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Message from the President

[Michael Goodhart]

Greetings! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our most recent President, George Andreopoulos, for his outstanding leadership and dedication during the previous year. All who attended the 2004 APSA Annual Meeting in Chicago will agree that the section sponsored an impressive and stimulating range of events: a Theme Panel on Human Rights After 9/11, a Plenary Session on Multilateralism in the Age of Empire, 11 substantive panels on a variety of human rights themes, and a reception and awards ceremony for section members. Behind the scenes, George has worked tirelessly on a range of issues both within our section and within the Association. On behalf of the entire section, I express my gratitude to George and all those officers and volunteers who helped to make last year another successful one for the section.

This year, I hope, will be no less successful. Our Call for Papers went out in August, and our Program Chairs have begun the arduous task of assembling our panels for 2005. We have just received approval from the 2005 Program Chairs to assemble another thematic panel. The Association's Call for Papers posed the question "When cross-border conflicts are played out less between states and more between states and non-state forces with some capacity to threaten states' security, how can democracies

respond without lowering standards of civil liberties and international norms of human rights?" Our panel will bring together practitioners and policymakers with scholars to debate this important and very timely issue. More information on this panel will follow as we line up participants. We are also working to put together a Plenary Session for the 2005 Meeting, with the idea that bringing in a controversial figure from politics or academia might prompt a lively and productive debate on many of the key issues in our field today.

With the section now out of its infancy, we are facing a number of issues that this year's team will be working to resolve. One of these issues is reconciling our by-laws with changes made to accommodate certain APSA requirements; a proposed set of revised by-laws will be circulated in the August newsletter in advance of a discussion and vote at our next business meeting. Another issue concerns our membership. Currently we are hovering around 400 members, though this varies considerably as memberships lapse and get renewed. While this number puts us well above the APSA minimum of 250 members, it also makes us one of the smaller sections. Section size has several important effects on how we operate; apart from providing our only current source of funding through dues, membership has an impact on the number of panels we can sponsor at each meeting. As we currently have one of the highest rejection rates of any section (ie, we are more selective than most, accepting only about 40% of papers proposed), we could certainly stand to increase our panel allotment (which is due to decline as our "new section" bonus will soon expire). We are considering ways to boost our membership, but one easy and effective way to do this would be for each current member to recruit one colleague to join the section. Annual membership costs only \$8 above the APSA membership fee and, again, helps us significantly in providing Plenary speakers, receptions, book and dissertation awards, and – most importantly – panel slots. Please do your best to encourage (at least) one person to join the section.

We are also looking for ways to expand and enhance the services and activities we provide. Elsewhere in this newsletter the new officers for 2004-2005 are introduced. Let me encourage you to contact any of us with your suggestions about what you would like to see the section do, or do better, in the coming year(s). We welcome – and count on – your input.

I look forward to another busy and productive year and another exciting APSA meeting in Washington, DC. Thank you, and best wishes for the New Year!

Message from the 2005 Program Co-Chairs

[Mark Gibney, Clair Apodaca, Henry
Chip Carey]

Now that the proposal deadline for our 2005 meeting has passed, we are hard at work putting together panels; our section has been allocated six panels for the 2005 meeting.

The overarching theme of the Human Rights Section papers and panels will be the disconnect between the promise of human rights and the reality of human rights protection in an era of expanded democracy. There are several sub-themes. The first sub-theme is the relationship between human rights and democracy. These two concepts are commonly viewed as going hand-in-hand, but there are also many times when the two notions are at odds with one another. A second sub-theme is the relationship between human rights and political terrorism. Is terrorism the negation of human rights? Or could this be an indication that human rights have not been protected? A third sub-theme is the concept of human rights and democratization of allegedly non-democratic countries. More particularly, is the theorized relationship between human rights and democratization little more than a Western construct? A fourth sub-theme is the relationship between the measurement of rights or democracy

and the protection of human rights. The final sub-theme is the international enforcement of human rights. Can the establishment of formal legal institutions (courts, independent judiciaries, political parties, electoral processes, etc.) prevent human rights violations? Or, to put it another way, how can the promise of the rule of law, democracy, human rights and political reality all be reconciled?

