

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

- I. Mission Statement**
- II. Message from the Caucus President Christina Wolbrecht**
- III. The 2007 Annual Meeting and Award Information**
- IV. Tools of the Trade**
- V. News and Announcements**
- VI. Officer Names and Contact Information**
- VII. Membership Form 2006-2007**

I. Mission Statement

The Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science is a regional caucus affiliated with the Women's Caucus for Political Science of the American Political Science Association. The Midwest Caucus promotes professional equity for women in the discipline of political science by sponsoring sessions at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, working with the Association to promote the interests of women political scientists, encouraging research that acknowledges and investigates the presence and activities of women in political life, and serving as a network for members between annual meetings.

We welcome your participation and membership. To join the Midwest Caucus or to renew your membership, please complete the form provided on the last page of the newsletter and return it to the Caucus Treasurer as indicated on the form.

II. Message from the Caucus President Christina Wolbrecht

Greetings, and happy (end of) summer to all! Hope everyone has had a chance to relax and recharge.

I want to first acknowledge and thank outgoing President Kira Sanbonmatsu for her terrific work on behalf of the Caucus last year. Kira put together a great program for the 2006 MPSA meeting (see the Tools of the Trade section below), spearheaded a number of important initiatives, particularly with regard to recruitment and our relationship with the MPSA, and generally maintained the Caucus' positive trajectory. Thanks Kira!

A special word of thanks to the panel chairs who organized and oversaw our outstanding 2006 panels: Georgia Duerst-Lahti, Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Tracy Osborn, Laurie Rhodebeck, and Joanna Scott. It is my great pleasure to extend congratulations to Sue Carroll (Rutgers University), recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Professional Achievement Award. Sue is a true role model as a scholar, mentor, and administrator. Thanks also to Karen Kaufmann who chaired the award committee and the panel in Sue's honor, and to committee members Rosalee Clawson, Pippa Norris, and Tasha Philpott. Eileen Braman is chairing the 2007 Award Committee; please

take a look at the solicitation for nominations for the 2007 award below, and nominate one of the many deserving female scholars in our discipline.

It is a pleasure to be working with a great group of colleagues on the Midwest Women's Caucus this year. At our business meeting, we elected Elizabeth Bennion (Indiana University South Bend) as President-Elect, Tracy Osborn (Bridgewater State) as Treasurer, and Celeste Montoya Kirk (Southern Illinois University—Carbondale) as Secretary. Regina Branton (Rice University) is continuing as newsletter editor. Thanks to each of them for their service to the Caucus and to women in the discipline.

Thanks also to the Recruitment Committee for their excellent work and report, which we discussed at our recent business meeting. The committee was chaired by Kathy Dolan, with Laurel Weldon, Wendy Smooth, Celeste Montoya Kirk, and Katharine Floros serving as members. At the business meeting, we adopted several of the recommendations outlined in the report: (1) beginning each Caucus panel with a brief welcome from and explanation of the MWCPS; (2) e-mailing all women on the annual meeting program to introduce them to the Caucus and invite them to join and attend our events in Chicago; (3) contacting graduate departments to ask them to distribute information about the Caucus to female graduate students; (4) waiving all membership fees for graduate students; and (5) asking MPSA to add a line on their on-line membership form that allows people to join the Women's Caucus when they join or renew their membership with the MPSA.

Many of these are practices already in place, and we are working on instituting the others. MPSA Director Will Morgan has been supportive of our efforts to establish the check off for the Women's Caucus on the MPSA membership form, and we're just working out the details at this point. Stay tuned for an update some time this year!

The other report recommendations were tabled for future discussion and decision as appropriate. We did decide to keep the reception joint with the other caucuses (as it was this year), and there were a number of great ideas which we hope to implement about how to help the Women's Caucus be more visible at the reception. Our business meeting will shift from a breakfast (no longer possible with the new MPSA schedule) to (hopefully) right before the reception; more information to come about the exact timing of the meeting.

Finally, we are working with Caucus members to organize roundtables for the 2007 MPSA conference, which are previewed below. Please let me know if you would be interested in participating.

