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Women's Caucus for Political Science: South

The Women's Caucus for Political Science : South (WCPS: South) is a caucus of the Southern Political Science association. The WCPS: South is one of five regional caucuses which are particularly devoted to enhancing the status of women political scientists in their respective regions.

President's Message:

Dear Fellow Caucus Members:

It's hard to believe that it is that time again already, but our annual conference in the great city of New Orleans is less than a month away. Thanks to Sarah Brewer, we have a great line-up of panels again this year, and I hope everyone will have a chance to learn more about Women and Politics, meet interesting new people, and party hardy in the Big Easy.

This year, for the first time ever, the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting will include a number of panels on Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (GLBT) issues, and I would like to thank our incoming president Becky Salokar for making that happen.

Congratulations to the winners of the Marian Irish award for the best paper in "Women and Politics": Richard Fox of Union College and Jennifer Lawless of Brown University, who presented their paper "The Impact of Sex-Role Socialization on the Decision to Run for Office" at the 2004 SPSA conference. And thank you to Barbara Palmer for chairing and to JAnne M. McCulloch and John G. Bretting for serving on the committee.

Congratulations also go out to Marian Lief Palley of the University of Delaware, who is the winner of the 2005 Erika Fairchild Award. And I would like to thank Karen O'Connor and Jyl Josephson for serving with me on that award committee. Established to honor the memory of Erika Fairchild, the award is given to a political scientist who has a strong record of scholarship, who has a commitment to students, teaching, and mentoring women in the field, who is a thoughtful, caring, good citizen of the discipline, and who exhibits a collegial spirit - all qualities that were exemplified by Erika Fairchild's life.

I hope everyone will join me in recognizing Marian's achievements at the annual Women's Caucus Reception in honor of Marian Palley, which will be held at its usual time, on Thursday night from 6:00 - 8:00. We will also be welcoming, as special guests, members of the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics (ASBWP).

Our traditional breakfast business meeting will be held on Friday morning from 7:30 - 9:00. Please invite any interested friends and colleagues to come meet Caucus members, while enjoying a delicious repast.

Please email me at rcsnyder@gmu.edu with any items you would like placed on the agenda for the breakfast business meeting.

Have a great holiday season!

Best wishes,
Claire Snyder
Women's Caucus President

As of 12/12/04 the Women's Caucus for Political Science: South had the following in it's Treasury:

checking: \$722.62

CD: 2,159.28

Total assets: \$2,881.90 Signed, Laura Woliver

Women and Politics Panels at SPSA 2005

The upcoming SPSA program in New Orleans features research presentations on a wide range of women and politics topics. Caucus member Sarah Brewer (American University) chaired this year's Women and Politics section. She has organized nine panels that represent the array of subfields in political science.

Paper presentations include studies of women as citizens, candidates, political actors and policy makers in local, national and international contexts. Political decisions and policies that affect women directly, such as welfare, family planning, care giving and equal pay, are also examined.

Three roundtables are on the program. They feature a search for future research agendas on race, gender and representation; a discussion of strategies for teaching feminist theory; and an inquiry into whether Louisiana's experiences might serve as a national model for gender diversity in politics. U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu has been invited to participate on the latter roundtable.

The Women and Politics panels feature many of our Caucus members as chairs, discussants and paper presenters. Please make it a special point to attend the following panels and to lend your intellectual support to our colleagues' research.

1. Women and Public Policy (Thurs., 11:30-1:00)
2. Women in Elected and Appointed Office (Thurs., 3:00-4:30)
2. Roundtable: Race, Gender and Representation in the U.S.: Building Bridges and Exploring Intersections for Future Research (Fri., 2:15-3:45)
3. Roundtable: Teaching Feminist Theory (Fri., 4:00-5:30)
5. Women and Politics from a Comparative Perspective (Sat., 8:00-9:30)
6. Gender Gap and Political Socialization (Sat., 11:30-1:00)
7. Roundtable: Louisiana Women in Government: A Portrait of Diversity for the Nation and the 21st Century (Sat., 11:30-1:00)
8. Women and U.S. Elections (Sat., 1:15-2:45)

The Closet Door is Unhinged as SPSA Comes Out !

