

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

APLS to Hold Independent Annual Meeting

The Association for Politics and the Life Sciences has traditionally held its annual meeting in conjunction with the meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA). This arrangement has been advantageous in a variety of ways. However, APSA must restrict the number of panels that any affiliated organization may offer, and its participation requirements make it difficult for nonpolitical scientists to attend the meeting. With the recent growth of APLS—especially among scholars and scientists from fields other than political science—it has become clear that the association should begin sponsoring its own annual meeting.

We are therefore pleased to announce that APLS will hold its first independent annual meeting, September 3–6, 1998 in Boston. These are the same dates and location as the APSA annual meeting. This should allow APLS members who are political scientists to attend relevant APSA events, and it will also make it convenient for political scientists who are not yet members of APLS to drop in on our meeting.

The conference program, as currently planned, will include panels, roundtables, plenary lectures, a banquet, and other activities. The conference's keynote speaker will be **Edward O. Wilson** (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University). Plenary speakers will include **George Annas** (Medicine and Ethics Program, Boston University), **Richard Butler** (Executive Chairman, United Nations Special Commission on Iraq), **Frans de Waal**—if travel plans permit (Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University), **James Q. Wilson** (Graduate School of Management, UCLA), and others still being arranged.

Additional information will appear in a formal call for papers and in the December issue of *APLS News* (nonmembers may review the call for papers and other information about the conference by visiting the association's website—<http://www.lssu.edu/apls>—or by contacting the association office at Lake Superior State University). In the meantime, we welcome suggestions about the program and meeting format, and especially about possible sources of financial support. The Gruter Institute has generously offered to help with travel costs for the plenary speakers. We would appreciate advice about other organizations or foundations that might be approached for additional support. We would also, of course, welcome donations from individuals.

APLS has reached a number of milestones over the last several years, but it has still realized only a small part of its enormous potential as an international and interdisciplinary professional association. Bringing the diverse membership

of APLS together for the first time will be another important organizational milestone. Please make plans now to join us in Boston in 1998 for what promises to be an exciting—and pathbreaking—event.

Web Sites Expanded

The APLS and *PLS* web sites have recently been refined and expanded (<http://www.lssu.edu/apls> and <http://www.lssu.edu/pls>). Members are encouraged to visit, or visit again, and to send their comments and suggestions about additional refinement and expansion. In particular, please inform the association offices if you encounter problems using your preferred browser or screen resolution. Special thanks to Michael Baranowski and Vijay Saluja for their capable assistance with this work.

APLS Graduate Student Paper Award

The Association for Politics and the Life Sciences annually awards a prize for the best paper by a graduate student on a topic related to politics or public policy and one or more of the life sciences. The range of eligible topics, methods, and approaches is reflected in the range of articles and commentaries published in *Politics and the Life Sciences*. Papers coauthored with faculty members are not eligible. The award for the best graduate student paper is a cash prize of \$500, recognition at the association's annual meeting, and consideration for publication in *Politics and the Life Sciences*. Graduate students should send four copies of a paper to be submitted for consideration, together with a letter of endorsement by a faculty sponsor (who need not be from the institution at which the student is formally enrolled, and who may be a scholar in any discipline). Papers and faculty letters of endorsement should be submitted by March 16, 1998 to APLS Graduate Student Paper Award, c/o Gary R. Johnson, Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783-1699, USA.

The Evolution of Language

A conference on the evolution of language will be held in London, England, April 6–9, 1998. Researchers from a wide range of disciplines will seek to integrate their perspectives with those of modern Darwinism. Speakers will include

Derek Bickerton (Hawaii), Paul Bloom (Arizona), Luigi Cavalli-Sforza (Stanford), Robin Dunbar (Liverpool), Dean Falk (New York), Philip Lieberman (Brown), Bjorn Lindblom (Stockholm), John Maynard-Smith (Sussex), Frederick Newmeyer (Washington), Johanna Nichols (Berkeley), Michael Studdert-Kennedy (Haskins Labs). The conference is being organized by Jean Aitchison (Oxford University), Jim Hurford (Department of Linguistics, University of Edinburgh), and Chris Knight (Department of Sociology, University of East London). Those interested in presenting a paper at the conference should send a 500-word abstract (deadline October 1, 1997) to Dr. Chris Knight, Department of Sociology, University of East London, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS, UK; E-mail: c.knight@uel.ac.uk.

Donations

We are pleased to acknowledge a recent gift from Claude Phillips, Professor Emeritus at Western Michigan University and long-time member of APLS. Such generosity is vital for the association's continued growth and development. To make a donation in support of the association's activities, please make your check payable to the association and send it to Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, Lake Superior State University, 650 West Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783-1699, USA. Unless you indicate a preference for anonymity, we will acknowledge your generosity in the newsletter or the journal.

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