

Editor Nominations Sought for *Political Research Quarterly*

The four-year term of Lyn Ragsdale and Bill Dixon, the current editors of the *Political Research Quarterly*, will expire on June 30, 2000, and they do not wish to serve a second term. While the editor's term has been five years in the past, it is now four years, renewable for two years. Accordingly, nominations for the editorship for the term beginning July 1, 2000 and extending to June 30, 2004 are now being sought. Rodney Hero, President of the Western Political Science Association, has appointed a search committee consisting of Richard Brody, Stanford University, Chair; Susan Olson, University of Utah (ex officio); Karen Remmer, University of New Mexico; Randy Siverson, University of California, Davis; and Walt Stone, University of Colorado, Boulder. Applications and/or requests for more information should be submitted to Richard Brody, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2044. Phone: 650/323-2705. Fax: 650/723-1808. E-mail: brody@leland.stanford.edu.

Nominations of prospective applicants are also encouraged. On request, information will be supplied regarding levels of support appropriate to the position. Typically, graduate assistant support, faculty released time, and operational funds are part of appropriate support from the home university. Some examples of home university support packages can be found on the WPSA web site at www.csus.edu/acaf/wpsa/. The University of Utah provides additional support to the editor. Copy editing and printing are handled by the University of Utah.

Applications must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and by a letter from the appropriate administrative office of the nominee's university, at the level of Dean or above, certifying that institution's willingness to commit appropriate support. For full consideration, please submit nominations by July 15, 1999 when the committee will begin its review. It is anticipated that the final decision will be made at the Western Political Science Association's meetings in March 2000.

Western Political Science Association

before death if diagnosed as terminally ill. To enroll or request further information, contact Albert H. Wohlers & Co., 1440 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068-1400; (800) 503-9230; info@ahw.com.

Charting a New Course: The National Endowment for the Humanities at Year 2000

William R. Ferris, Chairman, *National Endowment for the Humanities*

The year 2000 marks the 35th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities. At this important moment for both the nation and the agency, NEH plans to chart a new course for federal support for the humanities in the United States in the twenty-first century. The initiatives that we propose for the year 2000 will significantly expand the impact of humanities throughout the nation.

After several years of flat funding at the \$110 million level, the Endowment and the administration have requested that Congress increase our funding to \$150 million in fiscal year 2000. This appropriation request would be used to offset the 36% funding cut NEH sustained in FY1996—a reduction significantly larger than those borne by most other federal agencies whose budgets were cut that year. In the wake of that reduction, the Endowment was forced to close down many of its core grant programs, lay off a quarter of its employees, and downsize many of the agency's functions.

Since 1996, the number of grants NEH has been able to award to humanities educators, scholars, and institutions has diminished. We now fund only one-third the number of summer seminars and institutes for teachers that we were funding before the FY1996 cuts. Endowment-supported films and museum exhibitions available to the public in the year 2000 will fall to approximately 28 hours of television and 13 museum exhibitions at 25 venues, down significantly from the 71 television hours and 36 exhibitions at 200 venues that were available to citizens in the mid-1990s. And, the number of

brittle books and U.S. newspapers being preserved on microfilm has been substantially reduced. The proposed budget would enable the NEH to reverse these conditions.

Our budget request uses two basic approaches to address the nation's educational and cultural well-being—maintain and enhance NEH's core programs and establish new initiatives that reach out to the American public. Both of these approaches are vital to the health of the humanities as our nation enters the twenty-first century.

The Endowment's budget request places particular emphasis on the educational mission of our agency. Our goal is to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities for all Americans. Central to achieving this goal is placing a strong emphasis on teaching and learning at all levels of our nation's educational system. We will focus on the professional development of humanities teachers at elementary and secondary schools and at colleges and universities. And we will continue to use MCI WorldCom's generous support to develop the nation's premier Internet resource for humanities teachers, EDSITEMent (<http://edsitement.neh.gov/>), which provides links to and lesson plans for 50 top-quality humanities web sites. We will also enhance the Endowment's recently launched Schoolsfor a New Millennium, and initiative through which schools form partnerships with local libraries, museums, and universities to establish a communitywide learning environment that incorporates new technology support to teach the humanities.

The Endowment supports a wide range of educational projects that include teacher seminars and institutes that improve teaching and learning of the humanities in the traditional classroom setting; public education programs of the 56 state humanities councils; documentary television films, museum exhibitions, library reading groups, and other general-audience projects that help out-of-school citizens engage in a lifetime of learning; projects that preserve and increase access to endangered educational and intellectual materials; and serious research and scholarship that both contrib-

