

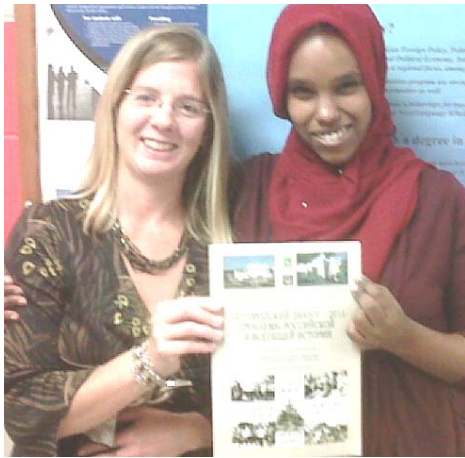


# POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

## PS Students Publish Research

Political Science majors **Basra Mohamed** (left with Dr. Petersen) and **Jade Linstead** (right with Dr. Morris) both published chapters in a recently released book entitled *Belgorad Dialogue 2011: The Problems of Russia and World History*. Ms Mohamed's work carries the title "Is the Feminist Critique of Liberalism Successful?" Ms Linstead wrote "Insurgent Political Violence: Aum Shinrikyo." Both articles were published in Russian.



### Inside this issue:

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## International Relations ranks 6th and Political science 7th among the majors of the top 1%

"There are a lot of factors to weigh when picking your college major. Like, for example, will this major land me in the top 1% of earners? Despite the statistical rarity of such an ambition, there are majors that lead far more often to 1% status than others. The *New York Times* recently endeavored to find what the top 1% of earners majored in while in college. Using information from the Census Bureau's [2010 American Community Survey](#), they found being a pre-med gave you the best chance of joining the financial cream of the crop. Economics came in second. In a surprise twist, zoology cracked the top 5."

Check out: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/19/what-the-1-majored-in\\_n\\_1215839.html#s620475&title=Political Science and](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/19/what-the-1-majored-in_n_1215839.html#s620475&title=Political%20Science%20and)

[www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/)



## UPCOMING EVENTS, Spring 2012

### February 8

**Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at 6:30** Hinton Hall in Wright Music Building. Sponsored by the American Democracy Project.

### February 8

**"The War on Terrorism, the Constitution, and Civil Liberties"** with Jacob Hornberger, Bruce Fein, and Glenn Greenwald on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 in the State Farm Room (BAS). Sponsored by The Future of Freedom Foundation and Young Americans for Liberty. For more information, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/events/320841984605826/>

### February 21

**Panel Discussion "Illuminating the challenges of the Great Lakes Region of Africa: From Rwanda to Congo to Middle Tennessee, the urgency of peace and stability," at 7:00 pm.** Panelists **Claude Gatebuke** (Carl Wilkens Fellow and Executive Director and Co-founder of Africa Great Lakes Action Network) and **Kambale Musavuli** (a native Congolese and Friends of the Congo Spokesperson). Sponsored and organized by Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center and co-Sponsored by **Department of Political Science.**

### February 25

**Student Conference on the Death Penalty** from 10AM - 3PM. The event is free, but students need to register at [www.tennesseedeathpenalty.org](http://www.tennesseedeathpenalty.org) and click on "Student Conference" underneath the "Get Involved" drop-down menu.

### March 1

**Dr. Joan Fitzgerald, Director of the Law and Public Policy Program at Northeastern University. Public Lecture 7:00 pm in State Farm Room (BAS)**

In partnership with the College of Business and the Jones Chair of Excellence in Regional and Urban Planning, Liberal Arts is bringing to campus **Dr. Joan Fitzgerald**, Director of the Law and Public Policy Program at Northeastern University, from February 27 to March 1. Dr. Fitzgerald works in the areas of urban economic development. Watch for postings for lectures and presentations.

### April 3

**"Election 2012: How Will You Decide?", 7:00 pm, State Farm Room (BAS).** Richard Shenkman, writer, historian, producer, journalist and author of *Legends, Lies and Cherished Myths of American History*. Sponsored by MTSU Student Programming.

**Carl Wilkens, March 28, 6:00 p.m. in BAS S102 (State Farm Room).**

As a humanitarian aid worker, Carl Wilkens moved his young family to Rwanda in the spring of 1990. When the genocide was launched in April 1994, Carl refused to leave, even when urged to do so by close friends, his church and the United States government. Thousands of expatriates evacuated and the United Nations pulled out most of its troops. **Carl was the only American to remain in the country.** Venturing out each day into streets crackling with mortars and gunfire, he worked his way through roadblocks of angry, bloodstained soldiers and civilians armed with machetes and assault rifles in order to bring food, water and medicine to groups of orphans trapped around the city. His actions saved the lives of hundreds.

Carl returned to the United States in 1996. After being featured in the 2004 PBS Frontline documentary, "Ghosts of Rwanda", about the Rwanda genocide, he began to receive letters, phone calls and offers from teachers around the country to come and share his experiences with students.

In January 2008, with no end in sight to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, Carl decided to quit his job and dedicate himself full time to accepting these invitations. He and his wife Teresa have since formed an educational nonprofit, World Outside My Shoes, to facilitate this important work.

