

POLITICAL SCIENCE



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Newsletter Fall 2015



Department takes 3 of 4 University Student Awards



Last year, three of the four university awards went to majors within our department. International Relations major **Tandra Martin** (4.0 GPA) received the President's Award: the most prestigious award given to an MTSU student. Tandra's campus leadership activities included serving as Executive Vice President of her sorority- Alpha Delta Pi; service as a Student Ambassador; and Interim President and Public Relations

Chair for the United Nations Student Alliance. She also serves as a student mentor for the MTSU Scholars Academy and worked as a Blue Elite tour guide. A Buchanan Fellow, Tandra was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. She received a Boren Scholarship to study in Morocco, and a Fulbright Scholarship which she is currently using to study in South Africa.

Joseph (Davis) Thompson, a political science major (4.0 GPA), received the Provost's Award for academic achievement. Davis served as President of Mock Trial and won top attorney awards. He interned at the Tennessee legislature, in the offices of Congressman Jim Cooper and Steve Cohen, and in First Lady Michelle Obama's office. Davis also completed independent research under the former director of National Public Radio. He was selected as a Truman Scholarship finalist and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in Slovakia.



The university's Robert C. LaLance, Jr. Achievement Award honored **Nissi Monsegue** for her determination and leadership.



www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

Inside this issue:

<i>Graduated & New Students</i>	2
<i>Upcoming events</i>	3
<i>Department Profile</i>	4
<i>Students in the news</i>	5
<i>Departmental news</i>	6-9
<i>Internships</i>	10-13
<i>Student organizations</i>	14
<i>Study abroad</i>	15-16
<i>Research Opportunities</i>	17
<i>Faculty Updates</i>	18
<i>Alumni Updates</i>	19-20
<i>Staying Connected</i>	21



Graduates Spring & Summer 2015

New Students Fall 2015
(Freshman and New Transfers)

W
e
l
c
o
m
e

PS Majors

Spring

- Hannah Bacon
- Diana Benitez
- Colin Blouin
- Callie Carlton
- James Carpenter
- Yerlyn Castro-Vargas
- Sina Daraei
- Wesley Doyle
- Elaine Eisinger
- Alisha Everette
- Andrew Goldstein
- Michael Hibdon
- John Jacobs
- Nesbert Kamutaundi
- Matthew Kelly
- Kenneth Lovell
- Grey Maxwell
- David McCord
- Amanda McIntire
- Jazmin Mercer
- Thomas Palombo
- Jordan Price
- Andre Rabideau
- Mohammed Reshad
- Caleb Roney
- Ryan Terrell
- David Thayer
- Joseph Thompson
- James Tomlin
- Taylor Ward
- Nicholas Weeks
- Amber Willard
- James Woodard

Summer

- Adam Higgs
- Alexander Brower
- Ashley Fulghum
- Caleb Thomas
- Chanekka Pullens
- Christopher Sullivan
- Emily McCartney
- John Mankin
- Lorena Melgar
- Matthew Lauderback
- Megan White

IR Majors

Spring

- Dimitrius Brown
- Elizabeth Kinsey
- Kathryn Sherman
- Matthew Matlock
- Nejib Adem
- Nissi Monsegue
- Rian Matheny
- Tandra Martin

Summer

- Henry Martin
- Sara Regen

**Masters in
International
Affairs**

- John Peters
- Gabrielle Thompson

W
e
l
c
o
m
e

New Freshman

- Adkins, Ciana J
- Beasley, Tia A
- Brazziel, Adrienne K
- Brinegar, Casey J
- DelCampo, Shania D
- Demello, Justin X
- Depriest, Zachary T
- Fair, Matthew J
- Fish, Jessica C
- Fornshell, Jennifer E
- Garza, Juan M
- Grimm, Elizabeth M
- Haddock, Lillian C
- Harmon, Raven C
- Harper, Brady A
- Hellervik, Alexander S
- Hughes, Stephen T
- Kee, Lauren E
- Laney, Brandi L
- Mackay, Samia Y
- Mayfield, Greg H
- Meyers, Jennifer G
- Zabdielys Mikasobe
- Mims, Jalen R
- Mona, Larisa G
- Myhre, Jacob J
- Newton, Roseanna J
- Owens, Blake E
- Peterson, Thomas B
- Pruitt, Khamecia S
- Rappa, Joseph B
- Reid, Katherine A
- Roberts, Britt J
- Rochelle-Penman, Loreal

New Transfer

- Arnold, Benjamin K
- Brazziel, Adrienne K
- Carter, Kendall B
- Chavez, Ilse M
- Cross, Kimora R
- Denman, Sara E
- Edogun, Remilekun A
- Gallardo, Joanna K
- Glass, Tanner L
- Greene, Brady C
- Hellervik, Alexander S
- Holland-Arnold, Angelica
- Johnson, Alaina K
- Johnson, Brandon D
- Larocca, Dylan T
- Lee, Poppy L
- Lowry, Dallas W
- Martin, Thomas
- Mendez, Yorlenny
- Micillo, Crystal L
- Moyers, Erin L
- Novembre, Christela
- Pack, Hannah
- Reed, Jonathan D
- Kenya Renner
- Roberson, Kristopher W
- Turner, Carson M
- Walker, Bonnie
- Welch, Colby L

**New Accelerated Bachelor to Masters
(ABM) Program**

- ◆ Mahmood Ahmed
- ◆ Melville Arueyingho
- ◆ Frequenet Demise
- ◆ Joseph Kennedy
- ◆ Kathleine Stubblefield

**New Master's Degree
Students**

- ◆ Kylie Putnal (BA Auburn University)
- ◆ Giulia Squadrin (B.A. Universita Ca'Foscari Venezia, Italy)
- ◆ Kevin Doremus (B.A. Bryan College)



UPCOMING Events during Fall Semester

- **New Student Orientation, August 28 at 1:00**
- **Constitution Day, September 17**
- **“Does Justice Matter? Foreign Direct Investment, Poverty & the Environment” with visiting scholar, Timothy Ehresman — Sept. 30 at 2:20**
- **“Impact of Culture on Negotiations” LTG Huber — date TBD**
- **LSAT Practice Test and Prep Session — October 17 & 21**
- **Night at the Predators — October 22 vs. Anaheim Ducks (College Night)**
- **Mid-term Election Pre-game Show with Kent Syler and Class — Nov. 10**



POLITICAL SCIENCE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Group Study Break ...

