

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



## Greetings!

While we had to deal with numerous challenges resulting from the University's financial situation as well as from the loss of several

long-serving faculty members, overall, we had another great year in Political Science during 2013/14.

In the spring, our long-time colleague **Lisa Huffstetler** died after a brief illness. **Dr. Robert Blanton** and **Dr. Shannon Blanton** decided to accept an offer to join the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and **Michelle Bliss** moved with her family to Baltimore.

In 2013/14, 10 Political Science Majors graduated with University Honors – a record number for the department. Five of them achieved the additional distinction of writing an Honors Thesis. That was a new record as well – motivating us to hold our first departmental undergraduate research conference in April. Last year, 48 Political Science students graduated with a B.A. – four of them Summa Cum Laude. 52 of our Political Science majors made the Dean's List during the fall of 2013, and 43 in the spring of 2014. As of fall 2014, 36 of our undergraduate majors are enrolled in the Helen Hardin Honors Program.

Graduating senior **Nick Mastron** finished his undergraduate career with remarkable success. In addition to presenting his honors thesis research at three conferences, he received the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Outstanding Student as well as the Marcus L. Urann Fellowship by the National Society of Phi Kappa Phi – one out of six students nationally chosen from among 170 nominees. Nick as well as **Mai Orsino** published articles in *Quaesit UM: The*

*Undergraduate Research Journal of the University of Memphis*, with Mai's paper getting the award for Best Paper in the Social and Behavioral Science category.

Our faculty also had an amazing year. In addition to the many articles and books published by our faculty, it is noteworthy that **Dr. Nicole Detraz** received the 2014 Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award of the University of Memphis and **Dr. Matthias Kaelberer** got the 2014 University of Memphis Honors Program's Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award. **Dr. Leah Windsor** received a Minerva Research Award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense for over \$ 1 million to analyze the speech of international actors to detect motives, identify threats, and find predictive patterns of language and behavior.

We 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. Please share with us news about what you are doing now, and let us know if you would like to be involved in supporting your Department of Political Science. You can e-mail me at mkaelbrr@memphis.edu. Also, please feel free to join our group on Facebook! You can find us under University of Memphis Department of Political Science Alumni. There you will find updates on developments in the department and you have another way of communicating with us. In any case, we look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

*Matthias Kaelberer*  
Matthias Kaelberer  
Department Chair

LEGISLATIVE  
INTERNSHIP

During the 2014 session of the Tennessee General Assembly, seventeen students from the University of Memphis participated in two Legislative Internship programs directed by the Department. Students who participate in either program live in Nashville during the spring semester and work in the offices of the legislative member to which they are assigned. This internship is an excellent opportunity for the students providing them with a unique opportunity to learn about the legislative process. Interns attend committee meetings, work on the legislative calendar, assist with constituent service and research prospective legislation.

The internship program sponsored by the General Assembly allows a number of University students to work for members of the legislative leadership during the term.

**Andrew Schrack** was selected as State Intern in 2014. The University sponsored sixteen students. Fourteen of them served members of the Shelby County delegation and two students represented the Lambuth Campus throughout the spring academic semester. Students named for 2014 internship positions were **Chantanavia Davis, Robert Erickson, Bob Huddleston, Calvin Jones, Austin Kemper, Ashley Lewis, Blake Meeks, Keith Milburn, Reeca Mitchell, Oskar Recio, Thalia Sanchez, Hanna Smith, Alisha Sparks, Gabrielle Whitmore, James King** (Lambuth) and **Anna Hickmann** (Lambuth).

## NEW FACULTY



**Dr. Molly Henderson** is a new Instructor/Coordinator in the department. She received her M.A. in Political Science/Political Communications from the University of Central Oklahoma and her Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from Oklahoma State University in 2006. Her areas of interest are political

communications, campaigns and state and federal education legislation. Prior to relocating to the Memphis area in 2010, she was Director of academic programs where she developed, coordinated and implemented new plans of study and degree offerings. Molly also brings 17 years of experience as an online and in classroom instructor of both Political Science and Communication courses to the department. She has been teaching for the University of Memphis since 2012. Molly looks forward to teaching classes in the areas of American Government, Introduction to Modern Political Thought and the Political Media for us, and will coordinate the online Political Science program this year.



