

Burning the Midnight Oil in the Ivory Tower

A 1998 study of faculty at 16 mid-sized colleges and universities shows that faculty members work an average of 53.6 hours a week. According to data collected by Associated New American Colleges, faculty spend an average of 34 hours (or about 65% of their work time) planning classes, teaching, and advising students. The data collected further show that faculty spend an average of nine hours each week doing some form of service for their institutions.

Senate Considers Establishing "Special Committee on American Culture"

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), with support from Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) and twelve other Senators, introduced a resolution in early August calling for the establishment of "a special committee to address the cultural crisis facing America."

As stipulated in S.Res. 172, the committee's membership will be drawn from Republicans and Democrats and will "study the causes and reasons for social and cultural regression; make . . . findings of fact . . . [regarding] the impact that such negative cultural trends and developments have on the broader society, particularly in regards to child well-being; and explore means of cultural renewal." The work of the committee, which would be scheduled to deliver a final report to Congress by December 21, 2000, would mostly be accomplished by gathering testimony from creators and consumers of all forms of popular culture—especially movies and television programs. Language in the original resolution would grant the committee subpoena power.

Opponents of the proposal have expressed concerns that culturally conservative Republicans will use the hearings of such a committee for grandstanding and have also noted that the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission have recently opened their own investigations into the possible links among portrayals of violence in media and violent acts in the real world.

No official action has been taken on the resolution but, following a heated debate in the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in late September, the subpoena language was dropped and a proposal was made to change the special committee's title to "Task Force on the State of American Society." An attempt by Senate Democrats to scuttle Republican support for the committee by expanding its mandate to include a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of gun control measures failed.

Declassification Programs Complicated, Underfunded in New Budget

A provision in the Defense Reauthorization Act for 2000 requires the rereview of almost all of the nearly 600 million pages of government documents declassified since 1995.

Executive Order 12958, issued by President Clinton in 1995, gave federal agencies until 2000 to declassify all but the most sensitive of their classified documents that were more than 20 years old. Most documents have been declassified following cursory review. Implementation across departments and agencies has ranged from good to bad; the CIA, Defense Department, and Energy Department have actively resisted full implementation.

With the passage of the latest Defense spending bill, the dissenting agencies will be allowed to treat as classified practically all documents previously released pending further review. The effective suspension of E.O. 12958 was sponsored by Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) on the grounds that it would not be "in the national security interest of the United States to declassify records that would otherwise remain classified, simply because the review of those records has not yet been completed."

The same Act contained a provision reducing the Pentagon's declassification budget by 75%.

Follow Ups

- Federal grand jury records for the Alger Hiss case were opened to the public on October 12. Such records have traditionally been kept sealed for security and privacy reasons.
- The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned a lower court's decision and agreed with the National Archives and Record Administration that federal agencies could destroy original electronic records of historical importance if "those records having permanent value are copied onto paper or an electronic record-keeping system."

Comparative Politics

David Laitin's Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad also won the comparative politics section's Gregory Luebbert Best Book Award for the best book in comparative politics. Additionally, the section presented its Sage Prize for the best comparative politics paper presented at the previous APSA Annual Meeting to **Torben Iversen** of Harvard University and **Thomas R. Cusack** of the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin for their work, "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" The section's Gregory Luebbert Best Article Award for the best professional article in comparative politics was awarded to **Peter A. Hall** of Harvard University and **Robert J. Franzese Jr.** of the University of Michigan for their paper "Mixed Signals: Central Bank Independence, Coordinated Wage-Bargaining, and European Monetary Union." The Data Set Award was given to University of Notre Dame faculty member **Michael J. Coppedge** for "Data Sets on Polyarchy and Latin American Political Parties" and **Gabriel A. Almond** of Stanford University and **Sidney Verba** of Harvard University, for "Civic Culture Data Set." The Data Set Award is intended to recognize and encourage the development of high-quality, publicly-available data sets that contribute to the shared base of empirical knowledge in the field of comparative politics.

State Politics and Policy

The Best Paper Award of the State Politics section was presented to **Michael Mintrom** of Michigan State University for "Local Organization as Sites for Deliberative Democracy—Learning from Charter Schools," prepared for the 1998 APSA Annual Meeting. The Career Contribution Award, recognizing a political scientist who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the study of the politics and public policies of American states, was awarded to **Sarah M. Morehouse** of the University of Connecticut.

