these cases to prepare gave me a much better grasp of the development of present day thinking on 4th and 8th amendment issues. Debating these issues in a controlled, realistic environment not only presented an engaging intellectual challenge, but also provided a useful insight in to the difficulties associated with complex legal issues. concentration and nerve. This hands on experience is something I can carry with me in to any field.

The first ever MTSU Moot Court team competed at the regional competition in November (in Little Rock), made the quarterfinals, and finished in 7th place, which was good enough to earn a birth to the national competition. They also won two speaker awards. Neil Lund placed 5th out of 72 speakers and Jesse Lords placed 6th. If any student is interested in being on the Moot Court team they should contact Dr. DiPaolo at dipaolo@mtsu.edu

At competitions, we had a chance to argue our case in front of real appellate attorneys and justices. The focus on delivering a prepared argument while answering the probing questions of these experienced professionals in the field helped me de-

velop my ability to think quickly and clearly under pressure, and to recall information on the spot. These competitions tested my writing and speaking skills, as well as my concentration and nerve. This hands on experience is something I can carry with me in to any field.



Moot Court is especially beneficial to anyone interested in practicing law, but also to anyone looking to develop their public speaking skills, their logic and critical reasoning, their ability to debate and understand complex issues, and to gain a better grasp of our Constitutional rights and protections. Earlier this year, our team exceeded expectations by qualifying for a national tournament in our very first semester of existence, beating out 22 other teams from the region to earn our spot. Thanks to excellent personell and coaching, the MTSU Moot Court team is off to a running start already, but the small size of our team and newness of our program provides an opportunity for anyone who competes to leave their mark on this program and this school.

Model United Nations

The MTSU **Model UN team** competed at Southern Regional Model United Nations in Atlanta last fall and brought home an award for Outstanding Delegate in the International Court of Justice Committee. We will travel to Charlottesville, Virginia, this Spring for the Virginia International Crisis Simulation.

The Model UN team is looking for new members as many of our students will graduate over the next year.

Interested students should register for Model UN (PS2130, CRN 87264) in the Fall (4:10 pm - 5:35 pm, Monday, PECK HALL 212).



Communication(s) matter(s)

Staying in touch...

The **Department** tries to keep majors (and even alumni) informed of events, etc. through emails, the Newsletter, the Departmental Web Page, our Facebook Fanpage, and even flyers pasted on the wall.

Let us here from you too... Feedback/ideas, stories for the Newsletter, suggestions for events, etc. are always welcome.



Sign up — search for MTSU Political Science on Facebook

Student Organizations, cont.

MTSU Mock Trial Team Qualifies for National Competition

An MTSU team won seven of eight ballots to place second among eight teams in a field of 30 that qualified at regional competition at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama to go to the Opening Round Championship tournament to be held at Greenville, South Carolina. Fellow teams also awarded the team the tournament's prestigious "Spirit of AMTA (American Mock Trial Association)" Award for good sportsmanship.

In its opening round, MTSU won both ballots against a team from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In its second, MTSU took two ballots from the University of Mississippi. In the third round it split ballots with another team from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and in the last round it took both ballots against Auburn.

The team consisted of three MTSU students who played the role of attorneys. They were: Austin Purvis, a senior from Germantown, Tennessee who is majoring in political science; Daniel Vaughan, another senior political science major from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee; and David Haggard, a junior English major from Greenbrier, Tennessee. Four students served as witnesses. They were Jacob Strait, a senior political science major from Nashville; Nathan Brown, a freshman from Murfreesboro who is majoring in physics and advertising; Rachel Harmon, a junior political science major from Atlanta, Georgia; and Samantha Farish, a freshman from Cookeville who is double majoring in political science and psychology. The team is coached by Dr. John R. Vile, Dean of the University Honors College, and Brandi Snow, a local attorney and MTSU mock trial alumna.

MTSU ended up placing just behind Duke University, with its record of seven wins, a tie, and a loss, and ahead of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and the University of Georgia with 7-1 records (but lower strengths of competition), a second Duke team with a record of 6-1-1; the University of North Carolina (6-2); Mississippi Valley (6-2) and the University of Georgia (5-3).

MTSU's Austin Purvis was named one of the tournament's best attorneys.

Dr. John Vile noted that members of the team that qualified also placed second in a tournament at St. Louis this school year and first at a tournament at Georgia Tech. He observed that this kind of experience and momentum should be valuable in positioning the team for the next level of competition. MTSU teams are funded through the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and through monies provided from student activity fees.

