

Association News

APSA Internet Report

Matthew Linkie, APSA

The increasing popularity and usefulness of the Internet has prompted APSA to locate material relevant to the political scientist. Through the efforts of several of its members, APSA has selected gopher and web sites containing such information. APSA has made accessible its own gopher site with the help of Bill Ball, Department of Political Science, Trenton State University, and is currently working on developing a site on the World Wide Web.

A gopher provides you with the capability to move around the Internet by selecting categories of information. It is a link from your terminal to others around the world. The APSA gopher project is moderated and edited by Gary Klass, Department of Political Science, Illinois State University, and Michael Margolis, Department of Political Science, University of Cincinnati.

Accessing the APSA gopher server enables you to discover files which APSA is making available and to connect to computers around the world holding political science research documents, press releases, and updates on worldwide political current events.

The APSA gopher server is designed to work in conjunction with the Political Science Research and Teaching List (PSRT-L) which itself has approximately 1600 subscribers in 49 countries. PSRT-L is a moderated discussion list (send the command "subscribe psrt-l your name" to listserv@mizzou1.missouri.edu to join).

In 1995 the APSA gopher averaged 115 accesses a day. The root menu is as follows:

About the American Political Science Association Gopher
American Government Gopher at Northwestern University
Comparative Politics
International Relations
Political Theory
Public Policy and Public Administration
Computers, Software & Data
APSA Information & Services
Conference Information
Scholarships, Fellowships, & Grants
Journal Information
The Political Science List of Lists

E-Mail Directory of Political Scientists Related Gophers and Reference Information

To access the APSA gopher server select the "gopher client" option from your main menu. If you are unfamiliar with using gopher servers or do not have a "gopher client" option on your main menu, contact whoever provides your access to the Internet.

After selecting the "gopher client" type apsa.trenton.edu and hit enter. The above menu will appear.

Connecting to other gopher servers is just as easy. The following list contains brief descriptions of gopher sites available on the Internet:

gopher.igc.apc.org

Full text of the Dayton Peace Treaty. Follow path PeaceNet; Balkans/Ex-Yugoslavia; Dayton Peace Treaty.

nber.harvard.edu

The National Bureau of Economic Research provides information and statistical data on the state of the U.S. economy. A nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization.

To access these sites simply select the "gopher client" option from your main menu. Type in the name of the gopher site, and hit enter. This will connect you to that particular site's root menu.

The World Wide Web (WWW) allows users to view text as well as graphics, video, and sound. Like the gopher, special software is needed to access web pages. The APSA web page is located at <http://www.dgsys.com/~apsa/apsa.html>. The following sites also contain information relevant to political science:

<http://u.arizona.edu/~bsjones/psdir.html>

A directory of political scientist home pages.

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/

The U.S. Government Printing Office has access to the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, congressional bills, and daily government documents.

<http://www.dtic.dla.mil/bosnia>

BosniaLINK, the official Department of Defense information system about

U.S. military activities in Bosnia. Includes maps, fact sheets, news releases, and photos.

<http://www.luc.edu/orgs/mpsa>

The Midwest Political Science Association home page.

<http://www.npr.gov/status95/reports.htm>

Vice President Al Gore's September 1995 Status Report, "Common Sense Government: Works Better and Costs Less."

<http://www.umich.edu/~nes>

The National Election Studies provides data on voting, public opinion, and political participation.

Suggestions or comments on other gopher links and web sites can be sent by e-mail to Matt Linkie at mmlinkie@apsa.com.

Two-Year College Political Science Faculty: Recruitment and Responsibilities

Sheilah Mann, APSA

There are some 1,438 two-year colleges in the United States. According to the APSA's mailing lists, 850 of these institutions have social science divisions, and 100 have separate political science departments. This two-year/community-college sector of higher education is not monolithic. It is useful to distinguish among community colleges, junior colleges, vocational or technical colleges, university branch campuses, and institutions that are not branches per se but components of a larger university system of lower and upper division colleges (roughly).

The types of two-year colleges differ considerably. Some are similar to secondary schools in their governance, while others are associated with a statewide system of higher education. These institutions employ a significant portion of higher education faculty even taking account of the finding that 53.4% of all public two-year college faculty teach part-time (*Faculty* 1994).

