

EDITORIAL FAREWELL

Politics and the Life Sciences: A Second Decade and a Continuing Mission

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With this issue of the journal, my ten-year term of service as editor of *Politics and the Life Sciences* comes to an end. As is customary for editors in their final issues, I want to review our work, express thanks, and offer some thoughts about the journal, the association, and the field.¹

The First Decade

My term of service covered the journal's second decade. The first decade began with the founding of the journal in 1981 as the scholarly publication of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences (APLS). APLS itself had been established in 1980 in order to "advance interest in and encourage scholarship about biopolitics" (*Politics and the Life Sciences* 1:2).

The founding editor of the journal (and founding executive director of the association) was the late Thomas C. Wiegale. Many current members did not have the privilege of knowing Tom, but we continue to owe him an enormous debt for his ten years of visionary work as the journal's first editor and the association's first executive director.²

In his introduction to the first issue of *PLS*, Tom predicted that "the body of biopolitical scholarship will expand dramatically" (1982:3). He was right, and the journal under his leadership played a major role in making that happen. With the able assistance of Carol Barner-Barry as Book Review Editor (beginning with the second issue, in 1983), and Robert Blank as Associate Editor (beginning in 1986), Tom and the journal provided an invaluable outlet for biopolitical research and a forum that facilitated scholarly communication across disciplinary boundaries.³

Of course, establishment of the journal and the association was not a one-person effort. Tom may have been the "preeminent founder" (Caldwell, 1992:95), but many others also made important contributions. Tom recognized those individuals in his first editor's introduction (1982) and in his own editorial farewell (1991). We recently honored twelve of these pioneering individuals with APLS Founder

Awards: Carol Barner-Barry, Lynton K. Caldwell, Peter Corning, Samuel Hines, Fred Kort, Roger Masters, Steven Peterson, Glendon Schubert, James Schubert, Albert Somit, John Wahlke, and Meredith Watts.

Those of us who have benefited from the visionary and innovative efforts of Tom and these other founders cannot express our gratitude too many times. Therefore, on behalf of the association, the authors whose work has been published in the journal, and all of us whose professional lives have been enriched in one way or another by the journal and the association, we say, once again, thank you.

The Second Decade

The journal made great strides in its first decade. Our aim when the editorial office moved here in 1991 was to build upon the great work that had already been done, adjust to some changed conditions, and take advantage of new opportunities (Johnson, 1992).

Our broadest goal, as might be expected, was to continue improving the journal's quality and reputation. Related to that, but also related to the broader mission of promoting the field, we hoped to publish more contributions. We also hoped to make the journal even more broadly interdisciplinary and more international.

Staff and Board

A good editorial staff would be the first step toward reaching these goals. I was delighted that two excellent and creative scholars, Andrea Bonnicksen and Joseph Losco, agreed to join the journal as Book Review Editors. Andrea and Joe remained in those positions throughout the journal's second decade, and both did an outstanding job (a subject to which I will return). I also frequently relied on them for advice on other matters. I am deeply grateful to both for their wise counsel and their hard work.

Joining the journal as Bibliography Editors were Vincent Falger, Brian Gladue, Janna Merrick, and Raymond Zilins-

kas. Deborah Mathieu stepped in for Janna Merrick in 1998 when other obligations forced Janna to step down. These five performed a valuable service for the members of the association by sending contributions that collectively became our “Recent Books and Articles” feature. Because it was so difficult to keep track of the relevant new literature across diverse fields, this feature had been an important part of the journal since its first issue, and remained so until 2000.⁴ I am grateful for the efforts of our Bibliography Editors in putting together their contributions, and I am also grateful for the advice they were always willing to share when I called about other matters.

We tried to take another step toward reaching our goals with the appointment of a high-quality Editorial Advisory Board that represented numerous disciplines and multiple countries. I was pleased that a distinguished group of scholars and scientists, representing ten different disciplines and eight different countries, accepted our invitations to join the board.

Those who served at least one term on the board during this period were George Annas, Larry Arnhart, Carol Barner-Barry, Laura Betzig, Robert Blank, William Brandon, Arthur Caplan, Ira Carmen, Marie Chevrier, Peter Corning, Sherman Elias, Gary Ellis, Vincent Falger, Martha Field, John Fletcher, Heiner Flohr, Norman Fost, Robin Fox, Odelia Funke, Henry Glick, Kathi Hanna, Robert Hinde, Bartha Knoppers, Fred Kort, Gordon Lake, Bobbi Low, S.J. Lundin, Douglas Madsen, Deborah Mathieu, Mary Maxwell, Linda Mealey, Ellen Moskowitz, Thomas Murray, John Orbell, Graham Pearson, Jerrold Post, William H. Rodgers, Mark Rushefsky, David Shapiro, Barbara Smuts, John Strate, Jonathan Tucker, K. Venkataraman, Frans de Waal, John Wahlke, Elliott White, Susan Wright, and Raymond Zilinskas.

