

Finally Got the News*

Newsletter of the Race and Ethnicity Section of the APSA

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2001

Co-Chairs Comments

A message from Ron Schmidt, Sr. and Toni Michelle Travers

As co-presidents, we are proud to introduce this first newsletter from APSA's Organized Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics. The arrival of the newsletter represents another milestone in the Section's journey toward making the study of race and ethnicity in political life a central focal point for the discipline of Political Science. The Section was launched in 1995, and it evidently met a widely experienced need, quickly growing to become one of the APSA's largest and most energetic organized sections. For the past four years, more than 500 political scientists have been members of the Section

Having passed our fifth anniversary as an Organized Section, we think it is time to reflect on the path we have traveled, and the uphill road that still needs climbing. We believe that our Section is at an important crossroads in its short history. That is, having established our presence in the discipline, it would be relatively easy to continue operating at the level to which we have quickly grown accustomed: organizing panels on racial and ethnic politics for APSA's annual meetings, holding an annual reception renew our ties and to highlight and celebrate the scholarly accomplishments of our award-winning colleagues, having a brief annual business meeting to pass the torch to a new set of officers, etc. In themselves these are no small feats, as is evident to anyone who remembers APSA annual

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Co-Chairs Report, Maurice Woodard honored, and Latino/a Caucus Report
- 2 Asian Pacific Caucus Report
- 3 32nd National Conference of Black Political Scientists held March 8-11, 2001
- 4 Native American Studies Association (NASA)

* This title is borrowed from the Newsreel film about militant Black autoworkers in Detroit during the late 1960s.

APSA Committee on the Status of Blacks Honors Maurice Woodard

Maurice Woodard retired as an APSA Staff Associate at the 2000 APSA annual meeting. APSA and the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession (CSB) used the opportunity to acknowledge Maurice's many contributions to the APSA and the profession. Maurice was a gentle giant in bringing more minorities into the field of political science in his 25 years of service. Cheryl Miller, Chair of CSB presented Maurice with a commemorative plaque and a book on travel. Remarks and presentations were also made by Cathy Rudder-APSA Executive Director, Paula McClain, Dianne Pinderhughes, and former CSB Chairs Michael Preston and Sheila Ards. Among those attending the reception were APSA staff, previous CSB chairs, and former APSA Presidents Dick Fenno, Heinz Eulau, Arend Lijphart, Matt Holden, Robert Jervis, plus President-Elect Robert Putnam. Maurice continues as Professor of Political Science at Howard University.

Latino Scholars Organize and Assume Leadership in Outreach

The past two years were very productive and eventful years for Latino/a political scientists and Latino politics scholars. Beginning with the founding of the Latino Caucus in Political Science in September 1998, numerous people have contributed to the efforts of the Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas to increase Latino representation and visibility in the profession. Some of the major accomplishments include the Latino politics symposium published in the September 2000 *PS*, a national survey of Latino graduate students in political science assessing satisfaction and potential problems, and pre-conference workshops on Latino scholarship held at the WPSA 2000 and 2001 annual meetings. Other notable accomplishments include the establishment of the Latino Caucus listserv (Latino-C) and website (<http://www.csulb.edu/depts/posc/latinocaucus/>).

At least three important initiatives are still ongoing: the Fund for Latino Scholarship, the Latino Outreach Program (a.k.a. the "Road show") and the Ada Sosa-Riddell

continued on page 3

meetings in the years before the Section was organized. In those years the scholars studying race and ethnicity in politics had little say in the selection of the Program Committee Division chairs that selected paper presenters for conferences, nor was there an organizational focal point at annual meetings for bringing together the several groups of political scientists interested in racial and ethnic politics.

While these are organizational achievements to be celebrated and maintained in the future, we believe it is important to reflect on – and rededicate ourselves to – the broader vision that stimulated our initial organization as a Section:

In the founding of our Section, we were called . . .

- to challenge the discipline to move the study of race and ethnicity from the margins of political science to its center, reflecting the reality that understanding racialization amidst ethnic diversity continues to be an indispensable key for comprehending multiple dimensions of contemporary political life;
- to search for new and better ways to understand the meaning and political significance of race and ethnicity in the contemporary world, and to chart their relationships to aspects of political life previously unknown;
- to support and encourage a massive influx of new political scientists into the discipline who will be dedicated to improving the study of the racial and ethnic dimensions of political life in ways yet unknowable. This effort involves the active recruitment of talented undergraduates, increased support for graduate students sharing our commitments, and increased support for our junior and untenured faculty colleagues;
- to break down the barriers to publication of innovative studies of racial and ethnic dimensions of political life in our discipline's "mainline" journals, as well as in books published by university and commercial presses;
- to seek out new ways to disseminate our hard-won knowledge of racial and ethnic dimensions of political life, through new technologies and new forms of networking with each other and those interested in the results of our labors.

Having "refreshed" our collective memory on our larger purposes, we now ask you to think about how you might make just one more personal contribution to one or more of the above challenges that we face as an organization. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find the names and email addresses of our Section's committee chairs. Please reach out to one or more of them, volunteering a bit of your time and energy to enhance our important work.

This newsletter is produced by the volunteer labor of the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section of the APSA. To volunteer in any capacity, such as contribute articles, commentaries, or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact newsletter coordinator: Kim Geron, CSU Hayward kgeron@csuhayward.edu

Asian Pacific American Caucus

APAC was formed in September 1999, after discussions at the APSA meetings indicated considerable support for such an organization. Our goals are to promote teaching and research on Asian Pacific American (APA) politics; to provide a gathering point for APA political scientists; to strengthen ties between scholars and activists in APA politics; to serve as a resource for APA students; and to assist APSA members and staff seeking information on Asian Americans. Membership is open to anyone.