Night at the Predators

NASHVILLE PREDATORS
vs Anaheim Ducks
Thursday (College Rush Night)
October 22, 7:00 pm

\$20 per ticket

Sign up and pay in the Main Office (Peck Hall 209) by October 6

The official sport of the Department of Political Science and International Relations

Department of Political Science and International Relations presents...

LSAT Practice Test & Prep Session

Practice Test
Saturday, October 17, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Peck Hall 205

Prep Session
Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Peck Hall 211

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Pre-register in Room 209 or by email to stephen.morris@mtsu.edu

The **Practice Test** will be a fully structured and timed administration of a practice version of an actual test. All rules that apply during the test will be in effect. You should arrive **no later than 8:00**. No one will be admitted into the room once the test begins.

The **Prep Session** will review the structure and format of the test, describe the rules on taking the test, and explore different strategies for the various sections. It will build on your results from the Practice Test.

Preparing to take the LSAT in the near future?

Please announce to class...

The Department of Political Science & International Relations and the Master's Degree program in International Affairs

Presents...



“DOES JUSTICE MATTER? FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT”

Dr. Timothy Ehresman
MTSU Visiting Scholar



Wednesday, September 30
2:20 pm
Peck Hall Room 215

“The Impact of Culture on Negotiations”

Special presentation by Lieutenant General (Retired) Keith M. Huber


Date/Time TBD
(see announcements)

Professor Kent Syler presents...

Mid-term Election Pre-Game Show

November 10, 6:30,
Ingram Bldg.
look for announcement

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

<p>Majors (Fall 2015)</p> <p>Pre-Law 146 General Focus 74 International Relations 74 Public Adm. 19 Teaching Licensure 6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">319</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*New Freshman Majors 34</i> <i>*New Transfer Students 30</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Minors (Fall 2015)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Political Science 109 International Relations 27 Paralegal 20 Political & Civic Engagement 11 Public Administration 10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">(Fall 2015)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Accelerated Bachelor to Masters Program</u> — 5 <u>Masters in International Affairs</u> — 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Graduates (2014-15)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">65 (BA / BS Political Science) 17 (BS in International Relations) 5 (MA in International Affairs)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  89 </div>																		
<p>2014-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 167 classes enrolling 2,058 students ◆ 44 sections of the general education courses PS 1005 and PS 1010; ◆ 61 internships totaling 291 credit hours, including the Washington Center program and the Legislative internship program; ◆ Total of 6,563 credit hours for fall and spring; 	<p>Major Field Test 2014-15 IR 518; PS 538 (<i>500 is the benchmark</i>) Overall (PS and IR combined by area (n=80))</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="860 924 1461 1218"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Score</th> <th>% 'ile</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>American studies</td> <td>479</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International/Comp. Pol.</td> <td>506</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Administration</td> <td>550</td> <td>69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Normative/Empirical Theory</td> <td>530</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OVERALL</td> <td>527</td> <td>61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>With this result the Department has received the Annual Performance Award yet again.</i></p>	Area	Score	% 'ile	American studies	479	42	International/Comp. Pol.	506	52	Public Administration	550	69	Normative/Empirical Theory	530	62	OVERALL	527	61
Area	Score	% 'ile																	
American studies	479	42																	
International/Comp. Pol.	506	52																	
Public Administration	550	69																	
Normative/Empirical Theory	530	62																	
OVERALL	527	61																	

Virtual Mentoring Program

Get advice from those who have come through the program before you!

They have all sat where you sit now and survived. They have taken many of the same classes, probably had some of the same professors, struggled with some of the same challenges, graduated, and today work in a wide range of fields.

They have all VOLUNTEERED to serve as virtual mentors to our current students. They are more than happy to hear from you and offer professional or even personal advice, share their thoughts about career choices and opportunities, or even share stories about their times in Peck Hall and MTSU.



Just Click on:
<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/virtualmentoring.php> (or follow the link on our webpage) for a list of alumni, grouped by profession, with email addresses. Send them an email. They would be glad to hear from you.

Students in the News

050-49-549300

Student Award Recipients 2014-15

- **Davis Thompson** (Norman L. Parks Award)
- **Yerlyn Castro-Vargas** (C. C. Sims Award)
- **Mark Naifeh** (John W. Burgess Award)
- **Jeffrey Laudieri** and **Tandra Martin** (Jack Justin Turner Award in International Relations)

Meritorious Service Awards

- *Mock Trial* -- Clark Palombo, Davis Thompson
- *Moot Court* – Clark Palombo, Davis Thompson, Nural Deen, and Joe Kidd
- *Model UN* – Lisa Stark



David Carleton (College of Liberal Arts Student Success Award), Yerlyn Castro-Vargas, Nissi Monseque (Sims Award recipient), Davis Thompson, and Clark Palombo

Caitlin Henderson (IR) received the prestigious Critical Language Scholarship, a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, to study Chinese at the Beijing Language and Culture University over the summer.

The Tennessee Lobbyists Association offers scholarship opportunities to Legislative interns. This year, **Erin Gardner** was awarded the George Oliver Benton Scholarship (\$600) and **Agnes Porter** was awarded both the George Oliver Benton Scholarship (\$600) and the Senator Carl O. Koella Scholarship (\$600).

