

NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Political Science Association

May, 1980

NEW OFFICERS

Officers for the 1980-1981 term were installed at the March 1, 1980, Business Meeting of the Association. Cal Ledbetter (UALR) is the new President, Jim Megginson (GCCC) becomes Vice President, Kurt Tweraser (UAF) and James Willis (SAU) start the first year of two-year terms as at-large members of the Executive Board, and Walter Nunn (IOPG) continues as Secretary-Treasurer. In addition to these, second year at-large members Gene Goss (Arkansas Petroleum Marketers Assn.) and Simms McClintock (UCA) and immediate past President Charles Hartwig (ASU) continue as members of the Board. Hartwig serves ex officio.

President Ledbetter has appointed the following as committee chairpersons:

Program Committee	James Willis (SAU)
Clearinghouse Committee	Diane Blair (UAF)
Nominations Committee	Charles Hartwig (ASU)
Awards Committee	Norman Hodges (SWMSU)
Membership Committee	Mary Weiner (EACC)

In addition to these, Joel Anderson (UALR) remains as Editor of the Journal, Myra Masters as compiler of the Directory, and Bob Savage as Editor of the Newsletter.

THE 1981 MEETING

The eighth Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on February 27-28, 1981, at DeGray State Park Lodge near Arkadelphia. Plenary speakers will be Daniel Grant, President of Ouachita Baptist University, and Casey Laman, Mayor of North Little Rock.

The tentative program calls for seven panels and a roundtable on teaching political science. If you are interested in presenting a paper, acting as a discussant, contributing ideas, or sharing teaching approaches, please contact the panel moderators listed below by November 20, 1980. If you wish to present a paper, please include an outline or abstract when you contact the moderator. Papers should be sent to panel participants in final form by February 1, 1981. The panels and their moderators are as follows:

Roundtable: Teaching Political
Science to Undergraduates

Genevieve Mills
Dept. of Political Science
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801

Panel: International Relations
and Comparative Politics

Peggy Scranton
Dept. of Political Science
University of Arkansas at
Little Rock
Little Rock, AR 72204

Panel: Recent Developments in
Arkansas Government (including
the Constitutional Convention
of 1979-80)

Kenneth Walker
Dept. of Political Science
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801

Panel: Political Behavior

Don Whistler
Dept. of Political Science
University of Central Arkansas
Conway, AR 72032

Panel: Public Administration

R. Lawson Veasey
Dept. of Political Science
University of Central Arkansas
Conway, AR 72032

Panel: Political Theory

Susan Power
Dept. of Political Science
Arkansas State University
State University, AR 72467

Panel: Judicial Process

Beadle Moore
Dept. of Political Science
University of Arkansas at
Little Rock
Little Rock, AR 72204

Panel: Student Papers

Art English
Dept. of Political Science
University of Arkansas at
Little Rock
Little Rock, AR 72204

Participation at the Meeting is not limited to political science; members of related disciplines such as history, sociology, criminal justice, etc., who may wish to contribute papers or otherwise participate, are encouraged to do so. Indeed, any person who is interested in government and politics is always welcome to participate. Any questions pertaining to the Meeting other than contributions to the specific panels listed above may contact James Willis, Dept. of Political Science, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR 71753.

THE JOURNAL

While the Association is far from being assured of regular annual publication of its new Journal, heartening news has arrived. Contributions from some commercial organizations have more than covered the debts encumbered in producing the first issue. Inquiries and manuscripts should continue to be sent to the Editor, Joel Anderson (UALR). Contributions, of course, can be sent to our Secretary-Treasurer, Walter Nunn (IOPG).

PAPER AWARDS FOR 1981

As in the past, the Awards Committee of the Association contemplates honors for papers in four categories. The categories are 1) best paper to be presented at the 1981 Meeting, 2) best paper on Arkansas government suitable for instructional use (the Rose Publishing Company Award), 3) best paper written by an Arkansas undergraduate in 1980, and 4) best paper written by an Arkansas graduate student during 1980.