Carl uses a storytelling format to talk about the genocide and the treacherous thinking that says we can solve a problem by excluding someone.

During the Q&A time practical applications are made connecting his genocide stories with the challenges we face every day, inspiring and equipping listeners to stand up against injustices at home and abroad. (from <http://worldoutsidemysshoes.org/>.)

## 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? **HANDOUTS on the web page...**

## UPCOMING EVENTS, continued...

March 19, 2:30, BAS 332

**Political Science/ IR  
Career Workshop**

Information on jobs for OUR MAJORS. Learn about the Career Development Center, tips on the job search, the range of opportunities, etc.



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?

**Academic Success Series**

The workshops begin on January 24 at 4:30 p.m. at the James E. Walker Library- Room 446 and continue every Tuesday during semester at **4:30 p.m. in Room 446** at the library. **Sponsored by University College Advising Center & Walker Library**

January 24 > **“How to Get Started at MTSU”**January 31 > **“How to Balance School, Work, and Family Life”**February 7 > **“How to Use the MTSU Library”**February 14 > **“How to Give a Winning Presentation”**February 21 > **“How to Choose the Right Career for You”**

and several others

For more information visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/advising/AcademicSuccessSeries.shtml>.

Tuesday, March 27, 6:00, BAS 324

*Political science forum...*


**“Attack Ads, Super PACs and Angry Voters: A Preview of the 2012 General Election”**



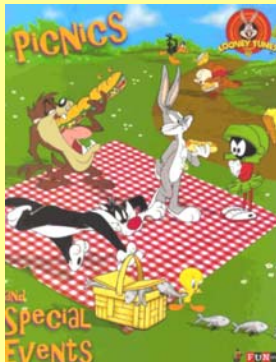
**Kent Syler**, Asst. Prof. and former congressional aide

**DEPARTMENTAL  
PICNIC**

\* \* \*

**April 21(tentative)  
Noon to Afternoon  
Barfield Crescent Park,  
Pavilion TBA**

**(PS/IR majors & faculty)**



**Scholars Day** is around the corner. Students are encouraged to participate. You can find the on-line application at <http://www.mtsu.edu/research/SWCallforAbstracts2.shtml>.

Important dates:

February 28<sup>th</sup>—abstract submittal deadlineMarch 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>— Scholars WeekMarch 28<sup>th</sup>—CLA Scholars Day (e.g., presentations, panel discussions, plays, documentaries)March 30<sup>th</sup>— the final University Scholars Day event (e.g., poster session, multimedia, and select creative activities)

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PS/IR MAJORS... See page 7**

***Check IT OUT on our Web Page:***

**Staying Informed on International Political Issues**

**and**

**Thinking About Law School**

## In the news...

### Master's in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Department will begin the new Master of Arts in International Affairs this coming fall semester. **Dr. Moses Tesi** has been selected to serve as the first Director of the Graduate program and will work with members of the Graduate Studies Committee (**Drs. DiPaolo, Maynor, Petersen, and Vernardakis**).



This fall the Department will offer:

- **PS 6100 Seminar in International Relations (Tesi);**
- **PS 6200 Seminar in Comparative Politics (Morris); and**
- **PS 6500 Research Methods (Livingston).**

For details on the program, admission requirements, and how to apply visit:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/MAIA/>

### Conference on Corruption in Mexico, Russia and the U.S.

On October 12-14, scholars and practitioners from Mexico, Russia, and the U.S. met on Vanderbilt's campus to present research on political corruption. Sponsored by MTSU, Vanderbilt, and the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation, the event also included special presentations by speakers on MTSU campus. Organized by Dr. Kustinovich (Vanderbilt) and **Dr. Korobkov** and **Dr. Morris**, the conference highlighted the similarities and differences the three countries face in dealing with corruption. For the U.S., the main issue involves campaign financing, while Mexico and Russia face corruption throughout their political systems.

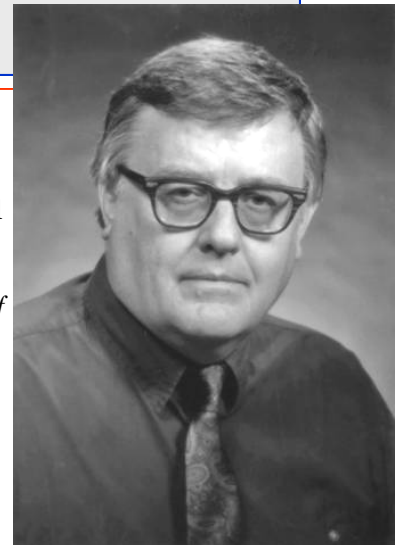


### Faculty to Work with foreign Fulbright Students

**Kent Syler (Asst Prof)** will be working with student groups and advising students for a seminar for foreign Fulbright students in Nashville, February 16-19. Organized by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and assisted by the Institute of International Education (IIE), the seminar will focus on the effect of regional identity on U.S. elections and voter tendencies. On Saturday, students will be put together into workshops where they will plan a political debate using the information about elections that they learned during the previous days conference. Mr. Syler was selected to participate because of his campaign and teaching experience.

