



APSPR editor Samuel Patterson (third from left) discusses scholarship in political science with Summer Institute Fellows (left to right) Robert Long, Audra Jackson, Kenneth Winters, Venita Martin, Obed Wheaton, and Yolanda Smith. LSU graduate student Sharon Shierling (far right) looks on.

## **Ford Funds Summer Institute for Black Students: A Report**

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Since the 1960s considerable attention has been given to the paucity of blacks in the profession of political science. While the number of blacks in the profession increased in the early 1970s, more recently, there has been a precipitous decline in the number of blacks entering graduate school and receiving a Ph.D. in political science. To increase the number of blacks in the profession, some graduate degree granting departments undertook various initiatives, such as: setting aside financial aid for black stu-

dents; introducing flexible admission standards; and participating in the American Political Science Association Black Fellows Program.

But all the evidence continued to indicate a significant retrogression in the recruitment and retention of black political science graduate students over the past decade. Clearly, the ad hoc, uncoordinated efforts of the past to increase the proportion of blacks in the profession had failed to achieve their goal. Under the leadership of APSA Presidents Philip Converse and Richard F. Fenno, Jr., the APSA and its Committee on the Status of Blacks concluded that a coordinated, discipline-wide program to attract potential graduate students and prepare them for the graduate experience was required. Thus, the idea for a Summer Institute for Blacks in Political Science was born.

The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs of Southern University and the Department of Political Science of

Louisiana State University, submitted a joint proposal for a six-week summer institute for college juniors about to enter their senior year, which would expose them to the best of the profession and encourage them to pursue academic careers in political science. This institute was to be funded on a multi-year basis to ensure a continuing flow of graduate students into political science over the next decade. To begin, LSU and Southern committed themselves to a minimum of two summers, and the Ford Foundation agreed to provide funds to support the institute.

The purposes of the six-week institute were: (1) to socialize students in the profession; (2) to enhance the academic skills of students; (3) to prepare the participants to take the Graduate Record Examinations; (3) to encourage the students to pursue a graduate degree in political science; (4) to inform students of the career opportunities for political scientists; and (5) to provide a medium for departments of political science to recruit black students into their graduate programs.

Recruitment of participants for the Institute began in April at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. President Michael Preston made a formal announcement informing the membership of the institute's rationale, objectives and general procedures. Brochures and applications were distributed to the conference membership and subsequently mailed to all four-year colleges and universities by the national office of the APSA. Twenty-five finalists were selected from among 65 applicants by a national selection committee chaired by APSA Executive Director Thomas E. Mann, who also served as project director. The participants were selected on the basis of academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, and a short essay indicating their reasons for wanting to attend the institute.

To achieve the objective of encouraging the students to pursue a graduate degree in political science, the Summer Institute invited successful political scientists—black and white, male and female—to make presentations to the students. Interaction with some of the top political

scientists in the profession undoubtedly had a positive impact on the students. In addition, top black graduate students were brought in to meet with the group and discuss their experiences. Additionally, the graduate recruiters of 15 major Ph.D.-granting institutions came to Baton Rouge to meet with the participants and recruit them for their programs.

Two courses were taught by LSU and Southern faculty members Ronald Weber and Njeri Jackson, with guest lectures by additional members of both departments. The courses were:

### **1. Contemporary Political Issues: Scope and Methods in Political Science**

This course focused on fundamental concepts and techniques of political analysis, including research design and empirical methodology. It provided the APSA Summer Institute students with an introduction to the political science profession, the various approaches used by political scientists to study political phenomena, and the techniques employed in the scientific study of politics. The students learned how political scientists pose research questions, how they design research projects to answer these questions, and how they use empirical evidence and quantitative techniques to broaden our understanding of political phenomena.

Each student was required to write several short reaction papers during the course of the summer term. These papers were assigned on a regular basis and were due at the next class session. Throughout the summer term, the students were assigned a series of exercises and small projects appropriate to the subject under consideration. These exercises and projects were handed in at each class period for evaluation and were returned at the next class meeting.

### **2. Problems in American Politics**

Five subject areas that typify the problems of contemporary political inquiry were investigated: the problem of conceptualization; foreign policy and international relations; racism and sexism; ecological and environmental issues; and

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military policy. The students were required to identify an issue or problem related to one of the topic areas and to submit a weekly summation of any events or new information appearing in the media related to the topic. Each summary was evaluated on the basis of the clarity of the essay, familiarity with the issue, and cogency of the analysis. Based on the summaries, new questions were posed and additional readings suggested to help students prepare for a required group presentation.