**Ebony N. Dawkins, Esq.** received her JD from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and is a licensed law practitioner. She has previously worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis and is excited to serve the University and the Department in an expanded role as an Instructor,

Advisor, and Coordinator of the Legislative and the Administrative Internship Programs.

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Lisa Huffstetler, 1965-2014**

Ms. Lisa Huffstetler died on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the age of forty-eight. Having received her BA from the University of California, Riverside, in 1991 and her MA from the University of South Carolina in 1995, she served for over ten years as an Instructor in the Department of Political Science

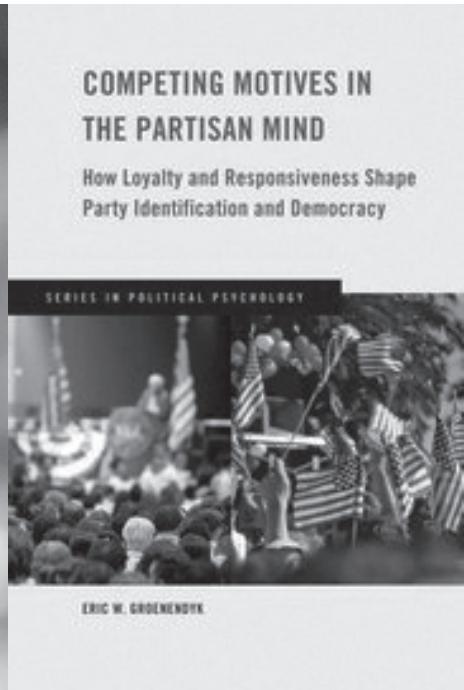
and in the Regents Online Degree Program teaching classes on American Government, International Relations and Comparative Politics. She was particularly adept at integrating new technology into the classroom and served as a Regents Online Collaborative Campus Training Mentor between 2011 and 2014. During the fall of 2013 she developed an online International Relations course for the Coursera pilot project, funded by the Governor's Online Innovation Fund.

Among the most rewarding activities for her was Lisa Huffstetler's service as the Department Coordinator for the Legislative Internship Program and the Administrative Internship Program from 2005 until 2014. In this capacity, she was engaged with our students working for a semester in Nashville as well as the legislators and staff at the Tennessee Legislature. For her dedication to the Legislative Internship Program she was honored by a Joint Resolution of the Tennessee Legislature in her memory. Between 2009 and 2014, she also served on the University's Washington Center Internship Selection Committee.

Another favorite activity for Lisa Huffstetler was co-developing and teaching a Study Abroad Course on State Formation and National Identity in Europe. In 2012 and 2013 she took students to London and Berlin. Her service on the University's Bowen Study Abroad Committee underscored her commitment to study abroad as well.

Lisa Huffstetler touched the lives of her students, colleagues and friends in many different ways. Her work, which combined classroom teaching and personal development, prepared her students for future careers in public service, law, business, the non-profit sector and other professional fields. Her contributions to this University as an Instructor and as a mentor will live on in the success of her former students.

# FACULTY PROFILE



**Dr. Eric Groenendyk** joined the department in 2009 after receiving his PhD from the University of Michigan. He teaches classes on American government, public opinion, political parties, and statistics. His book, *Competing Motives in the Partisan Mind*, was released by Oxford University Press in August 2013. This book recently received honorable mention for the Robert E. Lane Award presented by the American Political Science Association for the best book written in the field of political psychology during the previous year. His article titled "Emotional Rescue: How Affect Helps Partisans Overcome Collective Action Problems" (with Antoine Banks, University of Maryland) was also recently published in the journal *Political Psychology*. He was invited to speak at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin last November, and he received a travel enrichment grant to present his work at the Annual Conference of the International Society of Political Psychology in Rome this summer.

Dr. Groenendyk is currently working on several projects investigating the effect of perceived social pressure on public opinion, the root causes of motivated political reasoning, and the role of emotion in political attitude formation. He also recently received a grant from the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change to begin a new project examining the effect of ideology on political reasoning. One goal of this project is to better understand what fuels the racial divide in American politics and how this divide may be bridged. Dr. Groenendyk serves as the department's graduate recruitment coordinator.