All best for a productive academic year,

Christina Wolbrecht
University of Notre Dame
Wolbrecht.1@nd.edu

III. The 2007 Annual Meeting and Award Information

Roundtable Proposals and Participation

Each year the Caucus sponsors several roundtables that address various professional development concerns salient to graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty. If you are

interested in participating in any of the 2007 roundtables, please contact Caucus President Christina Wolbrecht at Wolbrecht.1@nd.edu. Based on our discussion at the business meeting, plans are underway for panels that discuss: women faculty in the classroom, successful book publication, handling and negotiating service demands, work-family balance, and promotion and tenure

Nominations for Outstanding Professional Achievement Award

Every year the MPSA Women's Caucus solicits nominations for the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award. If you would like to nominate an outstanding woman for the 2006-2007 award please send a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, teaching, service and mentorship to the Award Chair, Chair Eileen Braman (Indiana University). Her email address is: ebraman@indiana.edu The award committee will announce the recipient by the end of October.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

1993-1994 Doris Graber
1994-1995 Jewell Prestage
1995-1996 Susan Welch
1996-1997 Arlene Saxonhouse
1997-1998 Diane Blair
1998-1999 Roberta Sigel
1999-2000 Peggy Conway
2000-2001 Betty Glad
2001-2002 Karen O'Connor
2002-2003 Virginia Sapiro
2003-2004 Catherine Rudder
2004-2005 Pippa Norris
2005-2006 Susan J. Carroll

IV. Tools of the Trade

At the April meetings, the Caucus hosted several roundtables exploring a range of professional development issues. In case you missed any of these interesting discussions, the highlights are summarized below. Melissa Harris, Tracy Osborn, Laurie Rhodebeck, Kira Sanbonmatsu, Joanna Vecchiarelli Scott, and Christina Wolbrecht contributed their notes to make these summaries possible.

Topic: *How to Land your First Job: Tips for the Academic Job Market*

Panelists: *Tracy Osborn (Bridgewater State College), chair; Eileen Braman (Indiana University); Tasha Philpot (University of Texas, Austin); Mona Lena Krook, (Washington University at St. Louis); Brandice Canes-Wrone (Princeton University); Lisa Wedeen (University of Chicago)*

- There are several great places to search for jobs. The APSA e-jobs website is a good start, but be sure to search widely, as jobs that fit you may fall into different categories. Try www.jobs.ac.uk to look for academic jobs in the UK. The Department of Political Science at the

University of Michigan has a guide to applying for jobs on its website. Also, remember to search for post-docs and research centers, as these are great opportunities for first jobs.

- Get on the job market radar as early as possible. Let your department know you are on the market, so that professors who may be tangentially (or not at all) related to your work can still make comments or calls on your behalf. Talk to your advisor and other letter writers early, and push them to be an advocate for you—it's their job! Present your work at conferences—networking at conferences will not only help on the market but will serve you in the future. Make sure you are well into your dissertation, enough to give a job talk.

- Compile your dossier starting in May of your job market year—this includes your recommendation letters, writing samples, CV, and possibly teaching materials. Think about the presentation you make of yourself, and how you might market yourself for different jobs. For example: do you study gender, parties, and a region in comparative politics? Market all three areas, switching them to first, second or third on your vita to highlight each aspect accordingly. Also try different CVs for teaching versus research schools.

- Keep an open mind about applying to different schools in different areas. A job may not look great on paper (where is this place?) but might be a perfect fit once you arrive for the interview. At the same time, be true to yourself. Think about whether you want a research versus teaching career, or if you are not sure, apply to both. Think about where you want to live within reason: don't apply to a school in Alaska if you can't see yourself living there.

- Practice your job talk as much as you can. Invite people to a practice talk in your department. Work on structuring the job talk to a wide audience (e.g., be wary of difficult stats or belaboring a small point), since the audience on the interview will be the entire political science department. Work on answering questions about your job talk, to get the right balance of interest, and alleviate defensive or overly deferential behavior.

- Before going on the interview, do research about the department using their website. Prepare a list of questions to ask, because the first thing each faculty member will ask is, “do you have any questions?” Look the part by dressing professionally.

- Answer any awkward questions or address any awkward situations as best you can by being positive and confident. For instance, if someone asks you about your personal life (even though they shouldn't), make a comment about how your personal life would be well-suited to the location of the job. It is important to remember that if an interview dinner or situation feels awkward, the faculty member may feel the same way, so don't feel too embarrassed.