Emiliya Mailyan presented her research “Why are some United Nations Peacekeeping Operations more Successful than Others?” at Scholars Week. Because of the quality of her proposal, she was invited by the Organizing Committee to submit her paper to JEWLScholar, the institutional repository of MTSU.

Department Scholarships
2015-16

- Jodi Shockney** – Jane Henegar Duke Scholarship
- Molly Gray** – James C. Free Scholarship
- Cole Hodge** – Jo Ann Arnold Scholarship
- March Redd** – Norman L. Parks Scholarship
- Brayden Hunter** – Charles R. Ray Scholarship (Freshman 2015)
- Joseph Kennedy** and **Kayla McCrary** – Harry J. Horne Scholarship

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.

Departmental News

Department gets a new name

We are now... The Department of Political Science
and International Relations



Intro courses get new titles

PS 1005 is now
“Introduction to American Politics”

PS 1010 is now
“Introduction to Global Politics”

TWO NEW COURSES

PS 2000 (1 credit hour) Political Science and International Relations as a Profession. This course will provide students with practical information on career planning and development, including potential careers in law, graduate school and research, government, policy analysis, political campaign management, lobbying, and non-profit management.
required of new majors.

will be taught online in the spring for the first time

PS 3270 NGOs and Non-Profits (3 credit hours). Key topics and issues surrounding the political environment and competing pressures that international non-governmental organizations and domestic non-profits confront. Formal readings paired with discussions from practitioners in the field and hands-on professional exercises.

Revised requirements for the MINOR in POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (POCE)

CORE COURSES. Two (6 hours) of the following courses:

- * PS 1005 Intro to American Politics (non PS majors only)
- * PS 3270: NGO's and Non-Profits
- * PS 3550: Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy
- * PS 3430: Political Campaign Management

POLITICAL/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COURSES. 12 credit hours from the following (note that most courses may be repeated for credit. Also, several 3 hour internships with different experiences are more valuable than one or two 6 hour internships—discuss this with the Department internship coordinator)

- PS 4290: Public Service Internship (1-12 cr) *
- PS 4270: Political Campaign Internship (1-6 cr) *
- PS 3780: Study Abroad (3-6 cr)
- PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 cr)
- PS 4040: Pre-Law Internship (3cr) *
- PS 4280: The Washington Experience (12 cr) *
- PS 4360: Legislative Internship (12cr) *
- EXL 2030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3 cr)
- EXL 3030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3cr)
- EXL 3020: Leadership Studies Practicum (1-3 cr)
- EXL 4000: EXL Seminar (1 cr)
- PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure (1 cr)
- PS 2110: Moot Court (1 cr)
- PS 2120: Mediation Procedure (1 cr)
- PS 2130: Model United Nations/Crisis Simulation (1 cr)

*** a maximum of 6 hours for any one of these internships may be counted toward the minor (if the internship is for 9 or 12 hours, it may be possible to apply the additional hours to your major—discuss this with your faculty adviser)**

New...

Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations

Students now have the option of pursuing a Bachelor of Science (B.S) (two minors) or Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) (one minor + foreign language) degree.



Departmental News

Revised requirements for the TEACHING LICENSURE Program

PS 1010 – Introduction to Global Politics

PS 3210 – International Relations

PS 3220 – Comparative Politics

Three of the following:

PS 3050 – Presidency

PS 3060 – U.S. Congress

PS 3330 – Political Parties

PS 3370 – Constitutional Law I

One of the following (PS 4700 is highly recommended):

PS 4230 – Classical Political Theory

PS 4700 – American Political Theory

PS 4920 – Modern Political Thought

PS 4930 – Contemporary Political Philosophy

12 Hours of PS Electives



Events from Spring 2015

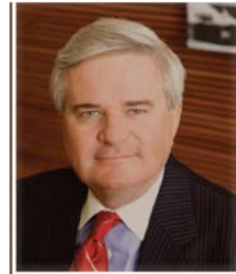
Poster Session PS 3001

Students in spring section of Research Methods displayed their research posters.



Essex Practitioner Roundtable April 9, 2015

featured Michael Dagley, Attorney at Law. Drawing on 33 year track record of success in high-stakes litigation across numerous industries, Mr. Dagley shared with students in a very frank and open discussion about the inner workings and challenges of corporate law.



Alumni Day speaker **Larry Harrington**, spoke to classes on February 24. A graduate of our International Relations program, Mr. Harrington is retired Chief Policy Deputy Attorney General for the State of Tennessee, served as U.S. Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank in Mexico from 2004 to 2008 and the U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank from 1995-2001. He is currently a Faculty affiliate, Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies



(END OF THE YEAR) SPRING PICNIC



Departmental News

ABM Program Approved and Running

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in International Affairs Accelerated Bachelors-to-Masters (ABM)

Get your bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

The **M.A. in International Affairs** seeks to prepare students for careers in an increasingly globalized world by providing a remarkable combination of analytic research and practical applications tools for employment in

- International development and relief
- International business
- International organizations such as the UN and World Bank
- Governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on global poverty alleviation, human rights, or environmental policies
- International security and peace
- Foreign policy think-tanks
- Analysis and risk management firms
- Government and foreign service
- Homeland security
- Military and intelligence services

The **ABM program** allows qualified students to double-count up to 12 graduate credit hours toward both the **B.S. in International Relations** and the **M.A. in International Affairs**.

Requirements

If you meet the requirements as a junior with GPA of at least 3.25 with two semesters of study remaining, you can

- get your master's degree in five years,
- take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework that will count toward both your undergraduate and your master's degrees, and
- avoid the expense of taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Formal application to an **ABM program** should be made upon completion of a minimum of seventy-five (75) credit hours in the undergraduate program, including Advanced Placement credits. Transfer students must have completed a minimum of two semesters as full-time students at MTSU.

