Department of Political Science Newsletter

Message from the Department Head

When I agreed to serve as Interim Head two years ago, I assumed that I would be in the job a short time and that my role was essentially that of caretaker. Now, as I begin a five-year term as Head, I think it is important to articulate a vision for the Department and an agenda for my headship.

My vision is of a department that is a national leader in teaching, research and service. My first major goal is to develop a nationally recognized Ph.D. program. To do this, I will work to ensure that every member of the faculty has an active research agenda and is publishing scholarly books and high-quality journal articles. I must also work to see that our Ph.D. graduates obtain faculty positions at major research universities. Of course, these must be team efforts, and we have a strong team in place now. The role of the department head ... (continued next page)

Editor’s Note

Thanks to many people’s help and cooperation, our expanded departmental newsletter is finally out. I apologize for the length of the newsletter. After all we have a lot to report since we had not published our newsletter for the last two years. I promise that our next year’s newsletter won’t be this long. It is so gratifying to hear from our alumni and to know they are doing so well. Due to the limited space I had to edit out much information that our alumni sent us. Special thanks to Bob Cunningham for gathering the information from our alumni the past year. I hope our alumni will stay in touch with the department and continue to send us your updated information. We will try to publish our newsletter each fall. Any comments on the newsletter are welcome and can be sent to me via email at yzhong@utk.edu.

Fall 2009

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is to provide leadership, encouragement, and material support when possible.

My second major goal is to offer the very best undergraduate program possible—one that rivals what students can get at the best liberal arts colleges. We have a fine coterie of undergraduate instructor and our undergraduate courses are very well regarded on the campus. I want to further enrich the undergraduate program by having more extracurricular activities and by building a sense of community among our undergraduate students.

Faculty, students and alumni all have a role to play in strengthening our programs, which brings me to my third major goal—reconnecting with our alumni and friends. We have been working to improve our departmental web site (http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/default.html) and would invite suggestions on how we can make it even better.

Thanks to the assistance of Associate head Yang Zhong, we have also reinstituted our newsletter, and would love to receive information (and photos) from our friends and alumni that we can post there.

As everyone knows, the University of Tennessee is experiencing tough fiscal times, and my biggest challenge as Head will be to maintain support for our various programs and activities. Asking our alumni and friends to help is one way to deal with our fiscal challenges. For more information on existing departmental funds or other opportunities to assist or get involved with the Department, or if I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,
John M. Scheb II

Personnel News

Dr. John M. Scheb, a member of the Political Science faculty since 1982, has been named Department Head by Dean Bruce Bursten effective August 1, 2009. Dr. Scheb has been serving as Interim Head since July of 2007. Scheb’s goals include raising the national visibility of the PhD program, developing resources through enhanced private giving, and reaching out to alumni and friends in the community.

Dr. Yang Zhong, a member of the Political Science faculty since 1991, has been appointed as Associate Head of Department of Political Science effective on September 29, 2009.

Dr. Bob Cunningham, a member of the Political Science faculty since 1972, retired effective May 31, 2009. Bob has been named Professor Emeritus by the University and will continue to teach in the Political Science Department on a part-time basis. A retirement party was held in Bob’s honor on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

Dr. David Houston, a member of the UT faculty since 1991, has been promoted to the rank of Professor effective August 1, 2009. Congratulations to Dr. Houston!

Dr Li Jing from China’s Jilin University is a visiting scholar at the department for academic year 2009-2010. Professor Li’s main research interest is concerned with ethical issues in public administration. Dr. Li is working in collaboration with Dr. Yang Zhong on a public opinion survey among Chinese bureaucrats.

The Department has hired Cary Nailling (who got his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi) to teach undergraduate courses in comparative politics and international relations.
Faculty Awards

Amy Atchison and Professor Ian Down’s paper “Cabinet Representation and Maternity Leave Entitlement” won the Marian Irish Award for best paper on Women in Politics presented at the Southern Political Science Association, January 2009, to be awarded at the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, GA.

Professor Yang Zhong was named a University Guest Professor by Sichuan University and a Ziqiang Professor by Shanghai University in spring 2009. Both are honorary titles.

Professor Nathan Kelly was QUEST Scholar of the Week, highlighting the work of a faculty member at the University of Tennessee who is doing outstanding work regardless of the

field, May 8, 2009. He also won a teaching award: Professor of the Year” (2008-2009), by our department Graduate Student Association.