For the first time in its history, the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association will feature a section for research on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Politics. Program Chair and Caucus Member Cathy Rudder (George Mason Univ.) added the section along with several other new topical areas. Caucus Vice-President Becky Salokar (Florida International Univ.) served as the section organizer and put together three panels for the upcoming meeting.

The history of GLBT politics at the Southern is a short one. While there have regularly been single papers presented on GLBT themes, it was only two years ago that Donald Rosenthal (SUNY-Buffalo, ret.) chaired what is believed to be the first panel at the Southern's annual meeting to be dedicated solely to GLBT politics. Rosenthal's roundtable, "Thinking About Teaching, Doing Research and/or Being LGBT in Political Science," addressed issues on teaching, research climate, and campus and professional life issues.

Becky, a participant on the 2002 roundtable in Savannah, recalls that the discussion was rigorous and vigorous. Participants shared how they integrate LGBT research into mainstream courses. They discussed support or the lack thereof, for LGBT faculty and for LGBT scholarship. Of particular interest was how one might discuss LGBT politics in a hostile classroom environment. "In the end, there simply wasn't enough time to address all of the issues that begged discussion," Becky said. What was clear, however, was evidence of a sustained interest in LGBT politics at the Southern's annual meetings.

The three panels on the 2005 program will provide a forum for new GLBT scholarship, as well as an opportunity for an in-depth discussion of strategies for teaching GLBT politics. GLBT scholars have long found common ground and support from colleagues engaged in women's studies, and many do work on both women and GLBT issues. Whether it is the shared intellectual approaches of studying the disenfranchised or the personal experience of professional marginalization, women's studies programs have generally welcomed GLBT scholars and their research. We invite you to continue that tradition at the SPSA Annual Meeting by attending one of the following panels!

1. Roundtable on Teaching GLBT Politics (Fri., 9:45-11:15)
2. LGBT Issues in Law and the Courts (Fri., 2:15-3:45)
3. LGBT Policy and State Politics (Fri., 4:00-5:30)

Interested in Leadership?

Each year, a new secretary of the Women's Caucus is elected at the Business Meeting, which is held on Friday morning of the Annual Meeting. With rotating leadership and one-year terms for three of the officer positions, the Caucus offers the promise of advancement to Vice-President and President of the Caucus. This opportunity should be of special interest to mid-career faculty who are seeking to build a record of service to professional associations.

The secretary is responsible for taking minutes at the next business meeting of the Caucus (in January 2006), relaying the minutes to the newsletter editor for publication, maintaining Caucus records, and assisting the President, as necessary. The commitment also means attending the Annual Meetings of the SPSA during your tenure as an officer.

If you are interested in serving as secretary for the upcoming year, please contact Vice-President Becky Salokar at salokar@fiu.edu. Self-nominations are very much welcome.

Job Announcement:

The Department of Political Science at Florida International University invites applications for a tenure-track position in American national politics at the Assistant Professor rank to begin Fall 2005. The ability to teach classes in methods at the graduate level is an advantage but not essential. Applicants should expect to have a Political Science Ph.D. in hand by August 2005. Florida International University is one of eleven universities within the State University System of Florida and serves the Miami metropolitan area. FIU has a student population of 35,000 and is a Carnegie "Doctoral/Research University-Extensive" institution. Political Science is a growing, dynamic, research-oriented, department with over 20 faculty members, both M.A. and Ph.D. granting programs, and over 500 undergraduate majors (please visit the department's website at <http://www.fiu.edu/~polsci/>). All applications should include a C.V., three letters of recommendation, graduate transcripts, sample syllabi, teaching evaluations (if available), and writing samples. Florida International University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received by January 7, 2005. Address letters to: Search Committee-American Politics, Dept. of Political Science, Florida International University, University Park DM 480, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199.

Of Interest

The New Membership Development Committee is continuing its efforts to further diversify the Southern Political Science Association across demographic, geographic, and institutional boundaries. In the past year, we engaged in specific outreach with faculty at historically black colleges, colleagues teaching at community colleges, and international colleagues (especially Latin America). Please contact Erin O'Brien (eobrien1@kent.edu) or Mary Stegmaier (ms2bu@virginia.edu) if you are interested in the committee's work or have ideas about how the New Membership Committee might further its diversity goals.

2004-2005 WCPS: South Officers

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