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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 Elizabeth Bennion

Greetings! I look forward to seeing many of you at the Midwest Political Science Association conference on April 3-6 at the Chicago Palmer House.

I hope you will be able to attend our **annual business meeting** on Thursday evening, from 7 to 8 p.m. (PDR, 5th floor). Our business meeting will be preceded by the MPSA Welcome Reception (6:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom, 4th floor), and followed by the MPSA Minority Caucuses Reception (8-9:30 p.m., Empire, Lobby Level). Let your graduate students know about these many opportunities for networking and free food! Both members and prospective members are enthusiastically encouraged to attend the annual business meeting and the post-meeting **reception**.

I have worked with Celeste Montoya-Kirk, Brigid Harrison, Georgia Duerst-Lahti, Meg Rinker, Judith Grant, and Ashlyn Kuersten to put together a wonderful set of **roundtables** for this year's conference. Descriptions of these roundtables are found in section IV of this newsletter. I would like to thank the many people who agreed to serve on these panels. These professional development roundtables provide practical advice you can put into practice immediately. Be sure to pass along our listing of roundtables to students or colleagues who are attending the MPSA meeting. The roundtables are a service we provide to our members and to the broader profession. MPSA will create **podcasts** of the roundtables in an effort to share this important advice with a broader audience. Still, attending in person is the *best way* to gain the information *you* want or need.

We will hold Caucus **elections** at the annual business meeting. Our Newsletter Editor, Candice Ortals will continue with her second year of a two-year term. Candice has done a tremendous job creating a new Caucus **website** complete with the caucus mission statement and officer contact information, as well as a terrific archive of past newsletters, officers, roundtable summaries, and more. You can check out the new website at <http://midwestwomenscaucus.wordpress.com/>. Our current President-elect, Brigid Harrison, will be nominated for President. As tradition dictates, she will also run the second half of the business meeting. Other members on our slate of nominees include: Tracy Osborn (president-elect), Lori Poloni-Staudinger (treasurer), and Valerie Hunt (secretary). More information about these nominees, including brief biographies, is located in section VI of this newsletter.

Every year the Midwest Women's Caucus honors one of our colleagues with an **Outstanding Professional Achievement Award**. This year, the award is being given Mary Hawkesworth. A biography of this outstanding colleague is found in section V of this newsletter. A panel honoring Hawkesworth will be held on Friday, April 4, at 4:45 p.m. Thanks to Michele Swers for chairing the award committee, and to Karen Beckwith, Eileen Braman, and Joanna Scott for their service.

I want to personally thank the Midwest Women's Caucus officers and the many other people who volunteered their time in service to the Caucus this year. It has been a pleasure to serve as President. I look forward to continuing my work with the Caucus in the years to come.

Elizabeth A. Bennion
President, Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science
ebennion@iusb.edu

III. Caucus Events at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 3

- 2:45 pm Roundtable: Women of Color: Experiences on Campus and in the Classroom (58-102)
- 7:00 pm Women's Caucus annual business meeting (PDR 18, 5th floor)
- 8:00 p.m. MPSA Minority Caucuses Reception
(Empire Room, Lobby Level)

Friday, April 4

- 8:00 am Roundtable: Getting the Interview, Getting the Job (58-105)
- 10:00 am Roundtable: Women Should Ask: Negotiation in the Academic Workplace (58-108)
- 2:45 pm Roundtable: Sex, Gender, and Field Research: Tales and Advice (58-106)
- 4:45 pm Roundtable: Honoring Mary Hawkesworth, Winner of the Women's Caucus Outstanding Professional Achievement Award (58-103)

Saturday, April 5

- 12:45 pm Roundtable: What to Expect as a New Faculty Member: Helpful Advice (58-107)
- 4:45 pm Roundtable: Promoting a Healthy Work-Life Balance: Individual Needs, Family Needs, and Fairness (58-104)

IV. 2008 Roundtable Descriptions

Women of Color: Experiences on Campus and in the Classroom

Thursday, April 3, 2:45 pm (58-102)

Chair: Celeste Montoya-Kirk, University of Colorado at Boulder,
celeste.montoyakirk@colorado.edu

Research documents the fact that women and minority faculty are asked to serve on more committees than their white male colleagues. Similarly, research documents gender bias in student evaluations of their professors. What unique challenges do minority faculty face in dealing with colleagues, administrators, and students? How does the intersection of racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual minority status influence expectations, treatment, and opportunities for academic employees? How can campuses and professional associations combat discrimination and build solidarity among faculty? Share your experiences and ideas!

