

Notes from the Chair

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After the excitement of last year's transition, this year was less dramatic for the section, but an important one nevertheless. While there was nothing as compelling as a name change or a re-formatting of the newsletter, the membership of the section has become much more public in their involvement with the APSA national leadership and there is clear evidence of the APSA's continual involvement in teaching and learning issues. As we become more visible in the work of the APSA the importance of teaching and learning issues will be central to its mission.

Our membership has been involved in the leadership of the Teaching and Learning Conference and our members have consistently been represented on the program committee, as moderators, workshop facilitators, and as participants. The Conference has stabilized at 300 attendees, and there is clear evidence of continued APSA support. As a section we need to ensure that our members continue to support both the Teaching and Learning Conference and the Political Science Education section of the annual convention. Our submission of paper proposals has decreased in both forums resulting in questions regarding the demand for two teaching forums. Our membership needs to ensure both opportunities continue to be selective peer-reviewed forums for our teaching and learning scholarship. I strongly encourage you all to submit proposals for the 2008 Teaching and Learning Conference in San Jose, California in February 2008.

The transition of the listserv from Bob Trudeau to David Dolowitz and Scott Erb has moved smoothly and they have some exciting plans for the listserv for the next few years. As we expand our membership this listserv will be very useful for us to engage in conversations, share ideas, and promote the issues that are central to our professional lives.

John Ishiyama, the former chair of the section and current editor of the *Journal of Political Science Education*, has been nominated to serve on the APSA Council for 2007-2009. This is great news for the section and for all faculty who are interested in issues of teaching and learning. Both John and Bob Trudeau have been serving on the APSA Committee on Teaching and Learning. Their work on the committee has been very helpful for all of us. The *Journal of Political Science Education* has been doing very well and plans to expand to four issues a year soon. Indexing will begin in the next few years. This has been a very successful venture of the section, mostly due to the leadership provided by John Ishiyama and Marijke Breuning.

Finally, the APSA is beginning a new series of books focused on

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the discipline of political science. The first planned publication will be focused on issues of assessment for the department of political science. There has been an increased interest and need for information on the process and possibilities in developing departmental assessment programs specifically related to our discipline. The editors of this volume are Kerstin Hamann (Vice Chair of the Section), John Ishiyama, and myself. Our contributors are all members of the section who have been publishing on this topic. The volume is planned to be released in the Spring and we will send you more specific information as it becomes available.

We elect new members of the board this year, and I was pleased that 15 people volunteered their services. While we clearly cannot use all of them this year, we will call upon them for future service to the section. This kind of support has made section leadership a pleasure for me. Thank you.

This issue of the newsletter focuses on the APSA conference, our panels, posters, meetings, receptions, and short courses. Remember, your attendance and participation help determine how many slots we are awarded next year (as does the number of proposals we receive for next year). I hope this newsletter assists you in your conference planning. See you in Chicago! **PSE**

Notables

Jean Wahl Harris, Associate Professor and Chairperson of Political Science at the University of Scranton, has been selected as a 2007-08 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. She will spend the year interning with the president and senior administration at a yet-to-be-decided institution of higher education.

Linda Beck, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Maine at Farmington won a teaching award at UMF this spring from the Campus Residence Council as the top professor at UMF in her/his first year there. This announcement was submitted by one of her very proud colleagues.

McGraw-Hill Award for Scholarship and Teaching on Civic Engagement in Political Science

The McGraw-Hill Award for Civic Engagement's selection committee chose Grant Reeher, Associate Professor of Political Science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School, as the second recipient of the award. The award was established in 2006 to recognize outstanding leadership, teaching, research, and activism encouraging student civic engagement. The committee was impressed by Professor Reeher's strong contributions to civic engagement in a number of areas. The committee lauds his work in encouraging civic participation among undergraduate students through the courses he teaches, his supervision of internships, and his student and club advising. They were equally impressed with his work in the broader community, particularly with his efforts for a citizen corps of activists and the publication of his numerous op-ed pieces. The committee also recognized the importance of his scholarship and publications, which contribute to the body of scholarly knowledge about civic engagement. Finally, Professor Reeher actively participates in the discipline of Political Science. The committee recognized Reeher's leadership of the Undergraduate Education section, where he did much to advance teaching for civic engagement on many campuses nationwide. In short, the committee was impressed by Professor Reeher's efforts at effectively integrating both the study of civic engagement in the classroom with the practice of civic participation outside of the classroom.