Membership on the board varied somewhat over the decade (as reflected in the journal’s mastheads), and members played different roles. Whatever the role, however, and whether it was for one term or the entire decade, members of the board made important contributions to the journal’s success. I was pleased throughout to have such a distinguished and conscientious group to which to turn for advice. I thank all of them for their service.

Diversity

Our efforts to become more international and even more interdisciplinary went beyond the appointment of an international and interdisciplinary Editorial Advisory Board. We also made special efforts to encourage manuscript submissions from other countries and disciplines, as well as to invite commentaries and book reviews from authors in a wide range of countries and disciplines. During this decade, 28 different countries and more than 70 disciplines were represented in the pages of the journal.

This national and disciplinary diversity was, in my view, a great strength. It brought perspectives from different parts

of the world and from a host of different disciplines. We also sought to bring diversity to the pages of the journal by being open to perspectives that are unpopular, either among our own members, or among those in the broader scholarly community. It was prudent to be cautious when we dealt with emotionally charged issues, but we sought to be open to diverse perspectives and critical commentary, even when it was directed at our own enterprise. Indeed, we often *invited* contributions from scholars and scientists who have been critical of efforts to use the life sciences in the study of human behavior.

Commentary Format

The article/commentaries/response format that was a trademark of the journal in its first decade is especially well-suited to bringing forward diverse perspectives. Such diverse perspectives are valuable, as Tom Wiegele put it, because “criticism and dialogue are a necessary part of intellectual growth” (1982:3). Or, as John Stuart Mill put it—in a quote I always use as an epigraph on my political philosophy syllabi—“He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that” (1974:98). By seeking out diverse perspectives and presenting them in one place, a journal may generate an intellectual synergy that could otherwise be achieved, if at all, only over a much longer period and across multiple publications.

In the journal’s first decade, the commentary format was used for most articles. We chose to use this format more selectively—reserving it for articles for which it was especially well suited—so that we could publish more articles and so that we could seek more commentaries and from a more diverse set of contributors. When we were able to publish an article, commentaries, and response in the same issue, we referred to the entire package as a “roundtable.” When practical considerations forced us to publish the commentaries and response in a succeeding issue, we referred to the collection in the succeeding issue as a “symposium.”

Several of our issues had no roundtables or follow-up symposia, but several had two, and one—the February 1994 issue—had three. With 20 issues and a total of 22 roundtables/follow-up symposia, we averaged slightly more than one per issue.⁵ A few roundtables included only three commentaries, but our follow-up symposium on Lynton K. Caldwell’s “Is Humanity Destined to Self-Destruct?” (September 1999) included 28 commentaries. The roundtable on Jonathan Tucker’s “Chemical/Biological Terrorism” (September 1996) included 24. Together, our 22 roundtables/follow-up symposia included 252 commentaries, for an average of more than 11. I want to express my sincere thanks to the commentators, among whom are included some of the world’s most distinguished scientists and scholars.

The article/commentaries/response format is time-consuming and complicated. However, as I have indicated, I

believe there is great potential payoff from bringing diverse perspectives together. To the extent that time and finances permit, I hope the journal can continue using this format in the future.

Other Symposia and Other Contributions

In addition to roundtables and follow-up symposia, we also published collections of articles and essays that did not involve invited commentaries on an article. Thus, Raymond Zilinskas brought together an excellent symposium on biological weapons inspection in Iraq (August 1995). Susan Wright and Richard Falk organized a similarly excellent symposium on the challenges of biological warfare (March 1999). And, with generous advice from David Wasserman, who had organized a conference on the subject, I put together a symposium on "Genetics and Crime" (March 1996).

When it seemed appropriate, we also took the initiative and invited (or welcomed) other timely contributions. These took various forms, including stand-alone commentaries (such as the commentaries on cloning by Andrea Bonnicksen and Susan Wright in the September 1997 issue), follow-up commentaries ("continuing dialogue"), subject "updates," organizational and institutional "profiles," conference reports, and special reports. We also tried to stimulate the development of new courses in the field by publishing "teaching foci" that reviewed interdisciplinary courses taught by our members.⁶ We sought to continue and extend these efforts by inviting "teaching posters" at the annual meetings in 1999 and 2000.

Book Reviews

The journal's standard book review format from its first issue in 1982 through our first two issues in 1992 was a multiple review format. A précis of a book was followed by multiple reviews, usually three. This was a stimulating format, and it was especially valuable in the journal's early years. It brought diverse perspectives even to the matter of reviewing books.

It was with considerable reluctance, then, that we decided to discontinue multiple reviews as our standard format. By the time the editorial office moved here, many more books were being published in the field. If we had continued with multiple reviews for all books, we would either have been limited to reviewing a small proportion of the books being published, or we would have had to devote half or more of each issue to book reviews. Beginning with the February issue in 1993, then, we began publishing single reviews of a larger number of books.⁷

Over the course of the decade, we reviewed 260 books, with a total of 287 reviews (and two author responses to roundtable reviews). In other words, we averaged over 14 reviews per issue. As I looked back over our twenty issues, I was reminded of the extraordinary job that Andrea Bonnick-

sen and Joe Losco did as book review editors. They successfully reviewed many of the important books published during this period, and across all of the topic areas we wished to cover. They also brought us book review authors from many countries and from diverse disciplines. And finally, they also succeeded in getting book reviews both from scholars in the early stages of their careers and from scholars who are among the established leaders in their fields. They did a superb job. I hope *PLS* readers will express their personal thanks to Andrea and Joe for the wonderful work they did over the journal's second decade.