### The Department Mourns the Loss of Colleague Dr. Jack Turner

Professor Emeritus Dr. Jack Turner passed away on December 29, 2011. In addition to numerous scholarly writings, Dr. Turner was the author of three published novels, *The Foxes and the Hounds: Big Medicine River Days*, *The Sheriffs' Murder Cases*, and *The Sheriff of Frozen's Murder Cases*. Soon-to-be-published works include *Bluegrass Days*, the second in *The Foxes and the Hounds* trilogy; *The Sheriff of Hell's Murder Cases*, and a nonfiction book, *Maytown Magic and Mayhem: Fifty Years of Mountain Basketball*. In addition to his wife, Judy, Dr. Turner leaves behind several hundred successful former students, and numerous friends and family members who were grateful to have known a person one friend called "a living miracle." Another close friend remarked upon hearing of Dr. Turner's passing, "No one can replace Jack Justin Turner."



## Internships: Build Your Resume!

Many employers say they cannot find experienced people to fill openings. Others claim that too many new graduates are without needed workplace skills. While you are working on your degree, why not help build your resume with an internship or two? Doing an internship will help you build your work history, gain real world work experience, and learn vital workplace skills. In addition, you can try out a career and see if it is something you may wish to do.

The Political Science Department offers several different internships to suit various needs and interests. All internships count as PS major and PS minor credit and give you upper division hours. We offer PS 4040 Pre-law Internship, 4270 Political Campaign Internship, and PS 4290 Public Service Internship. PS 4040 Pre-law Internship is for those who wish to work in a private attorney's office and see how that career operates. PS 4270 Political Campaign Internship is more widely focused and covers not just political campaigns for elected office, but also work for political parties and work for interest groups which are engaged in public policy creation or alteration, as well as work for non-profits. PS 4290 Public Service Internships work for a government. Any agency or department of the federal government, any state, or local government qualifies for this internship, which is a requirement of the Public Administration major.



In recent months we have had PS 4290 students interning with Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, Representative Bart Gordon and Marsha Blackburn, with city and town and county officials all over the state. We have had interns work for judges, the courts, the probation offices, public defenders, prosecutors, and juvenile justice. We have had students work for city sanitation roads, planning and zoning, human resources, and social services. We have had students work for state and federal homeland security, TSA, and TBI. We have had students work for departments of agriculture, education and finance. You name it, if it is an agency of any level of government—you can work there! And get credit!

In recent months we have had PS 4270 students work for a wide variety of political campaign from those running for president and US Senator, to those running for US House and for state house and state senate. We have had student interns for local governed races as well. Pretty much any serious campaign makes a good internship. In addition, PS 4270 interns have worked for interest groups and non-profits such as CASA, immigrant and refugee services, AIDS awareness and health services, child development centers, World Relief, World Vision, Catholic Charities, and the Islamic Center. We have had interns working for La Raza, Amnesty International, and Greenpeace. The list goes on!

How many credits can you get? What does it cost?

You can get internships of 3, 6, 9 or 12 credits. For every 120 hours worked you can get 3 credits. Internship credits cost the same as any MTSU course. Remember, these credits count as upper division and also for Political Science major and minor. It is a good idea to talk with your advisor first to determine how many credits you might need and where they'd count on your particular upper division form.

Contact Prof. Langenbach at [lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu](mailto:lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu) for more information on how to set up an internship and how to register.

### *Current PS 4270 and 4290 Internships, Spring 2012*

- **Lauren Campbell** > Connor Moss for Murfreesboro City Council
- **Jade Linstead** > News Channel 2 politics/news division
- **Wesley Brooks Boyette** > Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Dept
- **Garrett Crowell** > TN Democratic Party
- **Andrew Mitchell** > Connor Moss for Murfreesboro City Council
- **Jason Lewis** > Bell Buckle Town Hall
- **Taylor Cheney** > Rutherford County General Sessions Court
- **Patrick Belton** > Nashville Chamber of Commerce

### Opportunities

The best internship we have going right now is that Obama for America is hiring like crazy all over the US. In years past, I have had an intern take fall semester off and work full time out of state on presidential campaigns and this is an option for fall with Obama as well (worth 12 credits). I think it was Kerry and Gore -- one student worked Advance and traveled all over the Midwest in advance of the candidate setting up venues, working long days and long nights city after city, and the other one did media for the campaign full time out of state somewhere. If we have students who want to take a semester off from school work (but still get credits), I bet Obama for America can find a position for them. But of course, the campaign is looking for lots of local folks to do phone banks and other activities as well.