Will Jennings, a lecturer in the department, was named a "University Teacher of the Semester" for the Fall of 2009 by the UT Pan-Hellenic Council.

Graduate Student Awards

Hemant Sharma is the first recipient of the Otis H. Stephens, Jr. Fellowship. The Fellowship, established by alumnus Jay Young, recognizes excellence in the study of public law, courts and judicial processes. Sharma’s dissertation, “The Sword, the Purse and the Gavel: Institutional Influences on the Behavior of Supreme Court Justices,” was completed during the summer of 2009.

Costel Calin received the David Mock Award for Outstanding Performance by a Graduate Teaching Associate.

Matthew Gross received the John Shanks Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of American Politics.

Rebecca Falls received the Lee S. Greene Award for Outstanding Performance in the Field of Public Administration.

Amy Atchison received the Award for Best Conference Paper by a Graduate Student.

Undergraduate Student Awards

The following awards and scholarships were given to undergraduate students at the Political Science Awards Banquet in April 2009. These awards are funded by private donations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arnett A. Elliott Award</th>
<th>Ruth Stephens International Relations Award</th>
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<td>Tommy Joe Norton</td>
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<th>Ruth Stephens Scholarship</th>
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<td>George Barnes II, Aneel Bhimani, David Lepard</td>
<td>Sasha Qualkenbush, John Baugh, David Hatten</td>
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Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Tony Nownes, who was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2008, serves as the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies and Advising Coordinator. He also supervises the Honors Program. Dr. Nownes spends one afternoon a week working with students at the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, for which he was recently given an advising award by the College. This year, Dr. Nownes was recognized as Teacher of the Year by Kappa Delta. Tony is also an outstanding scholar and recently published a book with the Cambridge University Press.

William T. “Ted” Brown is a lecturer who teaches courses in constitutional law and “Law in American Society.” Mr. Brown holds a B.A. in History from UTK and a law degree from Vanderbilt. He came back to UTK from Atlanta, where he had a thriving legal career. His courses are among the most popular in the Department. Here is what one undergraduate student had to say about Mr. Brown in an email:

“Ted Brown is just one of those teachers that students will never forget and one who rarely forgets his students. I know that it is cliché to say that someone goes above and beyond but Mr. Brown really exemplifies this statement. Having given up a professional career practicing law to return to Knoxville and teach, Mr. Brown has taught, counseled, and inspired hundreds of students including myself. I know that personally when I have gone to meet with Mr. Brown in his office we have discussed everything from the LSAT and law school to student government and my fraternity. Mr. Brown ultimately agreed to serve as the faculty advisor to my fraternity, just another way that he has gone above and beyond in serving students. Mr. Brown has impacted my life and I think that the Political Science department is lucky to have such a caring and compassionate faculty member.”

Research Grants by Faculty Members

Professor Jana Morgan has received a Chancellor’s Research Grant to further her research in Latin American politics. During the fall of 2009 Dr. Morgan will be on a reduced teaching load so that she can focus more of her time and energy on her research on “Party System Stability and Democracy.”

Professor Brandon Prins received a funding of $20,000 from Oak Ridge National Laboratory for his project “Arms, Arms Control, and Nuclear Proliferation” in fall 2009. He also received $25,000 funding from the Nuclear Security Science and Analysis Graduate Certificate Program from UT Battelle in summer 2009.

Professor Bruce Tonn is the Project Manager of an $8.5 million U.S. DOE “National Evaluation of Weatherization Assistance Program” that started on July 1st, 2009. The purpose of this program is to improve the energy-efficiency of low-income households. Tonn’s project will estimate energy savings and other benefits (e.g., improved occupant health) attributable to the program.
Planning Students Travel to China

Professor Bruce Tonn, Professor Yang Zhong and Dr. Tim Ezzell led a UT study group to China from Oct. 8-21, 2009. The group included nine graduate planning students and one MPA student enrolled in the Department’s sustainable communities and economic development course. The purposes of the trip were for the students to fact-find ways for three rural, economically disadvantaged counties in East Tennessee – Cocke, Hancock, and Monroe Counties – to develop sustainable economic ties with China and to learn about urban planning in China. The group visited four cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Suzhou, whose total population is close to 50 million. Highlights from the trip included a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to discuss trade issues, meeting a high ranking official from the City of Shanghai to discuss import/export issues, touring a Taiwanese owned steel plant in Shanghai, touring an ‘American’ high-tech industrial park in Suzhou, and visiting three impressive urban planning exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. The students came away with many insights relative to trade with China, the immense challenges associated with urban planning in cities like Shanghai, and numerous stories to share with their children and grandchildren!

