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^{*}Former APSA presidents

Organized Sections Welcome Members

Kay Sterling American Political Science Association

Following are brief descriptions of the foci or purposes of each of APSA's Organized

Sections. In most cases, the language used is taken directly from the original petition submitted to the Council for recognition of status as an Organized Section.

Section officers are elected during the sections' business meetings at APSA's Annual Meeting, and are listed, each year, in the fall issue of PS: Political Science & Politics. (The most recent listing is the fall 1987 issue, p. 1025.) Many sections publish newsletters for their members; some offer awards for scholarly achievement. All are allotted panels during the Annual Meeting. For information about activities of any section, please call or write the appropriate person as indicated in the fall listing.

I. Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations: The purpose of the section is to plan, develop and implement professional activities for Association members with interests in subjects of federalism and intergovernmental relations.

2. Law, Courts and Judicial Process: The purpose of the section is to promote interest in teaching and research in the areas of law and the judicial process. The section also seeks to encourage communication between persons interested in law and the judicial process within the Association and with related disciplines.

3. Legislative Studies: The Legislative Studies Section invites members with an interest in legislative processes, behavior and representation. The section may establish special panels, workshops, symposia, or social gatherings at the APSA Annual Meeting or at such other times as may be appropriate. Members receive a newsletter. The section is closely associated with the Legislative Studies Quarterly and encourages its members to subscribe.

4. Policy Studies: The purposes of the section are to help promote the application of political science to important policy problems; aid in developing panels, workshops and roundtables for the APSA Annual Meeting and related programs for the regional political science association conventions; provide a general meeting at the APSA Annual Meeting for the discussion of issues relevant to the policy studies field; and provide ways of networking political scientists and others who are interested in policy studies, but are not necessarily members of the Policy Studies Section.

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- 5. Political Organizations and Parties: The purpose of the section is to provide Association members interested in parties, groups and other political organizations with opportunities to meet, exchange ideas and work together to improve the scholarly study of their subjects.
- 6. Public Administration: The section exists to provide an arena in which individuals interested in public administration may exchange ideas, enhance their professional development and act to ensure that activities of the APSA encompass their interests.
- 7. Conflict Processes: The section is intended as a forum for the study of any and all forms of political conflict both within and between nation-states. Overt instances of violence, such as revolutions and international warfare of course are included, as are peaceful forms of domestic protest and diplomatic conflict between nation-states. The range of attitudes and behaviors considered here is very wide, and encompasses many and diverse forms of political conflict. This section should be of particular interest to scholars of international relations.
- 8. Representation and Electoral Systems: The purposes of the section are to promote teaching and research in the areas of representation and electoral systems, and to encourage communication among persons interested in these fields within the Association and with related disciplines.
- 9. Presidency Research: The fundamental purpose of the section is to further research on the presidency and other political executives. The section has established the Neustadt Award for books making outstanding original research contributions on the presidency.
- 10. Political Methodology: The section invites members with an interest in methodology, including research design, measurement and statistics. The section may establish special panels, workshops, symposia and social gatherings at the Annual Meeting, or at other times deemed appropriate.
- 11. Religion and Politics: The purpose of the section is to encourage the study of religion and politics by political scientists.

To discuss issues of church and state; law, morality, political behavior, and social justice; and the contributions of faith to political understanding. To share research findings widely within the profession.

12. **Politics and the Life Sciences:** The section was constituted to advance interest in and encourage scholarship about biopolitics, and to facilitate the efficient exchange of information related to linkages among the life sciences, the study of political behavior, and public policy.

13. Urban Politics and Urban Policy: The purpose of the section is to promote interest in teaching and research in urban politics and policy. The section seeks to encourage communication among persons interested in urban politics within the Association and with related disciplines.

14. Applied Political Science: The purpose of the section is to organize professional workshops, panels, symposia and other activities for political scientists working in business, industry, government and nonprofit organizations.

- 15. Science and Technology Studies: The purpose is to promote more vigorous, visible, coherent, conceptually powerful research and teaching on the politics of science and technology. Although political science work on science and technology often has had a policy orientation, this section is not primarily for policy studies; the main goal is to stimulate deeper, more fundamental inquiry on science and technology as political phenomena. The section seeks to encourage greater attention from a wide variety of scholarly approaches, including (among others) empirical theory, political philosophy, political economy, decision theory, international relations and organizational behavior.
- 16. Women and Politics: The purpose of the section will be to foster the study of women and politics within the discipline of political science and to facilitate scholarly exchange among APSA members who have an interest in this growing subfield.
- 17. Foundations of Political Theory: The section is committed to the linkage of political theory and philosophy with political science as a discipline, with the consequence of development, in successful

cases, of cross-fertilization and stimulation that links work often seen as incompatible. The section is committed to the notion that theorists can make their work understandable to others and can share in the knowledge offered by others.

Section News

APSA Sections wishing to include announcements in the summer and fall issues of PS, please note that the deadline for copy for the summer issue is June I, and deadline for the fall issue is September I. Please send Section news items to: Kay Sterling, APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

APSA Introduces a Political Science Software Review Project

The Association is participating with IBM's Academic Information Systems in a one-year pilot project to identify, evaluate and disseminate educational software in political science. The purpose of the Political Science Software Review Program is to encourage and enhance software development by members of the profession, implement a peer review process for educational software, and widely distribute educational software of exceptional quality.

The development of instructional software in political science is a maverick intellectual enterprise within the discipline. Unlike conventional publications, software, once developed is frequently not subject to critical peer review, nor disseminated through established journals or other formal modes of communication within the profession. Indeed, educational software is created in isolation and disseminated by word of mouth. Users, therefore, are never quite sure whether the software they are introduced to is the best of its kind, nor can they be sure that they are hearing about all the quality soft-

ware available within the profession or subfield.

The Software Review Program will be the first step toward systematizing political science software development, evaluation and dissemination. It will also be a significant step toward providing software developers with the recognition needed to apply software development to professional development. Once peer review is applied to educational software, individuals producing exceptional educational software are more likely to receive professional and career recognition for their contributions in much the same way that research articles are used in the course of making promotion and tenure decisions within departments and institutions.

An Advisory Committee will oversee the pilot project. In the coming months, the committee will establish guidelines for software submission and evaluations. Educational software developers should look for additional information of the program in future issues of PS and The Political Science Teacher.

APSA Selects Black American and Chicano/Latino Fellows

Eighteen students have been named APSA Fellows for 1988-89. Thirteen black American and four Chicano/Latino Fellows were selected by the APSA Committee on the Status of Blacks and the Committee on the Status of Chicanos, respectively. One Chicano/Latino Fellow and three black American Fellows will receive stipends while others will receive honorary fellowships in recognition of their past record and unusual promise for graduate study.

The 1988-89 black American Fellows are:

Fellows with Stipend: Yvette M. Alex, Dillard University Lanelle Coleman, University of Missouri Tina Brimage, Jackson State University

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