How do PS/IR Majors stack up in terms of Study Abroad?

2008/09
Study Abroad by Major

Foreign Languages	36
Mass Communication	30
Recording Industry	17
Business Administration	15
Textiles Merchandising Design	15
Speech & Theatre	12
Global Studies	12
History	12
Political Science	11
Anthropology	10
International Relations	9
Total MTSU	274

Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity - URECA

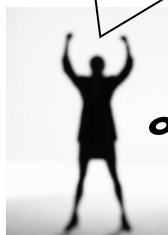
The spring deadline for URECA applications is Tuesday, March 16th

For updated information and newest forms, be sure to access the NEW MTSU website at:

http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/ursca_urc.shtml

If you have further questions, please call 494-7666.

We got beat out by Textiles Merchandising Design!
¡Dios mio!



**Diplomacy is the art
of letting someone have your way.
(D. Vare)**

Should You Go to Graduate School?

Questions to ask before entering a PhD or master's program

(taken from [Oct 18, 2006 Naomi Rockler-Gladen](#))

- **Do you love to read, write, and do research?** If you can't answer yes to this question, you should seriously reconsider. These activities will occupy an enormous amount of your time if you become a graduate student, so if these aren't things you enjoy very much, your experience is going to be dreadful.
- **Are you willing and able to make graduate school one of the top priorities in your life?** Graduate school will require more time and energy than many full time jobs. This doesn't mean you can't have a life outside graduate school, but it does mean there will be times your studies will have to come before other things that are important to you.
- **Are you willing to work much harder than you did as an undergraduate?** If you did well effortlessly as an undergrad, graduate school will be a shock.
- **Can you afford graduate school?** Ask yourself honest questions about how much this is going to cost and how much debt it will require. Spend time investigating funding sources, such as teaching or research assistantships.
- **Are you willing to be poor for awhile?** Some graduate programs, especially those in the sciences, can come with well-paid assistantships and stipends. But many, many programs do not. If you're not willing to live with second hand furniture, roommates, and a bus pass for the next few years, you might want to consider other options.
- **Do you meet the requirements for admission to graduate programs?** Be honest with yourself. If the programs you are interested in require a 3.0 minimum GPA and you only have a 2.6, this might not be a realistic option.
- **Do you have a tangible reason for wanting to go to graduate school?** There are many good reasons to want to go to graduate school. Perhaps the degree will help you advance in your career, or open more options. Perhaps you are considering an academic career and want to get a master's degree to see what that might be like. Perhaps it's as simple as just loving education and wanting to get more. Just make sure you have a good reason for wanting to make this commitment.
- **Are you doing this because you don't know what else to do?** If that's the case, visit your school's career center and seriously investigate other options. Graduate school is not the easy way out.

For information on graduate programs in Political Science visit
PhDs. Org @
<http://graduate-school.phds.org/find/programs/political-science>

INTERNSHIP WEBSITES IN the INTELLIGENCE FIELD

Defense Intelligence Agency
><http://www.dia.mil/employment/student/index.htm>

Central Intelligence Agency
><http://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/index.html>

National Security Agency
>http://www.nsa.gov/careers/opportunities_4_u/students/index.shtml

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency -
><https://www1.nga.mil/NGAJobs/Internships/Pages/default.aspx>

Office of Naval Intelligence
>http://www.nmic.navy.mil/Join_US/summer_intern_program.htm

US Marine Corps Intelligence
><http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/DirInt/>

summerempl.html

Department of the Treasury, Office of Intelligence and Analysis
><http://www.treasury.gov/organization/employment/internships/>

Department of Energy, Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence
> <http://humancapital.doe.gov/jobs/internships.htm>

Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research Federal Bureau of Investigation
>http://search.state.gov/search?q=intelligence&entqr=0&ud=1&output=xml_no_dtd&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&client=careers_frontend&proxystylesheet=careers_frontend&site=careers&x=0&y=0

List offered by Norman Rick Denny, Commander US Naval Intelligence (Retired)

Faculty Updates/News

Dr. Andrei Korobkov presented "The Brian Drain from Russia: Myths and Reality" at a conference in Moscow. He also attended the Regional Border Management/Security Conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan in February where he presented a paper en-



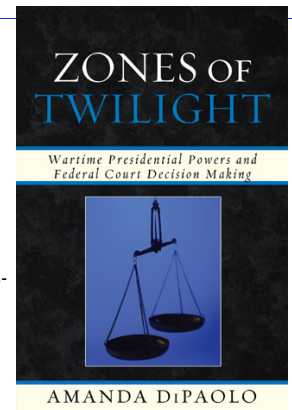
titled "Migration in Central Eurasia: The Security, Political, and Economic Aspects." He is shown here at the Moscow conference.