**Dr. Langenbach**

## Advising Advice

### Advising and Mentoring...

Though they may happen at the same time, academic advising and mentoring are different. Both are important. **Academic advising** focuses on **degree requirements**. While students are responsible for knowing what specific courses they need to take in order to graduate, your academic advisor can help you identify those requirements, check to make sure you are making progress toward that end, and verify that the courses you plan on taking are part of your program. The academic advisor can also help orient you as to when you should take certain classes because of prerequisites or schedules. **Mentoring** focuses more on your professional goals and advice on how best to pursue those goals. A mentor can help you think about career goals and ways to prepare. A mentor can help you think about ways to enhance your marketability or preparation. A mentor can help you think through graduate school opportunities and options.

### Think outside the Box

What can you do to distinguish yourself from the many others here and across the country obtaining an undergraduate degree in political science or international relations?

- **Internship.** This provides practical knowledge and will help establish contacts. The former provides relevant experience (which may be more important than a part time job in an unrelated area); the latter is helpful in identifying job opportunities.
- **Public service work.** This too helps you gain experience working in the world while also showing a commitment and dedication to working with the community.
- **Study Abroad.** Whether taking classes or doing an internship abroad, foreign experience shows maturity, adaptability, and experience working in a different culture.
- **Unique minors.** While there may be many political science majors, few may pursue the minors you are pursuing. Sometimes a unique combination of skills can set you apart. You can use the minor to acquire a set of marketable skills.
- **Research Experience.** Many jobs require an ability to conduct basic research and effectively communicate the findings. Beyond the research done in regular classes, you can do independent research projects, including community-based research projects. Presenting your work at Scholars Week or a similar type of forum will help highlight your skills and confidence as a researcher.
- **Graduate or Professional School.** Further education can also help you distinguish yourself and indeed many professions may now require some graduate-level training.

### Key points (*decisions*) in academic advising

- **B.A. vs B.S.** (Political Science only; IR majors can only do a B.S.)  
> **what's the difference?** BS requires 2 minors; the BA requires 1 minor and 12 hours of a foreign language.
- **Which program?**  
> Political Science with a: *General Focus, Pre-Law Concentration, Public Administration Concentration, OR Teaching Licensure ??*  
**OR**  
> *International Relations*
- **What will be your Minors?** (most minors require 18 credit hours)  
– For the specific requirements for a particular minor look in the Catalog or on that department's web site.

Follow along...



Use the appropriate **UPPER DIVISION FORM** as a checksheet. You can check off the courses you have taken toward the degree and see which ones are left to take. (available on web site)

Utilize the **GENERATE DEGREE EVALUTION** function on Pipeline. The computer can check what you have taken against what is required.

!! And SEE YOUR ADVISOR !!

Political Science and International Relations majors are strongly encouraged to engage in undergraduate student research, and to take advantage of the opportunities to secure funding and to present their research. Faculty are available to work with students through independent research courses to help develop research skills and projects. Students might also consider presenting research done as part of an upper-division course.

The Department currently offers students **two independent research options for credit:**

PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 credit hours). In this class, students work with a community-based organization on a practical research project designed in part by the organization.

PS 4970 Undergraduate Research (1-6 credit hours). Students pursue their own topics and fields of concentration under the supervision of a political science faculty member. Working with the faculty member, the student will design and conduct independent research, with the final paper presented at a conference or a public forum on campus.

## Opportunities at MTSU to Present Research

### ***Scholars Week***

Scholars week includes departmental / college events in discipline-specific venues for presentation of graduate, undergraduate, and faculty scholarship, such as:

- Oral Presentations
- Multimedia presentations
- Posters
- Performances
- Kick-off Luncheon
- Demonstrations
- Speakers

University-Wide Exposition

For more information, visit: [http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars\\_week.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars_week.shtml)

***Social Science Symposium.*** Conducted annually in the fall, the Social Science Symposium features student research at MTSU. The event includes a student paper competition and guest speakers. For more information visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/soc/socsymp/index.shtml>

### ***Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research.***

Scientia et Humanitas publishes original undergraduate and graduate research from the natural and social sciences and from the humanities. Articles are now being accepted for the 2011-12 issue from MTSU students and recent graduates either by themselves or in conjunction with a faculty mentor. Articles may be submitted through the online submission system at their website, [www.mtsu.edu/~scientia](http://www.mtsu.edu/~scientia).

## How about ; Maymester in Honduras?

A small group of faculty from Agriculture, Business Education, Drama, Concrete Management and Political Science (Dr. Morris) will be accompanying a small group of students for a short 3 week public service program in Comayagua, Honduras this May. The 3 credit hour program will center around hands-on public service initiatives as a way of learning about the people, the culture and the problems and challenges of a developing country. With subsidies from Study Abroad and the College of Liberal Arts, the overall cost of the program will be \$2,500 (not including tuition for 3 credit hour Study Abroad).

For more information see **Dr. Morris**.



Market day in Comayagua

### Other STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS

#### London Summer-CCSA, July 5-August 6, 2012

##### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLITICAL SCIENCE/HISTORY *Law & Order: England*

Learn about how Scotland Yard, The House of Lords, "Old Bailey" and the signing of Magna Carta at Runnymede helped shape both the English and the American Criminal Justice Systems of today. Join us for this "hands-on" approach to understanding the English Criminal Justice System. Compare and contrast the English and American law and order practices by intertwining academic engagement and firsthand experiences. Knowing where we came from is vital to understanding where we are and where we are headed in the future!