Assistantships awarded on the basis of merit are available.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY.

For more information, contact
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Political Science
(615) 898-2708
www.mtsu.edu/MAIA

I AM *true* BLUE



MT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Rachel Harmon (MA International Affairs 2013) served her practicum assignment at the anti-corruption organization Mexican Transparency in Mexico City

Departmental News

Senior Survey

The Senior Survey is a large instrument with many questions. The following pulls questions used as part of the Department's institutional effectiveness report:

MTSU's Contribution to Knowledge, Skills, Personal Development

Percent selecting "Somewhat" or "Very Much"

	PS (N = 46)	IR 9	CLA 461	MTSU 2,811)
Q19 Applying scientific methods of inquiry	76	67	58	71
Q22 Developing tolerance for divergent views	80	89	85	82
Q23 Understanding of diverse cultures and values	89	89	90	83
Q26 Appreciating racial and sexual equality	67	78	81	73

Major Degree Program

Percent selecting "Good" or "Excellent"

Q59 Content of courses in major	96	100	93	91
Q60 Availability of courses in major	80	89	77	72
Q62 Quality of instruction in major	89	78	91	85
Q64 Academic advising by faculty advisor	83	44	80	72
Q74 Opportunity to apply what was learned in classroom	83	78	88	83
Q76 Quality of courses in preparing for employment	74	50	75	76

Need some help?

**The Department offers free TUTORING
for PS 1005, PS 1010 and PS 3001**

(fixed hours and by appointment — see posting in the main office)

First floor Library tutoring area



Dr. Mario Perez-Rielly Retires

The Department held a reception to celebrate Dr. Perez-Rielly's retirement after 40 years teaching at MTSU. How many students was that? Over his career, he taught courses on research methods, Latin American politics, European politics, as well as introductory classes on American politics and Foundations of government.



INTERNSHIP Experiences

PS 4270: Public Service Internship

Davis Thompson

White House Intern

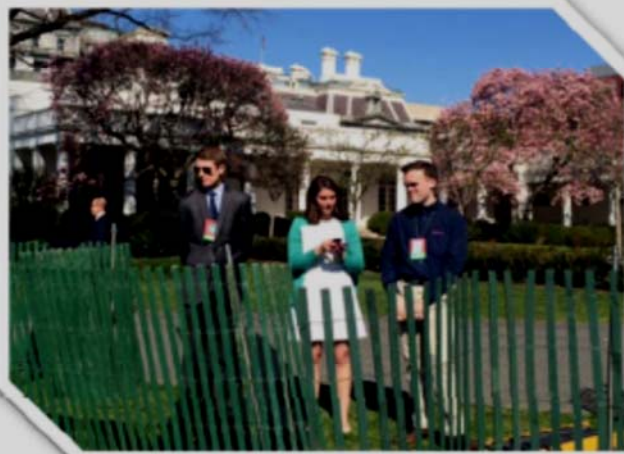
Office of First Lady Michelle Obama

Major: Political Science, Pre-Law

Year: Class of 2015

Career Goal: Communications

My boss, Kelsey and I wrangling press at the Easter Egg Roll



Bowling at the Truman Bowling Alley

As the Press Intern for the First Lady's Office, I worked with her communications team composed of the Communications Director, Deputy Communications Director, Press Secretary, and Press Aide. Because the staff was so small, I was able to get quite a bit of hands-on experience. I drafted talking points and memos for the First Lady, monitored news for stories of interest to the office, handled press credentialing and wrangling for the First Lady's open press events, and staffed photo shoots and tapings in the White House. I took away so much from this internship and experience that it's impossible to summarize everything. The office was very fast paced and demanding but I have managed to keep up. Because of this internship, I will be better prepared for a future job in communications.



First Lady Interns before our class picture with the President

INTERNSHIP Experiences, continued

From recent interns

PS 4270: Public Service Internship

Jessica Roberts

Tennessee Democratic Party

Minor: Political Science

Year: Senior

Career Goal: I want to use my education in behavioral research and political science to increase civic engagement, and to advocate human rights.



What the organization does and What I did in my Internship:

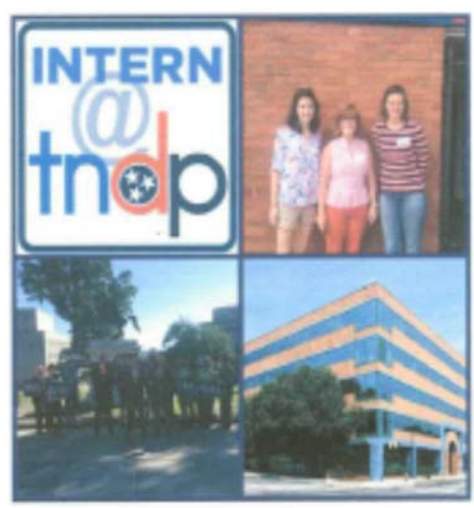
The Tennessee Democratic Party is responsible for supporting and organizing campaigns across the state. They are also responsible for supporting democratic issues.

I was a research intern at the state party. I was responsible doing all the research for an upcoming book that the Chairman of the party had been working on. The book discusses everything from the Federal Budget to Political Ideology. I was to work on each of these topics until I had exhausted the research. I was to create documents containing my research and citations for all of the sources that I had used. I also did all of the copy editing for the book once the research had gotten turned into text by my supervisor.

What I Got Out of the Experience

I gained so much hands on experience at the Tennessee Democratic Party. I learned many lessons about how important every tiny detail can be. I got to see firsthand how a state party functions during an election year.

I experienced the relationship between state party and individual candidates from both sides. I made invaluable contacts and networked with all the top politicians in Tennessee.