# STUDENT PROFILE



**Nick Mastron** graduated from the University of Memphis with a B.A. in Political Science, Economics, International Studies and History, with Minors in Spanish and Legal Thought. He had a distinguished undergraduate career at the University of Memphis – both in terms of his academic achievements as well as his service to the University.

In the summer of 2013 Nick received the Helen Hardin Honors Program Summer Research Fellowship to facilitate research on his honors thesis that compared British and German policy responses to the global financial crisis. The paper based on his honors thesis won 1st Place in the Undergraduate Business Section at the 2014 Student Research Forum at the University of Memphis. He also presented his thesis at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research held at the University of Kentucky in April 2014.

Moreover, Nick published his paper "The Swedish-Ukrainian Addiction: Sex Trafficking's History, Prevalence, and Potential Solutions" – the result of his paper in his International Studies Senior Seminar – in the 2014 issue of *Quae sit UM: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The University of Memphis*. In recognition of his academic excellence, Nick received the Marcus L. Urann Fellowship by the National Society of Phi Kappa Phi. The fellowship is in the amount of \$15,000, and is for members of Phi Kappa Phi entering their first year of graduate or professional study. Nick will be starting in the PhD Program in Public Policy at George Washington University in Washington, DC, this fall. This is a tremendous honor and recognition for Nick, our Political Science program and our University.

In addition to his academic work, Nick was very active in student life at the University of Memphis. Among many other activities, he participated in the Student Government Association and the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature and he led efforts to start a Model UN group at the University of Memphis. He received College of Arts and Sciences Travel Funding to attend the National Model UN Conference in Washington, D.C. and received awards from the Student Government Association and the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature for his activities. Based on these broad academic and social interests, he received the 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student.

# NOTES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



The Governor's School for International Studies, which was directed by Political Science Professor Robert Blanton, provides talented high school students

throughout Tennessee with an intense immersion to international studies as well as global cultures. Students stay at the University of Memphis campus for four weeks and take University coursework as well as language training (Arabic, Bengali, Hausa or Portuguese). This provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about global issues and gives them a taste of life at the University of Memphis.

This year was an exciting year for GSIS. Students learned about potential careers in political science and international studies, meeting with Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence Agents from the FBI, Public Diplomacy Officers from the State Department, as well as a former Peace Corps volunteer. They also explored how nonprofit organizations act to make a difference in global affairs by completing projects for local organizations such as Latino Memphis, Operation Broken Silence, World Relief, the West Tennessee Haiti Project, and Christ Community Health Center. Additionally, they learned different lessons from business leaders in the community – Anthony Tancredi (CEO of Allenberg Cotton) taught students about the challenges of international business, while they learned about the importance of community service and philanthropy from David Wedeman (President of RE Trans Inc).

In all, it was a very successful year for the program. As one student noted that GSIS "was an unforgettable experience" while another concluded that the program "really opened up my eyes to international issues, and I feel more informed about the world than I have ever been. It also gave me the opportunity to meet some great people and learn things as well."

## PETER DAUVERGNE LECTURE



**Dr. Sharon Stanley, Dr. Nicole Detraz, Dr. Peter Dauvergne, Dr. Matthias Kaelberer, and Dean Dr. Tom Nenon at the reception for Dr. Dauvergne's lecture on Eco-Business.**

Last fall, the Political Science Department, along with the International Studies Program, helped to bring in a speaker for the Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities (MOCH) lecture series. On November 7, **Dr. Peter Dauvergne** gave a talk that explored why big-brand companies like Walmart, Nike, Coca-Cola, and McDonald's are now competing surprisingly hard to position themselves as "sustainability leaders" – adopting farsighted goals and driving change through core operations and global supply chains. Dr. Dauvergne is an award-winning author, Professor of International Relations, and Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. His talk was based on his book *Eco-Business*, which was published in 2013 by MIT Press and coauthored with Dr. Jane Lister. His previous books include *Paths to a Green World* (with Jennifer Clapp), *The Shadows of Consumption, Loggers and Degradation in the Asia-Pacific, and Shadows in the Forest*.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities Lecture