(3 cr. hrs., UD/G, Mrs. Lisa Kay Decker  
[[lisa.decker@indstate.edu](mailto:lisa.decker@indstate.edu)] Indiana State University)  
Group B

<http://www.ccsa.cc/programs/summer/london-s12>

#### Scotland Summer-CCSA

June 4-June 25, 2012

##### POLITICAL SCIENCE

##### *The Scotland of Adam Smith & David Hume: Politics & the Modern World*

Come to Scotland and experience the country where many of the central political ideas of the modern world were created. Walk in the footsteps of eccentric geniuses like Adam Smith and David Hume and find out how their ideas have already molded your own thinking. Argue about their importance and legacy. Explore where they lived and learn about what they fought for and whom they fought against. We will be visiting Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy and the Scottish Highlands as we immerse ourselves in the world of the Scottish Enlightenment and thus better understand our political, social and economic life.

(3 cr. hrs., UD, Dr. Aaron D. Hoffman  
[[ahoffman@bellarmine.edu](mailto:ahoffman@bellarmine.edu)] Bellarmine University)  
<http://www.ccsa.cc/programs/summer/scotland-s12>

## Study Abroad Participants, College of Liberal Arts Summer 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011

Major	Academic Year Total
Foreign Language	25
Global Studies	24
Speech & Theatre	18
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>14</b>
English	11
Art	10
History	10
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>8</b>
Sociology	6
Anthropology	5
Organizational Communication	4
Art Education	2
Art History	1
Economics	1
Geoscience	1
Music	1
Philosophy	1
Social Work	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

We are behind Speech & Theatre!!  
And..we have far more majors!





## Students in the News

### The Washington Center Program

*This semester...*

**Mandy Davis** will be interning with the 'Protection Project' whose aim is to provide information about and combat human trafficking and other gender related crimes. Mandy will undoubtedly be focusing on those which occur in the Middle East while utilizing her Arabic language skills to assist in the group's efforts.



**Jason Davis** will be interning at the 'International Institute of Education', specifically within their department of International Development. This group's aim and mission is to promote worldwide education as a means of securing higher levels of progress, tolerance, and peace. The group facilitates the exchange of students between various countries and also is instrumental in organizing various educational programs in specific nations which cater to the students' needs in that particular setting.

### Legislative Interns Spring 2012

Wade Barnett	Rep. Eric Watson
John Brock	Sen. Jim Tracy
Christopher Kandt	Rep. Mike Sparks
Demetria Johnson	Rep. Joe Carr
Michael Major	Rep. Rick Womick
Gavin Mosley	Rep. Charles Sargent
Allison Otting	Sen. Jim Kyle
Hannah Ramey	Sen. Steve Southerland
Michael Ripley	Sen. Bill Ketrone
Kenneth Williams	Rep. Pat Marsh
Sabrina Langlois	TBD



**Jason Davis** (below and on the far left, upper row in picture on the right) participated in the University of Minnesota's Study Abroad program in Qatar from December 27 to January 17, and filed this report upon his return.

I just got back the other day and wow, what a trip! As you know, I went to Qatar with the University of Minnesota and our course was: 'Al Jazeera in the Time of Revolution'. The course essentially was composed of our professor from the U of M who is of Tunisian heritage and also a number of visiting professors who lectured during our time at Qatar University, in addition to various outings in Doha the capital and around the country. Our focus was two-fold: 1. Examine how Al Jazeera in a broad sense serves as a source of 'counter-discourse' to Western media outlets who may often reinforce either said discourse or foreign policy decisions and 2. Examining how al-Jazeera's fearless and continuous reporting facilitated the immediate update of events as they occurred on the ground during the Arab Spring, possibly leading to the rise of other popular movements and protests in subsequent nations. (Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, etc.)



## Students in the News

### **Gilman Scholarship recipient Karissa Senn reports on her study abroad in India**

I had the great fortune of spending the Monsoon semester in Hyderabad, India during the Fall of 2011. While I was there, I had the opportunity to study in first year Masters level courses in politics while learning Hindi and volunteering with two NGOs. It would be easy to say that those experiences changed my life, and that I'm so glad that I went abroad. Those are both extremely true. What is harder to express is the impact that immersing myself in the politics and culture of a land so vastly different than our own had on my life and my desired career path. I knew what I believed about self-determination of states, what constitutes a responsive democracy, and when the use of force was okay. Well-at least I thought I did. It turns out that I didn't know what I believed about those things at all until I lived in a country where those issues were not as cut and dry as textbooks lead us to believe. Though I have been studying political science for many years now, it took getting to the heart of how those issues touch regions, families, and individuals on a personal level to really make me get it. Politics is so much more than a talking point or a series of laws and papers. It's life. Working with an orphanage and a small school in the heartland of the country really brought to life what the needs of so many millions in that region of the world are. Living with a host family for part of my five months in the country revealed much about how political corruption and instability affects the daily lives of ordinary people. After my semester and volunteer work in India, I'm sure that working with NGOs that fight human trafficking in in Asia is exactly what I want to do. I feel like going abroad with my study of political science was the best decision I could have made as a senior in college; however, I'm absolutely sure that it was a decision that positively impact the rest of my life.

