

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR....



I am happy to present to you the very first newsletter from the Department of Political Science at the University of Memphis. It is a very exciting time for the study of political science, and I hope that through this newsletter we are able to share with you how recent developments in our department continue to make it an exciting place to be.

The department is thriving, with around 230 undergraduate majors and roughly 25 active graduate students. Our students and faculty are very accomplished and represent the department well – both in and out of the classroom. Many have served as legislative interns to members of the Tennessee State Legislature,

participated on our Mock Trial Team, joined our chapter of the national honor society Pi Sigma Alpha, and presented research at professional conferences. As a department, we have recognized the individual accomplishments of Brennan Berg, Jason Richards, and Joshua Lange, who were recipients of Political Science student awards. Due to the generosity of Dr. O.B. Harrington, we were able to award the Morris Fair Scholarship to a deserving undergraduate major. In 2004-2005, Curtis Rakestraw was our first recipient of this award; and for 2005-2006, we are pleased to award it to Larry Grimes. Our majors have also received recognition across campus, such as Brandon Gravly who is the Vice-President of the Student Government Association, Tyler Trew who received the competitive Donovan Travel Award for his study abroad in London, and Baris Kesgin who was a College of Arts and Sciences nominee for 2005 Graduate Assistant Meritorious Teaching Award.

This past year saw some major changes in our faculty. Dr. Matthias Kaelberer, whose research and teaching emphasis is in Comparative Politics and International

Political Economy, joined us last fall. Two of our long-time faculty members, Dr. Bill Marty and Dr. Carole Southerland, retired. Through the years, both made many contributions to the education of our majors and they are missed. We also have the pleasure of having welcomed two new faculty members this fall. Dr. Mary Anderson, a specialist in American politics, and Dr. David Richards, a specialist in Comparative Politics, are already making a big splash with our graduate and undergraduate students alike.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the activities and accomplishments of the Political Science department. We are very proud of our alums, and would very much like to hear from you. I encourage you to share with us news about what you are doing now, and to let us know if you would like to be involved in supporting your Department of Political Science.

Cordially,

Shannon Lindsey Blanton
Department Chair
Dr. Shannon Blanton

THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIPS

Eighteen University of Memphis students were chosen as interns to the Tennessee General Assembly for the Spring 2005 semester. Two, Chris Bell and Matt Mitchell, were chosen as State Interns for this year's session; the remaining sixteen were named through the University's Legislative Internship Program. University interns, which include majors from Political Science as well as other departments, were Alysha Bird, Jenifer Bronars, Kristen Lurry, Brenda Carter, Jon Stanford,

Neil Umsted, Andrew Drake, Sarah Harris, Samantha Birdsong, Natasha Davis, Jolian Collins, Leah Morrow, Jennifer Adams, Lashinda Hyde-Thompson, Deborah Hodges, and Rachel Hammons.

Interns in both programs gained experience in the legislative process by working for one or more of the 23 members of the Shelby County delegation to the General Assembly.

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CONSTITUTION DAY

The federal government has mandated that institutions receiving federal funds celebrate Constitution Day. The department played a leading role in organizing this year's events. Several faculty participated in a forum on September 14th and there was a film showing on September 15th. Many of our students attended the events. Additionally, professors in American Government and American History dedicated time during that week to discuss the U.S. Constitution in their classes.

MOCK TRIAL

The University Mock Trial Team participated in two national tournaments during the Spring 2005 semester. The team, which is sponsored by the Department of Political Science, competes annually against colleges and universities from around the country in the American Mock Trial Association AMTA event.

Teams from competing schools are scored on their ability to present a civil or criminal case before a panel of judges that may consist of attorneys, educators, or judges from trial or appellate courts. The 2004 case was a civil lawsuit involving allegations of negligence.

The team, which consists of students from Political Science and other departments across the University, was chosen last fall after students competing for team membership had completed Political Science 4709. Members of this year's team were Jason Richards, Laura Fowler, Mitzi Garrett, Pat Schnippert, Jason Hillner, Pila Sunderland, Erick Ranta, Anna McDermott, Bryan Meredith, and Oliver Everett.

In the AMTA Regional Competition, held in Birmingham in late February, the University team finished sixth. The Mid-South Regional hosted twenty teams at this competition from all over the Southeastern U.S.; this finish allowed the team to obtain an invitation to the National Tournament.

In March, the team traveled to the National Tournament, held at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. There, the team competed against approximately forty other schools from throughout the eastern U.S. Despite several close competitions, the team was unable to advance to the finals in April.

