

Report from the Executive Director

It seems clear from developments during the past year that the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences has moved more than a few steps towards maturity as a professional organization. I am pleased with the apparently broad knowledge of our activities that exists within the discipline of political science. Numerous members of APLS share the experience of having an acquaintance or colleague report an interest in or familiarity with the general development of our scholarship and organizational undertakings. Without a doubt, our journal, *Politics and the Life Sciences*, has provided national and even international visibility to the tasks we have undertaken. Let me provide a brief report of some specific items.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of APLS met in Denver in conjunction with the 1982 American Political Science Association convention to discuss general issues of APLS policy. The committee agreed to expand the Editorial Advisory Board of *Politics and the Life Sciences*, to support the appointment of a bylaws committee for the association, and to pursue publishing alternatives with sev-

eral presses. In addition, strategies for expanding the membership of APLS were reviewed. These issues were also discussed at the general membership meeting of APLS.

Financial Report

As of September 1, 1982, the association's income was \$995 and its expenses were \$198.13 for a balance of \$796.87. As of March 1, 1983, the association had a balance of \$1,529.91. A detailed financial report will be submitted to the membership at the APLS meeting in Chicago in 1983.

Panels for the 1983 APSA Convention

Samuel Hines of the College of Charleston agreed to coordinate the organization of APLS panels at the forthcoming APSA convention in Chicago. A report about the panels is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Appointment of a Bylaws Committee

Because it is important for APLS to conduct its business in an orderly fashion, I have asked Fred Kort of the University of Connecticut to chair a committee to develop a set of bylaws for the association and to explore possible relationships with APSA. I am pleased that he has accepted. He has asked the following individuals to join him on the

committee: James F. Herndon (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), Meredith W. Watts (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Elliott White (Temple University), and Thomas C. Wiegeler (Northern Illinois University), *ex officio*. The committee is expected to have a report ready for consideration by the APLS convention in Chicago.

Appointment of a Book Review Editor

I am delighted to report that Carol Barner-Barry has agreed to serve as book review editor of *Politics and the Life Sciences* beginning with the present issue. She would like to receive names of individuals who are interested in reviewing books for the journal. She can be contacted at the Department of Political Science, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Catonsville, Maryland 21228.

Appointment of a Bibliography Editor

Politics and the Life Sciences will continue to publish the titles of recent articles and papers that are relevant to biobehavioral political researchers. I am pleased that Peter A. Corning has agreed to oversee the collection of bibliographic items from a variety of disciplines for the readers of *PLS*. Those who have bibliographic entries to suggest can send them

to Peter Corning, at 267 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, California 94301.

Expansion of the Editorial Advisory Board

Because the burden of processing manuscripts is increasing and because of the need to expand the base of expertise, several additional specialists have agreed to become members of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. These individuals are:

Robert H. Blank, University of Idaho
 James C. Davies, University of Oregon
 David Easton, University of California-Irvine
 Heiner Flohr, University of Dusseldorf
 Odelia Funke, Environmental Protection Agency
 Samuel M. Hines, Jr., College of Charleston
 Jean A. Laponce, University of British Columbia
 James N. Schubert, Alfred University
 Meredith W. Watts, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 Elliott S. White, Temple University
 Raymond Zilinskas, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

It is likely that other scholars will be added at a later date. All of the members of the Editorial Advisory Board are strongly committed to maintaining high standards of excellence, and each brings an important area of expertise to the journal.

State of the Journal

Our subscription list is lengthening, and we hope it will grow substantially in the next few months as a result of the large mailing we are planning to selected APSA members and to the members of the International Society of Human Ethology. At this point we have 12 student members, 59 individual members, 28 library subscribers, and 24 sustaining members for a total of 123. We also have three institutional members, Northern Illinois University, the University of Hawaii-Manoa, and the University of

Oregon. The latter two memberships result from the fine efforts of Glendon Schubert and James Davies, respectively.

—Thomas C. Wiegele
 Northern Illinois University

APLS at APSA

The annual meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences will be held in conjunction with the American Political Science Association Convention at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois, September 1-4, 1983.

The program for the meeting tentatively consists of the following panels. At this time chairs have been identified, and some paper-givers have been selected. Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact either the program chair or the chairs of specific panels.

1. Dialogues in Political Science: "Human Nature and Political Theory"

Chair: Thomas C. Wiegele
 Program for Biosocial Research
 Northern Illinois University
 Invited Paper: Roger Masters
 Department of Government
 Dartmouth College

Panel 2. Roundtable on *The Synergism Hypothesis*

Chair: Samuel M. Hines
 Department of Political Science
 College of Charleston
 Participant: Peter Corning (author of *The Synergism Hypothesis*)

Panel 3. Roundtable: "Does Biopolitics Need a Paradigm?"