“I encourage everyone to take part in an internship during their college experience. You will gain an experience and knowledge that will better your education and your future.” — **Summer Jackson**, Intern, State Capitol, 2015.
* * *

“As students we yearn to know how we will utilize the things we learn in the classroom..Through this internship, I was able not only to learn in the classroom, but exercise some of the things or concepts that we learned about.”
— **Brandon Woodruff**, Intern, Lenda Sherell for Congress campaign, 2015
* * *

“During my internship, I gained knowledge on how an Information Technology Department runs, as well as established many solid connections.” — **John Mankin**, Intern, Rutherford County Office of Information Technology, 2015
* * *

“This internship helped me make the final decision regarding my choice to either attend law school or not. After working in this very progressive, I now know that I definitely would enjoy a career in law...” — **Joseph Kennedy**, Intern, Bullock, Fly, Hornsby & Evans: Attorneys at Law, 2015

INTERNSHIP Opportunities

Recent Internships with ...

- ◆ The Tennessee Legislature
- ◆ The Near East Center
- ◆ Tennessee Republican Party
- ◆ Tennessee Democratic Party
- ◆ Davidson County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- ◆ Hispanic Family Center Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families
- ◆ Catholic Charities of TN, Refugee Relief Services
- ◆ National Council of La Raza
- ◆ USV International Village, in Colorado
- ◆ The Nashville International Center for Empowerment
- ◆ Nashville Conflict Resolution Center,
- ◆ Chamber of Commerce, Nashville
- ◆ June Anderson Women's Center
- ◆ Project Vote Smart
- ◆ Department of Education, State of TN
- ◆ Human Rights Commission, State of TN
- ◆ Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk

"The idea of working on Capitol Hill never crossed my mind until the MTSU political science department sent out an email encouraging students to apply for Representative Scott Desjarlais' Washington office. I've always found policy making and political power intriguing, and I am also a C-SPAN nut, so I immediately was drawn to the opportunity and decided to increase my chances by applying to both Congressman Desjarlais' and Congressman Black's offices. ..." [Rachel Islam, who interned this past summer in DC for Representative Diane Black]

SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD

Do you want a job when you graduate?

Do you want to gain real world professional work experience?

Then you need to do at least one internship as part of your college coursework. Employers in business, government agencies, and non-profits all report that they are more likely to hire people with professional work experience or internships on their resume. In a competitive job market, giving yourself the edge may be all that it takes for YOU to land the job over someone else with similar grades, similar major, and similar background. And SUMMER is a great time to do an internship – you have more flexible time and the weather makes getting to and from the internship easier.

The Political Science Department offers several different internships to meet your needs:

PS 4270 is for work with non-profits, interest groups, political parties, candidates for election to public office, and any sort of group that is trying to make a positive difference in the world. There are MANY of these groups in the Nashville and Murfreesboro and surrounding Middle TN area just begging for an intern for this summer! Also, if you want to live at home this summer –whether that is in Memphis, East TN or any place on the planet, we can give you internship credit if you volunteer at a suitable organization. See this list <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf> or Prof. Langenbach for details.

PS 4290 is for work with any government agency – national government in Washington or national agencies that are located in Nashville, or with any State of TN offices or with any state's government, or any local government- city, town, or county. Examples include State Department of Education or Finance, city water or planning or zoning departments, police and Homeland Security, Judges and Courts, and many more. See this list <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/documents/Internship%20List%20of%20Opportunities%202013.pdf> or Prof. Langenbach for details.

It is not too late to add an internship (or two!) to your schedule. You can get **3 or 6 credits that count toward a PS major or minor, or an IR major or minor**. These credits are **graded**, and thus may help boost your gpa as well. You may earn up to 12 credits from internship that count toward graduation, and the new minor in Political and Civic Engagement urges internship participation as well. Every 120 hours of work equals 3 upper division credits and it gives you a valuable line on your resume and a step up toward landing that ideal job when you graduate!

Pick up a copy of the Guidelines for PS 4270 or PS 4290 internship forms that are available on the rack of Upper Division Forms in the PS offices or at <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/politicalintern.shtml> and at <http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/publicintern.shtml>

Find an internship where you would be interested in spending some time, call them, arrange an interview, when they offer you the job/internship, you fill out the Application Form and give it to Prof. Langenbach or leave it in her Dept mailbox in the PS main office before May 3 (after May 3, do it by email).

Contact Prof. Langenbach for more information and to register for an internship. Lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu



**Intern in Washington, D.C.
For a semester during the
2015-16 academic year**

The Tennessee Board of Regents will be offering six scholarships for MTSU students to work and study in Washington, D.C. for a semester during the Spring 2015 or Summer 2015 terms.

The internship is run through **The Washington Center**, a long-standing non-profit organization that supervises hundreds of interns in Washington every semester. Students are placed in an internship based on their career goals four days a week, and attend a seminar course related to their internship topic the remaining day. Students thus earn 12 hours of internship credit and 3 hours of seminar course credit. Throughout the semester, students also have the opportunity to meet and attend talks by elected officials, political reporters, campaign consultants, and so on. Students may stay in either Washington Center housing or private housing.

Scholarship Amount: The TBR scholarships are designed to cover the difference in costs between a semester here at MTSU and the semester in Washington.

Requirements:

- ◆ junior or senior the semester you will be in DC
- ◆ GPA of at least 3.0
- ◆ ALL MAJORS ARE WELCOME
- ◆ have a real interest in some aspect of public affairs

For Application Materials Visit

<http://www.twc.edu/internships/washington-dc-programs/how-to-apply>

(Save an electronic copy and submit a paper copy of all the application materials to Dr. Carleton by **October 1**).

**For more information,
contact:**

Dr. David Carleton
Department of Political Science and International Relations
Peck Hall 245 / 898-5461
david.carleton@mtsu.edu

**Intern at the Tennessee General
Assembly in Spring 2016**

Full-time, paid, credit-bearing positions



Eligibility: Applicants for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program must be enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in degree programs. Many applicants major in political science, history, public relations, social work, economics, sociology, or journalism, but students in any major are welcome to apply. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

Term: For the 2015 session, interns will work from January 12 until May 1. (The appointment period will not be coterminous with the semester calendar, and school holidays such as spring break are not observed.)

