

[APT News Home](#)

The APT Newsletter

No. 8, March 2005

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS TO HOST APT CONFERENCE 2005

The APT Program Committee is happy to announce that it has accepted Andrew Rehfeld's offer to host the 2005 conference at Washington University in St. Louis, 21-23 October 2005. The University, following the precedents set by our previous host institutions, Calvin College and Colorado College, has pledged to underwrite a dinner and reception at the conference. Sessions will be held on campus, with meeting rooms all in one building or very close by. Two lounges have also been reserved for receptions, meals, and large meetings. In addition, Scholar's Choice has expressed an interest in again mounting an exhibition of books and journals in political theory, political philosophy, and related fields.

The [Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel](#) (7730 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105) will serve as the official conference hotel. The Sheraton Clayton Plaza is a large, centrally located hotel with 257 rooms, and the services typical of such large hotels, including a free airport shuttle, a business center, a fitness center and heated pool, and high-speed internet access in each room (for a charge). In addition to a bar and lounge, conferees will find a seafood restaurant, a salon, an ATM, and an Enterprise car rental office at the hotel. The Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel will book rooms for APT conferees at the special conference rate of \$119 double occupancy. This rate will include continental breakfasts. Free shuttles will run between the hotel and the campus meeting facilities, though some more energetic conferees may choose to walk the less than two-mile distance. Members will be able to book rooms either on a special website being set up for the conference, or by calling the hotel directly at (314) 863-0400. If you call, be sure to ask for the Association for Political Theory conference rate. The conference rate will be available until 6 October 2005. The on-line booking page is still partly under construction, but you can use it now to make a reservation or get information about the hotel. To book on line, visit the [APT Gateway](#) website and click on "APT Conferences" (or jump directly to [Conference Gateway](#) page). You can also visit the hotel's custom conference page:

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/pol>

COLORADO COLLEGE CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Those who did not attend the APT Conference 2004 missed a great meeting. Approximately 130 people attended the conference, with 121 on the program, and 83 giving papers or presentations. Attendees came from large and small institutions across the country. Colleagues from Canada, Germany, Australia, and Britain also took part in sessions. The 24 panels included a good distribution among ranks, including 17 graduate students; 14 lecturers, adjunct faculty or administrators; 47 assistant professors; 19 associate professors; and 24 full professors.

Conferees commented repeatedly on the high quality of the discussions, and said that they enjoyed greatly the informal opportunities to meet with colleagues over meals and at coffee breaks. Tim Fuller did a wonderful job of hosting, having arranged especially enjoyable meals and receptions in the beautiful facilities of The Colorado College. To see all of the written comments that participants made on the conference, visit the [APT Gateway](#) website and click on "APT Conferences," or go directly to [Conference Gateway](#) page. Click on "Comments from Participants" in the 2004 Colorado College conference section.

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

The Association's Business Meeting was held this year at the Le Baron Hotel in Colorado Springs on the Sunday morning following the Colorado College conference. About 26 members attended all or part of the meeting, which was called to order by Andrew Murphy, Chair of the interim Governance Committee, and then co-chaired by him and Dennis McEnnerney. Most of the meeting focused on presentation and discussion of a constitution for the Association drafted by the interim Governance Committee over the course of the preceding year. For a complete transcription of the meeting notes, see the [Business Meeting Highlights](#) on the [APT Gateway](#) website.

Discussion of the draft was lively and positive. After several amendments, attendees unanimously approved the Constitution, which appears as an addendum to this Newsletter. It also has been posted on the [APT Gateway](#) website in the [About APT](#) section. The Constitution, which will take effect on 1 July 2005, calls for the direct election of three officers: two Executive Co-Directors and a Secretary-Treasurer. In addition, three at-large members of the Governance Committee are to be elected directly by the general membership.

The Governance Committee -- beginning now with our existing interim Governance Committee -- is charged with the task of presenting to the general membership at least two candidates for each open position, no later than four months before the next scheduled business meeting of the Association. At least one month before presenting those slates, the Governance Committee will solicit nominations from the general membership of the Association for all openings. Elections then will be held at the next Business Meeting. All Association members attending the Business Meeting will be eligible to vote.

So -- ***start considering whether you would like to nominate members for any of these openings***. The Governance Committee will begin soliciting nominations from the general membership by late April or early May. Before nominating someone, however, the Committee recommends that you obtain the permission of those whom you propose to nominate. Watch your in-box for a call for nominations.