Stephen Morris will present a talk entitled "Corruption as Resistance: Politics without Legitimacy and Justice" at the Institute of Legal Studies of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM) and also participate in the annual conference of the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies this coming April in Mexico City.

Karen Petersen published "Revisiting Downs's Issue-Attention Cycle: International Terrorism and U.S. Public Opinion" in the *Journal of Strategic Security* (V. 2 (4), 2009). "Conflict Escalation in Dyads with a History of Territorial Disputes" will appear later this year in *International Journal of Conflict Management*. Dr. Petersen was also awarded a FLAG grant by the College of Liberal Arts for a grant proposal submitted last year.

Congratulations to Dr. DiPaolo on the publication of *Zones of Twilight: Wartime Presidential Powers and Federal Court Decision Making*.

The nation's war on terrorism has raised significant questions and concerns about the curtailment of individual rights. In *Zones of Twilight*, Amanda provides a brilliantly researched and nicely crafted examination of the courts' handling of cases involving presidential power during times of national security emergencies. Separate chapters examine the lengthy case history surrounding military detentions, warrantless wiretaps (dating all the way back to Lincoln tapping telegraph communications), the confiscation of property, and free speech cases. The historical discussions in each chapter offer a unique, interesting and informative take on American history. Moreover, the book provides critical historical context to the more recent cases stemming from the war on terror, showing not only how the debates and concerns have a long history, but that recent decisions rarely depart from historical precedent.



\$\$Recent Grants Received\$\$

By Lisa Almy

A number of professors in the Political Science department have recently received grants to carry out specialized research projects.

Dr. Steven Livingston is the 2009-2010 recipient of the MTSU Instructional Technology Grant. This grant is given each year to a faculty member to assist them in the areas of computer technology, telecommunications, and instructional and research support. Dr. Livingston intends to use this grant to develop a Web-based Interactive Learning Video of Congressional Rules and Legislative Procedures.

Drs. DiPaolo and Petersen recently received a one year grant from Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity Grant that was awarded to the College of Liberal Arts. This grant will help cover the cost of an adjunct to teach one course for each professor, giving them time to dedicate to their project. They will be conducting statistical analysis of Justice Robert Jackson's concurring opinion in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube v Sawyer*. Their abstract states, "This paper seeks to test Jackson's theory in *Youngstown* that suggests the federal courts look for approval of Executive decisions by the Congress when making its rights-based national security decisions. We will examine the Supreme Court cases where issues concerning military detentions are brought before the federal courts. We will also look at the issue of wireless wiretapping." Dr. Petersen stated "Without the grant, it is unlikely that we would be able to complete a project involving data collection and analysis. The high teaching load at MTSU makes sustained and in-depth research difficult. The allocation of funds for that purpose is essential to our success as junior faculty.

Dr. Sekou Franklin received a \$1,500 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant for his proposal entitled *The Movement for Clean Energy and Green-Collar Jobs in Urban America*. "The Green For All (GFA) movement is a series of social movement campaigns initiated by activists who give special attention to the intersection of pollution reduction strategies, green economic development, and poverty reduction. GFA activists argue that racial equity and an economic inclusive agenda should anchor employment opportunities in the clean energy trades. The GFA movement's use of the green jobs narrative – a narrative specifically tailored for low and moderate-income urban communities and communities of color – to encourage low and moderate-income African-Americans to support low carbon and pollution reduction policies is the focus of this study. The main argument of the study is that the diffusion of GFA initiatives and the green jobs narrative have been used to educate low-income communities about low carbon initiatives that have been traditionally embraced by the (mainly white-led) environmental movement."