Secretary's Report

[Rhonda L. Callaway]

The following are the new officers elected at the annual business meeting in Chicago, IL, 2004.

New Officers elected at annual Business mtg. in Chicago:

President

Michael Goodhart
Department of Political Science
University of Pittsburgh
4600 Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Email: goodhart@pitt.edu

Vice President

Mark Gibney
University of North Carolina, Asheville
Political Science
Asheville, NC 28805
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Vice President-Elect

James M. McCormick
Iowa State University
Political Science
503 Ross Hall
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Secretary

Rhonda L. Callaway
Rochester Institute of Technology

College of Liberal Arts
92 Lomb Memorial
Rochester NY 14623-5604
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Treasurer

Todd Landman
University of Essex
Government
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, Essex C04 3SQ UNITED
KINGDOM
todd@essex.ac.uk

At-large Steering Committee Members

Bethany Barratt, *Roosevelt University*,
bbarratt@roosevelt.edu

Lilian Barria, *Eastern Illinois University*,
cflab2@eiu.edu

Melissa Scheier, *University of Houston*
Melissa.Scheier@mail.uh.edu

Treasurer's Report

[Todd Landman]

The total income for our 2004-2005 budget is \$4,748.80. Total estimated expenditures for the same period are \$4,398.53. This leaves the section with a balance of \$350.27. We are hoping that new memberships and membership re-newals will increase this amount.

Best Book Award

The Best Book Award is given for the best single-authored, multi-authored or edited volume on human rights published in 2004. To be considered for the award, a copy of the book must be sent to each of the three committee members listed below by April 15, 2005. Questions should be addressed to

Committee Chair George Andreopoulos at chrights@jjay.cuny.edu.

Award Committee Chair:

George Andreopoulos
Center for Intl Human Rights
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York
555 West 57th Street, 6th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10019
chrights@jjay.cuny.edu

Award Committee:

Sonia Cardenas
Political Science Department
Trinity College
300 Summit Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Mahmood Monshipouri
Department of Political Science
Quinnipiac University
275 Mount Carmel Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518-1949

Best Dissertation Award

Political Science dissertations that focus on human rights and that are filed in academic year 2004-2005, are eligible for the award competition. Copies of the nominated dissertation and a letter of support from the dissertation Chair, which should specify the contribution of the work to the field of human rights within no more than 1000 words, should be received by members of the Dissertation Award Committee by May 31, 2005.

Award Committee Chair:

Zehra Arat
Division of Natural & Social Sciences
SUNY, Purchase
Purchase, NY 10577-1400
zehra.arat@purchase.edu

Award Committee:

Bethany Barratt
School of Policy Studies

Roosevelt University
430 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

Michael Forman
c/o Michael Goodhart
Department of Political Science
University of Pittsburgh
4600 Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Announcements

Claudia Dahlerus and Todd Landman held a successful one-day workshop on human rights measurement that comprised over forty participants and ten formal presentations on different strategies for measuring human rights as well as the challenges that the discipline will continue to face in the future. The papers and presentations have been assembled in a book length monograph, the proposal for which is currently under review with Cambridge University Press.'

Sign up for the section discussion group. This discussion forum provides an opportunity for members to exchange their views and research on substantive issues in human rights. This forum brings together a community of scholars, practitioners, students and others to take part in a dialogue and debate about human rights issues. If you are interested in joining this discussion forum, send an email to apsahumanrights@yahoo.com. Please include your name, contact information, and professional affiliation in that email. You will then receive a confirmation and will be added to the discussion forum in a few days. You must also comply with the discussion forum rules as listed on the section's website (see <http://www.apsahrs.org/>). We hope that you will take part in what we expect will be an informative and incisive dialogue.