Topics

From the very beginning, the field of politics and the life sciences was conceptualized as encompassing both basic science and policy analysis, as well as relevant philosophical analysis (Blank, 1982:38; Hines, 1982:6). As the scholarly journal for the field, then, the scope for *Politics and the Life Sciences* would be any problem or issue that involved politics or public policy and any one (or more) of the life sciences.

We attempted to follow this broad definition of the field in editing the journal. Thus, we tried to cover a broad range of appropriate scientific subjects—empirical, theoretical, and philosophical. Our subjects have included, among many others, Supreme Court oral argument, ethical naturalism, feminism and sociobiology, political cooperation, stress and political leadership, ethnic conflict, conservation attitudes, politics and reproduction, male age distribution and war, treatment of political prisoners, crime control strategies, the origins of monogamy, kin term usage in political rhetoric, threat and political tolerance, and ritual deception in politics.

We also sought to cover a broad range of appropriate policy subjects. Included here, among others, were contributions on cloning, fetal protection, prenatal diagnosis, donor insemination, controlling biological weapons, biodiversity, gene therapy, acid rain, transgenesis in farm animals, BWC verification, biotechnology policy, chemical and biological terrorism, physician-assisted suicide, crime control, reducing ethnic conflict, assisted reproduction, population control, the human genome diversity project, immigration policy, and xenotransplantation.⁸

I am especially proud of the role that *PLS* played during much of its second decade as one of the principal outlets in the world for scholarly work on biological weapons and biological warfare. Tom Wiegele, the journal, and the association recognized the importance of this subject long before it was recognized by many others, and we sought to play an active role in encouraging scholarship in this area. Since I had little background in the field myself, I want to especially thank Raymond Zilinskas, Marie Chevrier, and Jonathan Tucker for their advice and their hard work in facilitating our efforts (not to mention their own articles and essays).

Review Policies and Referees

PLS is a refereed journal, which means that its main articles have to pass muster with peer reviewers before they are published. Referees perform an essential role, both in advising the editor and in advising manuscript authors. This is an especially important role for an interdisciplinary journal, because its authors are necessarily working at the boundaries of two or more disciplines. For that reason, it was not unusual for us to send an empirical or theoretical manuscript to a political scientist, a biologist, a psychologist, and an anthropologist or sociologist. A policy-oriented manuscript might go to a political scientist, a biologist, a physician, and a lawyer or philosopher (or perhaps both).

I offer my sincere thanks to the hundreds of referees, from many disciplines, who served the journal so well over the last ten years. They are largely unsung benefactors who made a profound difference in the quality of the journal. They served not only as assistant gatekeepers, but even more importantly, as coaches who helped not-yet-publishable manuscripts with potential become publishable, and helped already publishable manuscripts become even better. I salute all of you.

Copyediting

An accepted manuscript, of course, must still be copyedited. I have been especially proud of our copyediting work during this decade. Authors regularly offered praise for the careful, extensive copyediting that they thought improved their manuscripts. Good copyediting was important not only for all of the obvious reasons that relate to journal quality, but also because we were attempting to facilitate communication across disciplinary and national boundaries. We wanted to make the journal as readable as possible, despite the diverse disciplines and diverse linguistic/cultural/national backgrounds from which our authors and readers came.

I discovered when I became editor that contract copyeditors are normally not listed on the masthead of a journal. I followed that custom. However, I want to acknowledge here the great work of Nancy Steinhaus, who did the initial round of copyediting on most of the manuscripts we published in ten years of issues. Nancy was careful, diligent, and creative in all of her work. I and the authors whose work we published owe her a great debt of gratitude. Thank you, Nancy.⁹

Additional Diversity and Total Contributions

I have already mentioned the great national and disciplinary diversity among our authors. There was also, however, a great deal of career and institutional diversity. Thus, our authors included some of the world's best-known scholars and scientists, but they also included graduate students and others who were publishing for the first time. Our authors

also came from hundreds of different institutions of higher education, ranging from large research universities to small private colleges.

Our authors also came from a wide range of research, policy, and governmental organizations, including, among many others, the Australian Museum, Brookings Institution, Chemical and Biological Defense Establishment (UK), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Environmental Protection Agency, European Group on Ethics in Science and Technology, General Accounting Office, Hastings Center, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Human Rights Watch, Institute of Medicine, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Maryland Biotechnology Institute, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (Germany), National Advisory Board on Ethics in Reproduction, National Center for Human Genome Research, National Defense Headquarters (Canada), National Institutes of Health, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (India), Neurosciences Institute, Nuffield Council on Bioethics (UK), Office of Management and Budget, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Netherlands), Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament, Population Reference Bureau, RAND Corporation, Sandia National Laboratories, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Tel Aviv Medical Center, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), World Bank, World Conservation Union (Switzerland), and World Health Organization.