Thanks go to the committee: Chair, Quentin Kidd (Christopher Newport University), Rick Battistoni (Providence College), Bruce Caswell (Rowan University), Brigid Harrison (Montclair State University), Chip Hauss ("Search for Common Ground"), Alison Millett McCartney (Towson University), J. Cherie Strachan (Central Michigan University), and Mark Georgiev of McGraw-Hill Publishing. **PSE**

Call for Proposals and Workshops for the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference

The American Political Science Association invites political scientists and graduate students to submit proposals for the fourth annual Conference on Teaching and Learning in Political Science. This year's meeting will take place in San Jose, California from February 22-24, 2008.

Paper Proposals: Using a working-group model, this meeting is a forum for interested individuals to develop models on teaching and learning as well as to discuss broad themes and values affecting political science education. The meeting will consist of tracks constructed around such themes as:

- Program Assessment - Simulations and Role Play
- Graduate Education - Diversity and Inequality
- Teaching Research Methods - Internationalizing the Curriculum
- General Education - Civic Engagement
- Teaching Across the Discipline - Professional Development

Workshop Proposals: The workshops are offered as an addition to the traditional working group model. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend at least two workshops in addition to their participation in a themed track. The meeting will consist of workshop constructed around such themes as:

- Integrating Technology in the Classroom
- Classroom and Program Assessment
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Teaching Sessions for Graduate Students
- Open Call

Paper and workshop proposals should be submitted online through MyAPSA (<http://www.apsanet.org/>) by September 17, 2007.

For more information, visit the Teaching and Learning Conference webpage at http://www.apsanet.org/section_602.cfm or e-mail teaching@apsanet.org.

Call for Papers, Panel Chairs and Discussants

Lydia Andrade (University of the Incarnate Word) is the Chair for the Teaching Section of the **Southern Political Science Association** meeting in 2008. She is looking for people who might be interested in presenting papers or serving as panel Chairs or Discussants. She is particularly looking for papers on Teaching with Film, Internationalizing the Curriculum, Active Learning Strategies, and Ethics but would welcome all types of participation. The Southern is meeting January 10-12, 2008 in New Orleans, so she is operating on a bit of a short time frame. Interested folks can contact her directly at (210) 829-3877 or andrade@uiwtx.edu or check out the Southern PS website: <http://www.spsa.net/>.

Call for Articles

For upcoming issues of *The Political Science Educator* we are currently seeking the following features:

- Debates between members on pertinent topics
- “Lessons Learned”—a continuing column on how the teaching of participants in the Teaching and Learning Conferences has evolved as a result of the TLC
- Feature articles that are “think pieces” about teaching and the discipline, discussions of teaching experiences and approaches, or preliminary research under development
- “Teaching tips” and suggestions—including approaches and experiments that have been less successful
- “The New Professor”—essays designed to help graduate students and new faculty who are navigating the job market and early years of careers at undergraduate institutions
- “Research and Resources: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning”—a column including literature reviews on specific topics, research notes, examination of new research threads
- “Technology and the Professor”—a column examining options available for the classroom and classroom management, including useful resources available on the web

Items for the “Notables” and “Announcements” sections.

The deadline for the December issue is November 15. If you are interested in submitting an article, essay, or announcement (or a suggestion for other items to be included in the newsletter), please contact:

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MEDIACONNECT: Connecting Political Scientists with Journalists

APSA is developing a roster of political scientists who are willing and able to respond to media inquiries in their area of expertise—covering all areas of the discipline. APSA will be conducting an open call inviting members to sign up for this new program, called MediaConnect. To participate in the program, we ask that you: Provide APSA with your work phone number and email address, as well as up to five keywords that best describe your areas of expertise, and any URL to your personal homepage and CV (if available). Send these to APSA at press@apsanet.org. If you’ve already submitted your name to an existing press roster on APSA’s website, we’ve retained the information and you do not have to submit again. Email press@apsanet.org with your information or if you have any questions.

2008 APSA Political Science Education Call for Papers

The division welcomes proposals for panels, papers, and posters that address education in political science from a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. Examples of relevant topics include but are not limited to pedagogical analysis, assessment of student learning, contemporary trends in undergraduate and graduate education and research. Proposals that address the program theme of “Categories and the Politics of Global Inequalities” are especially welcome. Such proposals might explore the way structural inequalities in educational institutions result in unjust outcomes, the way patterns of inequality operate in the academic framework, different ways of addressing the topic of inequality in the classroom, and ways of assessing and addressing inequality in the classroom.

Conference organizers encourage conference participants to engage in conversations beyond the customary disciplinary territory, and welcome panels that include practitioners, activists, and inter-disciplinary scholars. In addressing issues of “Categories and Global Inequalities” as they apply to education, panels might include librarians as well as administrators.

