Welcome to the Department of Political Science’s Newsletter. This is my third time writing an introduction to this newsletter as chair. As some people will remember I was chair from 1988-1993, then interim chair from 2006-2007, and I will serve as interim chair through the 2015-2016 academic year. Serving as a chair has changed greatly over this span of time as has the department!

I am proud to report that we have a very good group of faculty members who are dedicated instructors to our students as well as an exceedingly productive set of scholars. As you read their descriptions of their activities, you will notice the wide range of professional activities with which they are engaged. What you will not see, but which I see on a daily basis, is how much they care about the students and the quality of the learning process. This year our student numbers are up across our programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Our faculty are also involved with the community in multiple ways.

This year is one of program review and renewal. Our MPA Program is up for reaccreditation. We have submitted our self-study and are awaiting its initial review comments. Once we respond to those comments, a site visit will be scheduled for some time in the spring. After that visit, we will again respond to whatever concerns might be raised and a decision will be made by our accrediting body. We expect this process to go smoothly. Similarly, this year we are undergoing an internal university review for all our other academic programs. That review will follow a similar pattern as the MPA Program’s process. Reviewers from outside the university will be involved in the review. We are also reviewing the capacity of our program to handle new students, revising our strategic plan, assessing our strengths and weaknesses, and reviewing our curricular offerings. We began these steps even before we knew of the program review.

Moreover, we are reviving the Political Science Advisory Council. By the end of this busy year, we will have a very thorough sense of what we are doing well and where we can make further improvements. My colleagues deserve our thanks for undertaking these tasks.

This introduction would not be complete without noting that the Department and the University as a whole have faced and will continue to face some serious fiscal constraints. Since I was last chair in 2007, the operating budget for the department has been reduced by over 40%. This is one reason we are sending this newsletter out electronically instead of in a printed format, saving some $3,000 in non-state funds. We have lost five plus faculty lines over the past four years, which means we have had to increase teaching loads, expand class sizes, and reduce the range of courses offered. We will also be facing additional changes in our faculty as individuals approach retirement and it is uncertain if we will be able to replace them and the specialized courses they regularly teach. We no longer have the capacity to teach effectively across fields. This situation is not ours alone, but it does bring into focus the critical nature of the decisions we and the broader university are trying to make this year.

I must conclude by noting the recent passing of Dr. William Troutman. Bill was a longstanding member of the department from the 1960s until his retirement in the late 1980s. He also served as department chair for much of that time. His contributions to the department are too numerous to mention in this brief note, but they are well remembered by those of us who worked with him and by his students!

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Department and what we are doing. Your continued support is most welcome! Thank you!
CHANGES

Political Scientist William Downs Becomes Dean of Arts and Sciences

In July, 2014 Dr. William M. Downs was named Dean of Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at ECU. Dr. Downs is a political scientist who had been Area Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at George State University before coming to ECU.

Dr. Downs’ research has been at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations and concerns political extremism, elections, decentralization of governance, and legislative institutions focusing mainly on Europe. His most recent book is Political Extremism in Democracies: Combating Intolerance (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). He holds tenure and the rank of Professor in the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Downs is a native North Carolinian; his BA in political science was granted by North Carolina State University in 1988. His MA and PhD are from Emory University. While at NCSU, Dr. Downs had the opportunity to serve as a state government intern in Raleigh and also to study abroad. In his career he has consistently emphasized connecting the local and global and said upon his arrival at ECU that he hoped Harriot College “can enrich students and our region’s communities by likewise connecting them to an ever globalized world.”

Lockerbie Steps Down as Department Chair; Thompson is Interim Chair

In May, 2014 Dr. Brad Lockerbie resigned as chair of the Department of Political Science. Dr. Bob Thompson, Director of the MPA Program, took on the position of interim chair. Dr. Thompson was asked by Dean Downs to serve as interim chair until May, 2016. The Department will conduct a search for a new department chair in the 2015-16 academic year. Dr. Lockerbie resumed full teaching duties in fall semester. He will be an integral part of the department’s plans to offer an interdisciplinary minor in Social and Political Analysis Research (SPAR).

Morris is New Undergraduate Director

In the spring of 2014, Dr. Nancy Spalding stepped down from her long-held position as undergraduate director in the Department. Dr. Spalding had held this position since 1999. Her 15 years of service rivals Herb Carlton as the longest serving undergraduate director in departmental history. Her successor, Dr. Jay Morris, commented “The department owes her a debt of gratitude for her fine work over the years. Nancy always put the students first.” When asked what plans he had, Dr. Morris said, “We are always trying to increase the number of political science majors. A degree in political science from ECU prepares students for success in either the public or private sector. Our majors are successful and we want to share that with more students.”

Shelia Ellis Leaves for New Job

Long-time departmental administrative support associate, Shelia Ellis is leaving the department to take a more senior position at the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy at ECU. Ms Ellis was MPA Secretary from 2000 until she became departmental associate in 2004, replacing Cynthia Smith who retired. Shelia says, “I am grateful for the 14 years I’ve worked in Political Science. They have been very rewarding. I’ll miss the students, the faculty and all the friends I’ve made within Harriot College, especially the Brewster Crew.” We’ll miss her greatly!
Former Department Chair Bill Troutman Passes Away

Dr. William Troutman, chair of the Department from 1966 through 1979 passed away at age 96 in September. Bill was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps who did his undergraduate work at Western Carolina University (then Teachers College) and graduate work at Duke. He came to ECU in 1965 and retired in 1988. Bill is commemorated in the Department with the Carlton-Troutman Scholarship for a rising senior political science major, and in the discipline of political science with the Troutman-Rainey Award for the best undergraduate paper presented at the North Carolina Political Science Association annual conference. Bill was an early advocate for bicycling in Greenville; his advocacy resulted in the bike lanes that you see on some city streets.