There are still some 118,229 full-time faculty in two-year colleges, and this is

- more than twice as many as the number of faculty at either private research or private doctoral institutions
- nearly twice the number who teach at either private comprehensive or private liberal arts colleges,
- one and one-half times the number at public doctoral institutions
- less by about 20,000 than public comprehensive universities and by 30,000 than public research universities

Consequently, there is a sizeable professional community-college faculty that should be better served by the American Political Science Association and other disciplinary associations. The APSA launched an effort to contact two-year college faculty. Roundtable discussions were held about the role of political science faculty in these colleges at the last two Annual Meetings.

These recommendations were given at a 1995 APSA Annual Meeting Roundtable on "Career Opportunities and Teaching Responsibilities for Community College Faculty." Roundtable participants were: Sharon Z. Alter, William Rainey Harper College; Richard H. Baker, St. Louis Community College, Meramec; Daniel W. O'Connell, Palm Beach Community College; Gary C. Rehm, Capital Community-Technical College; and Richard Reitano, Dutchess Community College

The panelists were unanimous in identifying teaching as the primary professional activity—and genuine commitment—of community college faculty. They agreed that teaching skills, teaching experience (especially in introductory level courses), and demonstration of effective teaching are the most important qualities sought in job applicants. Two-year colleges recognize and reward good teaching. All of the panelists are enthusiastic teachers and committed to working with students and to developing programs. For example, Dan O'Connell is a leader in the on-campus adaptation of the "National Issues Forums." Richard Reitano organizes Model United Nations for students from Vassar College and Dutchess Community College.

The panelists recognize the diversity of their student populations—in skills and motivation, as well as demographics. There are students who go on to public and elite liberal arts colleges, and there are students who successfully pursue careers in local politics and business. Many students work nearby full-time and don't spend much time on their studies. Faculty in two-year col-

leges need to be realistic about the considerable range of students' intellectual engagement and educational objectives.

The panelists pointed out that, while the teaching and course loads are heavy in two-year colleges, these are not more burdensome than in many four-year colleges. However, more two-year college faculty are asked to teach in more than one discipline. Faculty who have administrative responsibilities have a reduced teaching load. Faculty need to expect and be comfortable with institutional flexibility in developing courses and programs. The pay scale in many two-year college systems is equal to or ahead of that for neighboring four-year institutions, and there are attractive arrangements for sabbaticals. There can be time to do research, and, often, computer facilities and access to library data collections are excellent.

On the crucial subject of the availability of faculty positions in community colleges, the panelists' messages were mixed. There are jobs, due to retirements and to growth in the higher education sector. But, as is the pattern in four-year colleges and universities, some positions are being filled with part-time, adjunct faculty. The panelists advised political scientists seeking employment to accept positions as adjunct faculty. Doing a good job and teaching successfully are an opportunity to get an inside track when a permanent position opens up.

It may not be easy to learn about community college job opportunities. Institutions that advertise nationally do so most often in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Many institutions contact local/regional universities when there is a need for part-time or adjunct faculty. And, many institutions hire local lawyers or community leaders to teach some political science courses. The market, the pay scale, and the department/division curriculum in political science will vary state by state. Job candidates are advised to contact community colleges about openings, to be willing to start out in part-time positions, and to develop their teaching skills and experience.

The APSA will continue to organize sessions about and for community college faculty at the Annual Meeting. There will be an open meeting for community college faculty and for graduate students interested in teaching in community colleges on Saturday, August 31, at the 1996 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

References

Faculty and Instructional Staff: Who Are They and What Do They Do? 1993 National Study of Post Secondary Faculty. 1994. Washington: Department of Education.

Committee Update

The roster of APSA Committees and their chairs printed in the September 1995 *PS* on page 553 inadvertently omitted the listing for two APSA standing committees: the Committee on the Status of Lesbians and Gays in the Profession, and its chair, Mark Blasius, CUNY-LaGuardia, 718-482-5795; and the Organized Sections Committee, chaired by Barbara Romzek, 913-864-3257, romzek@weber.ucsd.edu.

The chair of the Committee on the Status of Lesbians and Gays in the Profession beginning in 1996 is Harry Hirsch, University of California at San Diego, 619-534-2897, hhirsch@weber.ucsd.edu. Barbara Romzek continues as chair of the Organized Sections Committee.

Section News

Computers and Multimedia

The Computers and Multimedia Section seeks nominations for its 1996 competition for Best Software. Interested persons should submit the following: 1) A statement of the intended uses of the program; 2) a 3.5 diskette containing the software with written operating instructions (DOS or Mac); 3) Author

Addition

On page 756 of the December issue of *PS* it was noted that the round table "The End of Liberalism" was the best attended panel of the 1995 Annual Meeting. William A. Galston, University of Maryland, was a member of that panel and his name was inadvertently not included among the participants.