**Thursday, November 6, 2014**

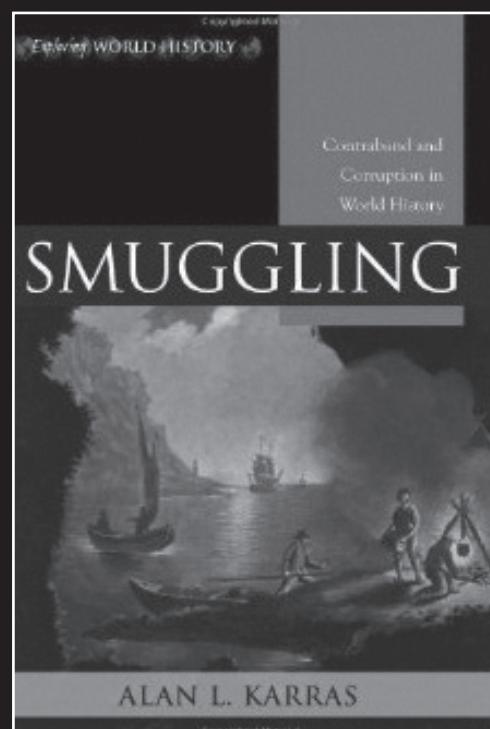
5:30 pm reception; 6:00 pm lecture

University Center River Room

ALAN KARRAS: "Smugglers, Pirates, and States: History and Political Economy in "Glocal" Perspective."

In this lecture Alan Karras will explore the connection between the famous eighteenth-century pirates of the Caribbean, Somali pirates today, and citizen smugglers in both periods.

Dr. Karras is the Associate Director of the International and Area Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley. An award-winning teacher, he is the author and editor of many books, including *Smuggling: Corruption and Contraband in World History*.



# STUDY ABROAD REPORT



**Our Administrative Associate Angela Kuykendoll and Political Science Senior Victoria Busse went on Study Abroad in Cuba during Spring Break 2014.**

In the summer 2014, Dr. Nicole Detraz and Dr. Matthias Kaelberer took a group of 16 students to London and Berlin for a Study Abroad class that explored state formation and national identities in Europe. This was a new record number of students for this Study Abroad experience. Among the sites visited on this trip were the parliaments in both cities, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, The Churchill Cabinet and War Rooms, the Berlin Holocaust Memorial, Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen and the Berlin Wall Memorial.



# SAYING GOODBYE

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**Dr. Robert Blanton** and **Dr. Shannon Blanton** have joined the University of Alabama Birmingham. Shannon Blanton was appointed the Inaugural Dean of the Honors College at UAB and Robert Blanton now serves as a Professor in the Political Science Department there.

Rob worked at the University of Memphis for 17 years. His teaching and research interests were in the areas of international relations and international political economy. For the past 11 years he served as the Director of the International Studies Program

and as the Director of the Governor's School in International Studies. During his career at the University of Memphis, Rob was the recipient of both the Early Career Research Award and the Outstanding Research Award from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College's and University's Advising Awards and he held the Dunavant Professorship from 2009 to 2012.

Shannon was at the University of Memphis for the past 15 years. Her teaching and research interests were in the areas of foreign policy and conflict and security studies. For her research contribution, she received the Early Career Research Award from the College of Arts and Sciences and the University's Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award. During her career at the University of Memphis, Shannon served as Chair of the Political Science Department over a period of five years and for the past six years she was the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs at the University.

Rob and Shannon contributed tremendously to the growth and stature of the Political Science Program in both teaching and research. Their move represents a substantial loss for the University of Memphis, but we wish them the best for their new endeavors.



**Michelle Bliss** served for three years as an instructor and as the academic advisor for our undergraduate majors. Her teaching interests were in the areas of political theory and public law. In 2013 she received the Student Disability Services Outstanding Faculty Award. Michelle has moved with her family to Baltimore, Maryland.