Our membership grew from 15 to 150 during our first year, and drew from political science, ethnic studies, sociology, law, and history, as well as from national and local political organizations. We held our first business meeting and reception at the 2000 APSA meetings. Founding co-chairs Andy Aoki and Pei-te Lien were chosen to continue in their positions, and five other APAC members were named to an Executive Committee.

Currently, we are communicating with other groups about a response to the APSA strategic plan. Also, given the historic importance of San Francisco to the APA community, we are working on more events for the 2001 APSA conference including a tour of Chinatown. Finally, many of our members are contributing to an upcoming *PS* symposium on Asian Pacific Islander American politics.

For more information on APAC, please visit our website at http://www.augsburg.edu/political_science/apac/. We also maintain an email discussion group at <http://igc.topica.com/lists/apac/>.

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32nd National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) held in Richmond, Virginia March 8 – 11

On March 8-11, NCOBPS held its 32nd National Conference in Richmond, Virginia. This year's program theme was "Acting on the Black Imperatives: Issues and Exigencies." The conference featured 34 panels. Njeri Jackson of Virginia Commonwealth University served as local arrangements chair and Desiree Pedescleaux of Spelman College and Earl Picard of Georgia State University served as co-program chairs. The awards banquet featured L. Douglas Wilder, former Governor of Virginia, and the closing luncheon featured a panel entitled, "Women Doing Politics." The panelists included Mamie Locke, Mayor of Hampton, Virginia, Jean Cunningham, former member of the Virginia General Assembly, and Viola Baskerville, member of the Virginia Assembly. Shelby Smith served as moderator. Marvin Haire of Clark Atlanta University assumed the presidency of the organization. For more information about the NCOBPS or to join, please visit <http://democracy.ncat.edu/ncobps3>

1999-2000 co-presidents Christine Sierra and James Jennings address the REP's annual reception at the APSA meeting in D.C. Tony Affigne (background) listens intently.

Latino Mentoring Award. The Latino Fund was established to provide grants to individuals and/or programs that support the retention, recruitment and promotion of Latino/a political scientists or advance our knowledge of Latino politics. With approximately \$37,000 currently pledged and an endowment level of \$50,000, at least \$13,000 in additional pledges must be raised before proceeds from the Fund can be used. We strongly encourage everyone to contribute/increase a pledge to the Fund by contacting Rob Hauck at rhauck@apsanet.org or going to the APSA Centennial Campaign website (<http://www.apsanet.org/future/funds/latino.cfm>).

The Road Show has the dual purpose of recruiting Latino students to political science and increasing awareness/appreciation of scholarship on Latino politics. Road Show speakers typically will make presentations at schools with substantial numbers of Latino students where the political science program has neither Latino faculty or faculty studying Latino politics. Road Show organizers are currently seeking schools to fill out the 2001-2002 schedule. If you are interested in hosting a Road Show visit, contact Gary Segura (gary.segura@cgu.edu).

The Ada Sosa-Riddell Latino Mentoring Award was established to honor emeritus professor Ada Sosa-Riddell and others like her who serve as important mentors and role-models to Latinos/as in political science. Everyone is invited to nominate someone who has made special efforts to assist Latino/a students and/or Latino/a junior faculty. Please send a letter detailing the contributions of your nominee to: Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas, American Political Science Association, 1927 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20036. The deadline for nominations is **July 15th 2001**.

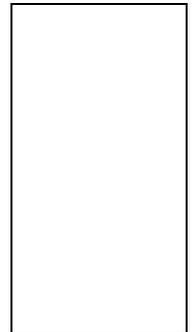
Several events are planned for the upcoming APSA annual meeting. Celebrating the contributions of two pioneer scholars of race politics, the Caucus and Status Committee will co-host a special roundtable entitled, "A Conversation on Race Politics Across Generations: Mario Barrera and Carlos Munoz and Those Who Listened." Mario and Carlos also will be honored along with other Latino/a dignitaries—including the recipient of the Ada Sosa-Riddell Latino Mentoring Award—at the Status Committee reception. The Caucus will co-host a roundtable with the Asian Pacific American Caucus entitled, "Dilemmas of Latino and Asian American Political Incorporation." The Status Committee will co-host a panel with the Black Status Committee on "Inequities in Health Policy for Persons of Color."

Planning already is underway for the 3rd annual Latino Scholarship Workshop. If you would like to get involved or simply want more information, we STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to contact Val Martinez (v.martinez@tcu.edu), or Manny Avalos (mavalos@asu.edu).

The Native American Studies Association (NASA) Doings

The Native American Studies Association has been quite active this year. We have been putting on panels at meetings, beginning with two at APSA cosponsored with "Race Ethnicity and Politics: Indian Nations, Resources and the Politics of Federalism" and "Indigenous Politics, Values and Identity." We have a session at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago, April 19-21, "The Limits of Legal Sovereignty: Cultural Constraints on Indigenous Rights." At the Western Social Science Association Meeting in Reno, NV, April 18-22, we are doing a session, "Remembering the Circle: The Relevance of Traditional American Indian and Other Indigenous Governance for the Twenty-First Century." We are planning to put together one or two panels for the APSA meeting in San Francisco in September and one panel for the North East Political Science Association Meeting, November 8-10, in Philadelphia for which we welcome proposals).

NASA's Native American Policy Network Newsletter is now available by e-mail from ssachs@iupi.edu. Published twice a year, plus occasional special topics issues, the newsletter carries announcements of Native American and other indigenous policy related meetings and events, American Indian and other indigenous news, media notes, reviews and exchanges of views. For more information on NASA, to propose a panel paper or to subscribe to the News Letter, contact NASA Coordinator, Steve Sachs, sachs@iupi.edu, 4820 N. Broadway St., Indianapolis, IN 46205 (317)924-5965.



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