- If you get an offer, don't be afraid to negotiate. Think about asking for course releases, especially in the early years when you need time for research. Other things you could ask for include start-up funding for research, moving/relocation expenses, travel budgets, and technology and software. Survey friends' salaries to get an idea of what is a fair starting salary. Most importantly, get all promises in writing.

- Lastly, remember much of the job market is beyond your control, so keep your head! Control the things you can—your dissertation, impressions of you by letter writers, your job talk—and try not to worry about the things you can't.

Topic: *Women Should Ask: Negotiation in the Academic Workplace*

Panelists: *Georgia Duerst-Lahti (Beloit College), chair; Susan Welch (Pennsylvania State University); Nancy McGlen (Niagara University); Kay Lehman Schlozman (Boston College); Kristi Andersen (Syracuse University); Lynn Maurer (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville)*

- If you don't ask for it, you probably won't get it.
- Research the institution and department with which you are negotiating. Make sure that you are asking for things that they can give you; making and sticking to demands that are unrealistic only makes you look unprofessional and ignorant. For example, if a university is governed by a union bargaining agreement, there may be real constraints in terms of salary and leave. Other schools may have much greater leeway.
- The AAUP publishes salary ranges by university which may give you some insight into what's possible, although overall ranges can mask variation by discipline, especially if the university has a law, business, or medical school. State schools often must make salaries public so they are particularly attentive to equity issues.
- Ask questions, especially to other junior (female) colleagues, during the interview that will help you determine what the norms are in terms of teaching load, research support, leave time, and so on.
- Know who the real decision makers are. Does the chair have authority to provide salary increases, leave time, and so on, or is that decision really in the hand of the Dean or Provost?
- Negotiating on the basis of an outside offer can be productive, but be careful. Be prepared to actually leave; otherwise, you are not credible and/or might end up getting burned if your university chooses not to counter. Use outside offers infrequently; if you go back time and again, administrators may no longer be interested in countering. If you are seen as likely to leave, there is less reason for the university to invest resources in you.
- Know what you want and what your priorities are: Is salary the most important issue, or research resources or time off? Have a clear list of your needs, and present them to your Chair or other administrator all at once. Do not make your chair run back to the Dean multiple times with new requests.
- Explain/justify your request in terms of why what you are seeking (leave time, research support) will help you do your job better and thus benefit the department and university. In the business world, most models of negotiating focus on the threat (usually to leave) but in academia, such a threat is not always credible. This frame helps administrators see why it is in their interest to support you, even if you are not threatening them with departure.
- Be flexible. For example, if a salary increase is not possible, consider asking for summer salary for a set time.
- Be frank. If something is a deal breaker, say so. Don't waste people's time.

- Be assertive, but not argumentative. Want to work with administrators, not against them.
- Talk to your mentors about your offer, what to ask for, how to ask, and what you should prioritize.
- Keep in mind that your initial negotiation is not your last interaction with your chair and other administrators. Work to establish a positive working relationship.

Topic: *Where Most of Us Are: Navigating the Profession of Political Science in Non-Ph.D. Departments and Institutions*

Panelists: *Joanna Scott (Eastern Michigan University), chair; Jacqueline DeLaat (Marietta College; Tony Affigne (Providence College); Shirley Geiger (Savannah State University)*

- Conversation was wide-ranging, including a discussion of how the APSA and MPSA might proceed to thaw out the rather chilly climate for under funded, teaching-intensive institutions and faculty.
- Panelists noted the diversity of private liberal arts colleges (e.g, some are well-endowed, others are not), but also emphasized that at most, teaching is the primary evaluative category for renewal, tenure, and promotion, so what funds there are for faculty support are predominately given over to pedagogy and travel related to it. Panelists suggested that APSA might consider increasing its support for research grants, travel and conference presentation for faculty from these institutions, regardless of rank.
- The editorial boards of our major journals might also be diversified to reflect the presence of the 44% of APSA members who teach at non-PhD departments and institutions.
- The panel also discussed better mentoring in doctoral programs to prepare new Ph.D's for the likelihood that they will not land at Harvard or Berkeley and will join faculties where the teaching and service loads are significant, graduate student support non-existent, and yet where research productivity is expected to continue in between the institutional cracks.