Washington Insider

Wilson Center Focuses on Making Research Relevant

New Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars Director Lee Hamilton wants to make the Center "a place where visiting heads of state and dignitaries come regularly to say what they want to say about their policy positions." Established by Congress in 1968 as the nation's official memorial to the twenty-eighth U.S. president (and sixth APSA president), the Center was founded to bridge the physical and intellectual gaps among academics and policymakers. Hamilton, a six-term Democratic representative to Congress from Indiana and the first nonacademic to head the Center, has emphasized that the programs and projects he has initiated merely fulfill the Center's original mission. Critics of the new emphasis on "relevance" and "influence," who include some former fellows, worry that the long-time haven for champions and practitioners of learning for learning's sake will become "just another" Washington think tank under Hamilton. Recent projects have included sponsorship of informal diplomatic talks between the Mexican government and Chiapas rebels and encouragement of dialog between American and Iranian officials. To ensure the recruitment of fellows able and willing to play a more active role, applicants are now required to demonstrate the relevance of their proposed study to a contemporary issue and efforts have been made to attract economists, political scientists, and anthropologists in addition to the historians who comprise a majority of each fellowship group. A long-standing commitment to attract non-U.S. scholars also continues. More information about the Center, its activities, and how to apply for a fellowship can be found online at wwics.si.edu.

Digital Database Copyright Bill Reintroduced

Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC), chair of the House Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, introduced the "Collection of Information Antipiracy Act" (H.R. 354) to Congress on January 19. Very similar in content and intent to a bill by the same name the House passed and the Senate shelved late in 1998, Coble's bill stipulates that "any person who extracts, or uses in commerce, all or a substantial part . . . of a collection of information gathered, organized, or maintained by another person . . . so as to cause harm to the actual or potential market of that other person" will face punishments ranging from the payment of monetary damages to serving five years in jail. Coble, working with fellow Representative Howard Berman (D-CA) and Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), has reintroduced the legislation "to protect developers . . . against piracy and unfair competition, and thus encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable commercial collections of information." If passed, it would preempt all existing state laws, extend federal control over electronic commerce, and provide protections separate from and in addition to those provided by "patent, trademark, design rights, antitrust, trade secrets, privacy, access to public documents, and the law of contract."

During a mid-March hearing before the intellectual property subcommittee, representatives of the U.S. Copyright Office and the federal Department of Commerce expressed the executive branch's support for the bill. In the same hearing, representatives of the major U.S. library and college and university associations detailed their problems with the current bill, focusing particularly on the control database compilers would have over the access to and distribution of information if the bill became law and the weakness and ambiguity of the bill's "fair use" provisions.

"Collections of information" are defined in the bill as "information that has been collected and has been organized for the purpose of bringing discrete items of information together in one place . . . so that users may access them." As the term is used in the bill, "collections of information" are primarily electronic databases like the one maintained by ICPSR and the individual data sets stored therein, but also directories, catalogs, genealogical registries, and medical diagnostic guides. The definition might also apply to bound code sheets or entire libraries.

The bill is designed only to protect database developers from losses caused by other parties copying and selling their products. Very broad exceptions are drawn for students', researchers', and reporters' one-time use of information taken from proprietary databases, although "repeated or systematic extraction" is prohibited except through a licensing agreement. Additionally, the current bill proposes lifting all copying and distribution restrictions after 15 years from the date of initial creation. No mention is made of how creation or ownership of collections of information would be registered or recorded or whether additions or corrections to existing collections would constitute creations of new collections.

Important Washington People

Bruce Alberts, has been reelected president of the National Academy of Sciences. His second six-year term will begin in July of this year. **Joseph Bordogna**, acting deputy director of the National Science Foundation, has been nominated to become full-time deputy director of the Foundation.

utes to the life of the mind and establishes the foundation for educational and public programming in the humanities.

Two other themes animate our budget request: increased emphases on technology-oriented humanities projects, and an agencywide effort to extend the reach of the Endowment's programs. Innovative humanities projects employing new electronic information technologies, such as the Internet and CD-ROMs, will be emphasized, as will efforts to extend the reach of our programs (and the products of our grantees) to traditionally underserved communities and areas of the country.

Among the activities NEH proposes to implement in FY2000 are:

- A significant increase in the number of humanities seminars and institutes for school and college teachers. A 40% increase in the number of seminars and institutes supported will mean that more than 500 additional teachers can revitalize their teaching of the humanities. These teachers in turn will reach 75,000 additional students in classrooms across the nation. We also seek support for small awards to seminar and institute participants that will allow these teachers to disseminate the results of their work to other teachers and schools.
- A special grant competition in support of projects to establish regional humanities centers. NEH requests \$4 million in special matching funds to establish regional humanities centers across the country where American traditions, cultures, and aspirations can be explored in the context of place. At each center, a wide array of research, educational, and public programming activities will use the humanities to explore the region's distinctive culture. Each center will serve as a cultural hub for its region, with a mission of broadening our citizens' awareness of how the humanities enrich the worlds in which they live. The \$4 million request for regional centers is a substantial reduction from last year's budget request

Continued to page 313

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David B. Robertson - B
- Bernard H. Ross - A
Blair Ruble
Cynthia & Donald Ryan
Laura J. Scalia - A
Beth S. Schapiro
Jean Reith Schroedel - B
Susan J. Shearon - M
Henry B. Sirgo - A
Theda Skocpol - B
Rosemary Glass Spalding - M
Robert J. Spitzer - A
Kathryn Dunn Tenpas
Charles B. Turpin
Henry Valen - M
Diane E. Wall - B
Retha W. Warnicke - M
Marvin G. Weinbaum - A
Gregory W. White
Janet L. Womack
Iris Marion Young

