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# The APT Newsletter

No. 5, November 2003

## **START PLANNING NOW FOR THE APT CONFERENCE 2004 29-31 OCTOBER - COLORADO COLLEGE, COLORADO SPRINGS**

The Association for Political Theory is pleased to announce a follow up to our highly successful Inaugural Conference. Professor Timothy Fuller and the [Political Science Department](#) have generously offered to host our second conference at [The Colorado College](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The conference will begin with registration on Friday, 29 October 2004 around noon, followed by sessions soon afterward. We expect to hold five or six sessions over the course of Friday afternoon and all day Saturday, though the actual number of sessions and panels will depend on the Program Committee's assessment of the response to the call for papers. The conference will close with a business meeting on the morning of Sunday, 31 October 2004.

The call for papers will be published very soon – we hope before or right after the Thanksgiving break. Watch for it in your e-mail inbox, or visit the APT Gateway website for news of its publication.

For more information on the 2004 Program Committee, tentative plans for the conference, The Colorado College, and Colorado Springs, see the articles at the end of this newsletter.

## **A HUGE SUCCESS! THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE AT CALVIN COLLEGE**

Over 110 scholars of political thought and related fields turned out for our highly successful [Inaugural Conference](#) at [Calvin College](#), 17-19 October 2003. Papers, roundtable presentations, and comments were delivered by the 103 people on the program itself, while several other scholars, graduate students, and spouses joined them in attending sessions and sharing meals.

Throughout the weekend, many participants remarked on the conference's several innovative features. First, there were ***all those political theorists in one place!*** Rather than being lost in a crowd of indifferent political scientists or philosophers, all attendees shared a common enthusiasm for political thought. Second, there were ***all those different kinds of political theorists*** presenting their work to diverse audiences. Presentations were given on the history of Western political thought and

contemporary liberalism; on religious foundations and continental critical theory; on early American political thought and contemporary Iranian political ideologies; on teaching political theory by stealth and approaches to doing political theory; and many other topics. Third, there was ***the mixing of generations, ranks, and institutions***. Most sessions included at least one graduate student as well as scholars at different ranks and from different kinds of institutions. Throughout the conference, the intimacy of the setting seemed to help break down barriers between individuals standing at very different points in their careers and in very different positions in academia. Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, there were ***all the informal conversations and debates*** -- at coffee breaks, over dinner on Friday, at lunch on Saturday, and at the receptions. Attendees kept remarking how many new people they met, and how much fun it was to meet and engage with very different kinds of theorists.

To get a clearer sense of what attendees thought about the conference, read [the remarks and suggestions](#) given by more than 1/3 of the total attendees.

## BIG TURNOUT FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING

A sure sign of success was the large turnout for the first open business meeting of the Association, held on Sunday morning after the conference. Though many people had to leave Grand Rapids before the meeting, more than 25 conference participants managed to attend. The strong consensus was that the conference had been a success and that we needed to plan a follow-up conference for next year. The meeting ranged over several topics: conference formats and scheduling; suggestions for improving the conference and encouraging innovative session formats; the location of future conferences; appointments to a new program committee; plans for a constitution and by-laws; relations with the APSA and Foundations; and the possibility of starting a journal. If you are interested, you can read [summaries of discussion](#) at the meeting.

See also the following articles for information on the Program Committee, the next conference, and governance issues.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Another sign of success was the large number of people who volunteered to serve on the Program Committee for the second conference. Eleven people attending the business meeting volunteered to serve – and another six volunteered either before or after the meeting, some by e-mail. Choosing who should serve was not easy, though it helped that a number of the people who had been interested in joining the Program Committee subsequently volunteered to serve on the Governance Committee instead.

Members of the Inaugural Conference Program Committee consulted one another about how to proceed. To keep the size of the committee manageable, we decided to hold the new committee to the same size as the old one (9). We also agreed to keep a significant degree of continuity on the committee, while also recruiting from among a large pool of able volunteers, with the aim of adding diversity of interests and rank to the existing committee.