Panelists:

Anna Sampaio, University of Colorado, Denver, Anna.Sampaio@cudenver.edu

Naomi Murakawa, University of Washington, murakawa@u.washington.edu

Angela Lewis, University of Alabama at Birmingham, dralewis@uab.edu

Christina Bejarano, University of Kansas, cbejaran@ku.edu

Getting the Interview, Getting the Job

Friday, April 4, 8:00 am (58-105)

Chair: Brigid C. Harrison, Montclair State University, harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu

What makes a candidate marketable in the discipline? What tried-and-true advice will serve you well as you seek academic employment? What new opportunities and challenges face job candidates in the electronic age? How can you use new technologies to your advantage? How can you avoid the pitfalls of modern technology? What information about you should be available on-line? What information should be removed from the web before you begin your job search? How can you respond to inappropriate questions in a culture that doesn't seem to view anything as private? Join us for an open discussion about raising your value in the job market.

Panelists:

Barbara Burrell, Northern Illinois University, ti0bcb1@wpo.cso.niu.edu

Jean Wahl Harris, University of Scranton, jean.harris@stockton.edu

Joanna Vecchiarelli Scott, Eastern Michigan University, jscott@emich.edu

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

Women Should Ask: Negotiation in the Academic Workplace

Friday, April 4, 10:00 am (58-108)

Chair: Georgia Duerst-Lahti, Beloit College, duerstgj@beloit.edu

Do you need to negotiate a family leave, a course release, or something else? This panel will provide a discussion of gender dynamics in negotiations. Members of the roundtable include current and former department chairs and deans. Panelists will reflect on their experiences and provide advice about negotiating skillfully and effectively.

Panelists:

Kristi Andersen, Syracuse University, andersen@maxwell.syr.edu,

Kay Schlozman, Boston College, kschloz@bc.edu

Lynn M. Maurer, Southern Illinois University, lmaurer@siue.edu

Susan Welch, Pennsylvania State University, swelch@psu.edu

Sex, Gender, and Field Research: Tales and Advice

Friday, April 4, 2:45 pm (58-106)

Chair: Meg E. Rinker, Illinois Wesleyan University, mrincker@iwu.edu

What do experienced field researchers wish they knew before they went into the field? How do sex and gender influence a researcher's experience conducting fieldwork? What specific issues must women consider before going into the field? In what circumstances might being a male researcher be an asset or a liability? How can scholars overcome these difficulties in order to produce authentic, informative, and compelling research? Join us for a discussion of these issues before you go into the field for the first time...or the fifteenth.

Panelists:

Jae-Jae M. Spoon, University of Iowa, jae-jae-spoon@uiowa.edu

Frances B. Henderson, Maryville College, frances.henderson@maryvillecollege.edu

Marshall W. Thompson, Northeastern Illinois University, M-Thompson4@neiu.edu

Gina Yannitell Reinhardt, Texas A&M University, greinhardt@bushschool.tamu.edu

Winner of the Women's Caucus Outstanding Professional Achievement Award

Friday, April 4, 4:45 pm (58-103 - Honoring Mary Hawkesworth)

Chair: Judith Grant, Ohio University, grantj1@ohio.edu

Mary Hawkesworth is the recipient of the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award from the Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science. Participants will reflect on the contributions and legacy of Hawkesworth's work as a teacher, scholar, and mentor.

Panelists:

Dvora Yanow, Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam), d.yanow@fsw.vu.nl

Dr. Renee Heberle, University of Toledo, Renee.heberle@utoledo.edu

Anna Sampaio, University of Colorado at Denver, Anna.Sampaio@cudenver.edu

Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, University of Utah, psshea@poli-sci.utah.edu

Ange-Marie Hancock, Yale University, Ange-Marie.Hancock@yale.edu

Jane Bayes, California State University, jbayes@csun.edu

What to Expect as a New Faculty Member: Helpful Advice

Saturday, April 5, 12:45 pm (58-107)

Chair: Ashlyn Kuersten, Western Michigan University, ashlyn.kuersten@wmich.edu

What can you expect as a new faculty member? How can you balance the demands of teaching, research, and service? How can you best match your own career path to the goals of your institution? How can you maximize and document your professional success while maintaining

your sanity and personal life? Join us for a lively discussion led by faculty members who have successfully made the transition from graduate student to fulltime faculty.