Topic: *How to Pursue a Non-Academic Career*

Panelists: *Laurie Rhodebeck (University of Louisville), chair; Bob Gannett (Institute for Community Empowerment); Anna Greenberg, (Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research); Vicki Kraft (City of Chicago); Delia Lloyd (Odyssey); John Samples (Cato Institute and Johns Hopkins University)*

- The participants on this roundtable described their current line of work, what they did prior to entering that line of work, what led to their decision to seek employment outside the academy, what strategies they used to identify nonacademic job opportunities, and how they have maintained ties to the academic world. As the affiliations indicate, the roundtable participants hold a variety of positions: community organizer, survey researcher, attorney, journalist, and research foundation scholar.

- One of the first points each participant mentioned was her or his reason for leaving academia. Several participants noted the tedium of academia, especially grading and committee work. Others discussed the narrow focus they had to adopt in order to publish in mainstream political science outlets. Some expressed a concern about how arbitrary tenure, promotion, and publication decisions seem to be.

A large portion of the session was spent offering advice:

- Develop skills in graduate school that will parlay into private sector work—e.g. training in quantitative and qualitative analysis, writing for nonspecialists, foreign languages
- Critically assess your social and organizational skills, because many types of nonacademic employment require functioning in a manner that is more social and more organized than academic work typically is
 - Decide what types of people you would enjoy working with and what sort of work environment allows you to flourish
 - Define the type of job you want, and decide where you want to live; these two decisions may be related
 - Identify actual positions like the job(s) you want, and identify people who hold those positions; ask to meet with these people for an informational interview in which you assess whether the position really is what you would like and whether you would be suited for the work; ask for help in networking for similar positions
- Roundtable participants and audience members noted that graduate programs are not preparing students for nonacademic positions. The lack of preparation may be a disservice to students, given the extremely tight labor market in academia. Several people noted that graduate programs are unrealistic about placing their Ph.D.s in academic positions and negligent in assisting them to secure alternative employment.
- Roundtable participants all stressed that a Ph.D. is a valuable degree. Earning a Ph.D. indicates that the recipient has developed many skills that can easily be marketed in the nonacademic world. Graduate programs need to do a better job of helping their students find multiple outlets for these skills.

Topic: *Roundtable: How to Communicate with the Media*

Panelists: *Melissa Harris (University of Chicago), chair; Janet K. Boles (Marquette University); Susan MacManus (University of South Florida, Tampa); Richard K. Herrmann (Ohio State University); Susan J. Carroll (Rutgers University)*

- Each panelist shared personal narratives of how they developed a relationship with the media, their style of engaging with the press, and practical advice for both fostering and setting limits on media communication.
- The panelists agreed that scholars must make a decision about why they want to communicate with the media.

- Professor Hermann explained that he accidentally became a media personality because his field of study suddenly became politically important. As the area in which he was an expert became “hot” for reporters, they sought out his voice. Professor Hermann remains primarily committed to his field and uses his relationship with the media to bring academic expertise to bear on public debate.
- Janet Boles and Susan Carroll both spoke of becoming local media personalities willing to speak on a broad range of topics. By willingly engaging in many different areas they have become favorites of local and national media outlets.
- Susan MacManus’ story presents a third possible relationship with the press. She is employed by a television station as an analyst. She is able to use her position within the media world to enhance her teaching and to gain direct access to data and to political events.
- Each of these scholars has a different style of press interaction that is derived from what they hope to achieve by public engagement in the media. They urged other scholars who are beginning to communicate with the press to think about why they are doing it in order to craft a media personality that serves their personal, professional and intellectual goals.
- The panelists also talked about the tension between being always and easily accessible to press and setting boundaries on reporters and writers. Everyone agreed that the press adores and will make use of academic experts who are willing to return phone calls promptly, to provide analysis in easily understood sound-bites, to be available on nights and weekends, and to provide mobile phone access to reporters. Accessibility, promptness and personality are the currency of the media. The panelists warned that a scholar’s willingness to engage the media on these terms must be balanced with the other multiple demands of academic life.
- The panel also was really great fun. Everyone told their favorite stories of interacting with the media. There were stories of being misquoted, giving interviews at quirky times, gaining access to wonderful events and the general craziness of helping reporters understand tough topics and meet short deadlines.

