

## Washington Insider

- The Ralph J. Bunche Library at the U.S. Department of State was dedicated on May 5, 1997. Bunche, who was president of the American Political Science Association in 1954, received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1934 and was the first African American to receive a doctorate in political science. He served as professor and chair of political science at Howard University from 1928 through 1938 and worked at the State Department, where he was director of the Africa Section of the Office of Strategic Services, between 1941 and 1947. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1950 for brokering an armistice between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Between 1958 and 1971, he served in various high-level positions at the United Nations.
- The Clinton administration has proposed that the 2000 Census and other forms allow Americans for the first time to choose more than one racial category in identifying themselves. It is expected that the Office of Management and Budget will form a task force that will determine how to tabulate the multiple selections. In deciding not to establish a proposed new "multiracial" category, OMB stated that "there is no general consensus for the definition of multiracial. . . [and] it is likely to be misunderstood by respondents, resulting in greater misreporting." For more information, contact the OMB Statistical Policy Office at (202) 395-3093.
- In a memorandum issued to the CIA, the Department of Defense, and the National Archives, National Security Advisor Samuel Berger asked for their commentary and recommendations regarding the report issued by the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy issued in March (see this issue of *PS* for the introduction to that report). The memorandum represents a show of concern at the highest policy level for seeking action on recommended reforms of the nation's declassification policy. "The President wishes to ensure that the report's recommendations and others findings are acted upon promptly and effectively," the memorandum said.
- September 1997 marks the first stage in the transition to strategic planning in the Federal budgeting process. Pursuant to the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act, all agencies are required to prepare yearly strategic plans for what they plan to do, why they are doing it, and how they will get it done. The reports will be submitted to the Office of Management and budget. In addition to this yearly "objective, quantifiable, and measurable" reporting of goals, agencies are required to submit five-year strategic plans this month. In 2001, the Office of Management and Budget will report to the president and Congress on the strategic planning process and will recommend whether to continue or discontinue the practice.

of minorities in political science graduate programs. At the suggestion of participating graduates schools, the Spring Round was added this year to allow more time to recruit minority students from the Project's listings.

The Project involves undergraduate faculty who select minority students within their departments who demon-

strate scholarly interest and ability to be successful in graduate school. These faculty talk with students about their potential interest in graduate school, then forward to APSA the names of those who are interested. At APSA, mailing labels are generated containing the names of interested minority students, and, in addition, a report about the students is produced.

The report and mailing labels are then sent to participating graduate programs for use as tools in recruiting minority graduate students.

For more information about participating in the Project, contact Jun Yin at [yyin@apsanet.org](mailto:yyin@apsanet.org) or Polly Leonard at [pleonard@apsanet.org](mailto:pleonard@apsanet.org).

### Task Force on Civic Education Begins Work

The Task Force on Civic Education for the Next Century held its first meeting March 16–19. The meeting was hosted by Colorado College at its Baca Retreat Center in Crestone, Colorado, and was organized by Leif Carter, a Task Force member and professor at Colorado College.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Mel Dubnick of Rutgers University and Jean Bethke Elshtain of the University of Chicago. Other members of the Task Force in attendance were Mary Hepburn of the University of Georgia and Edward Thompson III of California State University-San Marcos. Also attending were current APSA president Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University, who appointed the Task Force and invited guests Richard Brody, Stanford University, and APSA president-elect M. Kent Jennings of the University of California-Santa Barbara. Parker Baxter represented Colorado College at the meeting, and Sheilah Mann, APSA's director of education and professional development, represented APSA.

Meeting participants confirmed the importance of political science programs in civics education. They examined the sources and manifestations of increased cynicism in American political life and the decline in political engagement among American citizens. They discussed the quality and content of civics education in the United States. They also agreed that civic engagement and knowledge of politics are at a distressing low and that the development of stronger programs in civics education are necessary.

During the meeting, Task Force members divided into three groups in order to draft statements that focus on the objectives and centrality of political education, undergraduate education networks and programs, and pre-college