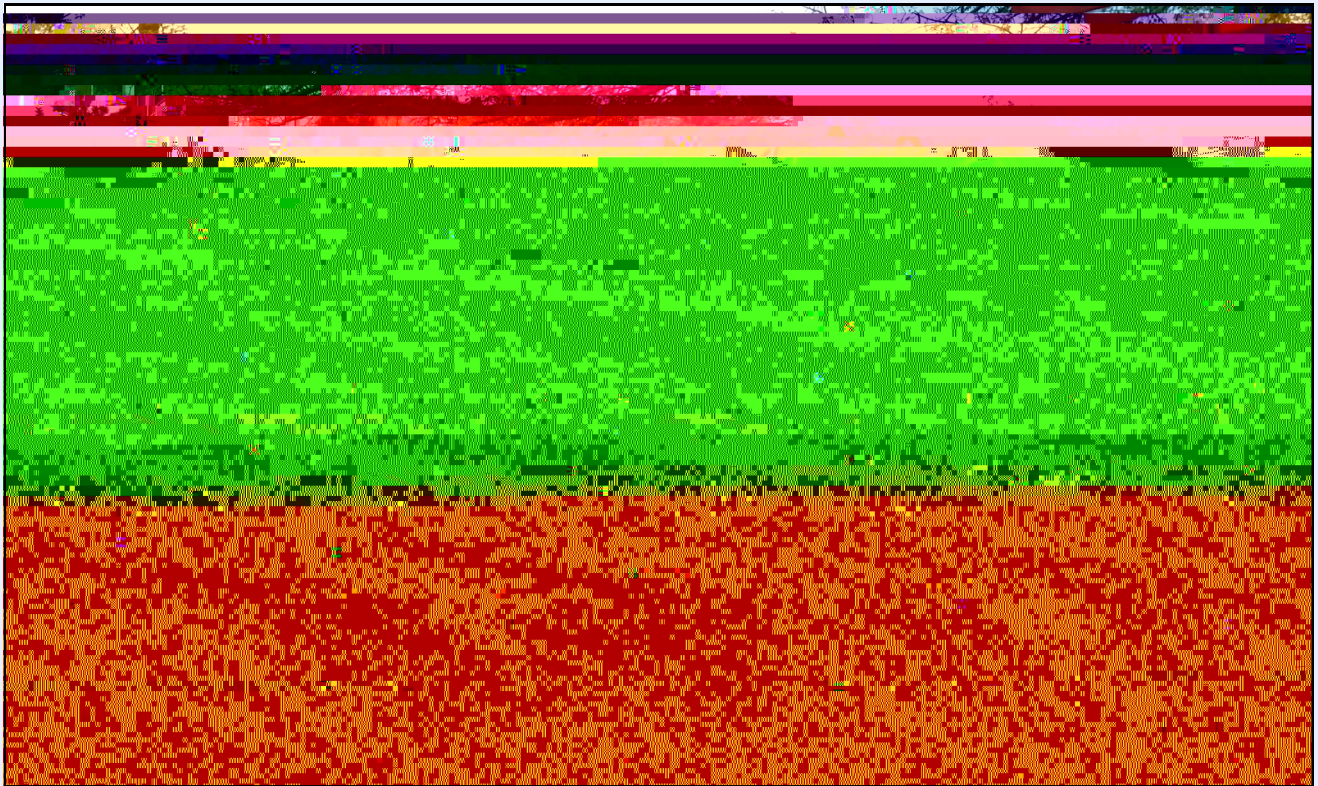


What is Political Science?

-Specialists in comparative politics analyze power dynamics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.

-Specialists in international relations focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.

"Empowering Humanity Through Education and Service"



Gender Politics Conference

First Annual ³ 2012

The first annual Gender Politics Conference at SLU, co-organized by Dr. Nadia Brown and Dr. Jason Windett, was held on May 4th. It was a huge success. Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan gave the keynote address, and the event was attended by over 125 people. A highlight of the day was a panel of black women elected officials, which was co-sponsored by the African American Studies Program and the Women's Studies Program.