**New Buchanan Fellow** – Tandra Martin (IR) graduated from Oakland High School with an IB diploma. She was a National Achievement Semifinalist and a People-to-People Ambassador to France, Italy, and Greece. She is a mentor with the Big Brothers -Big Sisters organization.

**Lee Whitwell** (PS, Honors) defended his thesis “Pugmeire v. Thompson: A Mock Trial Case” in Spring 2011.

**Chelsea Curtis** (PS, Honors) defended her thesis: “The Stoics’s Critique of Adam Smith’s Political Economy of Laissez-Faire: The Role of the ‘Invisible Hand’ in Materialistic Modern America”

**Janina Reshay** Crenshaw (PS, Honors) is completing her thesis this semester on “The Possibility of an Extradition of an Official” under the advisement of Dr. Willis.

### **Political Science Scholarships**

Don't forget to check out the scholarship page at:

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

Applications are taken in late spring for the fall semester.



## Student Organizations

### MOCK TRIAL UPDATE

by Rachel Harmon

MTSU's Mock Trial organization is proud to report several successes during the Fall 2011 semester. The team led by Rachel Harmon and Zachary Barker won MTSU's own Mid-South Invitational, one of the largest tournaments in the nation. Numerous participants won individual awards, including Kristin Johnson, Samantha Farish, Rachel Harmon, Constance Grieves, Brooke Borcharding, and Thomas Palombo.

Spring is the most exciting time of year for MTSU's Mock Trial organization, as it brings with it the national competition season. In January, MTSU teams will compete at tournaments hosted by Vanderbilt University and Georgia Tech. These tournaments are highly competitive, and help the teams prepare for the American Mock Trial Association's Regional Tournament. This year's regional will be held in February in Jackson, Mississippi. Eight teams will advance from the regional competition to the Regional Championship Tournament, held in Memphis, Tennessee. Finally, the top forty-eight teams from across the United States will gather in Des Moines, Iowa for the National Championship Tournament.

Mock Trial is a great way for students from any major to increase skills in trial advocacy, public speaking, and argumentation. Students interested in participating should email [mtsumock@gmail.com](mailto:mtsumock@gmail.com), or search for "MTSU Mock Trial" on Facebook.



(Left) Team winning the MTSU tournament. From left to right: Constance Grieves, Dr. John Vile, Brandi Snow, Zachary Barker, Rachel Harmon, Shiva Bozarth, Chanekka Pullens, Curtis Strode, Chris Hardman, James Johnson.



(Right) Some of the winners of individual awards. From left to right, Kristin Johnson, Rachel Harmon, and Samantha J. Farish.

## Student Organizations, continued

### Model United Nations

By Joey Meyer

The Moscow International Model United Nations conference will be held at Moscow State University, in Russia, April 9-13, 2012. A delegation of four students from MTSU will compete with delegations from the elite universities from all over the world. The Moscow International Model United Nations conference is entering its third decade, and has become one of the most prestigious post Cold War conferences. Our delegates will be representing Denmark, Israel, Egypt, and the Russian Federation in several organs of the United Nations, debating with students from around the world about pressing international issues.



Moscow State University

### TISL (Tenn. Intercollegiate State Legislature)

By Katherine Bogle

This past November, MTSU sent its largest and most involved delegation in years to the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature at the Tennessee State Capitol for the 42nd General Assembly. TISL is a mock legislature that introduces college students to the state legislative process while simultaneously providing them the opportunity to engage in the process themselves through acting as an actual legislator, lobbyist, or media representative. This year was the first year that students were able to receive academic credit for their hard work during the semester. Students receiving credit from the Political Science department joined other students selected by the Student Government Association to make up the delegation, which had its most successful experience in more than a decade. Students from the MTSU delegation presented and passed legislation through both houses concerning wage claim protection, bargaining representation, and implementing experiential learning in all universities in the state of Tennessee. Other MTSU delegation successes included; Gavin Mosely being awarded best Senator and Daniel Webb being nominated to go before the Governor as a candidate for the student representative on the Tennessee Secondary Assistance Corporation board. Overall, the students were able to garner practical experience for a competitive job

market while networking with some of Tennessee's brightest college students and future leaders.