Evans Case Leaves ECU for University of Texas

Dr. Rhonda Evans Case, the Department’s professor of legal affairs resigned from ECU in spring of 2014 to accept the position of Director of the Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Evans Case had been on leave from ECU for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years to direct the UT center on an interim basis. In her resignation letter, Dr. Evans Case said “It’s been a privilege to belong to the Department of Political Science at ECU. . . . Although Austin has many charms, I’ve missed my life in Greenville. To count so many good friends among my colleagues is, I think, a rarity. Such rewarding friendships and professional relationships are not easily replicated.”


Olson Lounsbery and Francia Take on New Responsibilities

Two Departmental faculty members—Marie Olson Lounsbery and Peter Francia—have taken on leadership roles in different undergraduate interdisciplinary minors. Francia is co-director of the ECU Leadership Studies Minor while Olson Lounsbery directs the International Studies Minor. Both of these appointments call for guiding students to the completion of academic requirements for a minor in the field. ECU has been offering the International Studies minor for a number of years but Leadership Studies is something much more recently adopted. Both minors require student to take a 1000 introductory course and a 4000 capstone course while also completing course in the disciplines that contribute to the respective minors.

ECU Homecoming

ECU’s Homecoming was Saturday October 4. Faculty from the Department joined Harriot College Dean Bill Downs to welcome Arts and Sciences and Political Science alumni back to the university and to view the ECU Homecoming parade.

Representing the Department were Bob Thompson, Alethia Cook, Bonnie Mani, Jay Morris, Sharon Paynter and Carmine Scavo who enjoyed coffee and pastries, conversation, the beautiful weather, and the day’s pagentry.

*Alethia Cook, Carmine Scavo and Jay Morris speak with MPA Alumnus Jennifer Tripp*
Department Sponsors Panels on Ukraine and Ebola

In conjunction with a wide number of other programs, the Department began this fall to offer a series of panel discussions and presentations on politically-relevant current topics.

In September, the first of the panels, *Crisis in Ukraine*, brought together Economist and Russian expert Rick Ericson, Communication professor and director of the Master of Arts in International Studies program Kirk St. Amant, historian Rick Hernandez and political scientist Carmine Scavo. The event was well attended by a capacity crowd of some 175. The panelists presented their ideas on the cultural, linguistic, religious, and geopolitical aspects of the Russian intervention in Ukraine and also responded to lively and interesting questions from the audience.

In October, the Department sponsored a second panel with members from public health, internal medicine, anthropology, geography, history and security studies on the issue of Ebola and the potential threats the Ebola outbreak might pose to ECU and North Carolina. The participants all urged the audience to be cautious in their health behaviors but not to panic about the few cases of Ebola in the US. Dr. Paul Cook, from the Brody School of Medicine, said “I don’t think we need to fear Ebola. We need to fear the fear of Ebola.”

*Members of the Ebola Panel*

Dr. Alethia Cook, Director of Security Studies and organizer of the panel series says, “These panel events are an important part of ECU’s outreach into the community. They tap into the diverse expertise here on campus to provide information about today’s major security challenges to the Greenville community. The panels provide our students an example of the depth of knowledge that can be acquired when one uses an interdisciplinary approach. Finally, through these discussions, students can see how one can engage in debate in a thoughtful and constructive manner.”

*Interested in these topics?*

Events organized by the Department are free and open to the public.

Look for future announcements!
Debate: College Democrats vs. College Republicans

Imagine a political debate between Republicans and Democrats that focuses on issues rather than personalities—a debate in which the participants are passionate but civil in making their points and rebutting the positions taken by the other side. Fantasy, you might conclude, especially in a year like this where much of the political debate involves name-calling and mud-slinging.

Well, on October 22, ECU College Republicans and College Democrats debated each other in front of a standing room only crowd. And they did what candidates for office can’t seem to do in an election year—focus on policy differences between the parties without resorting to the types of incivilities that some of the candidates are fostering.

Andrew Bowers, Director of Local and State Affairs for the ECU Student Government Association, organized the debate entitled Our Issues, Their Opinions while Dr. Jay Morris moderated it. The Republican team was composed of Adam Caldwell, Ryan Beeson, Eric Coln and Ajay Purswani while the Democratic team was Ebony West (chair), Kathleen Daniels, Anniken Williams, and Justin McCarthy. The sides were evenly matched as they responded to questions first framed by Dr. Morris and then some from the audience. While the debate spanned a number of national and local issues, it tended to focus on the close and hotly-contested senatorial race between Kay Hagan and Thom Tillis.

Andrew Bowers summed things up, “the best part about the debate was the fact that two organizations, with historically fundamental differences, worked together to make an awesome event that gathered so much attention from students all over campus. Both sides gave great arguments, and their passion set an awesome example. I hope we can build from here and encourage more students to get involved in the democratic process on campus and away from school.”

Baumgartner and Morris speak about Book

Jody Baumgartner and Jay Morris spoke to an audience of some 25 people at Barnes and Noble Books about their new book Politics is a Joke! (Westview). Rather than the typical academic presentation, the two showed video clips from Saturday Night Live, The Daily Show, The
Colbert Report and The Late Show with David Letterman from Jody’s video library. Their book concludes that late night humor shows target Republican office-holders much more than they do Democratic office-holders but that most humor addresses personal foibles rather than policy issues. After the presentation the two autographed copies of the book.

**Running for Office**

As you check the Alumni News below you will see that a large number of Political Science and Public Administration graduates work in administrative and policy positions for local and state government. Some of our students go farther and “enter the arena:”

Marion Blackburn, a current MPA student is a member of the Greenville City Council. She was first elected in 2009.