As part of the exchange agreement, a dozen Shanghai University MBA students will visit UTK between November 11-18. They will work with our planning students on economic development of the three distressed counties, visiting local businesses and attractions.

Other News

Faculty Professional Outreach Activities

Professor Nathan Kelly was an invited speaker at West Knox Rotary Club (September, 2008); at Torch Club International, Knoxville (January, 2009); and All Souls Church, Knoxville (March, 2009).

Professor Jana Morgan gave a talk on contemporary Latin American politics, at Downtown Knoxville Civitan Club (December 2008) and another talk on the causes and consequences of party system collapse in Latin America at Torch Club International, Knoxville Chapter (April 2009).

Professor Prins was invited to speak at the Annual Research Symposium, College of Communication and Information, University of Tennessee (February 27, 2009).

Professor Yang Zhong gave a talk on the rise of China and U.S.-China relations to Knoxville’s Smart Club (April 2009). He also presented his research findings on political culture in rural China in an invited talk at the University of Utah in March 2009.

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Other News
Other News continued

Department Award Banquet

On April 16, 2009, the Political Science Department held its annual awards banquet in the Hermitage Room of the University Center. The guest speaker was Madeline Rogero, Director of Community Development for the City of Knoxville and an alumnus of UT. A number of awards for graduate and undergraduate students were given during the banquet.

Dr. Fitzgerald to Chair Session at Conference at Cambridge University

Dr. Michael R. Fitzgerald is Senior Teaching Fellow at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy. His duties include coordinating the Center’s many educational programs and initiatives. Dr. Fitzgerald will chair the opening session of a conference entitled The Cold War and its Legacy to be held at Churchill College, Cambridge University, U.K., in November.

Faculty Publications and Conference Participation (2008-2009)

Dr. David Brule


Dr. Yang Zhong Continues to Work on UT’s China Initiative

Professor Yang Zhong led a group of UT students on a trip to China in June of 2009. During the 2009-10 academic year, Professor Zhong will continue to work on UT’s China Initiative, forging links between UTK with academic institutions in China.

Speakers Series on Careers in Public Service

During the fall semester of 2009, the Department of Political Science, in conjunction with the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, presented a series of talks on careers in public service. The series featured a variety of speakers, including many UT alumni, who talked about their careers in government, politics, and the not-for-profit sector. The talks were given on Fridays during fall semester at the Baker Center. The series was supported by the Jeffrey and Deborah Chapman Career Exploration Fund.
Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Dr. Ian Down


“No British Referendum: Relief all round?” Paper presented at the 2009 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.


Mr. Joseph Ellis


Presented a poster on flat tax policies in Slovakia and the Czech Republic at the 2009 APSA meeting in Toronto.

Dr. David Folz


“The Process and Politics of Reforming County Government: Town-Gown Collaboration in Knox County,
Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Dr. Patricia Freeland


Dr. Robert Gorman


"The Other Michael Harrington - From Orthodoxy to Dialectics and a Realistic US Radicalism." Critique, Vol.35, No.3 (January 2008).

Dr. David Houston


Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued

Dr. Wonjae Hwang


“Power Transition, Preference, and Conflict in East Asia.” Paper presented at the Meeting of the Peace Studies, Qufu, China, October 24, 2008.


Dr. Nathan Kelly


Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Dr. Jana Morgan


Participated in Political Science Research Workshop, University of South Carolina, April 2009.

Participated in the Conference on the Impact of Economic Crisis on Democracy in Latin America (Vanderbilt University and Latin American Public Opinion Project or LAPOP), co-sponsored by Vanderbilt, LAPOP, IADB, and USAID, January 2009.

Dr. Anthony Nownes


Dr. Brandon Prins


Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Chair, Security Section for the 2010 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

**Dr. John Scheb**


**Dr. Bruce Tonn**


Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Faculty Publications and Conference Participation continued


Dr. Yang Zhong


Graduate Student Publications and Conference Papers

Amy Atchison


Alumni News

Chuck Abernathy
Chuck received his Ph.D. degree in May 2009. He continues as County Manager of McDowell County, NC, and teaches a class at Appalachian State University.

John Altman
John took his first tenure track teaching job ABD at High Point University from 1994 to 1999. He finished his degree in 1997. He took a one year visiting position at UNC-Charlotte from 1999 to 2000. In 2000 he started at York College of Pennsylvania and has been there ever since. He was granted tenure and a promotion to associate professor a few years ago.

