

APSA Names 1999 Centennial and Small Research Grant Winners

In May, APSA named the winners of the 1999 Centennial and Small Research Grants. The selection committee, composed of members of the APSA Committee on Education and Professional Development and the APSA Research Support Advisory Board, selected 13 of the 53 proposals submitted in this intense competition for research funding. The funded projects represent a range of fields and will be conducted by independent scholars and faculty in colleges and universities that do not award a doctorate degree in political science.

The 1999 Centennial and Small Research Grant winners are:

Centennial Research Grant

Georgia Duerst-Lahti, Beloit College, "Women's Caucus for Political Science: Organizational History"

Small Research Grant

Marijke Breuning, Truman State University, "Analogy and Reason: Development Assistance in the Truman Era"

Karen Callaghan, University of Massachusetts, Boston, "Liberal Journalists and Liberal Agendas? Testing the Biased Media Hypothesis"

Todd Donovan, Western Washington University, "Public Opinion About Democratic Institutions: Constituencies for Change"

Marni Ezra, Hood College, "A Comparison of Media Coverage in Congressional Primary and General Elections"

Scott Frisch, East Carolina University, "An Alternative Measure of Fiscal Consistency"

Timothy Krebs, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, "The Municipal Money Chase: The Nature of Campaign Finance in City Council Elections"

William Hughes and Magdalena Staniek, Southern Oregon University, "Frankenstein Conquers Poland: The Challenge of Coalition Building in Pre-Party Poland"

Mark Rush, Washington and Lee University, "Research and Database Development on the Impact of Redistricting in American and Canadian Electoral Systems"

Lynn Vavreck, Dartmouth College, "Do Attack Ads Help or Hinder Voters? Examining the Effects on Voter Interest, Participation, and Learning across States in the 1998 Mid-term Elections"

Craig Wheeland, Villanova University, "'Empowering the Vision' Ten Years Later: Assessing the Implementation of Rock Hill's Citywide Strategic Plan"

Bruce Wilson, University of Central Florida, "The Motivation for the Consequences of Judicial Reform: Evidence from Costa Rica"

Virginia Walsh, Rutgers University, Newark (Center for Global Change and Governance), "Political, Economic, and Sociological Barriers to Knowledge of Marine Biodiversity."

The Centennial Research Grant, created in 1998 in honor of APSA's upcoming centennial in 2003, provides up to \$1800 of nonrenewable support for research on a significant element of the history of the discipline of political science, the profession, or the Association. Centennial Grant winners will receive special consideration when submitting articles resulting from their research for publication in *PS*.

The Small Research Grant program was established in 1984 to make research resources more readily available to individual scholars and political scientists affiliated with institutions without large research budgets. The grant provides up to \$1800 of nonrenewable support for research in all fields of political science to cover nearly all research expenses, except for travel to professional meetings, secretarial costs, or salary support for the principal investigator.

To be eligible for either the Centennial Grant or the Small Research Grant, applicants must be current APSA members. Additional details about these annual grant competitions may be found online (www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/resgrant.html).



Georgia Duerst-Lahti



Timothy Krebs



Mark Rush



Craig Wheeland



Bruce Wilson

Minority Identification Project Benefits Students, Shows Survey

APSA's Minority Identification Project, begun in the mid-1980's as a means for attracting talented minority undergraduate students to graduate study in political science and increasing diversity in the political science profession, appears to be succeeding.

Sponsored by a group of 42 "core" schools (mostly large, Ph.D.-granting institutions which both provide and recruit the participating students), MID works because a nationwide network of faculty at core and noncore schools (faculty at any college or university are encouraged to recommend participants) begin talking with students as early as their freshman year about careers in political science. The real work of MID is accomplished when undergraduate faculty recommend individual students to leading graduate programs and the programs begin recruiting the recommended students.

For the past several years, surveys have been conducted of MID students to assess the value and effectiveness of the project. This year, the survey was conducted via email for the first time. It was sent in April to 186 students, and by June 15, a total of 59 completed surveys had been returned. Excluding the 21 undeliverable addresses, the response rate was 36%, which is considerably higher than those of the previous surveys conducted by mail (15% in 1998, 16% in 1997). Highlights of the findings include:

1. The project has a positive impact.
 - Sixty percent of respondents said their participation in the project positively influenced their decision to pursue graduate study in political science
 - Twenty-five percent of the respondents have applied to graduate schools in political science (compared to 14% in 1998). Of those who graduated before the summer of 1999, 52% applied (compared to 24% of spring 1998 graduates).

- Of those who applied to graduate school in political science, 87% were accepted, 67% were offered financial aid, 60% had their application fees waived, and 80% will study political science in graduate school.
 - Among those who had not yet applied to graduate school, 46% said it was still too early but they would apply later; 59% said they had not decided whether to pursue graduate study in political science; 21% decided to attend graduate or professional school in other disciplines, e.g. law, history, public policy, and foreign language; and 21% decided to work for a few years before attending graduate school. (Respondents can check multiple reasons.) As happened last year, none of the students said they had decided not to attend graduate school at all.
2. Noncore schools continue to participate.
 - Nineteen percent of the students who responded to the survey were identified by noncore schools. Fifty-six percent of them were identified by Ph.D. institutions, 33% by MA institutions, and 11% by BA institutions, suggesting that greater efforts can be made to involve undergraduate institutions in the project.
 3. Students are identified and contacted early in their undergraduate years.
 - Students participating in the project were at all levels of undergraduate study, including 15% who were freshmen and 27% who were sophomores.
 4. Most of the students identified have had the opportunity to discuss attending graduate school and pursuing careers in political science with faculty at their schools.
 - Forty-four percent of the students who responded to the survey reported meeting individually with a faculty member to discuss future plans (compared to 29% in 1998) and 53% of the students reported meeting with other students and faculty in groups to discuss such issues.