### MOOT COURT

By Julie Murrell

Moot Court is a simulation of Appellate Court and focuses solely on the application of law to a fictional case by using real cases to support these assumptions. Moot Court teams are comprised of two individuals each concentrating on a specific issue for the same case, then the arguments are presented in competitions. Teams are judged based on demeanor, ability to answer questions, knowledge of material and law, and forensics. This past semester, the MTSU Moot Court team took part in analyzing cases, composing legal arguments, and competing against other universities with oral arguments. Headed by Professor Dr. Amanda DiPaolo and Masters Student Jared Norwood, the MTSU Moot Court students had eight teams competing at two Regional competitions. Three teams headed to Wooster, Ohio where one team qualified for the second day, and five teams drove south to Orlando, Florida where four teams qualified for the second day, with three out of the eight teams comprising of students Yasser Arafat, Jacob Butler, Mark Fyke, Michael Reed, Davis Seal, and Julie Murrell continued on to nationals in Orange County, California. With the completion of its third year, the MTSU Moot Court team is establishing itself as a contender at regional and national competitions. Students who would like to learn more information about moot court is invited to email Dr. DiPaolo at [Amanda.dipaolo@mtsu.edu](mailto:Amanda.dipaolo@mtsu.edu)

## Faculty Updates/News

**Dr. Andrei Korobkov** presented a paper entitled “Russian Brain Drain: Myths and Reality” at the Sciences Po-CERI seminar *Brain Drain vs Brain Gain: The Dilemmas of Intellectual Migration* in Paris, November 29, 2011. **Dr. Korobkov** was also quoted in a January 19, 2012 article in the magazine *Canadian Business* entitled “Prediction: Russia builds a new Soviet Union.”

**Dr. Stephen Morris** delivered a talk “La corrupción y el estado de derecho en México: ¿el camión pasa por aquí? [Corruption and Rule of Law in Mexico: Does the Bus Stop Here?]” at the IV Congress on Government and Public Administration, at the Universidad de Quintana Roo, Chetumal [Mexico], November 16-17, 2011.

Emeritus Professor **Thomas Van Dervort** and adjunct **David Hudson** published the third edition of *Law and the Legal System: An Introduction to Law and Legal Studies in the United States* (Wolters Kluwer Press). In addition, **Mr. Hudson**, who also teaches at Vanderbilt, was quoted in a *New York Times* (January 7, 2012) article on the Supreme Court.

**Dr. Moses Tesi** authored *Global Warming and Health: The Issue of Malaria in Eastern Africa’s Highlands* (Africa Initiative Discussion Papers, No. 2 – August 2011). This research explores the growth of malaria owing to rising temperatures in Eastern Africa and outlines important policy tools to government facing fiscal constraints to deal with this health challenge. As Dr. Tesi notes, the incidence of malaria has increased by 146% from 1995 to 2002. Malaria is now the number one dis-

ease in Ethiopia, causing about 70,000 deaths a year. Dr. Tesi’s analysis offers historical depth and highlights one the impact of global climate change.

**Dr. Steven Livingston** received a research grant from the Energy Foundation on the International Competitiveness of the Tennessee’s clean technology industries. He will present the results to the TN government and at this summer’s Southern Growth Policy Board meeting: a consortium of the 13 Southern states, the Board of Directors are the 13 governors. **Dr. Livingston** will also give a paper on Cuba’s foreign trade policy at the International Studies Association Convention in San Diego in April. And he will be going to France (Cherbourg) to deliver a set of lectures on international political economy in late Feb/early March.

## SPECIAL UPCOMING COURSES

### SUMMER 2012

#### MAYMESTER (S1)

- PS 3200 British Govt and Films (Vernardakis)
- PS 3770 Constitutional Law I (DiPaolo)
- PS 3780 Constitutional Law II (DiPaolo)
- PS 4820 Adv. Studies in American Government: Conflict Resolution (Canak)
- PS 4860 Adv. Studies in IR: Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence (Petersen)

#### June 4 -29 (S2)

- PS 3530 Legal Writing & Research (Willis)
- PS 4070 Political Violence & Terrorism (Carleton)

#### July 9- Aug 3 (S3)

- PS 3001 Research Methods (Morris)
- PS 3210 International Relations (Tesi)
- PS 3500 International Law (Korobkov)
- PS 4700 American Pol. Thought (McDaniel)

#### ONLINE

- PS 2020 State and Local Govt (Carleton)
- PS 3060 US Congress (Livingston)
- PS 4230 Classical Political Theory (Maynor)
- PS 4240 American Foreign Policy (Livingston)
- PS 4800 Senior Seminar (Maynor)

*Plus various sections of PS 1005 and 1010*

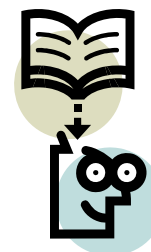
### FALL 2012 (Tentative)

- PS 3210 Honors Section of International Relations (Petersen)
- PS 4390 Special Topics: Sustainable Development in Cities (Franklin)
- PS 4820 Adv. Studies in American Politics: Communication & Strategy in 2012 Election (Syler)
- PS 4820 Adv. Studies in Political Theory: Global Justice (Maynor)

- *Courses TBA by NEW FACULTY MEMBER in International Relations*
- Graduate courses

#### (Master in International Affairs)

- PS 6100 Seminar in International Relations (Tesi)
- PS 6200 Seminar in Comparative Politics (Morris)
- PS 6500 Research Methods in International Affairs (Livingston)



## Alumni Updates/News

**Aaron Shew (IR, 2011)** graduated last year is currently working for SALT International: a non-profit specifically focused on establishing agri-businesses in the developing world.