The Political Science Education section is strongly committed to honoring the diversity of institutions with which APSA members are associated, and we welcome submissions from political scientists at community colleges and two-year colleges as well as four-year colleges and universities.

2008 Section Program Chair
Carolyn Shaw
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PSE Section's 2006 APSA Conference Best Presentation Award

Jeff Bernstein: “How Citizens Learn Political Skills”

Jeff Bernstein is an Associate Professor at Eastern Michigan University. The award committee selected this paper from those nominated because they believed it makes an important contribution in the development, measurement, and understanding of how the learning environment can enhance civic competence. He makes critical distinctions between the impacts of obtaining political knowledge and building confidence in political skills, how students' political efficacy is related to current events knowledge but not necessarily to basic textbook knowledge. In the end, Bernstein is interested in identifying the connections that inspire life-long citizens in American democracy rather than one-term students in an American Politics course.

The committee noted that the paper is well-organized, drawing effectively from relevant literature, and with a solid presentation of how Bernstein's findings support general arguments. The paper does have its limitations, relying on a small student population from the author's own course and the potential bias of self-assessment measures. Nevertheless, Bernstein effectively addresses methodological concerns, raising insightful questions for further research and analysis. The paper is firmly grounded in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and the findings are backed up by empirical data.

We would like to thank the Award Committee (formed of the 2004 and 2005 Award winners) for their time investment. In addition, the section would like to thank The Washington Center and Gene Alpert for their sponsorship of this annual award.

2006-2007 Best Presentation Award Committee

Kerstin Hamann, *University of Central Florida*
Bruce M. Wilson, *University of Central Florida*
Phillip H. Pollock, *University of Central Florida*
David M. Rankin, *State University of New York - Fredonia*

10-1 TEACHING RESEARCH METHODS TO UNDERGRADUATES

Date: Sunday, Sep 2, 8:00 AM

Chair: **Gary Klass**, Illinois State University

The Undergraduate Methods Experience: Short-Changing the Future of Political Science

Jeffrey Todd Doyle, Washington State University

Ann Mezzell, University of Georgia

Experiential Learning: Undergraduate Research Methodology Instruction Through Directed Research and Mentoring

S. Suzan J. Harkness, University of District Columbia

Active Learning Strategies in the Teaching of Research Methods

John W. Williams, Principia College

Discussant: **Juan Carlos Huerta**, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

10-2 INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FOR TEACHING POLITICAL SCIENCE

Date: Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

Chair: **Quentin Kidd**, Christopher Newport University

Tragedy as a Teacher of Liberal Complexity: Using Shakespeare to Challenge Undergraduates To Become More Skillful Readers of Liberal Texts

Ellen Grigsby, University of New Mexico

Holiday Dinner Taboos: Religion and Politics in the Classroom

Nathan Zook, University of Wisconsin, Rock County

Children and War: Building a Course Combining the Disciplines of Early Childhood Education and Political Science

Mellisa Clawson, University of Maine, Farmington

Scott Erb, University of Maine, Farmington

Learning the Political Landscape with Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

William J. Ball, The College of New Jersey

Discussant: **Lanethea Mathews-Gardner**, Muhlenberg College

10-3 INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE TEACHING METHODS AND STRATEGIES

Date: Thursday, Aug 30, 2:00 PM
Chair: **Eric H. Hines**, University of Montana

Reaching the Unreachable: Using John Stewart's "America: The Book" as a Textbook for Introductory Level Classes to American Politics.

Ryan Lee Teten, Northern Kentucky University

Speak Up! Oral Examinations and Political Science

Laura U. Schneider, Purdue University
Melissa J. Buehler, Purdue University

Professor's Question Time: Responsive Lecturing in Political Science

Eric H. Hines, University of Montana

Multicontextuality in Service Learning: Examining Political Engagement among Students of Color

Zahra Ahmed, University of California, Irvine

Discussant: **Michelle D. Deardorff**, Jackson State University

10-4 STUDENTS AS CITIZENS

Date: Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM
Chair: **Jennifer M. Jensen**, SUNY-Binghamton

Social Entrepreneurship and Undergraduate Learning: Challenges and Opportunities for Political Science

Jason Scorza, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Preparing High School Graduates for Citizenship: Political Science Research, Public Opinion, and School Reform

Sharon E. Jarvis, University of Texas, Austin
Laura Barberena, The University of Texas, Austin
Amanda Davis, University of Texas, Austin

