

tinuous decline, the number of political science Ph.D.s increased by 4 percent in 1982.

Though the overall number of Ph.D.s did not change in 1982, the composition of recipients did. More women received degrees than ever before. In 1965, 12 percent of the Ph.D.s granted by U.S. institutions went to women. In 1982, women accounted for 32 percent of the doctoral recipients. Most of the growth in women Ph.D.s took place in the life and physical sciences, engineering, and professional fields. The number of women Ph.D.s in the humanities declined as they have since 1976.

In the social sciences, 1982 was the first year to register a decline in women Ph.D.s in 20 years. The same was not true for political science. The number of women Ph.D.s continues to grow in political science. In 1982, 22 percent of the Ph.D.s awarded in political science, public administration and international relations were received by women. This compares with 14 percent in the period between 1970 and 1979, and 9 percent in the period between 1960 and 1969.

In another area of interest to the profession, the NCR report shows a modest increase in the percentage of Ph.D.s in political science awarded to minority groups. American Indians, Asians, Blacks and Hispanics accounted for 12.7 percent of the political science Ph.D.s awarded in 1982.

Finally, according to the NCR's annual survey of doctoral recipients, the median time lapse between the year of the baccalaureate and the year of the doctorate in political science was 10.4 years. Women tended to take slightly longer (11 years) to complete their degree than men. The median age of the political science Ph.D. in 1982 was 33.9 years for men and 44.1 years for women. Almost 60 percent of the 1982 political science Ph.D.s were married. More men (61.4 percent) than women (53.2 percent) were married at the time they received their degree.

**Editor's Note: This update is the latest compilation of yearly reports on Ph.D. degrees in political science. The figures*

pertaining to the number of graduate students enrolled are not yet available and will be published in PS as soon as they are released. Last year's report, including the most recent information available on enrollment of graduate students appears in PS (Summer 1982), pp. 459-456. □

NEH Awards \$37,500 to Vassar for Introductory Sociology

Editor's Note: The APSA NEH Liaison Committee has suggested that PS feature articles on innovative funding in the humanities which might be of interest to political scientists. This article is offered in that spirit.

The Department of Sociology at Vassar College has been awarded a \$37,500 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the further development of a new introductory course in social theory.

The new course deals with each of the major thinkers in the classic tradition of social theory: Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Mead, Pareto, and Mannheim. By moving back to the foundations in social theory, students are put in touch with the seminal ideas that have shaped contemporary reflection about modern society. Through their reading of original source material students become engaged with the fundamental moral and humanistic issues surrounding the relationship of the individual and society.

The NEH award was granted on the strength of the proposal entitled "Social Theory as Introductory Sociology: A Humanities Perspective," submitted by Professor James Farganis, chairman of the sociology department and project director.

According to Mr. Farganis, the success of the proposal was in the redefinition of sociology as a humanities discipline. Students in the new course may now legiti-

mately reflect on a wide range of questions: What is the nature of social order? How do different conceptions of human nature affect one's views about society? What is the role of science and technology in fostering the transformation of the cultural life-world? Moreover, because several of the thinkers in the classic tradition were not in full agreement about the appropriate methods for the study of society, they invite reflection about the meaning of a science of society, and the contemporary commitment to scientific truth as the only valid means to understanding the social order.

The funds from the NEH grant will be used primarily for faculty released time. Each member of the sociology department will be released from one course during the academic year 1983-84 in order to participate in a year-long colloquium on the classic tradition in social theory. They will read, reflect upon, and discuss the key texts, preparatory to teaching the new introductory course in the fall of 1984. In addition, the colloquium will deal with questions concerning the impact of the new course on the remainder of the sociology curriculum and develop recommendations for future implementation. Finally, monies will be available to bring to Vassar three nationally recognized social theorists as scholar/consultants to join the colloquium discussions on occasion.

Participating members of the Vassar sociology faculty include: Professors James Farganis (project director) and E. Jean Pin; Assistant Professors Eileen Leonard, Marque Miringoff, and Sondra Silverman; Visiting Lecturer Jodi Brodsky. □

Reports and Announcements

National Humanities Center Expands Activities

In its five years of existence, the National Humanities Center at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, has developed a

successful fellowship program and sponsored conferences and seminars on topics in the humanities. It also distributes a radio program on the humanities to over 250 commercial and public stations nationwide.

In an effort to continue to be responsive to the needs of humanistic scholarship and to establish closer relations with members of learned societies, the Center invites scholars in the humanities to suggest activities that might complement the programs of the Center.

Please write to: John O'Connor, Assistant Director for Programs, National Humanities Center, 7 Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. □

Project on Local Fiscal Austerity Undertaken

The Project on Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation is the most extensive study to date of local decision-making and fiscal policy. It includes surveys of all U.S. cities over 25,000 in 1980, about 1,000 cities; closely coordinated studies are underway of U.S. counties and small towns, and cities in some 25 other countries. Data are being collected in the U.S. by some 60 policy analysts, each of whom surveys cities in his or her state or adjacent region. By dividing the task and costs, we have solved the data collection problem. We are maintaining continuity and communication among participants via newsletters, frequent meetings at professional conferences, and personal communications and contacts.

Participants were initially attracted by the opportunity to compare cities nearby them with others. As it grew clear that we would cover most of the U.S., others volunteered to survey any remaining states. The result was a network of some 60 teams using a standard methodology to survey local public officials; teams pool their data, then make them available to all.

While the project emerged quite spontaneously, it built on experiences joining many participants. Research funds have progressively declined yet urban research