Panelists:

Wendy L. Martinek, Binghamton University, martinek@binghamton.edu

Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa, tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu

Malia Reddick, American Judicature Society, mreddick@ajs.org

Promoting a Healthy Work-Life Balance: Individual Needs, Family Needs, & Fairness

Saturday, April 5, 4:45 pm (58-104)

Chair: Elizabeth A. Bennion, Indiana University South Bend, ebennion@iusb.edu

How do faculty members with children make time for both work and family responsibilities? How does the answer to this question depend on such factors as gender, marital status, and occupational status of a partner or spouse? What special challenges face single faculty members or those with non-academic partners? How can faculty without children support those with children? How can those with children avoid placing an unfair burden on those without children? How can we balance our work with other important aspects of life including activism, friendships, and relaxation? Join us for an open discussion about how to promote a healthy work-life balance by promoting a fair, family-friendly, and faculty-friendly climate on campus.

Panelists:

Emily Gill, Bradley University, gill@hilltop.bradley.edu

Hannah G. Holden, Rutgers, hgholden@eden.rutgers.edu

Valerie Hunt, Southern Methodist University, vfhunt@gmail.com

Lori Poloni-Staudinger, Northern Arizona University, Lori.Poloni-Staudinger@nau.edu

V. Outstanding Professional Achievement Award

The Midwest Women's Caucus is proud to announce Mary Hawkesworth as the winner of the 2008 Women's Caucus Outstanding Professional Achievement Award. Dr. Hawkesworth exemplifies the highest standards in the profession. She is the author of six books and well over thirty articles. Her pathbreaking research has advanced the discipline in a wide range of areas including public policy (*Theoretical Issues in Policy Analysis*, SUNY, 1988), American politics ("Congressional Enactments of Race Gender: Toward a Theory of Raced Gendered Institutions," *American Political Science Review* 97(4):529-550, December 2003), political theory ("Arendtian Politics: Feminism as a Test Case," *Journal of Women's History* 8(1):161-171, 1996; *Feminist Inquiry: From Political Conviction to Methodological Innovation*, Rutgers University Press, 2006) and International Relations / Political Economy (*Globalization and Feminist Activism*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006).

Beyond her scholarship, Dr. Hawkesworth has held a number of important leadership positions in the discipline. She served as the chair of the Political Science department while at University

of Louisville until 1998. She then became the Director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, a post she held until 2001. She was recently elected to chair the department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers. Dr. Hawkesworth is also the first political scientist to be Editor-in-chief at the flagship journal in Women's Studies, *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Finally, Dr. Hawkesworth's generosity of spirit has benefited numerous scholars in the profession who count her as a cherished mentor and influence on their careers. She engages her students on a very personal and concrete level by attending panels, engaging arguments, reading papers, attending caucus events, writing letters of recommendation and offering words of encouragement and advice.

It is these qualities of excellence in research, teaching, and service that led the committee to select Dr. Hawkesworth as the winner of the 2008 Professional Achievement Award. As chair of the committee, I would like to thank the committee members, Eileen Braman (Indiana University), Karen Beckwith (Case Western Reserve University), and Joanna Vecchiareli Scott (Eastern Michigan University). I would also like to thank Dr. Judith Grant of Ohio University who nominated Mary Hawkesworth as well as the other scholars in the profession who sent in nominations. We invite all members of the caucus to attend a roundtable honoring Dr. Mary Hawkesworth at the Midwest Conference.

Michele Swers
Georgetown University

VI. Nominations for Caucus Officers

President

Brigid Callahan Harrison is Professor of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ, where she teaches courses in American Government, State and Local Government, Campaigns and Elections, Political Parties, and Quantitative Analysis. She is the lead author of *American Democracy Now* (with Jean Wahl Harris and Susan Tolchin), which is forthcoming from McGraw-Hill Publishers in December, 2008. She also is the author of *Power and Society* 11th edition (with Thomas R. Dye) (Wadsworth, 2007), *Women in American Politics: An Introduction* (Wadsworth, 2003), and various journal articles. Her research interests include the civic engagement and political participation of Americans, the U.S. Congress and the presidency, and New Jersey politics. She is a frequent commentator in print and electronic media on national and New Jersey politics. Harrison was the recipient of the "Distinguished Alumna of the Year" from the Richard Stockton College Council of Black Faculty and Staff, and the Atlantic County Zonta's "Women Who Make a Difference" award. She received her B.A. from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, her M.A. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and her Ph.D. from Temple University, where she was a national MENSA graduate fellow.