Justin Conrad, BA 1996 won election to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, District 3 in the November election.

Matt Overby, BS 2013 won election as a District Supervisor on the Wake County Soil and Conservation Board in the November election.

Uriah Ward, a current Political Science major ran for NC House District 9 seat but lost in the November, 2014 election.

**Faculty Talk Elections with Students**

On the evening of November 4 American politics faculty from the Department hosted a Pizza and Politics session with ECU students to discuss election results and their implications. Jay Morris organized the session with Tom Eamon, Peter Francia, Brad Lockerbie, and Carmine Scavo. The session was held in D-360 at Mendenhall Student Center. Some 100 students spent some parts of the evening enjoying pizza and soft drinks and reviewing election results with the professors.

Faculty and students at Pizza and Politics. From left to right, Michael Joy, Jay Morris, Mia Leone, Carmine Scavo, Brent Cronce, William Bell, Pete Francia and Brad Lockerbie.
One of my first steps when I took the office of Undergraduate Director was to try to increase the presence of the Department within the university and the community. We began working on different projects to showcase departmental talent on both domestic and international topics. As this newsletter demonstrates, our efforts have borne fruit.

We anticipate that sometime soon, the US Department of Education is going to require universities to identify and report the jobs their graduates are working for five or so years after graduation. This is part of an effort by the federal government to determine the value of undergraduate degrees offered by different universities. We will be contacting our recent graduates for information about you and the work that you are doing. We know our graduates go on to do great things! Now we have to document that fact for the people who keep the records.

I echo Dr. Thompson’s sentiments about budget cutbacks at ECU. The departmental operating budget has been cut by more than 40% since 2007. And as faculty retire or leave, it is not guaranteed that we will get the position back to continue teaching the classes that were being offered. In the last few years, Dr. William Mangun retired and both Dr. Rhonda Evans-Case and Dr. Young-Hun Kim left ECU. We have not been able to replace any of these professors and so have had to come up with piecemeal ways to cover the unique undergraduate courses they offered—in environmental policy, legal studies, and Eastern European and Russian politics. We are working on ways to guarantee that our students are offered courses in all the traditional areas of political science—American politics, international politics, comparative politics, political theory, and methodology. As these efforts move along, we will be sure to inform all of you of their progress and to seek your input into our efforts.

One of the most exciting things about becoming undergraduate director is working more closely with our students and our alumni. I’ve been having individual meetings with each of our majors to familiarize myself with them as individuals. As I’ve do this, I’ve made notes of areas in our curriculum that need attention and we will be working on addressing those areas of need in the near future. We have already begun offering POLS 2090—Writing for Political Science as required course for students in the Bachelor of Science program. This was developed to address the need for our undergraduate students to gain relevant knowledge on writing in this discipline. We are researching other new courses that will provide relevant education for our majors while also be attractive to ECU students from other disciplines. Look for future new course offerings here!

We love to hear from our alumni!

Let us know what you are doing by contacting Kiwana Washington at 252.328.6030

Visit us at www.ecu.edu/polsci or check out the Department, MPA Program and Security Studies Facebook pages
Security Studies Marches On

Security Studies continues to grow in many ways. Enrollments are up across the undergraduate minor, the graduate certificate and the master’s degree programs. Representatives of the program are recruiting throughout the state to continue this positive trend.

Since the arrival of Dr. Armin Krishnan in the program in fall 2013, the program has grown its curriculum to take advantage of his expertise, including graduate classes in intelligence analysis, intelligence and national security, and cyberwarfare. These courses were officially added to the ECU graduate catalog in fall 2014. This year, the process is underway to add an undergraduate course in political science in intelligence.

In spring 2014 Security Studies was added as an undergraduate major under the ECU Multidisciplinary Studies program. Classes from a wide variety of departments can be assembled into a degree that will help students market themselves to potential employers. In the six months that the new major has been available, it has already enrolled nine students.

Public Administration Reaccreditation Underway

The Master of Public Administration program at ECU carries national accreditation through the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). That accreditation needs to be renewed every seven years. The 2013-14 academic year was designated as the program’s self-study year and the MPA faculty gathered a wealth of data on faculty, courses, students, and alumni. Dr. Robert J. Thompson, Director of the MPA Program, spent a good part of the summer of 2014 writing the program’s self-study report which was filed with NASPAA in August. In October the program heard that NASPAA’s Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) had no major questions for the program and so the MPA program could continue to the next step in the accreditation process—a site visit scheduled in early spring 2015.

The MPA program has continued to evolve over time. The faculty decided several years ago to combine the multiple areas of emphasis that had been offered into two more general areas—public management and public policy. In early fall 2014, the faculty reassessed this decision and decided to combine the two areas into one. The program will now consist of nine required courses, four elective courses, an internship, and MPA professional paper.

The US economic recession that ended around 2009 has had a longer term impact on the public sector than it did on the private sector. Many local and state governments laid off workers during the recession and have been slow hiring new workers. Because of financial limitations, many local governments that had tuition assistance for their employees to pursue graduate work cut back or ended those programs. The MPA program’s enrollments took a big hit through the triple whammy of less personal or family money available to pay for graduate school for pre-service students, less tuition assistance for in-service students, and fewer job opportunities for both groups of students. This has begun to ease and is reflected in healthy MPA enrollments in the 2014-15 academic year. Eighteen students started the MPA program in fall 2014; half of these were pre-service and half in-service. Ashlee Athis and Adrianna Gray graduated from the program in December, 2013 while Emily Black, Jenee Eubanks, Shane Johnson, and Brandon Lanier graduated in May, 2014.

Do you have an internship opportunity for an ECU student?