Gary Anderson
Gary teaches political theory and US political thought at Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Germany. He is also the head of the university’s international programs. He coordinates all of the university’s overseas activities, from normal exchanges of students and faculty to coordinating research initiatives. This keeps him on the road a lot—or he should rather say, in airports!

Sharon Wright Austin
Sharon is currently an associate professor and undergraduate coordinator of political science at the University of Florida. From 1992-1995, Sharon served as an assistant professor of Pan African Studies at the University of Louisville. From 1995-2002, she served as assistant and associate professor of political science and black studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She earned tenure at Missouri in 2000 and spent her last two years on leave- one at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and one at Florida. She has written 2 books and a number of articles and chapters. At the University of Florida, she teaches courses in minority politics, American government, urban politics, and public policy.

Hunter Bacot
Hunter is currently the director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. He teaches and oversees about six public opinion polls per academic year. In addition, as this job is highly visible, particularly among politicians and business leaders in the state, Hunter often gives speeches and talks to groups and, as a result, get to meet all these leaders and politicians. Last year, mainly because of the election, he gave about 24 invited talks to groups that ranged from the typical local level groups (e.g., Rotary Clubs, etc.) to statewide organizations at their annual meetings (NC Lobbyists group, Associated Press awards dinner, Capital Reporters national conference, etc.). Before arriving at Elon University in 2005, Hunter was a tenured associate professor at UNC-Charlotte and worked there from 1997 to 2005.

Kelly Baker
Kelly has been practicing law for the past ten years at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan in Atlanta. Her practice areas are Antitrust, Franchise and Land Use litigation. She frequently uses the econometrics, administrative, law, and state and local government education she received at UTK in her practice. She said that she is “nostalgic about my time at UTK, and especially appreciates the great mentoring from Dr. Houston as the most important of my academic career.”

DeWitt L. Beeler
Since graduation, he has worked exclusively in the nuclear industry. He has worked in commercial nuclear (TVA, Westinghouse, BNFL and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations); in private consulting (Performance Development Corporation in Oak Ridge); and in the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons complex in environmental and cold-war legacy cleanup (Kaiser-Hill Company, CH2MHill Savannah River Company, and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions). Currently, he is the Deputy VP for Area Completion and Solid Waste Management.

William Eric Davis
After earning his Ph.D., Eric joined the faculty of the University of California, Riverside. He remained there for five years (1997-2002) where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses. In 2002, he joined the faculty at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) in Las Vegas. Eric was awarded tenure in 2006 and published a book that same year (Peace and Prosperity in an Age of Incivility). Eric was on sabbatical in the fall of 2008 to complete the draft of a new book on terrorism. He teaches courses on terrorism and political violence as well as American government courses (most notably
Alumni News continued

the intro course and a course on public opinion, methods and others). Eric also does consulting work on occasion. The most recent project was an effectiveness study on block scheduling conducted for the Clark County School District (Las Vegas), which turned out to be a two year (and possibly a three year) project. Eric was hired in 2008 by his own college to conduct the first tuition elasticity study ever to focus on a public college or university in Nevada.

Kimberly Douglass
Kimberly was awarded her doctorate on May 7, 2009. She commenced a post-doc in information science at UT in August.

Andy Dunsmore
Andy is in Baltimore working for Johns Hopkins University (he has been since September 1, 2006). His title is Associate Dean for Development for the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland. He enjoys his work. He travels a great deal for work and enjoys the travel as well. Previously he was at Johns Hopkins since September, 2006. He is currently working on getting his dissertation published.

Jane Elza
Jane is retired from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia, where she worked for 30 years. She has traveled a lot since retirement. She has traveled to Italy, Germany, France, England, Czech Republic, Austria, Moldova, Greece, Canada and Mexico. She plans to keep traveling until the money or the body runs out.

Karen Holt
Karen, an alumnus of Political Science Department, passed away on October 27, 2009. She was assistant vice president of the Institute for Public Service at the University of Tennessee. A native of Paducah, KY, Dr. Holt spent the majority of her career fulfilling her passion for public service, civil rights and education. Before coming to the Institute for Public Service in 2008, Dr. Holt had previously served as an associate general counsel at UT (1985-1995), led the University of Virginia's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (1997-2003), was an attorney with the Civil and Civil Rights Divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC (1983-1985), served as executive director of Project Pericles in New York (2003-2005) and was director of the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia (2006-2008). Dr. Holt was also a lecturer in our department.