In addition to working to prepare for competition, the team hosted a wine and cheese reception on March 28 at Dish Restaurant to provide financial support for team activities. The event, which was attended by team members, families, Political Science faculty, friends, and alumni, raised more than \$500 for the Mock Trial program

NEWS FROM GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



Since 1986, the University of Memphis has hosted the Governor's School for International Studies (GSIS), a residential program for talented high school students throughout the state. Traditionally, GSIS has been a four-week immersion into international issues, through such engaged learning activities as language training, international dinners and dances, simulation exercises, classroom discussions, and guest speaker sessions. Successful as these programs have been, Governor Phil Bredesen decided over the last year that he wanted these programs to be even more challenging by converting them to "for-college-credit" programs. Transforming a four-week enrichment program into a five week college-credit program posed an interesting challenge to GSIS Director Robert Blanton, an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science.

As Blanton explains, "It was basically a matter of how to work in six hours of summer classes while maintaining the 'fun' things outside of the classroom that have made the school so successful. In the end, we were able to come up with a new program that balanced these demands." Highlights of this year's GSIS included visits by Congressman Harold Ford, Jr, as well as presentations by Arun Gandhi, grandson of M.K. Gandhi and head of the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, and Dr. William Novick, CEO of the International Children's Heart Foundation.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jenifer Bronars, BA'05, started her political science MA program this fall at the University of Memphis. She is also currently an intern with Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7th District).

Max Fratoddi, BA'74, recently became President of the AMBER Alert Consortium, a public/private partnership deploying a state-by-state alert system linking law enforcement and citizens in the goal of rescuing kidnapped children. Max Fratoddi is a former FBI national security official, who served as Interim Director and FBI Program Manager for the Counterdrug Intelligence Executive Secretariat and as U.S. Advisor for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative.

Ward Huddleston, BA'05, started his Political Science MA program at the University of Memphis in the Fall of 2005.

Baris Kesgin, MA'05, started in the Political Science PhD program at the University of Kansas in the Fall of 2005.

Matt Loveless, MA'02, worked as a researcher at the Mannheim Center for European Social Research in the European Election Studies 2004 project during 2004/05. He defended his dissertation at Indiana University in July 2005 and works now as a research statistician with the Department of Justice.

Maria Trif, MA'02, is currently working at Thomas and Betts, an international electronic manufacturing company.

Alumni – we would like to hear from you!

Please drop us a note at:
tpettis@memphis.edu

NEW FACULTY IN 2004

The department welcomed two new faculty members in 2004:

Dr. Matthias Kaelberer is Associate Professor with the department. He earned his PhD from Princeton University in 1997 and previously worked at Iowa State University. His research interests concern international political economy and Western European politics. He has published a book and numerous articles on various aspects of European monetary cooperation. Dr. Kaelberer teaches classes in the areas of international relations and comparative politics.



The department also welcomed **Timothy Russell** as an instructor in the fall of 2004. Mr. Russell received his MA from Seton Hall University in 2002 and is working on his dissertation and expects to receive his PhD from the University of Mississippi in 2006. Mr. Russell teaches Theories of International Relations, Scopes and Methods of Political Science, and International Conflict.

NEW FACULTY IN 2005

Three new members joined the department in the fall of 2005:

Dr. Mary Anderson will be an Assistant Professor with the department. She earned her PhD from Florida State in 2005. Dr. Anderson's interests include political behavior, American Government, and state and local politics. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate classes in American politics and research methods.

Dr. David L. Richards is also joining the department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Richards previously worked at ETS at Princeton. He received his PhD from Binghamton University in 1999. His research interests include human rights, international law, globalization, and American government. He teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in Comparative Politics and research methods.

Pam Proietti joined the department as an instructor. She teaches classes in political theory and legal thought. Ms. Proietti has been an adjunct instructor with the department for a number of years and previously worked as an Assistant Professor at Saint John's College. She did her graduate work at Boston College. Ms. Proietti has recently published two book reviews in *The Review of Metaphysics*.

SAYING GOODBYE....

Two of our long time faculty left us at the end of Spring 2005:

Dr. Carole Southerland retired after 30 years of teaching. She taught classes in public policy and administration. Dr. Southerland also served as coordinator for the department honors program.

Dr. Bill Marty retired after 40 years of teaching. He taught classes in political theory and served the department and University in numerous functions. Dr. Marty and his wife relocated to Washington state to be near family.