If so, please contact Bob Thompson, MPA Director at thompsonro@ecu.edu
-or-
Peter Francia, director of undergraduate internships at franciap@ecu.edu
Dr. Jody Baumgartner, in collaboration with Jay Morris, of ECU and S. Robert Lichter of George Mason University, published a book titled *Politics Is a Joke! How TV Comedians Are Remaking Political Life* (Westview). The book examines the political humor of late-night television during the past 20 years. He also recently completed a manuscript for his second book on the vice presidency, tentatively titled *The American Vice Presidency: Emerging from the Constitutional Shadows*. The book is due to be published by Rowman & Littlefield in early 2015. Finally, work has begun on the third edition of his book with Peter Francia, *Conventional Wisdom and American Elections: Exploding Myths, Exploring Misconceptions* (Rowman & Littlefield). Dr. Baumgartner was also elected chair of the Department’s Personnel Committee for the 2014-15 academic year. This committee handles all appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions for faculty in political science.

Dr. David Conradt has been on medical leave of absence for most of fall semester, 2014. He plans to return to his teaching duties in January, 2015. Meanwhile the sixth edition of Dr. Conradt’s co-authored book *Politics in Europe* was published by CQ Press. Dr. Conradt will also be the guest editor of the journal *German Politics* for their special issue on The Civic Culture at 50 marking the 50th anniversary of one of the seminal works in comparative politics *The Civic Culture*.

Dr. Alethia Cook studies national and international security, including weapons of mass destruction, the factors that influence violence committed by rebels and terrorist organizations, emergency response to acts of terrorism, responding to pandemic disease, and activities to stop radiological and nuclear terrorism. She has spent a lot of time in the past year administering the Security Studies programs that reside in the department. In the spring of 2014, she worked to develop and gain approval for a new informal concentration in security studies within the undergraduate multidisciplinary studies program here on campus. Students can now essentially choose to major in security studies which ten students have already decided to do! In addition, a lot of time has been devoted to growing enrollments in the graduate Master of Science in Security Studies and Certificate programs. As a result, the MSSS program enjoyed a 32% increase in enrollments this fall, countering the general downward trend in graduate enrollment that is being experienced at ECU. Dr. Cook’s research continues to focus on the factors that influence patterns of violence in states experiencing civil conflict and the response challenges posed by weapons of mass destruction. Finally, for fall 2014 Dr. Cook has been busy putting on special panel events focused on providing expert information about current events. One panel discussed the crisis in the Ukraine. A second examined the implications of Ebola and the extent to which it poses a threat to Greenville and U.S. security. Both panels were well received by ECU’s students, faculty, and the community at large.

Dr. Tom Eamon published *The Making of a Southern Democracy: North Carolina Politics from Kerr Scott to Pat McCrory* (UNC Press) in spring 2014. This book has been getting a great deal of both academic and popular media attention and Dr. Eamon has made a number of public
appearances at book stores, universities and in other venues. In October, 2014 Dr. Eamon was the speaker at the semi-annual meeting of the UNC Press Board of Governors in Chapel Hill. He was also interviewed by Ken Rudin, National Public Radio’s “Political Junkie.” Dr. Eamon also presented a paper, “The Vital South? Regionalism in Federal Elections, 1940-2012” at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics in March, 2014. For those of you who may remember the old Tom Eamon, he has gone digital! He has moved into the 21st century and uses both his computer and IPad to communicate with students, friends, and colleagues, students and friends.

Dr. Peter Francia recently co-authored a study “Labor Unions and the Mobilization of Latino Voters: Can the Dinosaur Awaken the Sleeping Giant?” (with Susan Orr) has been accepted for publication in Political Research Quarterly. The paper earned the recognition of the London School of Economics whose American Politics and Policy Blog asked Dr. Francia to co-author a blog that appeared on the LSE website on US Labor Day. In November, 2013 Dr. Francia and Dr. Jay Morris appeared on C-SPAN to discuss their paper “The Divided Republicans? Tea Party Supporters, Establishment Republicans and Social Networks” at the State of the Parties Conference at the University of Akron. Their paper was published in The State of the Parties, 6th edition (Rowman and Littlefield). Dr. Francia also became co-director of the ECU interdisciplinary Leadership Studies program last year. This program is one of the three major focuses of the ECU strategic plan. He also has just finished a one-year term as president of the North Carolina Political Science Association and a three-year term on the American Political Science Association’s Committee on Teaching and Learning. His teaching excellence was recognized by the ECU Pi Sigma Alpha honor society who named him its 2014 Faculty Member of the Year.

Dr. Younhee Kim published three articles and one book chapter in 2014. These articles examined significant issues in the areas of performance management, cross country health efficiency, prison privatization, and e-government. One of her articles, “Revising Prison Privatization: An Examination of the Magnitude of Prison Privatization,” in Administration & Society was listed as the most read article in May, 2014 and still has ranked in the top three most read articles list in September, 2014. She also has several research projects in process that continuously examine measurement issues in public service. Dr. Kim presented two conference papers this year: “The Indifferent Zone in Perceived Public Schools Services” at the 2014 World Conference for Public Administration in Daegu, Korea; and “Citizen Participation in Digital Democracy” at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Public Administration, Washington, DC. Recently, she was also invited as a speaker at the Career Development Workshop organized by the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association-North Carolina Chapter and RTR B&B, Durham, NC. Dr. Kim has continuously served as a managing editor of International Journal of eGovernance and Networks since 2012. She is co-chairing a three-day symposium on the possibility of ICTs in facilitating a smart and open society. This is sponsored by the International IT University in Kazakhstan and will be held November 13-15, 2014 in Almaty. Dr. Kim has also actively involved in national and international outreach for various scholarly activities and services.