Alumni Updates/News

> **ROBERT EVINS PICKARD** (aka Uncle Bob) is currently teaching History at TSU and Motlow State Community College (Smyrna). He taught for five years at MTSU. Guest speakers for his classes at MTSU and TSU have included *Tennessean* publisher emeritus and First Amendment Center Director John Seigenthaler, and native American activist and story teller JD Kent. He also put together a panel on the Vietnam War in 2007 at MTSU featuring Attorney and USMC veteran Bob Tuke, Federal Judge, army vet George Paine, and former state rep Dr. Steve Cobb. ** has published six of my op-ed pieces in *The Tennessean* over the past two years, tutors students reading, history and social studies for Metro Schools, is active in the Tennessee Returned Peace Corps organization in Nashville, and has a collection of materials from world travel, service and politics at the Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU.

> **GERE L. BEASON** (class of 2003) received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the Nashville School of Law and successfully passed the Tennessee Bar Exam this past October.

> **STEPHEN A. BROWN** (class of 2007) graduated from the Cumberland Law School, Samford University in December 2009.

> **AMIRAH FATHY** (B.Sc. in Political Science, May 2007) originally from Egypt and now living in Nashville, worked for two years with the "SAVE DARDUR" program out of Cairo, Egypt. Her responsibilities included helping internally displaced persons gather their papers together to re-establish their identities in the hope of gaining refugee status and move to Egypt. She is now applying for admission to graduate schools to study international relations and international law.

> **KOURTNEY HENNARD** has received a scholarship covering tuition and fees at the University of Tennessee Law School. She begins this fall.

> **THOMAS B. NORRIS, JR.** (class of 1982), pursued a MCJA at MTSU, received a J.D. from Nashville School of Law in 1996, and then completed an LL.M in Taxation through the University of Alabama in 2007. He is now serving as Of Counsel to the Law Offices of Barry J. Gammons and concentrates on corporate, commercial and tax law. This year he co-authored (with the Hon. G. Andrew Brigham, General Sessions Judge for Stewart Co., TN) *A TENNESSEE GENERAL SESSIONS HANDBOOK* (M. Lee Smith Publishers, 2009); and served as local counsel to

S.L. Thomas Winery in the "joined" case of *Jevlosek, et al. v. Bredesen*, 545 F.3d 431, (6th Cir. 2008), that resulted in striking down as unconstitutional for violation of the Dormant Commerce Clause key parts of the Tennessee's Wine and Grape law resulting in marked changes to the limitations on sale and transportation of wines in Tennessee.

> **WORACHAI MUANGMONGKOL**, a graduate from the mid-1970s, has retired after a twenty-plus years with the Thai police in Bangkok. Yet he still fondly remembers the institution, the department, and his former professors, particularly Dr. Vernardakis.

> **JUSTIN OWEN** (class of 2005) has been named the Director of Policy & General Counsel at the Tennessee Center for Policy Research, a free market think tank in Nashville.

> **RUSSELL PARMAN** graduated in August 2006 with a degree in International Relations. During his time at



MTSU, Russell was a McNair Scholar and published his work "The Social Roots of Terrorism" in the academic journal *World of Transformations*. He was subsequently awarded the Jack Turner award for excellence in International Relations Studies. Following graduation, Russell attended Vanderbilt University where he graduated in 2008 with a Master of Arts in Political Science. Following his scholastic career, Russell accepted a position within the Department of Defense where he works on Middle Eastern issues.

> **JEFF PEACH** has completed law school, left his long standing job as a Smyrna police officer, and become a city attorney for Smyrna.

Donors and Donations

From September 1 to January 21, 2010, the Department received \$7,775.00 in donations to a range of scholarship accounts and the Political Science Enrichment Fund.

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Our students and the Department benefit tremendously from donations from alumni, friends, and supporters. Such support helps students defray the costs of a college education, participate in intercollegiate competitions, simulations or study abroad program, or gain needed internship experience. Donations also help the Department offer guest lectures, enriching the academic life of the Department, or host events that unite students with alumni, friends and supporters.

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For more information, a list of scholarship and activity funds, or to make a donation visit our web site or contact: Robyn Kilpatrick, Development Director, College of Liberal Arts, Middle Tennessee State University, MTSU P.O. Box 109, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132. (615) 898-5223.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~cla>

Update on the Proposed Master's in International Affairs

After garnering support from MTSU and the TBR, the 2008 proposal for a Master's degree in International Affairs still awaits THEC (Tennessee Higher Education Commission) approval.



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[http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/Political Science Newsletter, Spring 2010](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/PoliticalScienceNewsletter, Spring 2010)