

APT NEWSLETTER

No. 10, December 2005

INDIANA UNIVERSITY TO HOST 2006 CONFERENCE

The Association is pleased to announce that Jeffrey Isaac has agreed to host the APT Conference 2006 at Indiana University Bloomington, 3-5 November 2006. The conference will be held at the [Indiana Memorial Union](#), a complex that includes the [Biddle Hotel](#), in which we have reserved 110 rooms, and the Conference Center, where the sessions will meet. An additional 20 rooms have been reserved at a nearby bed and breakfast. Meals, coffee breaks, and the book exhibit likely will be held in the IMU complex, as well, with receptions at the nearby University Club.

The Program Committee has just issued the Call for Papers, as the following article explains. Additional details about the conference will be available in future editions of the *APT Newsletter*.

CALL FOR PAPERS – APT CONFERENCE 2006

The Program Committee for the 2006 conference at Indiana University has issued its call for papers. Papers on *all* topics in or approaches to political philosophy and political theory are invited. Partial or complete panel proposals will also be considered. However, because of the relatively small size of the conference and the goal of encouraging significant interaction among participants from all levels of the profession, the Program Committee is likely to accept very few whole panel proposals, and it reserves the right to alter panels in order to construct a strong overall program.

Nevertheless, for this year's conference, the Committee is especially interested to receive proposals—including those for individual papers, panels, roundtables, or other non-traditional formats—on pedagogical issues facing political theorists, as well as on publishing within the field. More generally, roundtables and non-traditional panel proposals will be welcomed.

To view the call for papers, click [here](#) and visit the APT website. For a printer-friendly pdf copy of the call for papers, click [here](#) (requires Adobe Acrobat or similar program to open). The call for papers was sent to all members in e-mail messages last week, and it will be sent again in mid-January. ***The deadline for submitting a proposal for the 2006 conference is 15 February 2006.***

NEW PROGRAM COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Executive Co-Directors, Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnnerney, working with the Governance Committee, issued a call for Program Committee volunteers at the 2005 conference in St. Louis. Several members volunteered to serve for the 2006 conference at Indiana University Bloomington. Following the conference, the Executive Co-Directors appointed Rob Martin and Liz Markovits as Program Committee Co-Chairs, along with eight other regular committee members. The whole committee is as follows:

Co-Chairs:

Elizabeth Markovits, Assistant Professor, Political Science, St. Louis University
Robert Martin, Associate Professor, Government, Hamilton College

Members:

Ann C. Davies, Associate Professor, Political Science, Beloit College
Elisabeth Ellis, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Texas A&M University
Beverly Ann Gaddy, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Pittsburgh at Greenburg
Howard L. Lubert, Associate Professor, Political Science, James Madison University
Margot Morgan, Graduate Student, Political Science, Rutgers University
Christopher C. Robinson, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Clarkson University
Alisa J. Rosenthal, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College
Carisa R. Showden, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
William Paul Simmons, Assistant Professor, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arizona State University West
Gregory W. Streich, Associate Professor, Political Science, Central Missouri State University

Ex Officio Member:

Dennis McEnnerney, Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, The Colorado College

The Association would like to thank the outgoing Committee members for their work in putting together the Washington University program. Ed Wingenbach of the University of Redlands, who served as chair of the Program Committee in 2004 and 2005, deserves special thanks for his work in assembling two great programs.

CHAIRS AND DISCUSSANTS COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

Based in large part on Ed Wingenbach's recommendation, the Executive Co-Directors and the new Program Committee Co-Chairs have decided to create a second committee, to supplement the work of the Program Committee. This new Chairs and Discussants Committee will gather together several more senior and well-connected members of the Association and give them the charge of recruiting chairs and discussants for the 2006 conference.

Each year, the Program Committee receives far too few volunteers to serve as panel chairs and discussants. Consequently, the co-chairs have to scramble over the summer and fall to recruit effective chairs and discussants, while at the

same time managing all the correspondence with prospective panelists whose works have been accepted or rejected; working with the Executive Co-Directors and the host institution on local arrangements; and so forth.

In reviewing the work involved, the Co-Directors and Co-Chairs decided to experiment this year with a separate panel of more senior members who would begin recruiting potential chairs and discussants in the late spring, as the program begins to take shape. Since the work involved is considerably less than that of reading proposals and assembling panels, it may be easier for busy senior members to work on this committee.