Altogether, over the course of the decade, we published a total of 768 authored contributions. When we add "Recent Books and Articles" and "New and Announcements" contributions, we published a total of 797 contributions, or an average of just under 40 per issue. It was my great pleasure to be able to work with so many different authors from so many different backgrounds. Almost all were congenial, conscientious, and cooperative. I offer my sincere thanks to these authors—and to everyone who submitted manuscripts for our consideration—for sharing their work with us and for being such a pleasure to work with.

One Regret

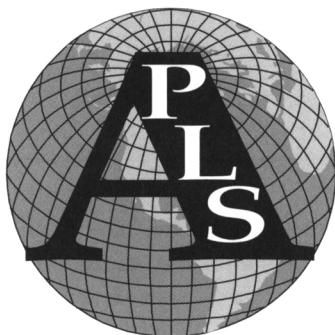
There are daunting challenges in producing a quality journal that is both broadly interdisciplinary and international. I think we met those challenges reasonably well. My only significant regret regarding this decade of effort concerns the indirect consequences that followed my decision to resist an effort to compromise our editorial independence—especially the great publication delays for this and the preceding two issues (see Johnson, 2000). I do not mean that I regret the decision itself; indeed, I am proud of the stand we took on behalf of open communication and criticism in science and scholarship. However, as often happens when individuals

or organizations take a stand on behalf of a public good, a variety of costs must be borne.

We have already received some generous donations and other assistance to help defray those costs. My hope is that those who believe in open communication in science and scholarship will provide additional assistance that will help the journal and association absorb more of those costs and recover ground that has been lost as a result of the principled position we took.¹⁰

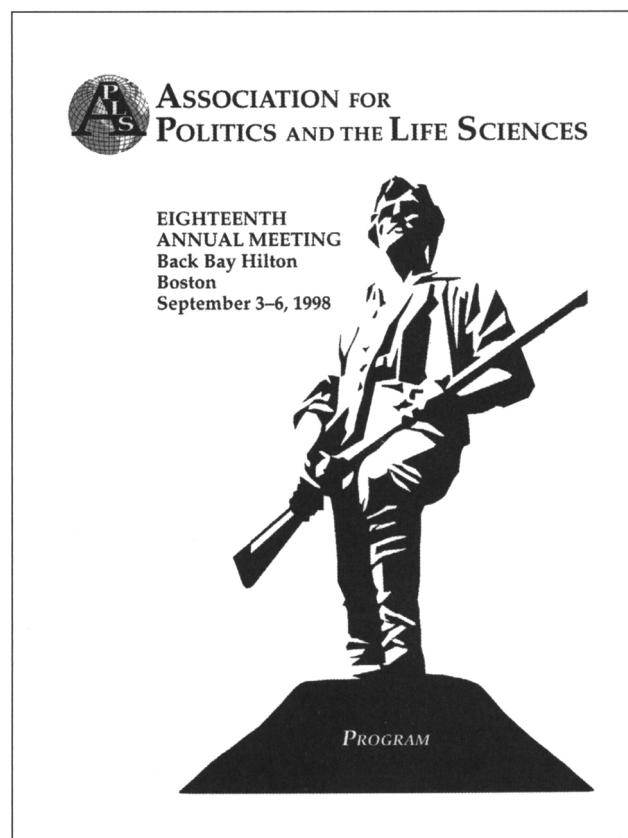
Association

It was also my privilege during this decade to spend five years serving as APLS Executive Director (1996-2001). Our principal accomplishment during this period was the establishment of an independent annual meeting for the association. Those who helped in so many ways with these meetings were thanked in the programs for those conferences and/or at the conference banquets, but I wish to express again my great appreciation for the wonderful work performed by all of those who contributed in a variety of ways to the success of these meetings.



Conferences

Since its founding in 1981, APLS had held its meetings as part of the meetings of the American Political Science Association (APSA), either as a “related group” or as a section. We are enduringly grateful to APSA for providing the organizational umbrella under which our fledgling organization could mature. However, the association would not be able reach its full potential under this arrangement. APSA could allow us only a limited number of events, and one needed to be a member of APSA to receive the hotel discount. This made it impractical for our many non-political scientist members to attend the meeting. Without a meeting that brought members together in one place to make presentations, have discussions, and share meals and coffee, the association could not achieve the cohesion it needed to mature.¹¹ It therefore became clear that we needed to establish our own, independent meetings. Given the organizational challenges, our office served as both organizer and program chair for the first three of these meetings, and organizer for the fourth.