The members of the new Program Committee are:

Simona Goi, Assistant Professor, Calvin College  
 Edward J. Harpham, Professor, University of Texas at Dallas  
 Michael James, Assistant Professor, Bucknell University  
 Elizabeth Markovits, Graduate Student, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
 Amy McCreedy, Associate Professor, Bucknell University  
 Dennis McEnnerney, Assistant Professor, State University of New York, Oneonta  
 Dan Sabia, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina  
 Gregory Streich, Associate Professor, Central Missouri State University  
 Ed Wingenbach, Associate Professor, University of Redlands

## CONFERENCE PLANNING MOVES AHEAD

Even while organizing the Inaugural Conference at Calvin College, Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnnerney were also looking ahead to future conference possibilities. The Colorado College emerged as a leading favorite after Timothy Fuller suggested that the College might host a follow-up conference. Meanwhile, at the Inaugural Conference at least two other possible sites in the Midwest emerged for future conferences. The attendees at the business meeting, however, chose to investigate the Colorado College offer first, in the belief that holding the second conference in a different region of the country would be a good way to reaffirm our commitment to building a truly national and inclusive association. Emily and Dennis, meanwhile, are continuing discussions with other possible conference hosts for 2005 and beyond.

Incidentally, if your college or university might be interested in hosting a future APT conference, be sure to write to Emily or Dennis!

## THE APT CONFERENCE 2004 - *IN COLORADO SPRINGS!*

The 2004 meeting at [Colorado College](http://coloradocollege.edu) promises to be a great follow up to the successful inaugural conference. The conference will be held on the campus of Colorado College, situated near the base of Pike's Peak and the Rocky Mountains' Front Range, in the gracious North End neighborhood of Colorado Springs. The lively downtown district of Colorado Springs, with many restaurants, cafés, and bars is just a short walk or drive away. A little further away is The Garden of the Gods, a city park that Frommer's describes as:

*One of the West's unique geological sites, the 1,300-acre Garden of the Gods is a giant rock garden composed of spectacular red sandstone formations sculpted by rain and wind over millions of years. Located where several life zones and ecosystems converge, the beautiful city-run park harbors a variety of plant and animal communities. [from Frommers.com]*

The Colorado College is the leading liberal arts college of the Rocky Mountain region, established in 1874 to bring classical New England scholarship to the West. Today the college is best known for its block plan, under which all students take, and all faculty teach, one small intensive seminar at a time. Each "block" lasts 3 weeks and is the equivalent of a semester course.

Conference lodging will be at the Le Baron Hotel, itself located at the edge of the

downtown district, just under one mile from the campus and conference meeting rooms. Rooms at the Le Baron will be a modest \$60 per night, single or double occupancy, and include breakfast and shuttles to and from the Colorado Springs Airport. A shuttle will run between the campus and the hotel for those who prefer not to walk.

The [Colorado Springs Airport](#) is served by all major airlines (American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, and United), as well as a number of smaller airlines (Allegiant, America West, and Mesa). Non-stop flights are available from most major airline hubs, and the airport is only 20 minutes from the campus. Colorado Springs is also only 75 miles from the new [Denver International Airport](#), where one could rent a car and drive to Colorado Springs. [Ground transportation](#) is possible from the Denver International Airport, though the cost (currently \$94 roundtrip to the LeBaron Hotel on Amerishuttle) and the time involved (90-120 minutes) are likely to make flying through that airport less cost-effective or convenient than flying directly to Colorado Springs for most people.

While the beautiful location, inexpensive lodging, and good access by air may make participating in the conference easy, the sessions and the participants are the main attractions. As was the case at the Inaugural Conference, the Program Committee plans to create an atmosphere conducive to intellectual conversation and exchange. The APT Conference 2004 will offer an experience not available elsewhere: a weekend of intensive discussion with political theorists representing virtually all approaches to the field.