Emily Hauptmann has agreed to chair this new committee. Rob Martin and Liz Markovits, Co-Chairs of the Program Committee, will work closely with her later this spring to assemble the committee. If you are interested in working with this committee, contact Emily Hauptmann at emily.hauptmann@wmich.edu.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE SETS NEW STANDARD

The APT Conference 2005 at Washington University in St. Louis surpassed the first two conferences in significant respects. As was the case at Colorado College and Calvin College, the Washington University conference both presented a wide a variety of works in political thought and brought together over 120 scholars of political theory, political philosophy, and related fields. In addition, the conference continued the tradition of richly intellectual, informal socializing over long coffee breaks and meals.

The Washington University conference, however, added several new features to the conference. The excellent facilities at Washington University allowed conferees to meet easily in between sessions for coffee and snacks in a central area where members could also browse through the book exhibit mounted by Scholar's Choice. An unfortunate last-minute panel cancellation turned into an opportunity when Emily Hauptmann chaired an open discussion on the future of the Association, giving members a more direct opportunity to suggest initiatives for APT to undertake. (See Emily's summary of that discussion later in the *Newsletter*.) One result of that discussion was Ed Wingenbach's formation of several discussion tables at the Saturday luncheon, focusing on topics such as the first year of teaching and connecting advertisements and candidates in political theory effectively. The Washington University conference also featured APT's first plenary panels, one lead by Elizabeth Beaumont on civic engagement and another focusing on Amitai Etzioni's new work on global community.

The excellent support offered by Andrew Rehfeld and Washington University, and especially by Andrew's helpful crew of political theory students, made the conference an enjoyable and successful event.

THE FUTURE OF APT – OPEN CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

As noted above, Co-Director Emily Hauptmann chaired an open discussion among eight Association members during a time made available by a last-minute cancellation of a panel. The discussion centered on planning how the Association might support the professional development of its members. Discussion fell into three main areas:

1. Encouraging professional connections among members to assist those involved in promotion, tenure, and external review processes; and promoting horizontal networking, especially for those members who find themselves alone in departments with no colleagues interested in political theory or political philosophy.
2. Developing website resources, including posting syllabi or pedagogical materials on line; adding a section on grants or other resources; opening a forum for on-line chat about political theory news; and adding a section on placement issues.
3. Including workshops on publishing and pedagogical issues at future conferences.

Of course, the Association will not be able to begin working on all of these initiatives at once. The Governance Committee will therefore decide over the next few months how to prioritize these initiatives and concentrate on one or two of them. Please send your ideas about which of these initiatives you believe the Association ought to begin first to Emily Hauptmann at emily.hauptmann@wmich.edu.

CONFEREES' ENTHUSIASTIC EVALUATIONS

Once again, the Association asked conferees for feedback concerning their experience at the conference. The evaluations received—in written form at the conference and via an on-line survey afterwards—confirm that the conference was successful. “Excellent,” “a fantastic conference for political theory,” “far more intellectual engagement at this conference than at others,” “a great conference,” “well organized, good papers, conscientious participants,” “the conference and organization I feel most affinity for and commitment [to]” are how some participants characterized the 2005 conference.

Overall, participants seem to highlight especially the audience participation in the discussion periods, made possible by the two-hour session format of the conference, and the many possibilities for informal discussion between sessions and over meals. In addition, the attendees who commented unanimously

endorsed continuing to require the pre-circulation and archiving of conference papers.

A number of criticisms went along with accolades, however, including requests for panels in areas of political philosophy that some thought were not well represented, such as feminist theory, postmodern theory, empirical democratic theory, global and environment political theory, non-liberal theory, legal theory, and rational choice theory. Some also pointed to problems with the hotel shuttle and the lack of proximity between the hotel and the meeting rooms.

All comments have been sent on to the Program Committee Co-Chairs for consideration. To see a transcription of the survey results, visit the [Washington University participants' comment page](#) on the APT website. Thank you to all who took the time to respond to the survey. And if you would like to see more theory of one type or another, encourage your colleagues working in those areas to submit a paper or panel proposal!

PLANNING FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

One sign of the conference's success is the appearance of eager hosts. When the conference opened in St. Louis, the Association had only one definite future host—Notre Dame in a couple of years—and a few possible hosts. During the conference, Jeffrey Isaac happily volunteered to host the 2006 conference at Indiana University. In addition, serious discussions began with the several representatives of Swarthmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr at the conference about the possibility of jointly hosting a meeting in 2007 on the Main Line. These discussions are continuing. Then Cary Nederman and Elizabeth Ellis volunteered to host a conference at Texas A&M. That meeting has been tentatively scheduled for 2008. Notre Dame, in order to make room for Texas A&M, has agreed to reschedule hosting the conference from 2008 to 2009. Finally, serious interest in hosting a conference in future years has been expressed by Wake Forest, the University of the Redlands, and the Florida State University system.