Our inaugural independent meeting took place September 3-6, 1998 at the Back Bay Hilton in Boston. Edward O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor and Honorary Curator in Entomology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, was the keynote speaker. As I noted in my conference report, this was a “landmark event” for APLS:

Had we continued to meet with APSA in 1998, we would have been allowed a total of 6 events [two panels, three meetings, and a reception]. These events would have attracted about 25-30 participants, most of whom would have been political scientists from the United States. By contrast, the independent meeting featured 70 events—a keynote address, seven plenary lectures or roundtables, 43 panels and roundtables, four meetings, seven coffee breaks, four breakfast buffets, three lunch buffets, and a banquet—and attracted 219 registered participants. The participants represented 11 countries and more than 30 different fields of study. (Johnson, 1998:209)

Our 1999 meeting was held September 2-5 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Atlanta, where Frans de Waal—C. H. Candler Professor of Primate Behavior at Emory University, and Director of the Living Links Center for the Advanced Study of Ape and Human Evolution at the Yerkes Regional Primate

Research Center—was the keynote speaker. In addition to a great program, highlights included pre-conference tours of the Field Station of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center and the bioterrorism facilities at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The 2000 meeting was held August 31 to September 3 at the Washington Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. The keynote speaker was Lionel Tiger, Charles Darwin Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University. Pre-conference tours were available to the National Zoo's Think Tank and Orangutan Language project, as well as to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).

Our 2001 meeting was held October 18-21 rather than over the usual dates (the U.S. Labor Day weekend), and on the beautiful campus of the College of Charleston rather than in a large convention hotel. This was a delightful change of pace, although we had to face numerous practical challenges in the aftermath of 9/11 and the U.S. anthrax attacks. Despite the challenges, we had an excellent meeting. The keynote speaker was Francis Fukuyama, Bernard Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. I offer our thanks, once again, to Janna Merrick for serving as program chair and to Samuel Hines for serving as our local host. Incidentally, those who attended that conference may remember, with a smile, a fire alarm in the middle of the night that brought many of us together at an unexpected time, in an unexpected place, and in unexpected attire.

Newsletter

The new independent conferences seem to have played an important role in helping bind our members together across disciplinary (and national) boundaries. As another effort directed toward that goal, we established an expanded newsletter for the association. *APLS News* carried association announcements; association news; brief articles and editorials; announcements of conferences, workshops, and seminars; announcements of new resources in the field; announcements of grants and fellowships; conference reports; lists of degrees awarded in the field; lists of dissertations in progress; lists of new books by members; news about member activities; previews of the next issue of *PLS*; short quotes from the recently published work of members; noteworthy quotes from other recent publications; and web reviews. Like the independent conference, the newsletter was designed, ultimately, to help bind our diverse membership together and stimulate new forms of collaboration. We were proud of the design and content of the first two issues (December 1996 and June 1997)—which totaled forty pages—and looked forward to publishing additional issues. Unfortunately, the time required to plan and oversee our new independent conferences made it impossible to continue with the newsletter.



APLS NEWS
Newsletter of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences

Volume 1 Numbers 1&2 December 1996

Launching APLS News

Welcome to *APLS News*, the new newsletter of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences. We are pleased to launch this new benefit and tool for the members of APLS. This is a successor to the association's first newsletter—edited initially by Steven Peterson and James Schubert, and then by James Schubert—which appeared seven times over four years between 1991 and 1994. We are grateful to Steve and Jim for breaking this ground for the association.

Association newsletters serve multiple functions. They disseminate organizational news and announcements; they circulate news about the professional activities and accomplishments of members; they draw the attention of members to important new opportunities, information, and resources. *APLS News* will do all of these things. Most broadly, however, *APLS News* will help bind together the members of our diverse, international, interdisciplinary organization. This is perhaps a newsletter's most important function—building a sense of community among those with common interests. A sense of community strengthens an organization and stimulates new forms of collaboration among its members.

Our association has been growing and maturing in recent years. At the beginning of the year, individual memberships were up more than 100% over the previous four years; library subscriptions to *Politics and the Life Sciences* were up 15%—despite a library serials crisis that has reduced subscriptions to many journals; and the journal had been added to eight more indexes. Over this same period, *PLS* published contributions

from thirty-seven different disciplines and twenty different countries. The journal's articles also attracted attention in a variety of important policy forums, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

These developments have been highly gratifying to all of us. Nevertheless, there is still much untapped potential. We think *APLS News* will help us realize more of that potential, but we need your help. Please share with us your comments about this issue and your suggestions regarding future issues. The newsletter may be edited and published by the association's administrative offices, but it must of necessity always be a product of the members' collective efforts.

Gary R. Johnson
 Editor

U.S. Bioethics Commission Appointed
 Kathi E. Hanna

I have been nearly fifteen years since the United States government sponsored a focused effort to address the multiple bioethical issues facing the nation. A failed attempt in Congress in the late 1980s to establish a deliberative body was the last such effort. In 1995, the newly elected Republican Congress closed down its own Office of Technology Assessment, one of the few federally funded bodies that routinely considered such complex issues. Since the early 1980s there has been a void at the national level for the systematic discussion of such issues as assisted suicide, use of fetal tissue for therapeutic transplantation, use of human embryos in research, and ethical issues surrounding the use and misuse of genetic information.