Stipend: A stipend of \$350 per week will be paid to each intern, plus reimbursement for travel at the rate of 47 cents per mile for one round-trip per month between MTSU and Nashville. A one-time advance payment of \$350 will also be granted to each intern to help with start-up and/or relocation expenses.

Academic Credit: 12 hours of academic credit will be granted by the Department of Political Science and International Relations for participation in the this program.

Duties: Interns will be assigned to work in legislative leadership offices and committees at the Legislative Plaza in Nashville from 8:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. Duties will vary from office to office, but will likely include bill analysis, constituent work, online and library research, and general office work.

Other Requirements: Interns are expected to attend weekly intern meetings, usually held on Fridays. Past speakers have included the governor, the state Attorney General, state supreme court justices, and the Tennessee Constitutional Officers. Interns also have the opportunity to tour Riverbend maximum-security prison, the State Capitol, and the Bicentennial Mall. Other activities have included a visit to the Tennessee Supreme Court, mock legislative session, and playing the legislators in basketball and softball.

Application Procedures: Interested students should contact the official faculty representative listed below for additional information and application materials. **October 10, 2015** is the deadline for completed applications to be returned.

Dr. David Carleton
Peck Hall 245
David.carleton@mtsu.edu
615-898-5461

Learn more about the Tennessee General Assembly at www.capitol.tn.gov

Mock Trial

This past spring, MTSU's Mock Trial Teams finished off another competitive season. In February, MTSU sent two teams to their Regional Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. The A team clinched a spot for the Open Round Championship Series in Memphis this past March with a victory over Vanderbilt University, and finished 7th overall. Clark Palombo and Jessica Shotwell also took home individual outstanding attorney awards.



The MTSU A team went on the compete at ORCS, where it was captained by Clark Palombo and Cole Hodge. Unfortunately, though MTSU had a good tournament, the team failed to make it to Nationals. Nonetheless, the program capped another year of overall excellence, and returns an abundance of talent and experience. This makes Mock Trial President Cole Hodge say, "Watch out for us next year!"



MTSU Society for International Affairs

The MTSU Society for International Affairs, more fondly referred to as Model United Nations, is a student organization in the Political Science and International Relations. Spring 2015 the organization traveled to compete in two conferences. One hosted by Berkeley in San Francisco and the other at Emory in Atlanta. Delegate Casey Lawhorn earned a verbal commendation at Emory in his committee for his hard work as a representative in the Kingdom of Jordan.



This semester the organization is excited to start off the year with fresh new faces and prospects of more competition. We hope to travel to Ithaca, NY for the Cornell International Affairs Conference



STUDY ABROAD REPORTS

ISRAEL Study Abroad 2015



At the Knesset, Israel's national legislature.

[Holly Aslinger](#) and [Kendra Flores](#).

Dr. Byrnes and Dr. Petersen made their third annual study abroad trip to Israel this summer, traveling with sixteen students and alumni. They spent several days in northern Israel exploring the Galilee area and the Golan Heights, learning about the geopolitics and history of Israel. While in the north, they saw the Lebanese and Syrian border areas and discussed the ongoing conflict with Hezbollah, the Syrian civil war, and the future of the border region. After a brief stay in the desert, including a visit to Masada and the Dead Sea, they traveled to Jerusalem. In addition to visiting the major sites in that city the group toured the Knesset and met with a representative of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a briefing on the agreement with Iran. Each year, the students who travel to Israel come back amazed by the amount they learn and how different Israel is from the typical presentation in classrooms and in the media.

Students from a variety of majors visit Israel, and the course credit can be applied to several majors and minors at MTSU. For information about the Israel trip, visit www.mtsu.edu/israel or stop by Todd Hall 231.

"The Israel trip is especially important because it's a very valuable opportunity to safely go to the Middle East and dip your toes into the culture, and as for the class, you gain so much perspective about a situation that will never be properly portrayed in the media. Additionally, it is extremely important to acknowledge that not everyone uses the same logic, and that the problems that Israel faces cannot be addressed by the logic that Western politicians and reporters would like to apply to them. The Israel trip is unique in that not only is it an incredibly valuable opportunity to learn about politics in a setting that is radically different from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, but it is an ongoing history lesson in one of the most religiously and politically significant countries in the world, and for many, it is a pilgrimage." — Holly A

This was an amazing trip, and I was completely surprised at the sheer volume of knowledge and experiences that can be gained in ten days. I would recommend it to anyone because it really is an interdisciplinary experience. I can see it being applicable to a huge variety of majors and it was an extremely valuable opportunity for me." — Rhi B.:

STUDY ABROAD

Study Abroad in CUBA this Winter
Tentative dates January 4-12

Join Drs. Cheney in Global Studies and Morris (PS & IR) for a spring semester STUDY ABROAD to CUBA.

3 credit hour course in GS/ PS focusing on CUBA in the 21st CENTURY. Extensive field trips, meetings, talks, etc.

Look for details (costs) and registration information soon.



National Fellowships

For Overseas Study

Boren — language training, interest in government; GPA 3.5 — up to \$20,000 to study abroad — Deadline: February

Critical Language Scholarship — Language training in 13 underrepresented languages (Arabic, Azerbaijan, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, Urdu — Deadline: November

Fulbright — research or teaching opportunities overseas; recommended 3.5 GPA; apply junior year of after — Internal Deadline: September

Gilman — study abroad funds for students with Pell Grant — Deadline: varies by semester

Marshall or Rhodes — graduate school study in the UK; GPA 3.7 or higher — Deadline: Early September.