## Do you know...

Someone who has an interest in human rights, public opinion, how political campaigns are organized, how wars are started or avoided, or why courts, legislatures and executives make the decisions they do? If so, then a major in Political Science may be for them! Our website contains information about our programs, our faculty, our alumni and some of the opportunities offered by a specialization in Political Science. Please encourage them to visit us online at [www.memphis.edu/polisci](http://www.memphis.edu/polisci)

# DEPARTMENT NEWS



**Dr. Vanessa Lefler**

- During the fall 2013, we had two visiting scholars present brown bag talks to our faculty and students. On September 20, **Dr. Susan Allen**, University of Mississippi, talked about "Repression as Reputation-Building." On October 4, **Dr. Vanessa Lefler** (pictured), Middle Tennessee State University, presented a paper on "Bargain Shopping for Peace? The Consequences of Strategic Forum Selection on Interstate Dispute Resolution."



**Dr. Nicole Detraz**

- **Dr. Nicole Detraz** is the winner of the **2014 Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award** of the University of Memphis.

- **Dr. Leah Windsor's** grant proposal "A Computational Assessment of Social Disequilibrium and Security Threats" was selected for a **Minerva Research Award**. The Minerva Research Initiative is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and focuses on areas of strategic importance to U.S. national security policy. Dr. Windsor will serve as the PI on this grant, which will run for three years and is budgeted at \$1,285,649. The project analyzes the speech of international actors to detect motives,

identify threats, and find predictive patterns of language and behavior. There will be three components to this research: identifying language patterns related to armed political crises; identifying bluffs and threats pertinent to both national and international security; and analyzing the relationship between language and contentious behavior like protests, riots, and rebellions.

- **Dr. Sharon Stanley** received a **Dunavant Professorship** for 2014-17. The Dunavant Professorship recognizes exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship, service, and outreach. For the past eight years, Dr. Stanley has made outstanding contributions to research, teaching and service at the University of Memphis. The Dunavant Professorship will provide \$5,000 annually for the next three years to support Dr. Stanley's research program.

- In 2013-14 Visiting Scholar **Angel Narro** published his third book, *Elementos sobrenaturales en las literaturas clásicas y su recepción*; seven book chapters; and two articles in refereed journals. He has published in Spanish, French, English, and Italian. Dr. Narro, who received his doctorate in Greek philology from the University of Valencia in August 2013, collaborates with Professor Lomax on the ancient Greek language and Platonic political philosophy.

- **Dr. Matthias Kaelberer** received the 2014 University of Memphis Honors Program's Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award. The award is intended to recognize demonstrated excellence in mentoring undergraduate researchers.



**Political Science Senior Bob Huddleston with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Senator Reginald Tate.**

- Our Legislative Interns had a great spring semester in Nashville. Our picture shows Political Science Senior Bob Huddleston with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Senator Reginald Tate.

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

■ On April 25, 2014 nine political science students were recognized for graduating with University Honors at the 2014 Helen Hardin Honors Program Awards Celebration. They were **Victoria Busse, Mohammed Farraj, Bob Huddleston, Jennifer Mastin, Nicholas Mastron, Erica Peoples, Ashley Robinson, JT Salmon, and Darcy Sharp.**

■ Four of those honors students received the additional distinction of graduating with University Honors and Thesis. They are:

**Victoria Busse** with a thesis on "The Arab Spring and the 'Youth Bulge's' Impact in Egypt, Iran, and Syria."

**Nick Mastron** with a thesis on "The Show Must Go On: The Political and Economic Responses of Germany and the United Kingdom to the 2008 Financial Crisis."

**Erica Peoples** with a thesis on "The Effects of Racial Cues on the Attributions of Responsibility."

**Darcy Sharp** with a thesis on "Diversity on Earth, Diversity in Policy: A Comparison of the Styles of Environmental Governance."

■ In the fall of 2013 **Kevin Hayes** graduated with University Honors and Thesis with a thesis on "Explaining Intellectual Property Rights Conflicts and the Economic Logic of Catch-Up: A Chinese-American Comparative Case Study." That meant we had a total to **10 political science students graduating with University Honors** this academic year – a new record for the department.

■ 53 Political Science Majors were on the fall 2013 Dean's List and 43 were on the spring 2014 Dean's List.