Teaching Civic Virtues to Citizens and Non-Citizens

Larry W. Chappell, Mississippi Valley State University
Bernard L. Bray, Talladega College
Chandrouti Rita Persaud, Mississippi Valley State University

The Maine Policy Scholars Program: Another Innovation in Political Learning from the Dirigo State

James P. Melcher, University of Maine, Farmington

Discussant: **Jennifer M. Jensen**, SUNY-Binghamton

10-5 ROUNDTABLE: INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION: ENRICHING THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDY OF 'POLITICS'

Date: Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

Chair: **Linda Racioppi**, Michigan State University

Katherine O'Sullivan See, Michigan State University

Colleen Tremonte, Michigan State University

Sherry Lee Linkon, Youngstown State University

John Russo, Youngstown State University

Warren R. Phillips, University of Maryland

10-6 ASSESSMENT AND TEACHING STYLES

Date: Friday, Aug 31, 4:15 PM

Chair: **John Ishiyama**, Truman State University

Teaching and Learning Political Theory: Focusing on the Elements that Hold the Main Theory Together

Raul L. Cotto-Serrano, University of Puerto Rico

Assessment of Learning and for Learning: Testing the Effectiveness and Accuracy of the Standard Scoring Instruments

Mariya Y. Omelicheva, Purdue University

Mind the Gap: Misrepresentation of Comparative Advantage in International Relations Textbooks

Meelis Kitsing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Discussant: **Leanne C. Powner**, University of Michigan

Other Teaching and Learning Sessions at APSA

9-1 Roundtable: Teaching About War and the Military: What do Students Want and Need to Know

Thursday, Aug 30, 10:15 AM

9-2 Roundtable: Integrating Civic Engagement into the American, Comparative, and Service Learning Undergraduate Curriculum

Thursday, Aug 30, 4:15 PM

9-3 Simulations, Blogs, and Multimedia: Technologies for Teaching Political Science

Saturday, Sep 1, 2:00 PM

9-4 Teaching Law in Political Science

Friday, Aug 31, 8:00 AM

9-6 The Practice of Political Science

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

Working Group: Political Science Education

This group will attend panel and poster sessions related to teaching and learning in political science and identify any other interests they may have in the field. At our first meeting, participants will identify a list of panels and posters they would like to attend. Some topics may include, but are not limited to, teaching with technology, teaching research methods, assessment and learning outcomes, incorporating diversity in the classroom, service learning and community involvement, and using simulations and role playing in the classroom. The working group sessions will be used to identify potential fields of research as well as exchanging ideas and information on the topic.

Coordinator: *Gregory Domin, Mercer University*

Session I: Thursday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Session II: Saturday, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Short Courses

APSA Morning Workshop:

Designing and Using Simulations in the Classroom

Facilitated by Carolyn Shaw and Bob Switky

This workshop is targeted for graduate students and faculty members who are interested in a hands-on experience to learn how to design their own simulations/role-play scenarios for the classroom. The material is designed to accommodate those who have never used simulations before as well as those who are veterans of active learning. The workshop facilitators will introduce the core elements necessary for a successful simulation, encourage a dialogue about some of the design parameters that instructors must consider, and conclude by helping participants create a customized simulation for their own use. Participants will receive a packet of resource materials for their own future use.

Cost: \$10 for course packet materials.

Contact Carolyn.shaw@wichita.edu to register.

APSA Afternoon Workshop:

Getting a Job at a Teaching Institution – and Succeeding!

Panelists: Michelle D. Deardorff, Jackson State University

MaryAnne Borrelli, Connecticut College

Bill Hudson, Providence College

Lanethea Mathews-Gardner, Muhlenberg College

Glen Halva-Newbauer, Furman University

This workshop will walk applicants through the process of applying for a position at a teaching institution. A panel of faculty will discuss the ways in which these institutions differ from the universities at which most political scientists complete their graduate degree. Using vitae and cover letters provided by some of the participants, the panelists will make suggestions as to how applicants can best improve their presentation with an eye towards employment. This workshop will also include discussions of the interview, the “job talk,” academic life at private liberal arts institutions, the tenure and promotion process, and other specific strategies for success.

Please contact MaryAnne Borrelli mabor@conncoll.edu ahead of time if you are interested in having your materials discussed at the workshop. **PSE**

Political Science Education Business Meeting & Reception

The business meeting will be held on Saturday, September 1 at 6:00 pm in the Sheraton Ontario Room. Sponsored by **McGraw-Hill Publishers**, the reception will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Sheraton Huron Room. We hope to see many of you there. **PSE**