Dr. Armin Krishnan is a specialist in the areas of defense, intelligence, and military technology. He has recently presented the paper “Promoting Democracy through Covert Action? New Cyber Tools for Intervention” at the Cii Conference on International Intervention at the University of Surrey, UK in July, 2014. He is going to give a paper titled “From Psyops to Neurowar: What Are the Dangers?”
at the International Studies Association conference in Austin, Texas in November, 2014. His current research focuses on the use of neurotechnologies for national security applications, especially with respect to their legal and ethical implications. This includes the issues of neuroscientific human enhancement, as well as the development of new types of nonlethal weapons. His new book *Neurowaffen: Der Angriff auf das Gehirn* [Neuroweapons: the Attack on the Brain] is going to be published in German in spring 2015 with Matthes & Seitz, Berlin. His other current research project deals with covert operations/covert action after the end of the Cold War. Particular focus is given to new tools for covert action, namely armed drones, cyber warfare, and new methods of political subversion. He will contribute to the North Carolina World Affairs Council Great Decisions series with a lecture on “Privacy in the Digital Age” in January 2015.

**Dr. Brad Lockerbie** stepped down as chair of the department at the end of spring 2014, but he has not left the department. He has returned to being a regular member of the faculty. Dr. Lockerbie is continuing his work on race and religion as they relate to voting behavior and political attitudes. The first manuscript on this project appeared as “Race and Religion: Voting Behavior and Political Attitudes,” in *Social Science Quarterly*. In this article he found that evangelical blacks vote more Democratic than less religious blacks. Right now he is exploring the relationship between issues of a variety of types (racial, economic, and social) and religiosity for whites and blacks. He also served as a beta tester for Apple this past summer.

**Dr. Bonnie Mani** published two articles in recent months. The first article, “The Human Capital Model and Federal Employees’ Pay: Gender, Veteran Status, and Occupation,” was published in *Gender Issues* which is a journal that publishes articles related to sex, gender, and the workplace. The second article, “Determinants of a City Manager's Tenure in Office: The Person, Job, Municipality, and Election Systems,” was published in *SAGEOpen* which is a journal reflecting a contemporary trend to give a much broader audience access to scholarly research. In Spring Semester 2015, in response to the requests of several graduate students and consistent with her teaching and research interests, Dr. Mani is scheduled to teach PADM 6116—Women, Public Policy and Administration. In addition to her master and Ph.D. degrees in public policy and administration, Dr. Mani also holds a Bachelor of Music degree so, consistent with her interests, Spring Semester 2014 Dr. Mani taught American Politics through Music. And Homecoming Weekend she performed in the Alumni Reunion and Recital here at ECU.

**Dr. Jay Morris** recent research has focused on the media and politics, especially political humor and social media. He is co-authors of *Politics is a Joke! How TV Comedians are Remaking Political Life* (see above), and published an article, “Digital Inequality and Participation in the Political Process: Real or Imagine,” in *The Social Science Computer Review* with his brother, David S. Morris, currently at the College of Charleston. Dr. Morris also published a book chapter on the role of Twitter in the 2012 Presidential Election with Peter L. Francia. Dr. Morris’ current research is examining media coverage of Congress in mainstream news as well as in social media. In spring 2014 Dr. Morris became the Director of Undergraduate Programs for the Department. He looks forward to meeting and reconnecting with alumni.

**Dr. Marie Olsen Lounsbery** continues to examine various aspects of intrastate conflict in her research. She has recently published an article on negotiation efforts in Southeast Asia (with Dr. Alethia Cook in *International Negotiation*) and has completed two book chapters examining various aspects of armed struggle in Myanmar. Her projects also explore what makes for more enduring peace agreements, the impact of foreign military intervention on rebel group cohesion, and terrorist group organizational and
network structure resulting in three articles currently under review. As a result of receiving a university teaching grant, Dr. Olson has also written several international conflict simulations on real world events which she is using to bring theory to practice in two of this semester’s POLS 2020, Introduction to International Relations courses.

Dr. Sharon Paynter was recently appointed Interim Director of the Office of Public Service and Community Relations at ECU. This office engages faculty and students with community partners to make a difference in issues facing Eastern North Carolina. Dr. Paynter continued to partner with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina to develop a more reliable estimate of the number of missing meals across its service area and has consulted with Vidant Health Foundation to evaluate its Capacity Building Program. Dr. Paynter also recently published five articles. These include “Tackling Wicked Problems through Engaged Scholarship,” in the Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship; “Policy Implications of Projecting the Multiplier Effects of Social Safety Net Program using IMPLAN,” in the State and Local Government Review; “Multijurisdictional Industrial Parks and Revenue Sharing,” in the Journal of Public Administration and Governance; “Who Benefits from Job Creation Tax Credits” in the Coastal Business Journal; and “Measuring Organization Capacity,” which will appear in the Journal of Health and Human Services Administration.

Dr. Jalil Roshandel recently published a chapter on Iran in Europa World Year Book series The Middle East and North America (Routledge). He also presented a paper at the 31st Annual Conference on the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies in Augusta, GA. Dr. Roshandel has also had 18 articles published by Radio Liberty/Radio Europe in Persian and has appeared locally (WITN-TV), nationally (Voice of America), and internationally (BBC and Andisheh) commenting on US - Iran events. He was recently appointed as a board member of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, Iran Academia, and Alternative Perspective and Global Concerns.

Dr. Roshandel has recently applied for and was accepted for three-year phased retirement. This means he will begin teaching half-time in fall 2015.