Political Communication

The Doris Graber Award was given to **Nicholas Valentino** of the University of Michigan recognizing his paper, "Who Are We on Election Day? Crime News and the Priming of Group Identities during Candidate Evaluation." The award is given for the best paper on political communication presented at the previous APSA Annual Meeting. The Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award for lifetime contribution to the study of political communication was given to **Bernard C. Cohen** of the University of Wisconsin.

Politics and History

The J. David Greenstone Book Prize for the best book in politics and history published in 1998 was presented to **Peter Trubowitz** of the University of Texas for his book, *Defining the National Interest: Conflict and Change in American Foreign Policy* (University of Chicago Press, 1998). The Mary Parker Follett Prize went to **Barry Weingast** of Stanford University for his paper, "Political Stability and Civil War: Institutions, Commitment, and American Democracy."

Political Economy

Ohio State University faculty member **Charles Boix** was recognized with the political economy section's Best Book Award for *Political Parties, Growth, and Equality: Conservative and Social Democratic Economic Strategies in the World Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Ecological and Transformational Politics

William R. Caspary of Washington University was selected as winner of the Best Paper Award, recognizing a paper of outstanding merit given on a panel on ecological and transformational politics at the APSA Annual Meeting in the preceding year. The name of Caspary's paper was "From 'Great Society' to 'Great Community': John Dewey's Theory of Democratic Community." The Best Dissertation Award went to **Craig Paul Warkentin** of the University of Kentucky for "Framing a Global Civil Society: NGOs and the Politics of Transnational Activity." The prize is awarded to an outstanding dissertation defended in the previous year concerned with the topics of ecological and transformational politics, including social movements; environmental politics, race, ethnicity, and gender in terms of democratic ideals; and new and improved forms of citizen participation in democratic processes. The **Best Book Award** recognizes a book of extraordinary merit in the field of transformational politics, in particular the politics and processes of deliberate efforts for change on behalf of ideals that are democratic, ecological, and humanistic, and published in the preceding two calendar years. The 1999 prize was awarded to **Stephen Woolpert** of St. Mary's College of California, **Christa Daryl Slaton** of Auburn University, and **Edward W. Schwerin** of Florida Atlantic University for their book, *Transformational Politics: Theory, Study and Practice* (State University of New York Press, 1998).

A Special Thanks

The Association would like to express its gratitude to a number of publishers who donated books and other scholarly material remaining from their Annual Meeting exhibition for distributions to needy institutions abroad. Princeton University Press, University of Oklahoma Press, and Congressional Quarterly each contributed a number of titles. The materials are being made available to Makerere University in Uganda.

New Political Science

The **Michael Harrington Book Award** is given for an outstanding book that demonstrates how scholarship can be used in the struggle for a better world. **Michael Forman** of the University of Washington, Tacoma was named winner for his book, *Nationalism and the International Labor Movement: The Idea of the Nation in Socialist and Anarchist Theory* (Penn State Press, 1988). **Teodros Kiros** of Suffolk University joined Forman as cowinner with his work, *Self Contradiction and the Formation of Human Values: Truth, Language and Desire* (Greenwood Press, 1988).

Political Psychology

The Best Book Award was given to **Diana Mutz** of Ohio State University for *Impersonal Influence: How Perceptions of Mass Collectives Affect Political Attitudes* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Undergraduate Education

Lynne E. Ford, **John Creed**, **Phil Jones**, and **Frank Petrusak** of the College of Charleston were named winners of the Best Paper Presentation Award for "Providing a Reason for Students to Care: Creating Learning Communities through A Simulation Exercise." The award is given for the best presentation on undergraduate education at the previous APSA Annual Meeting.

Committee Suggestions Welcomed

APSA welcomes suggestions for individuals interested in serving on APSA standing committees for terms beginning on January 1, 2001. Appointments vary from one to three years and include award committees, *PS* Editorial Board, and a host of others. A list of committees and their respective areas of responsibility can be found in the March 1999 issue of *PS* or online at www.apsanet.org/about/governance/committeemain.cfm. These positions are held on a volunteer basis. Interested members should make their suggestions by mail to President-Elect Robert Jervis, c/o APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036-1206 or by email to nominations@apsanet.org.