## **WORK ALSO BEGINS ON GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

Attendees at the business meeting agreed that the time has come for the Association for Political Theory to begin developing a more formal structure, including a constitution, officers, and governing procedures. Until now, the Association has been managed informally under the leadership of Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnnerney, working together with the Founding and Program Committees. The success of the Inaugural Conference, as well as the growing membership of the Association (see next article), requires that APT adopt a more formal type of organization. To that end, attendees at the business meeting agreed that a Governance Committee should be formed and charged with the task of developing proposals for the Association's governance and managing APT's eventual organization as a not-for-profit educational corporation.

Andrew Murphy of Christ College, Valparaiso University agreed to head the committee, along with the Co-Founders, Emily Hauptmann of Western Michigan University and Dennis McEnnerney of SUNY Oneonta. After the conference, Randy LeBlanc of the University of Texas at Tyler also joined the committee, as did Johnny Goldfinger of Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis and Darren Walhof of Grand Valley State University.

## **THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE – A FINANCIAL SUCCESS, ALSO**

The Inaugural Conference was a success in another respect as well – financially. In planning the conference, the Program Committee focused on three goals: minimizing participants' expenses, making the conference an enjoyable experience, and being fiscally conservative. The latter was especially important since, until the conference, APT has had absolutely no funds – not one cent. The Program Committee made a concerted effort to keep the conference fee low - \$85 for fully-employed participants, and \$50 for graduate students and part-time faculty. These prices are well below what some other national conferences charge and, unlike most other conference, the prices included most meals. At the same time, the Committee worked hard to maximize participation by recruiting chairs and discussants who were not otherwise on the program – and who would, therefore, also pay a conference fee.

This strategy paid off. Simona Goi, who managed finances for the conference, reports that the conference paid all of its bills, leaving a small surplus. The Governance Committee tentatively plans to allocate part of this surplus toward the expenses of incorporating the Association. Any remaining funds will be used to help defray start-up expenses for the conference at Colorado College, or saved to help finance future APT conferences and projects.

## **MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW – ON-LINE DIRECTORY IS COMING**

Following the conference, membership in APT jumped up to almost 200. As most members know by now, a membership directory is on its way. Dennis McEnnerney has been circulating draft membership directory pages to members so that they can confirm their information. The first version of the directory will include names, affiliations, and interests for all members who gave APT permission to publish their names and affiliations in a directory accessible to members. Aside from helping members to know one another, the directory may be helpful to members seeking collaborators for conference panels and other scholarly projects.

The membership directory pages are almost ready to be published. All that remains now is to create a password-protected section of the APT website, so that members can logon to the site in order to gain access to the directory. The password system should be in place shortly after the Association publishes the call for papers and the on-line submission forms for applicants wanting to participate in the conference at Colorado College.

Later – one hopes by January – the membership directory will also include contact information for those members who have granted permission to include it on the website. Eventually, we hope to create, for each member, a member's information page, on which a member can view his or her information and update it. Until that page is created, please send any revisions or updates you may have to Dennis McEnnerney in care of [apt@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:apt@coloradocollege.edu).

Membership in the Association remains free. If you note that friends or colleagues are missing from the membership directory, why not encourage them to join us?

## WATCH FOR THE CALL FOR PAPERS

Remember, the Call for Paper for the APT Conference 2004 at Colorado College will be published very soon. This year, the Program Committee hopes to create on-line forms allowing applicants to make submissions in a variety of forms: as individuals, as co-authors giving one presentation, or as 2 or more presenters suggesting a partial or complete panel. Check your e-mail or visit the APT Gateway website to see the Call for Papers. The deadline for paper or panel submissions will be 15 February 2004.

See you in Colorado Springs next October!

**-Dennis McEnerney & Emily Hauptmann, Co-Founders**

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