By the next issue of the *Newsletter*, the Executive Co-Directors hope to be able to announce conference dates for at least the next four years.

OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

The Association is happy to announce the results of its first election of officers to regular terms. The election took place at the Annual Business Meeting, held on the Sunday morning following the conference at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. All members attending the meeting were eligible to vote.

The outgoing interim Governance Committee had nominated candidates for Executive Co-Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and Governance Committee openings. As Andrew Murphy, chair of the interim Governance Committee announced in issue number 9 of the *APT Newsletter*, a competitive slate of candidates was recruited for each opening. In addition, nominations from the floor were possible, though none were made at the meeting.

The following members were elected to office:

Executive Co-Director (3-year term):

Dennis McEnerney, Philosophy, The Colorado College

Executive Co-Director (2-year term):

Emily Hauptmann, Political Science, Western Michigan University

Secretary-Treasurer (3-year term):

Johnny Goldfinger, Political Science, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Governance Committee (3-year term):

Simona Goi, Political Science, Calvin College

Governance Committee (2-year term):

Ed Wingenbach, Political Science, University of Redlands

Governance Committee (1-year term):

Darren Walhof, Political Science, Grand Valley State University

It should be noted that a three-way tie for the last two Governance Committee slots emerged among Ed Wingenbach, Darren Walhof, and Dan Sabia. Dan then chose to withdraw, leading to the election of Ed and Darren. In this first election, in order to prepare for an election cycle that allows both for some continuity in office and some yearly turnover, several openings were for truncated one- or two-year terms. All the officer positions in the future will have staggered, three-year terms of office.

Congratulations to all elected, and thanks to all who stood for office.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FORMED

Following the conference, another election was held in order to fill out the membership of the Governance Committee. The Constitution of APT requires that each year the outgoing Program Committee elect one of its members to the Governance Committee for a one-year term. This provision is designed to ensure that the committees work together, while also providing an avenue for a variety of members to circulate into leadership positions. The 2005 Program Committee discussed the matter via e-mail and elected Breena Holland of Lehigh University to the one-year term on the Governance Committee as Program Committee representative.

Now that Breena has joined the Governance Committee, the full Committee soon will elect a chair the Committee for 2005-2006.

OTHER BUSINESS MEETING DISCUSSION

After the election, the Business Meeting turned to other agenda items. Executive Co-Director Dennis McEnnerney explained that the Association is slowly moving toward incorporation as a not-for-profit educational foundation in Colorado, and he reported that he has begun negotiations to move the APT website from its current host institution, SUNY Oneonta, to Colorado College.

Other matters addressed included a long discussion about the 2005 conference and ways to improve future conferences, as well as the question of possible undergraduate membership. Details about all these discussions may be found in the official Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, which were prepared by our new Secretary-Treasurer, Johnny Goldfinger. To view the minutes, click [here](#) or visit the APT Gateway website and click on "APT Conferences."

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE PAPER ARCHIVE OPEN – WRITE TO AN AUTHOR

Almost all the papers from the 2005 conference are now available to members in the password-protected conference archive on the APT Gateway website. Even if you could not attend the conference, you can read the papers. Why not download and read your colleagues' latest works? As a courtesy to the conferees, the Association encourages you to send written comments, questions, praise, or criticism to the authors of any works you may read. If the author's e-mail address is not listed on the cover page of the paper, check the Membership Directory. You may find authors' addresses there.

Remember that all papers in the archive are the intellectual property of their authors, unless the authors specifically waive their rights on the cover page. Use of the papers or the ideas they contain always must be cited.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR

Now that the Association has elected officers, the Executive Co-Directors expect to begin work on a number of initiatives, including:

1. Incorporation of the Association
2. Development of the Chairs and Discussants Committee
3. Exploration of ways to promote profession growth, including the formation

- of directories of members with experience in departmental and personnel reviews, and the development of Association-wide mentoring for members early in their careers
4. Outreach to philosophers, feminist theorists, and comparative or global theorists, among others
 5. Planning for moving and upgrading the APT Gateway Website

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Interest in the Association continues to build! The confirmed membership of the Association is now 462, with another 40 or so applications pending. Log onto Member Resources and visit the Membership Directory to see who has joined recently.

-Dennis McEnerney & Emily Hauptmann
Executive Co-Directors