Orsino

**Mai Orsino's** paper "The Social Construction of French Identity: Re-Examining the French Debate on Muslim Integration" was published in the 2014 issue of *QuaesitUM: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The University of Memphis*. Her article is based on her Honors Thesis she finished a year earlier. The paper was awarded the prize for Best Paper in the Social and Behavioral Science category.

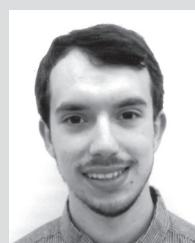


Carson

Political Science Major **Khadeejdra Carson** received a scholarship from The Fund of American Studies to sponsor her participation in a summer academic internship program in Washington, DC. During the eight-week program, she took classes at George Mason University and worked as an intern with Child Care Aware in Washington, DC. During the fall 2014, Khadeejdra is studying abroad at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco.

■ **Nick Mastron's** selection as the 2013-2014 recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student represents the third time in five years that a political science major has been recognized in this fashion. **Jonathan Bennett** received that honor in 2011-2012, and **Jessica Gibbons** was the College's Outstanding Undergraduate Student in 2008-2009. This record underscores the outstanding quality of our majors and our political science program.

■ Political Science Major **Matt Coker** is currently State Field Director for U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander's re-election campaign where he oversees grassroots activities, voter-contact and the management of regional political staff.



Salmon

**JT Salmon** was one of two recipients of the department's Pre-Law Award. At the University of Memphis, he was a member of the Freshman Senate and the Future Alumni of Memphis student association. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with University Honors in May 2014. He received a scholarship from the University of Alabama School of Law where he is now a law student.



Sharp

**Darcy Sharp** was another recipient of the department's Pre-Law Award. At the University of Memphis she participated in student government and Model UN. During her undergraduate career, she received College of Arts and Sciences Travel Funding to attend the National Model UN Conference in Washington, D.C. Darcy graduated Summa Cum Laude with University Honors and Thesis in May 2014 and is now a law student at the George Washington University School of Law.



Busse

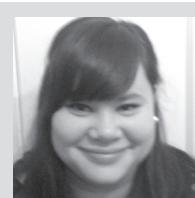
**Victoria Busse** was the 2014 recipient of the John W. Burgess Award for exemplary service to the Political Science discipline, the University of Memphis and to the community at large. While at the University of Memphis, she was involved in student government, the Memphis Council for International Visitors, and the Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with University Honors and Thesis in May 2014. Victoria is the first student to take full advantage of our Accelerated BA/MA program and is now a graduate student in our Masters Program.

## ALUMNI NEWS

■ **David Plunk**, M.A. '10, is now Data Director for the Tennessee Democratic Party.

■ **Bob Huddleston**, B.A. '14, turned down full scholarships from Washburn, Mississippi College, and the University of Mississippi in order to enroll in our Dual JD/MA program at Memphis with a partial scholarship.

■ **Drew Dickson**, M.A. '11, is now the Associate Director of the Executive Office at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC.



Christensen

**Erica Christensen**, B.A. '09, is now Program Associate at the Wallace Center at Winrock International.

# ALUMNI NEWS



Hopper

**Sherrie Hopper**, B.A. '01, M.A. '03, is the chair of the social studies department at First Assembly Christian School, where she also serves as the National History Day coordinator, Rho Kappa National Honor Society Sponsor, and where she coordinated the very first National History Bowl in West Tennessee. She assists in curriculum development and research that has been presented at social studies conferences both here and abroad. She is an Advanced

Placement reader for the College Board. She also serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board and most recently was named The Shelby County Historical Commission's Top Teacher of 2014 for her work with The University of Memphis's History Day Program and the advancement of the FACS history program in the Memphis area. She teaches Dual Enrollment Government, AP Government, and History at FACS and is an instructor in the University of Memphis Political Science Department.