The Constitution also empowers the Executive Co-Directors to appoint a Program Committee one month after the annual Business Meeting, based upon nominations made at the Business Meeting and by the general membership. One member of the previous year's Program Committee, in addition, will be elected by that committee to serve a one-year term on the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee then will consist of the three directly-elected officers, three more directly-elected committee members, and the one committee member elected by the previous year's Program Committee, from among its members. All directly-elected officers and committee members will be subject to term limitations, in order to encourage openness to new ideas and new initiatives. For details, see the addendum to this Newsletter.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS -- OTHER BUSINESS

The Business Meeting also addressed several other matters, including the location of future conferences, nominations for the 2005 Program Committee, evaluation of the Colorado College conference, and the possibility of publishing a journal.

Several members expressed an interest in hosting a conference in 2005 or afterwards. At the time of the meeting, the location of the 2005 was still in question. However, the general principle was set down that, ideally, the Association would attempt to circulate among the different parts of the country, depending on the availability of suitable hosts. Given this principle, the sense of the meeting was that, if the 2005 conference were held in St. Louis, the 2006 conference would then ideally meet on one of the coasts (east or west) or in the south.

Ed Wingenbach, chair of the 2005 Program Committee, Andrew Murphy, chair of the interim Governance Committee, and Dennis McEnnerney are currently working together to attempt to set locations and dates for conferences in 2006 and 2007 sometime before the end of the spring term.

Nominations (volunteers, really!) for the Program Committee were also taken at the Colorado College Business Meeting. Ten members volunteered, including three holdovers from the 2004 Committee (Ed Wingenbach, Greg Streich, and Dennis McEnnerney). Ed Wingenbach volunteered to chair the Committee. After doing some additional recruiting in consultation with Ed Wingenbach, Dennis McEnnerney subsequently appointed the following Program Committee:

Beverly Ann Gaddy, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Pittsburg at Greenburgh
 Russell L. Hanson, Professor, Political Science, Indiana University
 Breana Holland, Graduate Student, Political Science, University of Chicago
 Dennis McEnnerney, Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Colorado College
 Peter A. Petrakis, Associate Professor, History & Political Science, Southeastern Louisiana University
 Gregory Streich, Associate Professor, Political Science, Central Missouri State University
 Ed Wingenbach, Associate Professor, Government, University of Redlands

Business Meeting attendees also reviewed the 2004 Conference at Colorado College, agreeing strongly that the pre-circulation and archiving requirements were successful and should be continued at future conferences. It was also agreed that the paper archive would be maintained indefinitely on the APT website, though paper presenters would be given the opportunity to replace their papers with an abstract. Note: only four conferees subsequently chose to remove their papers.

Finally, after a brief discussion, it was agreed that exploring the possibility of publishing a conference proceedings or journal was premature.

CONFERENCE PAPER ARCHIVE WELCOMED

Participants at the 2004 conference agreed with the Business Meeting attendees that the paper pre-circulation and archiving requirement instituted as an experiment at the Colorado College conference was a good idea. Conferees delivering papers were required to submit their papers to an on-line archive two weeks before the conference. These papers were then available to Association members who logged into the APT website. As a result, some conferees downloaded and read papers before the sessions, which they said was very helpful. Others have reported that they visited or intended to visit the archive after the conference to download especially interesting papers. A number of conferees thought that having a pre-circulation and archiving requirement pushed conference participants to do their best work.

An additional benefit of the requirement is that members who were not able to attend the conference can visit the archive and read papers given. To visit the archive, go to the [APT Gateway](#) website and log onto "Member Resources." If you read good papers, consider e-mailing comments to the authors. In most cases, you should find their address either on the paper cover sheet itself or in the APT Membership Directory, which you will find in the Member Resources area of the Association's website.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY JOURNAL OFFER RENEWED

While visiting the Member Resources portion of the website, note that *Contemporary Political Theory* has renewed its offer to APT members of a \$60 discount subscription for the current volume (2005) of the journal. Log into "Member Resources" to take advantage of this offer. Print the form and return it to the address indicated.

Note that this offer applies to renewals as well as to new subscriptions. If you wish to renew a current subscription, print the form and return it to the address indicated, noting on the form that you are renewing a subscription. Be sure to attach your renewal notice to the form so that the press can connect your discount to your existing subscription number.