Two years in the planning, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) met for the first time in October of 1996. NBAC was appointed by President Clinton to provide guidance to federal agencies on the ethical conduct of current and future human biological and behavioral research. According to its charter, NBAC shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council, federal agencies, and other appropriate entities, and also make available to the public the commission's advice and recommendations. The commission's purview includes the ap-

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I still believe that a newsletter performs an important function, and would therefore recommend for the council's and membership's consideration that a new position be created for editor of *APLS News* (which I assume would now be an on-line newsletter). Neither the association's executive director nor the journal's editor is likely to have sufficient time for this task.

Other Debts of Gratitude

In the course of reviewing our decade of work, I have been able to thank many people who made important contributions. There are many others, however, who also made crucially important contributions, and who remain to be thanked.

Council

First, I would like to thank the members of the APLS council. Those who served one or more terms over this period were Larry Arnhart, Denise Baer, Carol Barner-Barry, Robert Blank, Andrea Bonnicksen, Ira Carmen, Peter Corning, Vincent Falger, Odelia Funke, Richard Hartigan, Samuel Hines, Bruce Jennings, Joseph Losco, Roger Masters, Janna Merrick, Steven Peterson, Glendon Schubert, James

Schubert, Albert Somit, Lionel Tiger, Johan van der Dennen, and Meredith Watts. Special thanks are due to three of the council chairs with whom I worked closely—Joe Losco, Sam Hines, and Ira Carmen; to Bob Blank, Andrea Bonnicksen, and Roger Masters, on whom I often relied for advice; and to Jim Schubert, who served as Executive Director during my first five years as editor.

I am deeply grateful to the council for their confidence and support during our ten years of work together. This was one of the most cooperative and congenial groups with which I have ever worked. I will miss the camaraderie and the sense of shared venture. Ladies and gentlemen, it was a great pleasure working with you.

Publisher

My first issue as editor of *PLS* was also the first issue for which the association itself would not be the publisher. Our new publisher, Beech Tree Publishing in England, is the company of William Page. I visited Beech Tree in the summer of 1991 while we were working on our first issue (February 1992). Bill, his family, and his staff were warmly hospitable, and we immediately established a good working relationship. It was wonderfully helpful to have an experienced publisher handle typesetting and layout, distribution of proofs, copyright management, processing of library subscriptions, printing, and journal distribution.

Beech Tree published 17 of our 20 issues. On behalf of the association, I thank Bill Page, Lynn Frances, and Trisha Dale (who did most of the typesetting and layout over this period) for an excellent job. The journal was the beneficiary of their expertise, their professionalism, and their hard work. And they were a pleasure to work with. I regret that the legal threats directed against the journal and the association forced us to part company with Beech Tree (see Johnson, 2000:223). Were it not for these threats, it is likely that Beech Tree would still be publishing the journal, and it might have continued doing so for many years. We will always be grateful to Beech Tree for the important role it played during these years, and extend our best wishes to Bill Page, his staff, and his family.

In assuming the work of publisher for our final three issues, we accumulated additional debts of gratitude. I thank Patti Kelly for the initial typesetting and layout work on the first part of the September 2000 issue. For completing the work on that issue (when Patti moved on to another position), and for handling all of the typesetting and layout for our final two issues, including this one, I thank Jeanne Shibley. Jeanne's experience and eye for excellence have been invaluable. For printing these final three issues, I thank Data Reproductions Corporation, Auburn Hills, Michigan, and especially Michael Seger, with whom we worked closely. For packaging and distributing these final three issues, we thank Unit Packaging Corporation, Ann Arbor, and especially Lynn Voegeding.

University

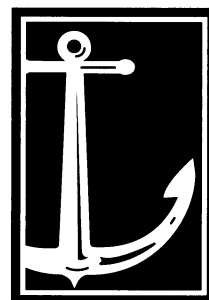
Our most general debt is to Lake Superior State University (LSSU) for ten years of support. The university provided office space, released time for me, and budgetary support. We are especially grateful to President H. Erik Shaar, who agreed to bring the journal to LSSU and support it, and President Robert Arbuckle, who maintained university support when he assumed office in the Fall of 1992. Dr. Arbuckle was also steadfast in his support of the journal, the principle of editorial independence, and freedom of expression during the ordeal we faced when legal threats began in 1999 (Johnson, 2000:212-223).

In addition to the university's provision of space, time, and budget, many LSSU staff, faculty, and administrators helped over the years in numerous ways. I want to specifically acknowledge Kathy Burrell, Georgiana Cox, Juliana Cox, Tracey MacQuarrie, and others in the Business Operations Office for their help with paying our bills, processing checks and credit card receipts, and keeping track of our budgets; Fred Michels, Scott Olson, and Aaron Weeks for their help with our special computer needs; Jennie Peterman and Colleen Rye for their help with purchasing and related matters; Ruth Gendzwill, Kristie Juda, Peggy Knuttila, Margaret Olson, and Beverly White for their help with payroll and personnel; and Cheri Hoornstra, Nancy LeGreve, and Ron Raffaele for their help with sending and receiving (in a variety of forms).