President-elect

Tracy Osborn is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Iowa. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in 2004. Her work focuses on women's representation in the state legislatures and Congress and women's participation in politics. She is currently working on a book manuscript about women legislators' efforts to create a women's issues agenda across different state legislative contexts. Her work on women in Congress (with Jessica Gerrity and Jeanette Mendez) has appeared in *Politics and Gender*. She teaches courses on women in American politics, state politics, legislative politics, and representation. She has been an active member of the Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science, most recently serving as treasurer.

Treasurer

Lori Poloni-Staudinger is an Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University where she has held an appointment since 2006. She completed her Ph.D. at Indiana University in 2005. Poloni-Staudinger researches in the area of West European Politics. In particular, she is interested in exploring activity choices among social movements and the relation between choice and opportunity structures. Her research has thus far focused on environmental movements. A new project is expanding this work to include women's and immigrant rights movements. Poloni-Staudinger's publications have appeared in *Environmental Politics* and *European Union Politics* in addition to various book chapters. Poloni-Staudinger teaches courses on research methods, West European politics, international relations, social movements, and global environmental politics.

Secretary

Valerie F. Hunt is an Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. In 2002, Valerie received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington and her appointment to the SMU Political Science faculty. Her long-term research agenda is investigating public policy dynamics in highly conflictual political issues. Specifically, Hunt is interested in identifying the legislative and media strategies used by political actors and whether these policy entrepreneurs choose state-level or national-level governing institutions as the battleground for influencing policy outcomes. Hunt's prior research explores the struggles between state and national governments over setting immigrant policies. Her new research project explores state and national governmental struggles in determining the regulation of stem cell research policy. For her immigration policy project, Dr. Hunt was awarded a postdoctoral fellow appointment at the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University. Dr. Hunt received a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her current project on stem cell research policy regulation. Hunt's research has appeared in numerous book chapters and policy white papers. As a returning student herself, Dr. Hunt empathizes with the rigors of academic life for older returning female Ph.D. students. Dr. Hunt has served as career and academic mentor for both young women and older returning women students. In the classroom, Valerie is dedicated to revealing the role of women and gender issues in voting behavior, institutional dynamics, and American politics. Dr. Hunt teaches women and politics, media and politics, and American government.

VII. Panel Solicitations for the 2009 MPSA

Each year the Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science sponsors roundtables pertaining to professional development concerns that are salient to graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty. Topics covered at recent conferences are listed below. If you are interested in proposing a roundtable topic for the 2009 MPSA Conference or serving on a roundtable, please contact incoming Caucus President Brigid Harrison at: harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu.

2007 Meeting

Women Faculty in the Classroom: Strategies for Success
Having It All and Doing It All: Achieving a Work-Life Balance
Mentoring Roundtable on Publishing with Colleagues and Publishers
Navigating Professional Service: When to Say "Yes" and How to Say "No"
Survive and Thrive: Successful Strategies for Tenure

2006 Meeting

How to Land your First Job: Tips for the Academic Job Market
Women Should Ask: Negotiation in the Academic Workplace
Where Most of Us Are: Navigating the Profession of Political Science in Non Ph.D. Departments and Institutions
How to Pursue a Non-Academic Career
How to Communicate with the Media

2005 Meeting

The Politics of Studying Gender
Success in Graduate School and in Finding Academic Employment
Becoming Faculty: Transition to the First Year
News You Can Use: Tips for a Successful Post-Tenure Career
Recruiting and Retaining Women Graduate Students

VIII. Officer Names and Contact Information

President

Elizabeth Bennion
Indiana University South Bend
ebennion@iusb.edu

President-Elect

Brigid Harrison
Montclair State University
harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu

Secretary

Celeste Montoya Kirk
University of Colorado – Boulder
celeste.montoyakirk@colorado.edu

Treasurer

Tracy Osborn
University of Iowa
tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu

Newsletter Editor

Candice Ortvals
Pepperdine University
candice.ortvals@pepperdine.edu

IX. Membership Form 2008-2009

We invite you to join the Women's Caucus. Please complete the form on the following page and return it to incoming treasurer Lori Poloni-Staudinger.

MEMBERSHIP IN 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:

Lori Poloni-Staudinger*
Northern Arizona University
Department of Political Science
P.O. Box 15036
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5036

**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	_____
Low Income	\$2.00	_____
One-Year Membership	\$10.00	_____
Two-Year Membership	\$20.00	_____

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 under \$15,000	\$10.00	_____
Salary \$15,000 - \$40,000	\$20.00	_____
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."

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