From a letter from Aaron:

"We [the NGO] work with soybean farmers and use appropriate technologies to process soy into cheap animal feed and human food. Our niche is in market-driven development, meaning we believe true development will occur best using market-based incentives rather than hand-outs or top-down programs.

Up to this point, I've done lots of training in soybean mills, processing, and production and had the opportunity of attending the USAID World Food Aid Conference earlier this summer. My wife and I also spent a month living with a Kurdish family in Kansas City, studying language and culture. It was a great experience, and we're looking forward to a continued relationship with the family there.

When I'm not on the road, I work out of an office in Grinnell, Iowa where I do some technical writing, light bookkeeping, deal with administrative issues, and sit through meetings with partners or possible partners for our projects. Specifically, my job has been to get to know SALT and help with strategic planning for a project in the Kurdish Region of Iraq with plans to work on the ground when the project commences. In the meantime, we're shifting gears...

SALT has a USDA Food for Progress grant in Northern Afghanistan, as well. One of our employees has returned to the states, so Natalie and I will be moving to Afghanistan for the winter. I will be temporarily filling the gap as Financial Director and Assistant Manager for the soy mill. I am excited about this opportunity to gain further experience in some new areas and to be on the ground. Many of you know the more academic side of it. Some days the responsibility is a bit overwhelming, but I've always thrived on challenges that push my limits and weaknesses.

I leave this Saturday for a blur of trip, first to Northern Iraq for meetings with a partnering business and several farmers, and then on to Afghanistan where I'll be helping to commission our plant into full operational status. I'll be back state-side until just after Thanksgiving, and then we'll be heading to Afghanistan until March or so. I'm hoping to be in Murfreesboro from October 22nd through the 31st. I'd enjoy seeing those of you from the Boro, so let me know if you'll be around. I especially hope to drop by MTSU for a day or two.

Aaron has a blog documenting his work and travel at <http://work-travel-think-live.blogspot.com/>



Aaron Shew in Afghanistan  
Buzkashi: The Most Intense Horse Sport

**Barbara Herndon** was accepted into the TaLK teaching program and will be leaving in February to teach in South Korea.

**Grace Johnson** is now working as a scheduler for Congressman Fleischmann from Chattanooga. Grace participated in the Washington Center internship program in 2010.

**Tabitha Colwell** is completing her first year at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. She is interested in pursuing Environmental Law, specifically International Environmental Law.

**Nathaniel Green** major and **Dan Rucker** (PS minor) both began UT School of Law in Fall 2011

**Andy Sullivan** (below on right), IR graduate, is a Peace Corp Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He is posing with a nearly completed new cook stove and one of the residents of his village.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO FALL 2011 GRADUATES

### International Relations

Oluwatomilola Assan  
Barbara Herndon  
Anna Kelma  
Ashley Love  
Ater Manyiel  
Megan Moore  
Alex Opalinski  
Kyle Oxford  
Alexander Smith  
William Stone  
Bailey Todd

### Political Science

Yasser Arafat  
Matthew Blanchard  
Charlie Brooks  
Jessica Bryant  
Rikki Burnett  
Jacob Butler  
Ronnie Caffey  
Matthew Clyde  
Kimberly Corvin  
Nickie Curry  
Chelsea Curtis  
Casie Epperson  
Vanessa Goldberg  
Christopher Hardman-  
Jack Heath  
Marianne Hoover  
James Kirkland  
Kathleen Lewis  
Terri Mayes  
Joy Meade  
Hannah Meeks  
Lauren Miller  
Thomas Moss  
Christina Reeves  
Matthew Rone  
Timothy Sigler  
Michael Smith  
Brooke Tanumijaya  
Safeyeh Tarassod  
Jordan Vaughan  
Leslie Wall

May term (May 14-June 1, 2012), Monday-Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm.

### PS4850: Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics: Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence.

This is an interactive crisis simulation course designed to expose you to the fundamentals of crisis negotiation and challenge your beliefs about politics, nationhood, religion, and democracy. We will study the background of the decolonization of India and you will struggle to reconcile religious identity with nation building—perhaps the most intractable and important issue of the modern world. *Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence*, is a re-enactment of the conference at Simla, where the British viceroy has invited leaders of various religious and political constituencies to work out the future of Britain's largest colony.

This course has no pre-requisite requirements. Credit for this course can be used for majors or minors in: International Relations, Global Studies, or Political Science.

\*This course can be substituted for the Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar requirement (with permission, see Laura Clippard) or is available for Honors "H Option" for qualified students with permission of the instructor and the Honors College. Please email [karen.petersen@mtsu.edu](mailto:karen.petersen@mtsu.edu) for additional information.



## Middle Tennessee State University

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](mailto:sdmorris@mtsu.edu)



[http://www.mtsu.edu/  
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Newsletter, Spring 2012](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/PoliticalScienceNewsletter, Spring 2012)

Newsletter produced by Dr. Morris with the assistance of Lisa Riggs and Pam Davis.  
Send comments or suggestions (kind ones only) to : [sdmorris@mtsu.edu](mailto:sdmorris@mtsu.edu)