Chair: Fred Kort
 Department of Political Science
 University of Connecticut

Panel 4. Biobehavioral Approaches to the Study of Political Behavior

Chair: John C. Wahlke
 Department of Political Science
 University of Arizona

Environmental Stressors and Political Behavior

James N. Schubert
 Division of Social Sciences
 Alfred University

A Biocognitive Analysis of the Policy Process

Steven Peterson
 Division of Social Sciences
 Alfred University

Panel 5. Roundtable on Curriculum Development in Biopolitics

Chair: Albert Somit
 President, Southern Illinois University

Panel 6. Biology and Bureaucracy

Convener: Elliott White
 Department of Political Science
 Temple University

Curriculum Development in Biopolitics

Albert Somit is organizing a panel for the forthcoming American Political Science Association convention in Chicago dealing with the subject of curriculum development in biopolitics. This panel will explore such topics as difficulties associated with the introduction of biopolitics courses; problems at the departmental level regarding the adoption of a biobehavioral perspective; and the impact of a biobehavioral orientation on tenure, promotion,

and other personnel considerations. Individuals who have ideas regarding this topic or possible suggestions for the panel's consideration should write to Dr. Albert Somit, President, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Anthony Hall, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

Liaison with the American Association for the Advancement of Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has a set of formal criteria for the affiliation of organizations such as APLS. The president or other officer must formally apply to the executive officer of the AAAS by January 15 of a given year. The Committee on Council Affairs then considers this application at a meeting in March and forwards its recommendation to the council of the AAAS for action during the annual meeting in May of that same year. Decisions are made on the basis of whether the organization meets the following four criteria:

1. Its aims are clearly directed toward, or consistent with, the objectives of the association.
2. Its program and record of activities demonstrate interest in or substantial support of research, publications, or teaching in science or the advancement of science.
3. It does not discriminate in its membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.
4. It has sufficiently large membership (usually at least 200) and has been in existence for a sufficient time (usually at least five years) to give promise of continued support and worthwhile activity.

For the moment, the fourth criteria is an obstacle for APLS. It is not clear how we should date our founding, but contacts with AAAS indicate that they tend to

interpret both the age and membership criteria rather conservatively. As a result, we would do well to postpone formal application to the AAAS for several years.

The program for the 1983 meetings is already long since completed, but there is no reason not to propose a Symposium for the AAAS Annual Meetings scheduled for May 24-29, 1984, in New York City. I would welcome hearing from any members of APLS who would like to participate in a Symposium at the 1984 meeting.

—Roger D. Masters
Dartmouth College

Report on the IPSA Biology and Politics Research Panel Sessions at the Rio Congress, August 9-14, 1982

The recent IPSA Congress, it can safely be said, was probably the worst-run in the history of that organization.

Panels, meetings, colloquia, etc., were held in a building located several miles from the hotel in which the participants were lodged; the building itself was grossly inadequate to the burdens thrust upon it; and the organization and administration of the Congress seemed to be taken directly from the pages of *The Good Soldier Schweik*. But, so beautiful a city is Rio, and so charming are its residents, that the resulting confusion was accepted with remarkable good nature by the great majority of the attendees.

The Biology and Politics Research Group was allocated, along with all other research groups, two three-hour sessions. This was held in a room which was intolerably noisy when the air conditioner was running and insufferably hot when it was not. One of the panelists requested an

overhead projector which was made available only after truly heroic efforts by the chairman. The projector was accompanied, however, by three technicians who proceeded to put on a demonstration of ineptness that would have shamed the Three Stooges, let alone the Marx Brothers.

The first of the two Biology and Politics Research Group sessions convened on the morning of Tuesday, August 17. Three papers were presented at this session: "The Management of Conflict in Science and Politics: The Case of Recombinant DNA" by Paul DeForest of the Illinois Institute of Technology; "Malnutrition and Political Behavior" by James N. Schubert of Alfred University and S. Bhaskaran of Annamalai University; and "The Biotechnology of Sex Preselection: Social Issues in a Public Policy Context" by Thomas C. Wiegeler of the Department of Political Science and the Program for Biosocial Research, Northern Illinois University. Discussants were Heiner Flohr of the University of Dusseldorf, West Germany, and Lionel Tiger of The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. Meredith Watts of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee served as rapporteur.

DeForest pointed out that although research involving DNA has received attention as arcane technology, relatively little attention has been devoted to its political and social impact. The DNA controversy has aroused many fears among citizens, but, as DeForest noted, scientists have been able to avoid dealing with questions of its potential social effect.

The discussion that followed focused on two major questions: (1) why has this question received so little study in the U.S. and (2) was the situation significantly different in other countries?

Schubert, presenting for S. Bhaskaran and himself, proposed a curvilinear model, wherein aggression increases with moderate deprivation and decreases with severe depriva-

tion. This pattern seems consistent with data from nonhuman primate species (e.g., rhesus monkeys) and with the "revolution of rising expectations" phenomenon.

In the ensuing discussion, Schubert's linking of malnutrition and political disturbance was questioned on the grounds that it did not account for organized revolutionary violence and that his methodology could not as yet isolate malnutrition as *the* operative variable. He argued, in response, that the model does not propose to explain organized revolution but rather more general aggressive behavior by citizens.

Wiegele focused on the need for greater awareness of the social problems inherent in emerging technologies for the preselection of a child's sex by the prospective parents. Preferences for male children in many cultures could lead to demographically imbalanced age-cohorts and resulting changes in the frequency of sex-linked medical and social phenomena. Governments might act, but too late and perhaps not well. He urged, therefore, that political scientists pay greater attention to practical issues of biology and social policy.