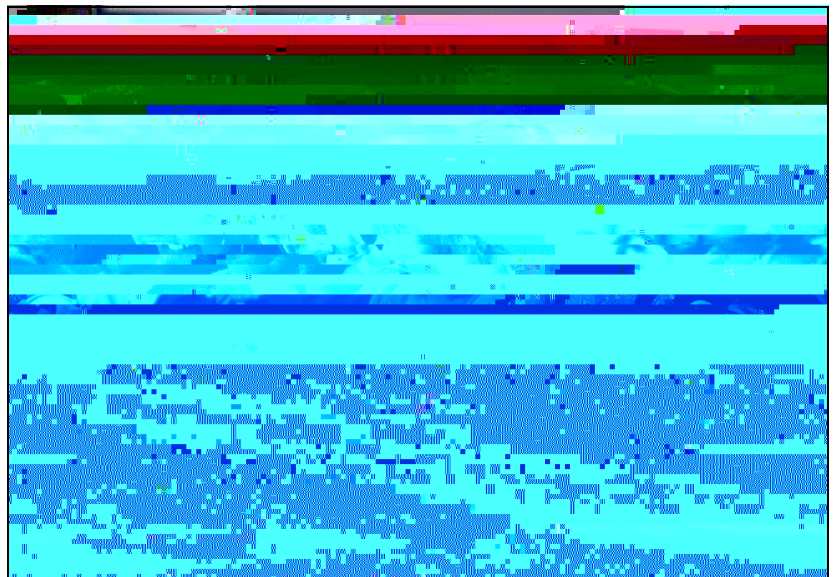
Dr. Nadia Brown, MO Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, Dr. Ellen Carnaghan (Dept. Chair), Dr. Jason Windett