Dr. Carmine Scavo was recently notified that he and Dr. Olga Smirnova had been funded by the Greenville Utilities Commission to conduct a national survey of members of the American Public Power Association on the types of economic development activities they were engaging in. Dr. Scavo has been working with Emily Washington of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University on a study of state streamlining commissions—boards typically appointed by governors or state legislatures to examine state budgets and bureaucracies and recommend areas where cost savings can occur. He recently published an article “The Digital Divide and e-Government in the United States,” in the initial issue of the International Journal of e-Governance and Networks. Dr. Scavo was also a participant in the recent Crisis in the Ukraine panel discussion the Department sponsored in September. And MPA graduates—Dr. Scavo is teaching PADM 6161 online this semester. Can you imagine?

Dr. Olga Smirnova recently published two articles and three book chapters. The two articles were “Meeting the Public Administration Goals: Trade Offs or Synergies,” and “Public Transportation and Contracting Out,” both published in Public Works Management and Policy Journal. Book chapters are “The Contracting Decision,” “Are Creative and Green Cities Also Smart and Clean?” and “Advancing Research on Computer Hackers through On-Line Data.” Dr. Smirnova presented a co-authored paper “Managing with Measurement: Monitoring of Contractual Relationships in the Transit Industry” at the annual meeting of the
Dr. Nancy Spalding is teaching a topics class on the history of American Conservative Political Thought, from Burke and the Founding, through Tocqueville, Libertarianism, William F. Buckley Jr.’s Fusionist expression, and the founding of National Review, the Cold War and the rise of “neo-conservatism,” the Reagan Revolution, the “end of Big Government as we know it,” Cultural Conservatism and public religious engagement, and the Bush Doctrine and the War on Terror. She is using an Intercollegiate Studies Institute video lecture course as the outline, students are doing weekly journal entries on the readings and the videos, with some group student presentations. The class is full, with students from across the political spectrum, and discussion is lively and respectful. The student papers allow them to explore opposing positions and arguments on topical issues of specific interest to them. So far student response is positive, and the course has received some national coverage on the blogosphere; the Department may offer it again in the future.

Dr. Bob Thompson continues his work as Director of the Master of Public Administration program while also serving as interim Department chair for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years. The MPA program is currently undergoing NASPAA reaccreditation which occurs every seven years. The program conducted its self-study in the 2013-14 academic year; Dr. Thompson then wrote the program’s self-study and submitted it to NASPAA in August. The program will get feedback from the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) and barring no unforeseen snags will proceed to hosting NASPAA site visitors in spring 2015.

Dr. Thompson recently published a book chapter, “Scotland and Scottish Nationalism,” in the Encyclopedia of Ethnic Conflicts in the Twentieth Century (Greenwood). He is also going to teach a special topics class on global climate change in spring 2015. Dr. Thompson also continues his service on the Board of Directors of the NC Coalition to End Homelessness.
Each year, the Department makes a number of scholarship awards to undergraduate and graduate students. These awards are made possible through generous support from the donors listed.

2013-2014 Scholarships Awards

Kristian Williams  
NC City and County Management Scholarship

Chaniece Mulligan  
Carlton/Troutman Scholarship

Harrison Phillips (co-winner)  
Senator John East Scholarship

Tevin Wilson (co-winner)  
Senator John East Scholarship

Thomas Godley  
Tinsley E. Yarbrough Scholarship

Katherine Bennett  
Colonel Louis and Mrs. Trudy Gomes Award

Tevin Wilson  
University Book Exchange Award

Harrison Phillips  
Hans Indorf Memorial Scholarship

Tevin Wilson  
2014 Outstanding Senior

2014-2015 Scholarships Awards

Henry E. Boyd IV  
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Katelyn Webb  
Carlton/Troutman Scholarship

Adam Caldwell  
Senator John East Scholarship

Ryan Beeson  
Tinsley E. Yarbrough Scholarship

Jasmine Little  
Colonel Louis and Mrs. Trudy Gomes Award

Samantha Harris  
University Book Exchange Award

Bailey Evans  
Hans Indorf Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Brace  
Mitchell L. Hunt Scholarship

Kathleen Daniels (co-winner)  
Pitt County Democratic Women’s Scholarship

Ebony West (co-winner)  
Pitt County Democratic Women’s Scholarship
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES!

Fall 2013

Bachelor of Arts
Celeste D. Casey
Jay X. Hitselberger
Joseph R. Payne
Rachel A. Pickens
Megan Ratti
Caitlin S. Truelove
Keith V. Tumolo

Master of Public Administration
Ashlee L. Athis
Adrianna C. Gray

Graduate Certificate in Security Studies
William C. Ash

Bachelor of Science
Lauren M. Alfieri
Tyler T. Dandrea
Travis S. Ellis
Caitlin J. Farmer
Bruce N. Hendrix
Neil S. Lotridge
Dominique Love
Mary Taylor Mosier

Spring 2014

Bachelor of Arts
Michael Anderson
Kalen A. Bryan
Zachary E. Dill
Jessica L. Dulin
Fred B. Griffin
Richard T. Hardee
Carlos A. Irias
Kevin M. Kearney
Thomas P. Mann
Harrison A. Phillips
Donald R. Smith
Katia K. Stukes
Linda A. Sutton
Thomas R. Van Arsdale
Lucas W. Wall
Gregory A. Watson
Kelly E. Watson
Katherine E. Williams

Bachelor of Science
Demonte L. Alford
Troy A. Allen
Lane M. Bray
Nicholas Cardone
Fara L. Coppol
Edward A. Davenport
Daniel S. Gregory
Kyle P. Griffin
Corey S. Gunter
Aranda D. Holley
Miranda S. Holley
Katidra L. Ingram
Sean W. Lanham
Melvin E. Lee
William J. Lightfoot
Jonathan M. Redd
Elise C. Rouse
William F. Simpson
William T. Turner
Joseph S. Walker
Kaitlyn N. Wallace
Erika A. Wallenhaupt
Lucas J. Wallwork