1999–2000 APSA Minority Fellows Choose Graduate Schools

APSA funded All African-American and Latino fellows who applied to graduate schools were accepted by a graduate program and received outside or departmental funding. Native American Fellow Mark Allen Davis, will receive a \$6,000 APSA stipend. Also, almost all APSA unfunded minority fellows who applied to graduate schools were accepted by a program and received outside or departmental funding.

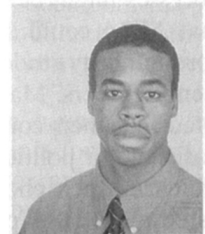
Funded Fellows

African American Fellows

Elmer Ray Block will attend Ohio State University where he has been granted a fellowship with remission of tuition and fees.

Andra N. Gillespie will attend Yale University, where she has been granted a fellowship with remission of tuition and fees.

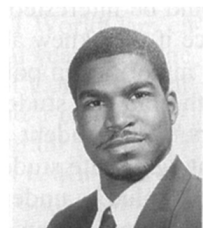
Melvin L. Rogers will study at Cambridge University during the 1999–2000 academic year. Beginning in fall 2000, he will attend Yale with a fellowship.



Elmer Ray Block



Andra N. Gillespie



Melvin L. Rogers

Latino/Latina Fellow

Sylvia Manzano will attend the University of Arizona, where she has been granted a fellowship and assistantship with remission of tuition and fees.



Sylvia Manzano

Native American Fellow

Mark Allen Davis will attend the University of California, Davis. He has been granted an APSA fellowship.



Mark Allen Davis

Unfunded Fellows

African American Fellows

Katrina Gamble will attend Emory University, where she has been granted a fellowship from both Emory and her undergraduate institution, Smith College, with remission of tuition and fees.

Aisha Raj will attend Rice University, where she has been granted a Provost's fellowship, which carries full tuition remission for four years.

Latino/Latina Fellows

Jessica Alas will attend the University of New Orleans, where she has been granted a research assistantship with remission of tuition and fees.

Jose Bocanegra will attend the University of Houston.

Jose A. Ramirez will defer graduate school until 2000.

5. A majority of participating students has been contacted by a number of graduate schools

- Eighty-eight percent of the respondents reported being contacted by an average of 13 graduate schools, ranging from one to forty.

As in previous surveys, MID students were asked how the graduate school application and admission processes might be improved and what APSA could do to interest more minority students in political science careers. Many students again noted that their concerns about job prospects for political scientists had influenced their choices and suggested that APSA publicize more career information and stories of successful minorities in political science. They also emphasized the importance of mentoring by faculty and graduate students, exposing senior undergraduate students to graduate-level work, and simplifying/standardizing the application process.

For example, one student wrote, "I believe that more minorities would be interested in political science if they knew about the successful minorities in political science, both graduate students and professors." This student also commented that "graduate students would be of great value to undergraduates. Sometimes, seniors would like to hear from someone who has just gone through the same process as you are going through. Therefore, I would suggest that you compile a list of MID graduate students who are willing to talk to and counsel potential graduate students."

Another student commented that "I was fortunate enough to be able to do graduate-level work and research as an undergraduate. This level of training has taught me what kinds of things are expected by graduate students and what, exactly, professional political scientists do. When I was visiting various campuses, many of the other prospective students I met had no idea about the level of scholarship and research expected by graduate institutions. I think I would be in for a very big shock next year had I not had the

exposure to this level of work as an undergraduate."

A third student noted that "Project 1000 has one application [form] that they accept and farm out to multiple schools. Most Vet schools also accept one application (that is posted on the web) and send it to the schools you request. The APSA could create a similar single application and, hopefully, over the years, multiple institutions would accept that application in lieu of their own. Naturally, each institution could request additional information. In short, fill out an application once, indicate the schools you want to apply to, and forget about it. Documentation, fees, letters of recommendation, will all also be handled by the student." This student also suggested that APSA "put together a packet indicating financial resources for minorities, mail it directly to students, and post it on the web."

To receive more information about MID, contact Titilayo Ellis (tellis@apsanet.org).

Encouraging the Brightest: The 1999 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute

Michael Cairo, *University of Virginia*

Fourteen gifted undergraduate students from colleges across the country attended the thirteenth annual Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at the University of Virginia this summer. Their mission: To learn more about graduate study in political science. Sponsored jointly by the department of government and foreign affairs at the University of Virginia and the American Political Science Association, the Bunche Institute is designed to introduce African American students to graduate school and to encourage their application to Ph.D. programs in political science. This year's class represented 14 schools as diverse as Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Santa Clara University to Spelman College in Georgia and Millikin University in Illinois.

While living on the grounds of UVA, students spent five weeks in



1999 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute participants and staff. Top Row (L-R): Jamarlin Muhammad, Berlin Vincent Kelly, Tyson Marsh. Third Row (L-R): J. Alan Kendrick (TA), Karen Cox (TA), Amy Stewart (TA), Conra Gist, Lynda Jackson-Sealy, Lisa Renee Jones, Michael Cairo. Second Row (L-R): Prof. Paul Freedman, Stacy Nykios (TA), Rickey Williams Jr., Maria del Carmen Huerta, Christina Grant, Prof. Paula D. McClain (Director). First Row (L-R): Ronnie Booker Jr., DeAunderia Byrant, Sacajawea Hall, Crystal Curry, Janelle Banks.