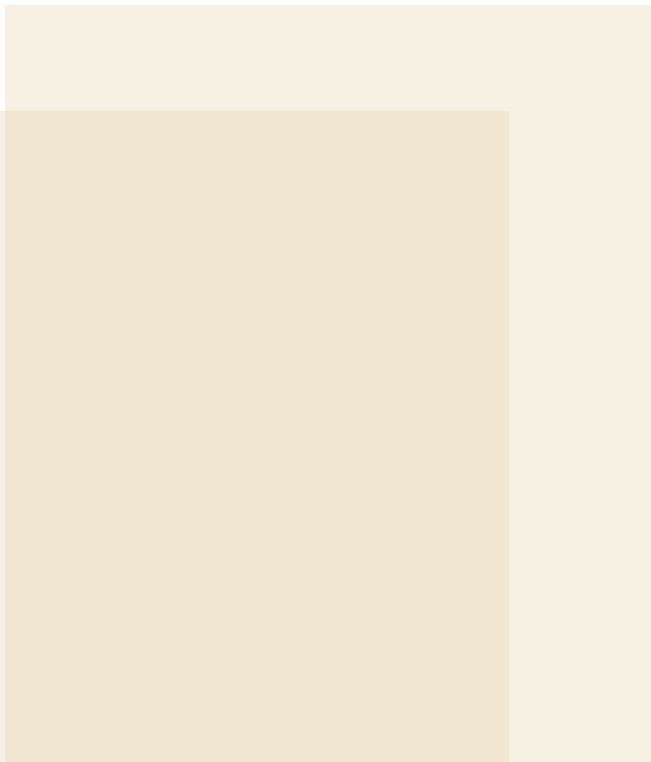
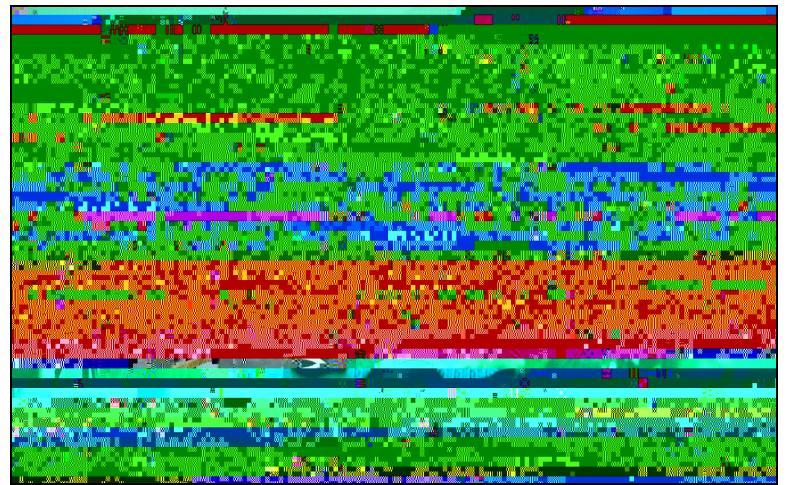
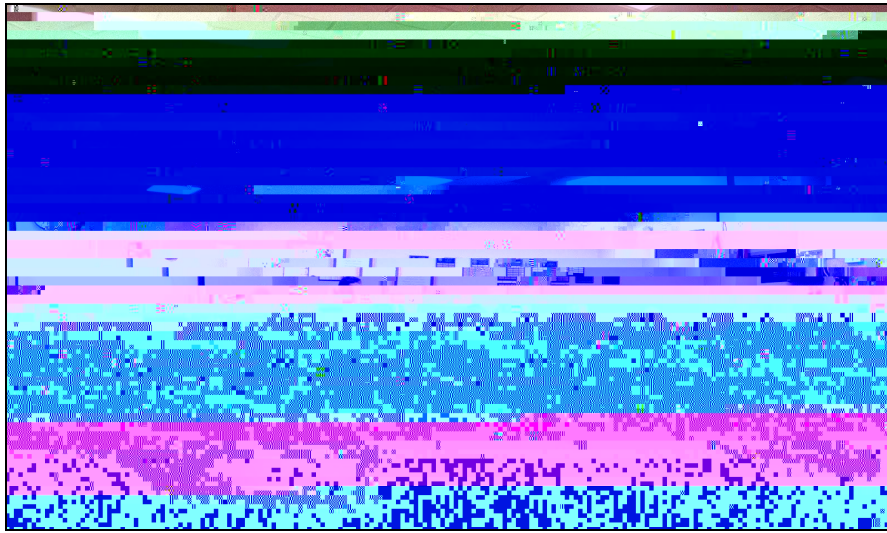
Dr. Robert Strickwerda, Chad Williams (MA student), Spearlt (Professor of Law), members of the Masculinity and Politics panel

as critics. The day also included a celebration of 30 years of Women's Studies at SLU. The organizers, the Political Science Department and everyone involved was delighted with the conference, which brought together faculty from multiple disciplines, public officials, members of the community and students. As Dr. Nadia Brown noted, the interdisciplinary focus on the experiences of African-American women in politics was an invaluable aspect of the conference — which will become an annual event.

In addition to the panels and the keynote address, the program included an Author Meets Critics session with Dr. Diana Carlin, Associate VP of Graduate Education and Professor of Communications, author of *Gender and the American Presidency: Nine Presidential Women and the Barriers They Faced*. Dr. Jamel Bell (Communications) and Dr. Jason Windett served



Former State Sen. Rita Heard Days, State Rep. Tishaura Jones, Comptroller of the City of St. Louis Darlene Green, State Rep. Jamilah Nasheed



Thoughts from a ... *Comparativist*

by Dr. Ellen Carnaghan

On May 7th, 2012, Vladimir Putin again became president of Russia. Unlike the previous times that he took the oath of office – in 2000 and in 2004 – this time he did so in the face of visible popular opposition. Indeed a large demonstration in Moscow the previous day had turned violent, as protesters tried to break through a column of riot police. At least 400 protesters were taken into custody. What is the meaning of these events? Will autocracy harden in Putin's new presidency, or do popular protests signal the start of meaningful change?

In many respects, Putin is in a strong position to maintain his grip on power. Since he spent the past