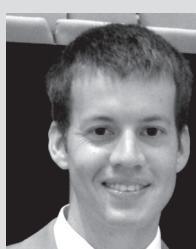
Graham

**Laura Fowler Graham**, B.A. '06, is now a full-time Lecturer in the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Tufts University. She received a Significant Impact in Teaching Nomination at Tufts University for her Introduction to Human Rights course. Her monograph "Beyond Social Capital: The Role of Leadership in Northern Ireland's Victim Support Groups" has been accepted by Palgrave Macmillan and will be published under the Compromise After Conflict Series. In March 2014, her article, "The 'innocent' victims of the Troubles and the enduring impediment to peace in Northern Ireland" was published in *Shared Space: A Research Journal for Northern Ireland*, Issue 17. Laura also started a student coaching and academic consulting business, specializing in helping undergraduate students succeed academically through coaching and tutoring ([laurakgraham.com](http://laurakgraham.com)).



Marek

**John Marek**, BA '07, JD/MA '11, was the Campaign Manager for the Steve Cohen Congress 2014 Primary Campaign this past spring and summer, and for the fall he accepted the position of Deputy Director for the Democratic Senate Campaign Fund Colorado. Also, he was elected chairman of the subcommittee of the Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board, which decides on what legislative changes to recommend to the Memphis City Council.



Thompson

**Clint Thompson**, M.A. '13, had his article (co-authored with Jason Allard and Barry Keim) "How Robust is the Pre-1931 National Climatic Data Center – Climate Divisional Dataset? Examples from Georgia and Louisiana" accepted for publication at *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*. Clint is currently pursuing his PhD in Economic Geography at the University of Kansas.



Clay

**Chad Clay**, M.A. '07 published (together with Sam R. Bell, Amanda Murdie and James Piazza) "Opening Yourself Up: The Role of External and Internal Transparency in Terrorism Attacks" in *Political Research Quarterly* 67(3), 2014: 603-614. Chad is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia.



Jackson

**Ryun Jackson**, B.A. '13, was selected to participate in the Spring 2014 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Emerging Leaders Internship Program and to enroll in The George Washington University's Semester in Washington Politics program. As a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Emerging Leaders Intern, Ryun worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Secretary Penny S. Pritzker. While in Washington, he was Congressman Steve Cohen's (TN-09)

guest for President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address. In his press release upon selecting Ryun as a guest for the State of the Union Address, Congressman Cohen said the following about Ryun: "As an intern in my office, Ryun showed just how bright and impressive he is while helping solve problems for the citizens of the Ninth District. It is no surprise to me at all that he has been selected to work at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and to further his education at The George Washington University, where he is working on a project about the State of the Union address. I am glad to give him this opportunity to see President Obama's speech in person tonight. As a young man who shares a strong interest in politics as well a political hero in President Kennedy with me, I am thrilled for Ryun to join me at the State of the Union tonight."

■ **Pete Albrecht**, M.A. '13, has entered the Epidemiology graduate program in the graduate health sciences college at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

■ **Suzanne Schmidle**, M.A. '13, is now Research Operations Program Manager at the National Electric Energy Testing Research and Applications Center (NEETRAC) at Georgia Tech University.

■ **Brent Duke**, M.A. '14, was accepted into the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Memphis and works as a Research Assistant in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy as the Coordinator of their Strengthening Communities Initiative.

**Alumni: We like to hear from you!**  
Send us a note at: [mkaelbrr@memphis.edu](mailto:mkaelbrr@memphis.edu),  
or use our mailing address!

# SELECTED FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Dr. Nicole Detraz's** book, *Environmental Security and Gender*, is being published by Routledge this fall. The book explores the role of gender in the ways that we consider the environment to be a security issue. She also has two book chapters for edited volumes forthcoming and in progress on the connections between gender and environmental change. Dr. Detraz is serving

as the Director of the International Studies Program for the 2014-2015 academic year.



**Dr. Doug Imig** continues to serve as the Director of the Center for Urban Child Policy at the Urban Child Institute, where he directs efforts to improve the developmental well-being of children and families in Memphis and the Mid-South. Doug also directs research and evaluation of the Indianola Promise Community, in Indianola Mississippi, a U.S. Department of Education

Promise Neighborhood designed to build a continuum of high-quality interventions to successfully move all children in the community from cradle to career.



**Dr. Matthias Kaelberer's** article "Sovereign Debt or Balance of Payments Crisis? Exploring the Structural Logic of Adjustment in the Eurozone" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*. In addition, he is working on several papers related to the Eurozone crisis as well as the political economy of the retail sector in Europe. He also started a new project that looks at soccer and national identity in Germany.