I offer special thanks to the staff of LSSU's Graphic Arts office for the great work they did with design, layout, and/or printing of a wide variety of materials, including *PLS* and *APLS* logos, *PLS* mastheads and tables of contents, *APLS News*, association directories, brochures, calls for abstracts, conference posters, conference programs, stationery, and a variety of other materials. Deb Cook, Patti Kelly, Jeff Harris, Jeff Oja, and Jeanne Shibley did a great deal of work for us, and sometimes on short notice. Their work was always superb, and they always showed great patience when I asked, having examined a draft, if they could adjust something "ever so slightly."¹²

Office Staff

Over forty LSSU undergraduate student assistants and interns worked for the journal and the association during our decade of work. They checked references, made copyediting suggestions, tracked down essential information in the library or on the internet, proofed, created and maintained our databases, created and maintained our web site, and helped in dozens of other ways. We benefited enormously from their labors, and they benefited from their experience in





PLS/APLS Student Assistants and Interns, 1997-98

working on the journal and for the association. Indeed, the experience played an important role for a number of them as they moved on in their education and careers.

Journal readers and association members did not see these students at work (with the exception of Deric Jones, who helped on-site at our conferences in 1998, 1999, and 2000). However, these student assistants and interns have been listed on the journal's masthead over the years. Some worked or interned for a semester or a summer, some for a year or two, and a few for three or four years. Deserving of special mention, since they served our office for multiple years, are Sophia Chandauka, Mark Heimonen, Rebecca Hunt, Deric Jones, Carolyn McCullough Powrozek, Rachel Olney Brakke, Carrie Clark Sharpe, Kerry Smith, Winston Reeves II, and Steven Wellington.

My greatest debt among those who did journal or association work over this decade is to Judy Bawks, who served as secretary and assistant to the editor from August 1991 to June 2000 (when she had to leave us for a full-time position). Judy supervised the student assistants and interns, prepared and sent out all correspondence, entered final copyediting changes in almost all manuscripts, proofread manuscripts, prepared payroll and all other university paperwork, and handled a wide variety of other tasks associated with running an editorial office.

As the association's administrative assistant from July 1996 to June 2000, Judy also handled all membership records and payments; prepared and sent out correspondence that related to membership, the council, and the conferences; prepared initial drafts of posters, conference materials, and conference programs; processed conference registrations and payments; worked the on-site registration desk and conference office at the 1998 and 1999 conferences (where many of you met her); and handled a variety of other tasks related to the business of the association.

Judy did an outstanding job in every way. She was talented, dependable, conscientious, and hard-working. She understood the goals of both the editorial and association offices, and she took the initiative in helping us reach those goals. She was also friendly and congenial, and yet professional. She developed wonderful working relationships with the student workers, other campus employees, authors, conference attendees, and association members. The entire association owes her a great debt for her contribution to the success of the journal and the association during these years.

When Judy was forced to leave us for a full-time position in June of 2000, we were fortunate to acquire the services of another highly talented and dedicated assistant, Patricia Smith. Patti assumed all of the duties of both positions, and did so enthusiastically. She learned quickly, and, like Judy, did an outstanding job. Many members met her at our 2000 conference in Washington. Thank you, Patti.

When Patti had to leave for a full-time position in April of 2001, Suzette Olson filled in over the summer of 2001 while she was on leave from her regular position. She also did a great job, as did Jeanne Shibley, who helped out for several months in late 2001 and early 2002. My thanks to both Suzette and Jeanne. Since that time, Judy Bawks has again helped out intermittently as time has permitted.¹³

A Continuing Mission

The journal and the association are now in their third decade. Their mission, in my view, remains the same: "to advance knowledge of politics and promote better policymaking through multidisciplinary analysis that draws on the life sciences" (Johnson, 1992:3). That mission is as crucially important today as it was when the association and the journal were founded—perhaps more so.

I hope our work during the second decade helped advance that mission. However, there is still a great deal of additional, untapped potential. Reaching out to achieve more of that potential is inspiring, but the demands of the task must not be underestimated. Interdisciplinary associations face enormous challenges not faced by single-discipline organizations. Employment opportunities, educational degrees, academic structures, professional rewards, most publication outlets, most grant opportunities, and even our daily professional vocabularies are built, for the most part, around traditional, narrow disciplines.

For that reason, there are huge impediments to successfully establishing and maintaining interdisciplinary associations, especially those as broadly interdisciplinary as APLS. We must never underestimate the challenges. We should certainly seek out visionary university administrators, foundations, and philanthropists who see the potential and are willing to invest in helping overcome the obstacles. Nevertheless, the energy and the vision must come principally from us, the members.

To fulfill our mission, then, APLS members and officers must work harder and be more resolute than the members of single-discipline organizations. Fortunately, even if the work is harder, the potential payoff is greater. The function of APLS is to bring together scientists, scholars, and policymakers for the purpose of breaking down the disciplinary barriers that constrain the progress of knowledge and the formulation of better policy. The potential payoff for a successful APLS, then, is exactly the kind of “consilience” that Edward O. Wilson spoke of so insightfully in his book of that title (1998).

As we continue working to achieve more of our potential as an organization, I offer my best wishes to the journal’s new Editor, Robert Sprinkle, of the University of Maryland, and the association’s new Executive Director, David Goetze, of Utah State University. I hope Rob and David find the work as rewarding as I did, and that they receive the same kind of enthusiastic support and assistance that we received. Overcoming the impediments to interdisciplinary synergy *must* be a group effort.