MEMBERSHIP GROWING RAPIDLY

Last October, the *APT Newsletter* reported that membership in the Association had reached 354, with four additional undergraduate associates. Only five months later, membership is now well over 425 confirmed members, with several other applications pending! Log onto the website and open the Membership Directory to see who has joined the Association.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE AT WORK ON THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEETING

The Program Committee for the APT Conference 2005 at Washington University in St. Louis is hard at work reviewing applications. The Committee received approximately 180 applications for what is expected to be about 90-100 slots. Scholars at all ranks submitted applications. This year's applicant pool, broken down by rank, consists of approximately 25% advanced faculty, 41% junior faculty of various sorts (assistants, visitors, instructors, adjuncts), and about 33% graduate students.

The Committee is aiming to complete a preliminary program within the next several weeks. If you submitted an application, watch for news in your in-box.

If you hold a faculty rank and are interested in serving as a chair or discussant, please feel free to volunteer! Write to the Program Committee in care of apt@coloradocollege.edu.

INTERIM ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

APT has grown from the musing of a few fellow theorists in 2000 to a substantial professional association in less than five years. Along the way, Co-Founders Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnerney have been assisted by a number of committee volunteers, whom the *APT Newsletter* would now like to acknowledge.

The Association began when a few interested political theorists joined together to form the **Founding Committee**:

Robert W.T. Martin, Government, Hamilton College
 Amy McCready, Political Science, Bucknell University
 John N. Medearis, Political Science, University of California, Riverside
 Daniel R. Sabia, Political Science, University of South Carolina
 Gregory W. Streich, Political Science, Central Missouri State University
 Ed Wingenbach, Government, University of Redlands

Their work was then built upon by the first two **Program Committees**:

2003 Calvin College

Simona Goi, Political Science, Calvin College
 Emily Hauptmann (*Co-Chair*), Political Science, Western Michigan University
 John R. (Randy) LeBlanc, Social Sciences, University of Texas at Tyler
 Elizabeth Markovits, Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Dennis McEnerney, Political Science, State University of New York, Oneonta
 Andrew Murphy, Christ College, Valparaiso University
 Dan Sabia, Political Science, University of South Carolina
 Ed Wingenbach, Government, University of Redlands
 Elizabeth Wingrove, Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2004 Colorado College

Simona Goi, Political Science, Calvin College
 Edward J. Harpham, Political Science, University of Texas at Dallas
 Michael Rabinder James, Government, Bucknell University
 Elizabeth Markovits, Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 Amy R. McCready, Political Science, Bucknell University
 Dennis McEnerney (*Co-Chair*), Philosophy, The Colorado College
 Daniel R. Sabia, Political Science, University of South Carolina
 Gregory W. Streich, Political Science, Central Missouri State University
 Ed Wingenbach (*Co-Chair*), Government, University of Redlands

The conferences have been made possible by the generous volunteer work of our hosts:

2003 -- Simona Goi, Calvin College
 2004 -- Timothy Fuller, Colorado College
 2005 -- Andrew Rehfeld, Washington University in St. Louis

More recently, the interim **Governance Committee** undertook the task of researching, drafting, and presenting a constitution for the Association:

Johnny Goldfinger, Political Science, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
 Emily Hauptmann, Political Science, Western Michigan University
 John R. LeBlanc, Social Science, University of Texas at Tyler
 Robert W.T. Martin, Government, Hamilton College
 Dennis McEnerney, Philosophy, The Colorado College
 Andrew R. Murphy (*chair*), Christ College, Valparaiso University<
 Darren R. Walhof, Political Science, Grand Valley State University

In addition, the *Newsletter* would like to acknowledge the vital technical support given to the Association by the host of our website, the State University of New York College at Oneonta, and

most particularly by Diana Moseman of the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center of SUNY Oneonta, whose continuing assistance has been essential to the functioning of the APT Gateway website.

Finally, the Governance Committee would like to announce that, in recognition of their work, it has recently decided to appoint retroactively Co-Founders Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnerney as Interim Executive Co-Directors, 2000-2005.

ADDENDUM

[CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL THEORY](#)

-Dennis McEnerney & Emily Hauptmann, Co-Founders
Interim Co-Directors, 2000-2005

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