Service Oriented Scholarship

Humanity in Action — summer fellowships for those interested in human rights issues

Truman — funding for graduate school for students interested in public service

Udall — environmental scholarships

For more information on these and other national fellowships, talk to your professors, see me, or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/ufo



Promoting Student Research

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 - The celebration culminated in a University-wide showcase of posters, multimedia, and performance.

For more information, visit: 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.

Why should an undergraduate do research?

- * Nurtures your curiosity
- * Integrates coursework through 'hands-on' projects
- * Creates independence
- * Resume-builder
- * Great preparation for graduate school, where a main goal is a research project
- * Develops 'soft skills' important for entering into and succeeding in the job market

MTSU's Undergraduate Research Center is an umbrella organization at MTSU, created in 2004 to promote research at the undergraduate level to students, faculty, administrators, and legislators, and to provide university support for undergraduate students and the faculty members who mentor them in scholarly and creative activities. Their web site contains information on grants, <http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/index.shtml>

Faculty Updates/News

Faculty Awards

Dr. Carleton received the College of Liberal Arts Student Success Award.



Service

Faculty continued to provide extensive service to the institution, the local community, and the profession. **Lisa Langenbach** serves as an Online Faculty Mentor, RODP master course developer, and on the Online Faculty Committee; **David Carleton** made a presentation to the new Faculty Learning Community on Citizenship this past spring and served on the college's SWOT committee, and the Distinguished Lecture Funds Committee; **Sekou Franklin** and **Robb McDaniel**'s served on the Faculty Senate. Service to the community last year included presentations by **Sekou Franklin** to the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship in Nashville, the Davidson County Democratic Party Executive Committee, the L-Club in Nashville, and the State Convention of the Tennessee NAACP; **Steven Livingston**'s service as an advisor/consultant to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's International Business (Division of Trade), and the Office of Business Enterprise (BERO) ECD International Division; and **Zhen Wang**'s mentoring a Central Magnet School thesis and participating in MTSU's delegation to the Consulate-General of Japan at Nashville. Also within the local community, **Kent Syler** continued as the public face of the department, appearing numerous times on local news stations including: *WTVF Morning Line*, *WTVF Open Line*, *WTVF Inside Politics*, and *WGNS The Truman Show*. He was also quoted in or on: *The Tennessean*, *Daily News Journal*, *WGNS*, *WMOT*, *WSM*, *WTVF*, and the *Murfreesboro Post*. In service to the profession, **Andrei Korobkov**'s continued his work on the project "The Russian Academic Diaspora Abroad," **John Maynor** serves on the editorial board of *Contemporary Political Theory*, **Moses Tesi** is editor of the *Journal of African Policy Studies*, **Stephen Morris** is on the editorial board of *The Latin Americanist* and the webmaster for the South-eastern Council of Latin American Studies.

Research

In the area of research, Department faculty presented scholarly work at 18 academic conferences last year, including meetings of the American Society for Public Administration, the American Political Science Association, the International Studies Association, the African Studies Association, the Asian Studies Association, and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, among others. Faculty publications include "Strategic Forum Selection and Compliance in Interstate Dispute Resolution" by **Vanessa Lefler**, published in the journal *Conflict Management and Peace Science*; two articles on migration by **Andrei Korobkov** published in peer review journals in Russia; a book chapter by **Sekou Franklin** entitled, "Race, class and green jobs in low-income communities in the US: challenges for community development" published in *Class, Inequality and Community Development*; a book chapter by **Steven Livingston** entitled "Understanding and Analyzing International Competitiveness," published in a book by the same name; two book chapters by **John Maynor**: "Should Republican Liberty as Non-domination Be Outsourced?" in *Domination across Borders* and "Transnational Republicanism: A Challenge Too Far" in *Confronting Perspectives: Political or Philosophical Grounds for Constitutional Law*; and the chapter "Watching the Defectives: Identity, Invisibility, and What the Squib Saw" by soon to appear in the edited volume entitled *Harry Potter for Nerds II*. In addition, as editor of the journal *Global Commerce*, Livingston authored the lead articles for the four issues that appeared during the year, and **Moses Tesi** submitted a book manuscript entitled *Cameroon's Foreign Policy: Relations with France, Francophone Africa and Nigeria*.

Dr. Korobkov at BRICS conference in Makhuri, Japan



Alumni Updates/News

Sam Edwards (1972) is the executive director and chief legal counsel of the Greater Nashville Regional Council. After graduating from MTSU, Edwards went on to obtain a master's degree



from UT and a law degree from the Nashville School of Law. Last year he was awarded the "Joseph I. Mulligan, Jr. Distinguished Public Service Award" by the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA): a non-profit organization of US and Canadian city and county attorneys.

Elaine Eisinger is assistant to the Sr. Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Justice Division of the Attorney General's Office. She also plans on starting at Nashville School of Law this fall.

Abbi Burgess is Legislative Assistant and Correspondence Manager for U.S. House of Representative Crawford (AR-01). In this role, she handles several policy issues, specifically education, defense, telecommunications, taxation, science and technology, postal service, and national parks, analyzing legislation and letters as well as providing recommendations, and working on legislative solutions. In order to keep the Congressman as informed as possible, she frequently meets with constituents and industry leaders about their concerns while they are in Washington, D.C.

Whitney Flatt (below) recently completed her assignment in Tanzania as Project Coordinator for the Bungu Project.



Sara Regen, who just graduated in August, and has accepted a teaching position next year in Kurdistan.

Beginning this fall, **Nathan Ives** will begin work on a M.A. with a concentration in International Economics and South East Asia at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University.

Patrick H. Wright (2012) is working with the Florida Conservation Corps to control nonnative plant life in the state parks. He is stationed at Jonathan Dickerson State Park and travels around the state.