I return now to my own research with the satisfaction of believing that we accomplished much of what we set out to accomplish. At the outset of my term as editor, I said that “involvement in [the journal’s] mission promises to be a truly exhilarating experience” (1992:4). It was, and I am grateful to all who helped make it so rewarding. It was a privilege to serve the association in this way. Thank you.

Gary R. Johnson
Editor, 1991-2001
Executive Director, APLS, 1996-2001

Notes

1. I also hope that this review of our second decade may be useful to those who are new to the association and to those who are interested in its history. Scholarly and scientific organizations often do a poor job of keeping track of their own histories. For that reason, I thought it might be useful to the organization—while my memory is still reasonably fresh, and while our files still exist for checking—to provide a short account of this period in the journal’s and the association’s history.
2. For more information about Tom Wiegele and the crucial role he played in establishing the journal and the association, see Johnson et al., 1992. For an overview of the field of biopolitics in the years prior to the establishment of the association, see Wiegele, 1979. For a more recent overview of the field, see Blank and Hines, 2001.
3. For a brief review of the journal’s and the association’s first decade, see Wiegele, 1991.
4. With continuing growth in the field, and sophisticated computerized indexes for keeping track of that growth, it seemed clear by 2000 that this feature was no longer as useful to readers as it had been in earlier years. We therefore discontinued it.
5. It is likely that we would have had three or four additional roundtables/symposia in our last three issues had it not been for the special challenges we faced, as a result of legal threats, in having to become both editorial office and publisher for these issues (see Johnson, 2000). Indeed, I would like to have contributed a commentary of my own for two of those.

6. Those interested in curricular developments should also find Tom Wiegele’s August 1986 issue of the journal useful. This special fifth anniversary issue was devoted to “Teaching about Politics and the Life Sciences.”
7. While most of our reviews after 1993 were single reviews, Joe Losco arranged “roundtable reviews” of two books that lent themselves particularly well to discussion: James Q. Wilson’s *The Moral Sense* (August 1994, with four reviews and a response from Wilson) and Edward O. Wilson’s *Consilience* (September 1999, with three reviews and a response from Wilson).
8. Tables of contents for past issues may be reviewed on-line at <http://www.aplsnet.org> (click on “journal” and follow the links).
9. For copyediting assistance with a few to several manuscripts over the years, when Nancy was busy, I thank Beth Leech, Tammy Ditmore, Susan Finkelstein, Susan James, and Eric Gadzinski.
10. I want to again express my thanks to the various donors who have already made contributions, to the many people who offered encouragement and moral support, to the authors whose work was delayed in publication—they exhibited extraordinary patience—and to all of the libraries and individual members who were so amazingly patient.
11. APSA had also added restrictions that made it increasingly difficult to maintain a relationship (see Losco, 1997).
12. Many other LSSU administrators, staff, and faculty also helped in various ways during the years that the journal and the association’s administrative offices were here. So that they know that their help was genuinely appreciated, even if it was needed only once or a few times, I want to acknowledge them here: Kathy Albrough, Patty Allison, Bernard Arbic, Doug Atkinson, Kaye Batho, Bill Becker, Paul Besteman, James Blashill, Dean Bennette, John Burdett, Mary Cahill, Alden Campbell, Kevin Chamberlain, Richard Conboy, Dave Cryderman, Sheri Davie, Maureen Delaney-Lehman, Laurie DeNeve-Ewing, Jim Devaprasad, Pete Donofrio, Michael Donovan, Sharon Dorrity, Ted Eby, Wanda Eby, Dave Eitland, Susan Fitzpatrick, Kay Floyd, Brad Flood, Steve Forrest, Mary Gray, Dave Greengtski, Duane Gurnoe, Chuck Gustafson, Annette Hamel, Bruce Harger, Joe Herbig, Beth Hronek, Chris Johnson, Kari Jastorff, Mark Jastorff, Kristie Juda, Mary June, Pauline Killips, Jim McCall, Margaret Malmberg, Pat Manor, Suzie McAllister, Troy Lawson, Donald McCrimmon, Dave McDonald, Tom Mickewich, Glynis Moran, Roger Murphy, Ruth Neveu, Clark Noble, Suzette Olson, Sharyl Padgett, Rocco Paris, Danny Pavlat, Sherri Pavloski, Jackie Perron, Gene Pietrangelo, Tom Pink, Andrew Radford, Susan Ratwik, Chris Roll, Reg Rousseau, Tim Sawyer, Linda Schmitigal, Jay Schupp, John Shibley, Art Smart, Scott Smart, Jim Smith, Jerry Stephens, Mark Terwilliger, Gary Thesing, Bill Thompson, Earl Tomlinson, David Toppen, Rick Waligora, and David White. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to help in so many ways.
13. If there are others whom I have neglected to thank, I apologize for the oversight. Of course, my most profound debt is to my wife and children for the time spent away from them. Mere words are no recompense for that debt.

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