C=General Campaign Fund, A=Artinian Fund, B=Barnett Fund, Br=Bryce Fund, M=Miller Fund, P=Presidency Research Fund, W=Women & Politics Fund

and indicates our intention to raise significant private support for this initiative. The Endowment is actively working to raise funds needed to help establish the centers from foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

- A significant funding increase for the 56 state humanities councils. This funding will allow state councils to support many additional projects and to implement bold new initiatives that will engage more of their citizens with quality humanities programming.
- Expansion of opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities by supporting more high-quality television and radio programs, museum exhibitions, and library reading and discussion programs. A new special initiative will also be supported—"My History is America's History"—that will encourage millions of Americans to learn more about their family's history and to place that history in the context of the broad sweep of American and world history.
- A special grant competition—"American Legacy Editions"—in support of editions of the writings of U.S. presidents and other major historical figures that will guarantee continued support for these projects and provide incentives for their expeditious completion.
- Expansion of opportunities for the nation's scholars and teachers to add to our knowledge and understanding of the humanities. In addition to enhancing support for the NEH Fellowships and Stipends program, increased funds will allow NEH to establish a new Travel to Collections program that will provide small grants to humanities scholars for travel to research libraries and archives where they can consult primary resource materials vital to

their research projects. A major three-year archaeology special initiative, Project SHARD, is also proposed that will revive the agency's support for archaeological research.

- A special initiative in the Endowment's Preservation and Access division that will provide grants to museums, archives, and libraries to digitize their humanities collections. This effort will bring online tens of thousands of digital images of manuscripts, maps, photographs, and artifacts, thus increasing citizen access to educational and cultural materials. Increased support for the agency's core preservation and access programs will also help to preserve on microfilm thousands of additional volumes of brittle books and pages of historic U.S. newspapers.
- Establishing new grant opportunities that will allow NEH to extend the geographic and demographic reach of its programming. These grants will reach hundreds of institutions and thousands of individuals across the country, many of whom have never had Endowment support. Ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from NEH-supported programs and activities is the agency's highest priority. In addition to the new outreach activities mentioned above, other new grant opportunities proposed for FY2000 include:
 - an initiative enabling small and midsized museums to receive modest grants to mount a traveling version of a successful NEH-funded exhibition;
 - grants enabling museums and public libraries to use reading and discussion programs or exhibitions developed by large national organizations, with a particular emphasis on programs targeted at tribal com-

munities and rural and inner-city audiences;

- grants to small and geographically diverse museums, historical organizations, and public libraries allowing institutions in the initial stages of developing new projects to consult and collaborate with humanities scholars;
- awards to small libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions to support staff attendance at preservation training sessions, on-site consultations by preservation experts, or the purchase of preservation supplies and equipment; and
- a series of initiatives in the NEH Challenge Grants program that will help small and midsized institutions and two-year colleges improve their humanities programming and long-range institutional planning.

As the largest single source of funding for the humanities in the United States, the work of NEH is critical to the health and vitality of our nation's educational and cultural worlds. The importance of the Endowment's mission and the success the agency has had in achieving this mission over the years is acknowledged by educators and scholars; by state, local, and national leaders (including more than three decades of support from every Congress and every president of the United States); by the heads of educational and cultural institutions; and most importantly, by the American people.

With the strong support of Congress, the administration, and the American people, NEH has weathered the budget storms of the past few years. We are hopeful that Congress will approve our request for increased funding to allow the National Endowment for the Humanities to bring a dynamic new agenda for the humanities to every citizen in the United States.

Editor's Note: The final FY2000 Appropriations bills are scheduled to be finalized by July 30, 1999. Bipartisan agreements to abide by the spending caps set in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act may require continued underfunding of all programs in the discretionary budget not directly related to defense.

1999

APSA Annual Meeting Graduate Student Travel Grant Programs

In a continuing effort to encourage the participation of graduate students in professional conferences, the APSA will offer a limited number of travel grants for the 1999 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia September 2-5. Guidelines for the two programs are listed below.

Advanced Foreign Student Travel Grants

- Applicants must be full-time graduate students studying in the United States at the time of submission.
- Foreign graduate students having refugee, immigrant, or tourist visa status are not eligible.
- Applicants who are participating in the meeting, furthest along in their graduate study and intend to return to their native country once their study is completed will be given preference.

Advanced Graduate Student Travel Grants

- Applicants must be American citizens enrolled in full-time graduate study in the United States.
- Applicants must hold a position as a paper or poster presenter at the 1999 meeting. (Applicants holding the position of panel chair or discussant will not be considered)
- Applicants who are furthest along in their graduate course of study will be given preference.

A completed application for either program must include a letter of support from your department chair, director of graduate studies or graduate advisor. Applications without a letter of support will not be considered. The deadline for receipt of the completed application is July 2. The maximum award to an individual is \$300.

Applications are available on the APSA web site at www.apsanet.org or from the national office at Travel Grant Program, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036-1206 or via email at twombly@apsanet.org