This past spring, **Joey Meyer** completed his first year of graduate school at the Elliott School of International Studies at George Washington University. Several of his classes, he notes, are taught by current and former State Department officials and generally focused on building concrete policy proposals for complex situations like Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan. He points out that his experiences with Model UN provided him with some great resources to excel in this style of class. "It was also useful to have career advice from the practitioners teaching our classes. However, (as I expected), most practitioners are not the greatest professors, so there was a balance of great content with not-so-great teaching. That being said, I feel that I gained quite a bit from these courses. On the other hand, I have also had courses that take a more theoretical approach to things, including a very timely class on emergent nationalism in the former Soviet Union that was added this semester in light of the events in Ukraine. The Elliott School provides so many opportunities to attend talks and panel discussions from some of the leading researchers in my areas of interest, so that's been a real treat." **Meyer** has been working for the Department of Justice in the Office of the Inspector General as well as the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Last year, **Meyer** received the Dean's Distinguished Essay Award for his thesis from *Scientia et Humanitas* at MTSU.

Megan Moore (IR, 2011) is currently a domestic violence victim advocate at the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center of the Nashville Metro Government. As an advocate, she helps victims navigate through the judicial process, connect with the community, helps educate victims, among other responsibilities. She is working on an on-line masters degree on international development at Saint Mary's University and applying for graduate programs in London focusing on gender, violence and development.

Antwain Leach (2007) is a third-year doctoral student in Political Science at Ole Miss. His major field is American Politics and minor field is International Relations. He expects to complete his dissertation by next fall. He holds a Master's in Public Administration from Murray State University.

Alumni Updates/News, continued...

Updates from graduates of the graduate program

This fall, **Clay Francis** will start a Ph.D. program in Leadership and Policy Studies at Vanderbilt.

Patrick Pratt completed his initial training for the U.S. Foreign Service and has been assigned to the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy Bamako starting in June next year. He continues his training in DC until then.



At swearing –in ceremony with Dr. Petersen.

The MA Program began in 2012 and graduated its first student in 2013.

John Peters is Counter-Nuclear Proliferation Officer for the Joint Task Force Civil Support at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.

After working as the Administrative Director of Free for Life International, FFLI -- a small NGO committed to fighting human trafficking – **Rachel Harmon** is beginning a PhD program at Emory University focusing on Comparative Politics and International Relations. Her research agenda explores how women and disempowered populations are impacted by violent conflict and political corruption, and how NGOs can best address those issues during conflict and during reconstruction periods.



Gabrielle Thompson is Executive Director of Free for Life International here in Nashville. The NGO is committed to fighting human trafficking and works closely with organizations in Nepal.



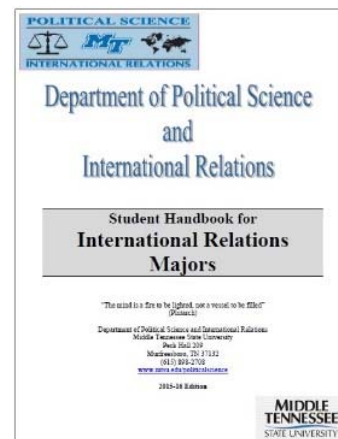
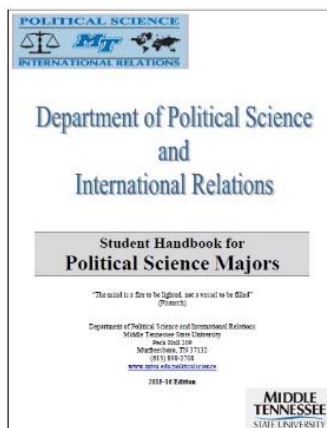
Cassie Smith is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics here at MTSU and teaching PS 1010 Introduction to Global Politics as an adjunct for the department.

Paige Kaufelt an International Client Liaison and contracted Sales Team Coordinator for Three Chimneys Farm. She lives in Killeen, Texas.

Scholarships/ Awards / Donations.

The Department awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to students for the upcoming 2015-15 year. In the spring, the Department recognized student achievement, presenting four major award (Norman L. Parks, C.C. Sims, John W. Burgess, and Jack Justin Turner awards) and five meritorious awards for students performance in Mock Trial, Moot Court, the Model UN, and within the Department. And over the course of the year, the Department received over \$8,000 in donations to various Department and Scholarship funds held by the Foundation.

**Student Handbooks
PS and IR Majors New 2015 Edition**





Stay Informed Stay Connected



Students who are the most successful—in their courses, graduating on time, finding jobs and developing careers in the field, getting into law school and graduate school, and just getting the most out of their college years—are those that stay informed about all of the opportunities and events they can take advantage of, and stay connected to the Department and other students.

Please use these resources to both stay informed and stay connected—and succeed.

MTSU Political Science Facebook Page

We use Facebook to notify our students of upcoming events and opportunities for PS and IR majors and minors.

Please “like” the page so you are always in the loop.



(search for MTSU political science)

Department of Political Science and International Relations Web Page

This is a huge resource of information on majors, minors, program requirements, faculty contacts, the Student Handbook, Newsletters, and much more.

Please bookmark the site and check it often and whenever you have questions.

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

PS / IR Student Services Page

This site provides easy access to info on advising, law school, grad school, careers and job search, study abroad, internships, and much more to help you succeed.

Please bookmark the site and really use it to get the most out of your time in the Department.

See *Student Services Portal* tab under *Student Resources on the web* page.



Department T-shirt (\$5) and car decals (\$1) available in the office

Low-Tech, Physical Communication

Much of this information—program requirements, Student Handbook, Newsletters, upcoming events, and so on—are available on the racks and bulletin board outside the Departmental Office in Peck 209.

Department of Political Science and International Relations



STUDENT SERVICES PORTAL

Information on...

Advising, Internship, Careers, Study Abroad, Research Opportunities, and much more.

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

[http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/Political Science Newsletter, Fall 2015](http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/PoliticalScienceNewsletter,Fall2015)

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