Master of Public Administration
Emily M. Black
Jenee S. Eubanks
Shane E. Johnson
Brandon D. Lanier

Graduate Certificate in Security Studies
Julianne M. August
Zachary F. Cooper
Tashaun T. Hill
Juliana O. Jalal
Tyler H. Masuda
David F. Vilela

Master of Science in Security Studies
Joseph A. Hatley
John T. Kaufman
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Stephen Flippin
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Richard J. Garkalns
Colonel Donald L. Gaylor
Timothy Dale Edwards and Scott Hill Gibson
Doug & Beth Gomes
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Donate $1,000 or more to the Department and we’ll feature your name on a plaque in the department library. You will also receive a customized gift to show our appreciation. Funds donated to the Department are used to improve the departmental library and classrooms and to provide student and faculty services. We encourage all alumni to consider giving, no matter what amount. You may also choose to honor a special professor, public official, or relative by placing his or her name on the plaque.

If you are interested in officially “naming” the library or a political science classroom, please contact Dr. Robert J. Thompson. Send your tax-deductible donation to:

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT ALUMNUS JASON LOWRY HONORED FOR WORK WITH VETERANS

Jason Lowry, BS 2002, MPA 2007, a legislative aide to US Representative Walter Jones, was honored on Veteran’s Day of this year for his work with NC veterans. NC Governor Pat McCrory awarded Lowry the state’s highest award for community service. Jason is himself a veteran of the US Marine Corps. His efforts to help injured military veterans and their families were prominently mentioned in the Governor’s award. On Veteran’s Day, Jason thought he had been asked to join a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Down East Detachment 1186 of the Marine Corps League so he was surprised when it turned into an awards ceremony. Jason’s MPA Professional Paper analyzed the possibility of creating a VA specialized care unit in Greenville so that veterans in the area would not have to travel some 100 miles to Durham for health care. The Greenville VA Health Care Center opened in January 2014. (Excerpted from The Daily Reflector November 11, 2014 by Michael Abramowitz).
Laura Beth Adams, MPA 2013 is a Grants Specialist at Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments in Georgetown SC.

Nizami Ahverdiyev, MPA 2002 is Director of Finance at The Global Health Fellows Program in the Public Health Institute in Washington DC.

John Alexander, MPA 2013 is a PhD student in Public Administration at NC State University.

Michaelina Antahades, MPA 2010 is the Group Sales Manager at the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte.

Craig Batten, BS 2007 is currently an Immigration Agent with the Refugee and Asylum Division of the Department of Homeland Security in Lincoln Nebraska.

Rebecca Best, BA 2006 is now an assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Alexandra Boncek, MPA 2012 is Executive Director for Travel and Tourism at the Nash County NC Visitors Bureau.

Justin Brown, BS 2012 is a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army.

Melonie Bryan, BA 1982; MA 1987 retired as Deputy County Manager of Pitt County NC and now works as Director of University Scholarships for East Carolina University.

Joel K. Butler, MPA 1998 is Chief External Affairs Office at Vidant Health and President of the Vidant Health and Vidant Medical Center Foundations in Greenville. He is a former member of the ECU Board of Trustees and was appointed to the Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners in July, 2014.

Justin Drake Carroll, BS 2011 is the founder and owner of Fruit Fixed, a company that overhauls and repairs iPhones and other electronic devices in Richmond VA.

Kristen Casper, MPA 2009 is Business Development Manager at Styers & Kemerait, a land use, utility and renewable energy law firm in Raleigh.

Deb Clark, MPA 2007 is pursuing a second Master’s degree in Human Resource Development at Clemson University.

Rebecca Clarridge Buzzard, MPA 2007 lives in Italy.

Angela Cline, BA, 2000; MPA 2011 is currently the Registrar at Pitt Community College

Eric Cloud, MPA 2004 is a Project Estimator at Division X LLC in Franklin Tennessee.

George Collier, BS 2000; MPA 2004 is a Rural Development Associate at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He is married to Olivia Hill Collier (MPA 2004), Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Brian Colligan, MPA 2005 recently moved from being the editorial page editor of the Greenville Daily Reflector to the opinion editor of the Daily Press in Newport News VA.

Shawn Condon, BA 2000; MPA 2005 is the Town Manager of Warsaw.

Justin Conrad, BA 1996 until recently ran Libby Hill Seafood, a well-known restaurant in the Triad area. Libby Hill spun off its seafood important and distribution unit under Justin’s leadership. He recently won a seat on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

Travis Cowan, MPA 2011 is the Police Chief of Williamston.

Ben Davis, MPA 2010 works for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Chris Delulisis, MPA 1986 relocated from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh to Beaufort NC where he currently is Director of Organizational Improvement at Carteret General Hospital.

Natalia Domovessova, MPA 2002 is Senior Planner for the City of Warrenville IL

Jon-Michael Dougherty, BS 2009 graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center in 2012. He is currently an Associate with the law firm of Boies, Schiller and Flexner where he works primarily in the area of complex commercial litigation.

Rebekah Jones Eastep, MPA 2008 is an Environmental Planner with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in Virginia.

Jessica Fiester, MPA 2005 is the Planning and Zoning Director for the Town of Atlantic Beach.

Michael Haley, MPA 2000 is a Director of Business Recruitment and Expansion at Wake County Economic Development

Stefan Haus, BA 2010; MAIS 2012 is an analyst for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) in the Department of Homeland Security in Washington DC. He describes his job as keeping “the bad guys with the really bad stuff out of the country.”

Robin High, MPA 2006 is the Nutrition Program Director in Pediatric Nutrition Services at the Pitt County Health Department

Amanda Hodges, MPA 2006 (and ECU EdD 2014) is Interim Dean at Edenton-Chowan Campus of the College of the Albemarl.