To facilitate judging, papers in the latter two categories should be submitted no later than January 5, 1981, and for the first two categories no later than February 1, 1981. The author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s) should appear only on a separate title page. Four copies should be sent to Norman Hodges at Southwestern Missouri State University, chairman of the Awards Committee.

THE STATE DOCUMENTS CLEARINGHOUSE

While one staff person has been hired for the operation of a state documents clearinghouse, only the archiving of federal documents seems to have been dealt with thus far. Especially in the face of substantial increases in appropriations for the State Library Commission this lack of progress is disappointing. State Senator Morris Henry, who was so instrumental in providing the authorization for this new state function, is looking into the lack of progress, and will report to us his findings and recommendations.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Diane Blair (UAF) has been appointed by Governor Clinton to an eight-year term on the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Blair, in collaboration with Bob Savage (UAF) will be presenting a paper at the International Communication Association Conference in Acapulco, Mexico, on May 20, 1980, entitled "The Rhetorical Challenge of a Gubernatorial Transition: Constructing the Image of Statecraft." The paper is a case study of press treatment of then Governor-elect Clinton's transition period.

Charles Dunn (UCA) has been promoted to Professor of Political Science.

Eldon Eisenach (UALR) has been selected to organize the political theory panels for the 1981 American Political Science Association Meeting. His initial duties will be to select specific panel topics and chairpersons. When panel chairpersons are selected, he will channel paper proposals to the appropriate panels. The conveners of the 1981 Meeting will complete program arrangements during the 1980 Meeting in Washington. Until then, all proposals for panel topics and papers should be sent to him. The general theme of the theory panels for 1981 is "The State in Political Theory."

J.D. Gingerich will join the University of Central Arkansas faculty in June as an Assistant Professor of Political Science.

Bob Savage (UAF) has been selected as section chairman for political behavior panels at the 1981 Southwestern Political Science Association Meeting. Proposals for papers and other program suggestions will be entertained until October 1, 1980. Also, he will be away from the state throughout the Spring, 1981, Semester, on an off-campus duty assignment as Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Jim Megginson (GCCC) will attend an NEH summer seminar at Berkeley.

Barbara Briscoe (GCCC Speech Department and co-sponsor with Megginson of the Arkansas Model United Nations team) will attend an NEH seminar at Wisconsin in Political Rhetoric. This fall she and Jim will teach a combined course in speech and American national government.

SURVEY RESEARCH IN ARKANSAS

Robert Johnston (UALR), Charles Dunn (UCA) and Gene Bigler (Hendrix) are interested in forming an informal "consortium" of scholars interested in political survey research in Arkansas, particularly in studies of the upcoming 1980 elections. As they point out regarding academic survey research in Arkansas, "Working in relative isolation, without access to polls conducted elsewhere or earlier in our own area, our projects are often less useful than they might be. We hesitate to communicate results beyond our immediate colleagues; we severely limit our generalizations and conclusions; we may fail to resolve our own doubts about our hypotheses; and generally we come away from the experiences as less productive survey researchers." They suggest that in order to improve academic survey research in the state, a voluntary communication and collaboration network would be a useful first step, a network that would assist survey researchers in finding out what others are doing around the state and in identifying opportunities for mutually agreeable collaborations. A variety of useful collaborations could include sharing questions, dividing coverage of a sampling frame, trading poll results, and so forth. Interested persons should contact Johnston, Dunn, or Bigler.

Another opportunity lies with the mail panel survey started last year under the auspices of the College of Business Administration of UAF. The survey features quarterly contact with a continuing statewide sample of urban Arkansans. Academic survey research projects from scholars at other institutions are acceptable. Of course, such surveys cost money, but the fee is reasonable given the usual costs of survey research. Anyone interested in these services should contact William Darden, Director, Arkansas Household Panel Survey, Dept. of Marketing, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.