One discussant reported that a disproportionate number of abortions of female fetuses identified through amniocentesis has been found in some cultures where there is a strong preference for male offspring, a finding that supported Wiegele's concern that sex preselection technology might have a serious impact on male-female sex ratios. The question was raised whether countries might engage in prenatal sex-selective policies to increase populations and particularly the male population (e.g., for expanding the military or industrial productivity). There was also discussion of the possibility of females becoming a "limited" or "scarce resource" as their relative numbers decreased. Among the Brazilian Yanamano tribe, it was noted, competition

for females produced heightened aggression.

The second session met on the afternoon of August 17. Again, three papers were presented: "Correlation between the Social and the Biological in Interpretation of the Problems of War and Peace" by Vladimir Denisov, Institute of Philosophy, the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences; "Primordial State Formation as an Evolutionary Process" by Gebhard Geiger of Max Plank Institut fur Physik and Astrophysik, West Germany; and "West Point Graduate Study" by Allan Mazur of Syracuse University. Discussants for the session were David Singer of the Mental Health Research Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Meredith Watts of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Professor Watts again served as rapporteur.

Denisov argued that the "innate aggression" theory finds current exponents in such writers as Wilson and the sociobiologists. Biological theories, he insisted, cannot legitimize war and aggression, and the roots of these phenomena are to be sought in objective social conditions.

The paper provoked dissent along two lines. First, the concept of "innate aggression" criticized by Denisov is usually associated with Konrad Lorenz, and the theory is rarely advanced by any biologist or sociologist today. Second, the interaction between nature and nurture, between the organism and its environment, is now viewed as a developmental process described by the term epigenesis, and current thinking assumes interaction and avoids either extreme of the nature-nurture dialectic.

Geiger's paper stressed the commonality of social interactions and institutions with primitive interactions found in human nature and suggested that social relations are natural abstractions from nature.

In the discussion, questions were raised about the plasticity of human nature assumed as part of

this approach and the role that environmental conditions play in producing one form of the state rather than another. There was extended debate about the nature of the state, its relationship to and possible derivation from the chiefdom form, and the relevance of political anthropology to current problems in political science. Discussion concluded with a return to the basis of the state and the possible insights into the "essentially political" that might, or might not, be reached through an understanding of primary state formation.

Mazur's study of facial dominance cues (based on photos of West Point cadets) and their correlation with future success (defined as military rank achieved in the army) was an example of how ethological concepts and techniques can be utilized in empirical studies of social structure.

Discussants focused on the research design employed, with most of the comments and questions centering on methodological issues. Attention was called to problems of prediction and explanation demonstrated in the panel papers. Prediction according to an empirical model does not amount to theoretical explanation (as the operations research model might imply), and the theoretical explanation should be sought with appropriate data.

All in all, the two sessions were interesting, spirited, and productive. Attendance was good, and especially so when compared to that of the other Rio panels. Several members of the audience, it is encouraging to note, were non-biopoliticians who came to see and remained to hear.

—Meredith Watts, Rapporteur
University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

—Albert Somit, Chair
Southern Illinois University

Biopolitics Bibliography

Steven Peterson is continuing to compile a bibliography of all works in biopolitics. He requests that anyone who has presented a paper or published an article or book send him a copy or, at least, provide a full citation. This material should be sent to Dr. Steven A. Peterson, Division of Social Sciences, Alfred University, Alfred, New York 14802.

Future Contributors to *PLS*—Please Note

If you want to review a book for *PLS*, please send your name and areas of interest to Carol Barner-Barry, Department of Political Science, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Catonsville, Maryland 21228.

If you want to review manuscripts submitted to *PLS* or comment on articles accepted for publication, send your name and areas of interest to Thomas C. Wiegale, Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, Northern

Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

When you come across an article or paper that looks as if it will interest *PLS* readers, please take a few minutes to send the citation to Peter Corning, 267 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, California 94301, so it can be included in the "Recent Articles and Papers" section of the journal.

Finally, and most important of all—consider *PLS* when you're preparing your next article for publication.

COSSA Membership

APLS has become an associate member of COSSA, the Consortium of Social Science Associations. As a Washington, D.C.-based group, COSSA monitors developments within the federal government relating to the social and behavioral sciences.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine

The Society of Behavioral Medicine was formed in 1978 to promote the application of behavioral science principles to health care problems. Behavioral medicine is an interdisciplinary field that numbers among its participants epidemiologists, physiologists, medical anthropologists, nurses and physicians, health educators, social workers, psychologists, dentists, dietitians, and specialists in disease prevention and rehabilitation.

The society publishes a newsletter/journal, *Behavioral Medicine Update*, which includes articles and book reviews, an abstract journal, *Behavioral Medicine Abstracts*, and an Annual Proceedings. In keeping with its goal of fostering research in behavioral medicine, the society holds regional and national meetings.

For more information about the Society for Behavioral Medicine, write to the national office at: The Society for Behavioral Medicine, P.O. Box 8530, University Station, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.