

## Forty-Sixth Class of Congressional Fellows Begins 1998-99 Program

As the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program (CFP) prepares to welcome its 46th class, it does so with more than the usual imponderables of an off-year congressional election cycle and the uncertainties of whether the incumbent members

with whom the fellows interview will all return for the 106th Congress. This year, there is the added ingredient of the report of the independent counsel and a U.S. House of Representatives consideration of presidential impeachment.

Apart from the practicalities of seeking an office assignment, this puts an added burden on the CFP staff to book November orientation speakers.

Fortunately, the CFP has among its loyal and generous stable of guest speakers some of the best-informed observers of Congress in the country. Among those political scientists who have traditionally provided our academic perspective will be Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute, Tom Mann of the Brookings Institution, Professors James Thurber, Susan Hammond,

## Technological Changes Promote Better Service at the National Office

APSA's national office is constantly growing and changing in an effort better to meet members' needs. This fall, several major technology changes have occurred at the national office. We have recently completed a major upgrade of our computing capabilities and are in the midst of a major extension of our web site, APSANet ([www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)), all in order to provide faster, more efficient, more accurate service.

### Association Management Software

Slightly more than a year ago, we began researching the feasibility of upgrading our membership and meetings database. We had been using our previous UNIX-based database for six years, and we were rapidly outgrowing the package's capabilities and format. The week after we returned from Boston, we replaced the old database with a Windows-based package that takes advantage of current technology, particularly the latest version of Microsoft Access. At the same time, we also upgraded our accounting software. The old system was permanently shut down in mid-October. Although the transition has been challenging for all APSA staff members, this new program will allow us to work more efficiently, provide information in a more flexible manner, and link more easily with the other programs, including email and the web, we use regularly in the national office.

### APSANet

The APSA web site, redesigned in September 1997,

contains a wealth of information on the Association and political science in general. Since September 1997, we have made great strides in both the quality and the content of the site. Our most significant development was institution of a web-based Annual Meeting Call for Papers. Of the nearly 7000 proposals submitted for the 1998 Annual Meeting, over 50% were received via the online forms.

This past spring, we began the process of taking the *Personnel Service Newsletter* online, unfolding in a two stage process. Stage one involved allowing departments to submit job listings via a special online form. The listings are maintained in a database where the *PSN* editor may access a complete log of job listings formatted for publication. In stage two, which began June 1, *PSN* was made fully available online, with access password-restricted to subscribers.

We are currently expanding CENnet, our new civic education site ([www.apsanet.org/CENnet/](http://www.apsanet.org/CENnet/)), which already includes essays from the *this Constitution* series and *PS*, an address book of scholars and organizations in the United States and abroad working in civic education, and materials prepared by the APSA Task Force on Civic Education. Soon, the site will also have links to classroom materials and essays for teachers. Additionally, we launched *PSonline* this fall, the web version of this journal, which includes time-sensitive materials such as calls for papers, fellowship and grant information, and upcoming meeting and conference details.