Angela Lewis
Angela was recently granted tenure at the University of Alabama.

Tony Massey
Tony, an alumnus of UT’s MPA program, has been City Manager of Frankfort, Kentucky’s since 2004. As city manager of Kentucky’s state capital, Mr. Massey is responsible for a $40 million annual operating budget and 318 full-time employees. Prior to coming to Frankfort, Mr. Massey was the city manager of Bristol, Tennessee for approximately eight years. His twenty-five years of public service also includes serving as Assistant City Manager/City Recorder for Kingsport, Tennessee and city manager of Savannah, Tennessee. He and his wife, Connie, have two daughters.

Dan Masters
Dan is currently at the University of North Carolina Wilmington as a tenure earning Assistant Professor in the Department of Public and International Affairs. He teaches International Relations, focusing on International Security, and some area studies courses including European Politics and Russian/Post-Soviet Politics. Prior to UNCW he was at Marshall University and East Carolina University. He continues to stay in touch with Professor Anthony Nownes. He works with another UT Alum, Earl Sheridan, who is both a full professor in the department and a city council member in Wilmington. He has also maintained contact with Rob Alexander, now at Ohio Northern University, and they have recently co-authored an article in Contemporary Security Policy. He also serves on the executive council for the North Carolina Political Science Association serving with another UT Alum, Claudia Bryant.

Larry Mays
In the Fall of 1979 Larry took a position in the Political Science/Criminal Justice Department at Appalachian State University. In the summer of 1981 Larry moved to New Mexico State University and served as department head until 1990, when he stepped down to spend more time writing, teaching, and with his growing children. In 1997 he was chosen to be Pro-
fessor of the Year for the State of New Mexico by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In 2005 he was appointed Regents Professor, the highest award given to faculty at NMSU.

**Grant Neely**
Grant is currently the MPA director at the University of Dayton and a Public Affairs Officer in the Navy Reserve.

**Brian Noland**
Brian was appointed chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission in May 2006. The Commission serves as the coordinating body for the state's public colleges and universities and is responsible for a range of policy issues from financial aid to the development of a public agenda for higher education in West Virginia. Brian’s professional career has been primarily focused in higher education and higher education policy. Prior to joining the Commission’s staff, he served as the Associate Executive Director for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and was a faculty member in the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University.

**Kathleen Terry-Sharp**
In 1993, Kathleen joined the Political Science Department at The University of Memphis as their Director of Graduate Programs. She managed the MA, MPA and MHA programs for five years. She got married and moved to Washington, DC in 1997. She worked for The Washington Center (TWC) as Director of State Initiatives and Institutional Relations. TWC brings students from all of the US, Canada and Mexico to do semester long internships in DC for college credit. In 2000 she became Director of Academic Relations at The American Anthropological Association.

**Eric Smith**
Eric is currently a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. He has been teaching all of their international relations and comparative politics courses.

**Dragan Stefanovic**
Dragan is presently on Phased Retirement at Appalachian State University and will retire at the beginning of August. He has been teaching at ASU for 14 years.

**Sarah Surak**
Sarah is settling into her Ph.D. program at Virginia Tech. The Planning, Governance, and Globalization program is interdisciplinary with both a political science and a planning component. She is teaching within the political science department for her assistantship. Her areas of interest include environmental policy, community-based environmental management, patterns of consumption, and local energy policy.

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**Alumni News continued**

**Political Science Funds—Opportunities for Giving**

The Political Science Department has a number of funds established to recognize student achievement, enrich programs, and facilitate research. Contact the Department for more information about any of the following funds:

- John Shanks Memorial Fund
- Otis H. Stephens Fellowship
- Jeffrey and Deborah Chapman Career Exploration Fund
- Frank Clement/Cordell Hull Fund
- Vernon Iredell International Relations Award Fund
- Edgar G. Guenther Scholarship Fund
- Arnett A. Elliott Fund
- Ruth Stephens Scholarship Fund
- Ruth Stephens International Relations Award Fund
- James O. & Minnie Elliot Memorial Scholarship

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**Political Science Head's Support Fund**
**Political Science Enrichment Fund**
**Graduate Student Award Fund**
**Lee S. Greene Memorial Fund**
**Lawrence Durisch Research Fund**
**William G. McCall Graduate Fund**