V. News and Announcements

Call for Papers: Women and Political Leadership Research Conference April 2007

Building on the success of the first annual Women and Political Leadership Research Conference in 2006 that addressed the relationship between gender and leadership in traditional political institutions, the 2007 conference will begin to address how differences and commonalities among women inform political leadership. This conference invites proposals that address the multiplicity of identity categories and experiences (e.g. race, religion, sexuality, geo-political location) that operate simultaneously with gender to inform political behaviors. Political science has established discrepancies in access to resources and locations of power along lines of difference; this conference will be a forum to discuss the methodologies and findings of research on the intersection of identity politics and gender, and further how the access to, and execution of political leadership is informed by gender and identity politics.

The scholarship will examine six broad areas of differences between women and the significance of those differences on women's access to and execution of positions of political leadership, including: (1) The politics of difference – what are the politically salient categories of difference and how do they relate to gender? What is the utility of intersectionality as a conceptual model for theorizing political leadership; (2) Cross-national comparisons (3) U.S. Regional (South, Northeast, Mid-West, Southwest, and West) and Locale (rural, ex-urban, suburban, and urban) comparisons; (4) race and ethnicity; (5) sexuality and sexual orientation and identity; and (6) ideology and religion.

We are calling for proposals in these six areas. Abstracts of 200-250 words should be emailed to wandp@american.edu by October 2, 2006. Conference participants will be selected by October 23, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact the Women & Politics Institute's Associate Director, Sarah E. Brewer, Ph.D. at sbrewer@american.edu or (202) 885-3103.

Dates: April 20-22, 2007

Call for Papers Deadline: October 2, 2006

Location: American University, Washington, D.C.

Website: <http://wandp.american.edu/wplconference>

VI. Officer Names and Contact Information

President: Christina Wolbrecht (University of Notre Dame), wolbrecht.1@nd.edu

President-Elect: Elizabeth Bennion (Indiana University South Bend), bennion@iusb.edu

Secretary: Celeste Montoya Kirk (Southern Illinois University), cmmontoy@siu.edu

Treasurer: Tracy Osborn (Bridgewater State University), Tosborn@bridgew.edu

Newsletter Editor: Regina Branton (Rice University), branton@rice.edu

VII. MIDWEST WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MEMBERSHIP

RENEW NOW!

If you did not renew your membership at the 2006 Annual MPSA Meeting, be sure to fill out and mail the attached membership form. This will ensure that you continue to receive the Midwest Women's Caucus newsletter and important information related to the Caucus. If you are unsure of your membership status, please check with the treasurer, Tracy Osborn (Tosborn@bridgew.edu).

SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know someone who might benefit from learning more about the Caucus? We are trying to reach out to more women in the discipline. If you know of faculty or graduate students who might be interested in the Caucus, please forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to join.

Membership Form 2006-2007

MIDWEST WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

If you would like to renew your membership or become a member, please complete this form and return it with your payment to:

Professor Tracy Osborn*
Bridgewater State University
Department of Political Science
Summer Street House, 180 Summer Street
Bridgewater, MA 02325
**Make checks payable to "Midwest Women's Caucus"*

Name _____

University Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

Is this a new address within the last 12 months? _____

E-mail Address _____
(We need an accurate e-mail address so that you will receive the newsletter.)

Phone _____

New member _____ Renewing member _____

MIDWEST WOMEN'S CAUCUS DUES:

Student/Unemployed	Free _____	One-Year Membership	\$10.00 _____
Low Income	\$2.00 _____	Two-Year Membership	\$20.00 _____

Breakfast at the Business Meeting during MPSA 2006 in Chicago:

(For those who attended the business meeting in Chicago)

Student/Unemployed	\$5.00 _____	Faculty/Staff	\$10.00 _____
--------------------	--------------	---------------	---------------

You also have the option of joining and paying your

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS DUES:

(These dues will be forwarded to the Treasurer of the APSA Women's Caucus)

Student/Unemployed/Retired	Free _____	Salary \$15,000 - \$40,000	\$20.00 _____
Salary under \$15,000	\$10.00 _____	Salary over \$40,000	\$30.00 _____

Donation to Midwest Women's Caucus: _____ *(Please enter the amount you would like to contribute)*

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Midwest Women's Caucus."