

Professor sees practical terror deterrents

by KaToya Jackson

Not many people could imagine taking a 10-day trip to Israel with the objective of experiencing the tragedy and terrorism that others live through on a daily basis.

But for MTSU's Dr. Karen Petersen, visiting military bases, border zones and other security installations in Israel represented an ideal chance to learn the practical side of deterring terrorist attacks.

An assistant professor of political science, Petersen recently was accepted as a 2006-07 academic fellow with the Foundation of Democracies in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that seeks to educate Americans about the terrorist threat to democracies worldwide.

The FDD, according to a press release, produces independent analyses of global terrorist threats and sponsors programs that promote democratic ideals at home and abroad to help protect the individual freedoms guaranteed within democratic



Petersen

societies. The FDD fellowship program was established after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

As an academic fellow with FDD, Petersen participated in an intensive series of lectures by academics, diplomats and military officials from India, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and the United States, in addition to embarking on field trips throughout Israel to learn how democratic states combat the terrorism threat, said Audra Ozols, FDD's coordinator for campus programs.

Experiencing the FDD-sponsored trip to Israel, which took place May 27 through June 7, was not an opportunity offered to many, however, since only 45 people from throughout the United States were selected as fellows.

"The chairman of political science, Dr. John Vile, told me about the opportunity to become an academic fellow and I applied," Petersen said. "Since I will soon be teaching a course in international conflict (in the fall 2006 semester), this was a good opportunity."

Petersen said the fellowship will prove helpful in the political science courses she already teaches, as well as those that she is developing.

"When I found out about the academic fellows program, I actually showed it to a number of faculty members, and I thought Dr. Petersen would be an especially good candidate because she teaches in this area," Vile said. "Since Petersen is just



FENCED WITH A VIEW—MTSU's Dr. Karen Petersen captured this view from the Israeli side of a fence facing into the West Bank during her recent trip to Israel to study terrorism. The chain-link fence, which also is made of concrete in some places and flanked by barbed wire, is intended to protect Israel from incursions by suicide bombers and terrorist operatives. The sand road is on the Palestinian side so that Israeli military can spot crossing points.

photo by Karen Petersen

beginning her teaching career, she will have many years ahead where she can share this information with her students and colleagues."

The idea of the fellowship study, according to Petersen, "is to see how another democratic society deals with terrorism and to become better equipped about terrorism."

Petersen said she was honored to be among the handful of fellows chosen and eager to represent the university as part of the program.

"This is not just a wonderful opportunity for me, but it's also a great opportunity for the students here at MTSU, because I will be able to come back and share what I learned in Israel with them," Petersen said.

"This program will benefit all of my courses."

KaToya Jackson is a senior majoring in education and behavioral science.

the RECORD

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Faculty/Staff Update

Appointments

Dr. Maria A. Smith (nursing) has been selected to serve on the Thomson Delmar Learning's Nursing Advisory Board for 2006. This is a new board formed to specifically address nursing for the Thomson Delmar publishing company. She attended the 2006 meeting June 21-23 in Clifton Park, N.Y.

Certifications

Mitzi Dunkley (Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness), **Janice Lewis** (Academic Affairs), **Becky Snow** (Continuing Education and Distance Learning), **Linda Ryan** (Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Research), **Rhonda Stansberry** (Development and University Relations), **Christy Weigant** (Admissions) and **Sherry Young** (Alumni Relations) recently earned their Certified Professional Secretary designations.

Conferences

Dr. Suk Jai Seo (computer science) attended the recent Microsoft Academic Days Conference held in Toronto.

Fellowships

Randy Livingston (journalism) has been awarded the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Institute of Journalism Excellence Fellowship. For this fellowship, Livingston will be working at *The Tennessean* newspaper in Nashville June 12-July 21.

Presentations

Dr. Virginia Hemby (BMOM) presented a session, "Running the Business Communication Class like a Business: Employment Contracts, Civility, and Student Evaluations," at the Sixth Annual Hawaii International Conference on Business in Honolulu May 22-28.

Dr. Andrei Korobkov (political science) lectured on "Migration Policies in the U.S. and Russia: A Comparative Perspective" and spoke to International Development doctoral program students at the University of Southern Mississippi May 5-6.

A paper by **Randy Livingston** (journalism), "Get Me Up to Speed ... Pronto!", was accepted for presentation at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's 89th Annual Convention in San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 2-5.

Dr. Maria A. Smith (nursing) presented "On the Nightshift: Online Teaching/Learning—Faculty and Student Perspectives" June 1 at the e-Learning Academy Faculty Development Retreat held in Dickson. **Pam Taylor** (nursing) presented "Online Case Studies 101: A Match Made in Heaven" at the same event, and she and Smith also presented "Use of Front Page" at the retreat.

Publications

An essay by **Dr. John Dougan** (recording industry), "Objects of Desire: Canon Formation and Blues Record Collecting," was published in the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 18, Number 1.

J. Brandon Wallace (sociology and anthropology) and **Suzanne S. Prevost** (National HealthCare Chair of Excellence in Nursing) published "Two Methods for Predicting Limited Life Expectancy in Nursing Homes" in the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 2006, 38 (2), 148-153. [June 2006].

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