Dennis Honeycutt, MPA 1998 retired as Special Agent in Charge on the Northeastern District for the NC State Bureau of Investigation in 2006 and now is a teaching instructor in the ECU Criminal Justice program.

Fallon Hopkins, MPA 2012 is Assistant to the Mecklenburg County Manager.

Phil Houston, BA 1977 retired after a 25-year career with the CIA and is a partner in the firm QVerity which provides screening services for private and public sector clients around the world. His experiences in detecting deceptive behaviors have been incorporated into two co-authored books, *Spy the Lie* (2012) and the soon-to-be-released *Get the Truth*. He was named an ECU Outstanding Alumnus in 2012.

Elizabeth Isley, MPA 2004 is Partner Relations Manager for Global Business Services at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina in Cary.

Steven Kresch, BA 2010 graduated from West Virginia University College of Law in 2014 and is currently an Associate with the Karen Miller law firm in Charleston WV.

Sarah Ward Lage, MPA 2003 returned to eastern North Carolina in 2014 after working in Texas for several years. She is currently a Career Counselor with the ECU Career Center where she specializes in assisting graduate students, student athletes and students undecided on what their major might be.

Ilhom Maksudov, MPA 2003 is Senior Financial Analyst for National Grid in Providence, Rhode Island.

Josh Martinkovic, BS 2012 is a law student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jesse Mignogna, BS 2007; MBA 2010 is a high school teacher in the Pender County school system.
Diane Miller, BA 2003; MPA 2010 is the town manager of Oriental.

Steve Modlin, BA 1998; MPA 2001 went on to finish a PhD in Political Science at Mississippi State University in 2008. He currently is a teaching instructor in the Department.

Julian Montaquila, MS Security Studies 2012 is a PhD student in Abnormal Psychology at the University of Central Florida.

Shohrat Orozov, MPA 2000 is Social Protection Specialist with UNICEF in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. He and his family have recently relocated to DeKalb Illinois where his wife Shirin has been accepted to a PhD program at Northern Illinois University.

Matt Overby, BS 2013 works for the NC Department of Revenue. He is the President of the Northern Wake Republican Club and was recently elected to the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors.

Lee Padrick, MPA 1992 is Chief Planner at the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance in Washington, NC.

Heath Parker, BS 2002 is a Project Manager for PWS International, a company that specializes in construction projects in other countries. He lived for two years in the Bahamas and has been back and forth managing construction projects in a number of countries.

Kendra Parks, BS 2010 works in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Miami

Heidi Nichols Pope, MPA 2000 is a Senior Risk Manager with BB&T Corporation in Wilson.

Caroline Reese, BA 2013 is Office Manager with the Rock Creek Group in Washington DC.

Rodney Rose, MPA 2000 is in-house Counsel for Horizon Goodwill Inc. in Hagerstown MD.

Samson Sampson, MS Security Studies 2013 is a Regional Analyst for the Middle East and North Africa with NC4 Corporation.

Nadira Sansour, BA 1991; MPA 1999 is an Organizational Development Consultant working on the West Bank. She lives in Ramallah.

Arivek Saribekyan, MPA 2000 is Director at the British Council in Yerevan, Armenia.

Corey Sharp, BS 2011 is a Credit Risk Analyst with Credit Suisse in Raleigh.

Christopher Jon Smith, MPA 2007 is a Regional Retail Food Specialist with the US Food and Drug Administration in Atlanta. He is married to Monica Perry, MPA 2007.

Vanessa Greeson Spiron, MPA 2012 has become the Health Enhancement Director at the Goldsboro YMCA.

Laura Spratley, BS 2012 is Legislative Assistant with the NC General Assembly. She worked on a 2014 election get-out-the-vote project for the Republican Party in Alaska.

Harry Stubbs, BA, 1974; MA 1977 retired from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, DC and moved back to Greenville where he serves as a member of the Department’s Advancement Council and maintains his avid interest in ECU sports.

Andy Thomas, MPA 2005 is Lead Planner for the City of Greenville.

Gaines Townsend, MPA 1996 is an instructor in the Department of Public and International Affairs at UNC-Wilmington.

Jennifer Tripp, MPA 2013 is the Major Gifts Officer for Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at ECU.

Regina Urmanova, MPA 2007 is currently a Human Resources Associate with the United Nations Development Program in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Juliana Vukonic, MPA 2013 works with the uninsured program under the community care program at Vidant Medical Center. She became a US citizen in September.
Deborah Welsh, BS 2003; MPA 2005 successfully defended her PhD dissertation in Rhetoric at East Carolina University in November. She analyzed the rhetoric used in the opening legal and Congressional statements by BP and President Obama’s opening media statements. She is a faculty member at the University of Mount Olive.

Gregg Whitehead, MPA 1996 is the town manager of Richlands.

Ray Williams, BA 2010 is a PhD student in Political Science at the University of Maryland.

Tevin Wilson, BS 2014 is a graduate student in Political Science at the University of Georgia.

Have information about Political Science alumni? Send it to Carmine Scavo at scavoc@ecu.edu for the Spring 2015 newsletter!

Political Science Administration

Robert J. Thompson.................................................................Interim Department Chair
Jay Morris ...............................................................Undergraduate Director
Carmine Scavo.................................................................Graduate Director
Robert J. Thompson.................................................................MPA Director
Alethia Cook .................................................................Security Studies Director
Marie Olson-Lounsbery ...... Interim International Studies Minor Director
Peter Francia .................................................................Leadership Studies Minor Co-Director
Peter Francia .................................................................Undergraduate Internship Director
Robert J. Thompson .................................................................Graduate Internship Director
Kiwana Washington .................................................................Administrative Associate