The department was pleased to host Ambassador **Mary C. Pendleton**, Diplomat in Residence for the past year. Ambassador Pendleton had a distinguished diplomatic career with the State Department. She served as the first U.S. ambassador to Moldova and worked in the U.S. Embassy in Egypt. Ms. Pendleton was on hand to promote opportunities for internships and jobs in the State Department.

THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIPS

Continued...

The Shelby delegation is the largest in the legislature and contains a number of members who hold leadership positions in both houses as well as chair important committees. Students, who spend the entire spring semester in Nashville, assist in the drafting of bills, doing background research on various policy questions, attending committee sessions, and working with constituents and interest groups.

In addition, special programs are provided for students during their tenure to further expand their knowledge about Tennessee state government. In the past semester, interns heard arguments before the Tennessee Supreme Court, visited with the Attorney General and met with Governor Bredesen. Students also participate in a Mock Legislative Session while in Nashville, drafting and debating proposals on policy issues of interest to the group.

Interns are selected in the fall semester prior to the upcoming legislative session. To be considered for a position, current University students must have completed 60 semester hours and maintained a 2.0 grade point average at the time of application. Those who successfully complete the internship gain twelve hours of academic credit, with an option to obtain up to three additional hours for independent study.

FACULTY AWARDS

Congratulations to **Dr. Doug Imig**, **Dr. Shannon Blanton** and **Dr. Rob Blanton** for recent awards.

Dr. Shannon Blanton was nominated by President Shirley C. Raines to participate in the inaugural class of the Regents Academic Leadership Institute (RALI), beginning June 2005. She also received a Professional Development Assignment in Spring 2005.

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FACULTY AWARDS *continued...*

Dr. Robert Blanton received the Dean's Office Award for Advising Excellence. He also received a Professional Development Assignment for Spring 2006.



Dr. Doug Imig has been awarded the Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award in Social Science and Business. This will allow him to continue his research on the formation of political voice among marginalized groups in the United States and Western Europe.

STUDENT AWARDS

Joshua Lange was awarded the Outstanding Student Award to the top political science senior.

Brennan Berg won the John W. Burgess Award which is awarded for meritorious service.

Jason Richards was awarded the Pre-law award which is given to the top pre-law student among political science majors.

Chuck Grimes was awarded the Morris Fair Scholarship. This is awarded to a top junior or senior political science student. Many thanks to O.B. Harrington, whose generous donation makes this award possible!



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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The decrease in state funding for higher education has left us struggling to provide the basic necessities for our students and faculty members and has forced us to rely more than ever on private support from our alumni and friends.

Unrestricted gifts to the Political Science Enrichment Fund help us attract and retain high-caliber faculty members and students, provide additional scholarship dollars to our undergraduates, increase graduate stipends, and assist with scholarly travel – which are all necessary to remain competitive with our peer institutions.

Two urgent needs for support at this time are graduate student stipends and Mock Trial Team funding. In order to continue attracting top graduate students, the Department must be able to provide stipends that are competitive with other elite programs. Contributions to the Enrichment Fund will enable the Department to increase this type of vital assistance, which allows graduate students to study, travel, and excel!

Contributions to the Enrichment Fund also help defray the costs associated with the Mock Trial Team. Composed of students and recent graduates, the Mock Trial Team competes annually in events that incur significant travel costs, as well as considerable costs in terms of time. University funding is not guaranteed, therefore private support is needed for students to prepare and participate with limited financial concern.

Support of the Political Science Enrichment Fund makes a difference in the lives of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as our faculty. Please consider making a gift today!

Yes, I want to join other alumni and friends of the Department in making a gift in support of the Political Science Enrichment Fund.

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$_____ made payable to “The University of Memphis Foundation” in support of the Political Science Department:

Name	Degree/Year
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For credit card gifts, please call Lendon Ellis at 901-678-1332.

I understand that all gifts are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Consider our Matching Gift Program to double, or even triple, the size of your gift through your company’s matching gift program. Some companies will match the charitable donations of retirees and, in some cases, gifts by an employee’s spouse. The human resources department of your company can supply you with the appropriate forms, which should be returned along with your gift.

Yes, I want to be more involved in the activities of the Political Science Department and am interested in participating in the following:

- Creating Political Science Alumni Chapters
- Mentoring Undergraduate or Graduate Students
- Speaking in Classes or Department Seminars
- Volunteering to Help with Department Projects

Please return this form to: The College of Arts & Sciences, The University of Memphis, 107 Scates Hall, Memphis, TN 38152-3450. The Department of Political Science appreciates the generous contributions of time and resources from its many alumni and friends.

Web address: www.memphis.edu/give.htm