**Dr. J. Harvey Lomax's** recent co-edited book (with Thomas Pangle) *Political Philosophy Cross-Examined*, has been favorably reviewed in professional journals. He made a presentation on Jean-Jacques Rousseau at the Southern Political Science Association convention in New Orleans in January and another on how great thinkers overcome historicism in the UM Political Science

Department in February. Several academic presses have expressed interest in publishing the book manuscript on which he is currently working, entitled *The Comedy of Rousseau's Confessions*. He continues to serve as the department's representative on the Faculty Senate.



**Dr. Paul Mego's** article (co-authored with David Dietrich) "The Evolution of an Interdisciplinary Team-Taught Course" was published in the *Journal of Social Sciences Research*. He also served as the Moderator for the 2nd Annual Lambuth Campus Spring Honors Symposium on "Global Citizenship" and as an elected Faculty Representative for the Midwest Model United Nations (St. Louis)

Executive Board. Moreover, he attended National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference in New Orleans.



**Dr. Dursun Peksen** has been promoted to Associate Professor and was appointed to serve as Associate Editor for *Foreign Policy Analysis*. FPA is a prestigious, peer-reviewed academic journal published by the International Studies Association (ISA). Dr. Peksen had five manuscripts accepted for publication since January 2014. His accepted articles are forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*, the

*Review of International Organizations*, *Defence and Peace Economics*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and a book chapter in *Handbook on Gender in International Relations*. Dr. Peksen has also had four manuscripts appear in print in 2014. The articles appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Interactions*, and *European Journal of International Relations*. He was invited to present his research on economic sanctions at the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva, Switzerland), Duke University, and Rice University. He was elected to serve as executive officer of ISA-Midwest and at-large officer for the Foreign Policy Analysis section of ISA.



**Dr. Sharon Stanley** completed a draft of her new book manuscript, tentatively titled *An Impossible Dream? Racial Integration in the United States*. The book examines both the theoretical meaning and the practical challenges of racial integration in the U.S. She is currently exploring publisher interest in the project. Additionally, one article derived from the book - "Toward a Reconciliation

of Integration and Racial Solidarity" - was published in *Contemporary Political Theory* and a second one entitled "The Enduring Challenge of Racial Integration in the United States" was accepted for publication in *Du Bois Review* and is forthcoming in the Spring of 2015.



**Dr. Leah Windsor** received a departmental grant in Summer 2013 to begin a project on political language and personality in conjunction with her work as a Faculty Affiliate with the Institute for Intelligent Systems. This work resulted in a three-year \$1.3 million grant from the Minerva Initiative (Department of Defense) for a project evaluating authoritarian leaders' language. In April 2013, she was

invited to participate in the Visions in Methodology conference at Florida State University, where she presented a paper entitled "Autocratic Leaders and Natural Disasters." She also presented a paper based on a dissertation chapter entitled "The Natural Disaster Origins of Contentious Political Behavior" at the International Studies Association. In November 2013 she had her first child, a baby girl named Cathryn.



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Department of Political Science

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Over the past year, many alumni, friends, faculty and staff have given financially to the Department of Political Science through either unrestricted or designated gifts. We are grateful for your support and thank you for your generosity:

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- provide additional scholarship dollars to our undergraduates – check out, among others, the large number of honors thesis research projects last year.
- increase graduate stipends – to see the quality of our graduate program check out our alumni news on the various activities our former graduate students are involved in.
- assist with scholarly travel – six of our faculty members travelled to the International Studies Association convention in Toronto last spring and four faculty members travelled to the American Political Science Association Convention in Washington, DC this fall.

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Department of Political Science

Department of Political Science  
University of Memphis  
437 Clement Hall  
Memphis, TN 38152

## CONTACT US:

Department of Political Science  
University of Memphis  
437 Clement Hall  
Memphis, TN 38152

**Phone**  
(901) 678-2395

**Fax**  
(901) 678-2983

**E-mail**  
[mkaelbrr@memphis.edu](mailto:mkaelbrr@memphis.edu),  
[askyknld@memphis.edu](mailto:askyknld@memphis.edu)

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