The students were also required to take a readings examination based on required texts. Additionally, each student submitted a critical review of one of four assigned books. The examinations, weekly summaries, group presentations, critical reviews, and class participation comprised the basis of the students' grades. Students were given an evaluation form that summarized points learned and offered suggestions regarding their academic strengths and weaknesses.

The purpose of this rigorous approach was to give the students an indication of the work load and expectations of graduate level education and to provide them with a sense of the relevance and excitement of political science as a career.

## Special Events

Special events included visits by nationally prominent political scientists, representatives of the Graduate Record Examination board, graduate recruiters from major universities in the nation, a visit to New Orleans to meet with prominent political and judicial figures; a welcoming reception; and a closing banquet.

June 22: Welcoming Reception. Chancellor Wesley McClure, Southern University, and Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs Huel Perkins, Louisiana State University.

June 27: Full day session with Professor Samuel Patterson of Ohio State University, Editor, *American Political Science Review*.

July 11: Full day session with Professor Richard F. Fenno, Jr., Rochester University.

July 16: Trip to New Orleans to meet with: U.S. District Judge Robert Collins; Senator William Jefferson, Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus; Dean Bell, Director of New Orleans Regional Transit Authority; and Al Stokes, political scientist and Executive Assistant to the Mayor of New Orleans.

July 17: Full day session with representatives of the Graduate Record Examination board, Carol Slaughter and Eric Perkins, devoted to preparation for the GREs.

July 18: Full day session with Professor Adolph Reed, Jr. of Yale University and Lisa Aubry, graduate student, Ohio State University.

July 25: Morning session with Professors Michael Preston, University of Illinois, and Mack Jones, Howard University. Afternoon session with Paul Steckler, Tulane University.

July 29: Morning session with Professor Susan Hosell, University of New Orleans on polling.

July 29: Afternoon session with graduate recruiters from University of West Virginia, University of Michigan, Harvard University, University of Virginia, Arizona State University, University of Rochester, and Tulane University.

July 30: Full day session with graduate recruiters from University of Alabama, State University of New York-Albany, Florida State University, Washington University-St. Louis, Duke University, Rutgers University, University of Georgia, University of Minnesota, and Ohio State University.

August 1: Morning session with Professor Georgia Persons, Howard University. Afternoon session with Thomas Mann, Executive Director, American Political Science Association.

August 1: Closing Banquet. Address by Aaron Wildavsky, President, American Political Science Association. Presentation of certificates from APSA by Thomas Mann. Statements by: Carolyn Hargrave, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, Louisiana State University, and Dolores

Spikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Southern University.

### Evaluation

To determine the extent to which the institute had reached its goals, two questionnaires were submitted to the students. The first during the initial week and the second during the sixth and final week of the program.

Overwhelmingly, the students gave the institute very high marks. The institute fellows were highly complimentary of both the courses. For example, when asked, "How did the courses in the Institute compare in usefulness with other courses you have taken?" 25% responded that the courses were much more useful, 40% said more useful, and 35% rated the courses about the same. It is particularly noteworthy that none of the students found the courses less useful or much less useful than previous courses they had taken.

Among the students, graduate school recruiters also fared well. Ninety percent indicated that the sessions with the graduate school recruiters were very beneficial or beneficial, and only 10% rated them somewhat beneficial or not beneficial. With respect to their overall experience with the institute, 90% of the students rated their experience as excellent or good, only 10% concluded that their experience was fair or poor.

The institute also had an impact upon the students' views of political science as a discipline and their views of political science as a career choice. In response to the query: "Has your attitude toward political science changed?" 70% indicated that they now had a more positive view. Similarly, when asked, "How has the Institute changed your views of political science as a discipline?" the vast majority of the responses indicated that the change was positive. The following responses represent a sampling.

Before [the Institute], I didn't see political science as a true discipline, but only as a means to pre-law studies. Now, I see it as a discipline that is truly one, and one that demands respect.

The [Summer Institute] has opened up

my eyes to the wide range of work available to a political scientist.

Since I'm not a political science major, of course, I've learned a lot about the discipline. It is a demanding one and can be a fulfilling one.

[The Institute] had a profound effect upon me. I now realize how important it is for black students to enter the field of political science.

[The Institute] has given me a desire to become a political scientist concerned with the advancement of blacks in achieving more out of the American political system.

The impact of the institute ultimately will be determined by the degree to which the students were persuaded to pursue graduate education in political science. On this issue, the results of the questionnaire might be instructive. On both questionnaires, the students were asked, "As of today, what is your career choice?" The choices were law school, graduate studies in political science, undecided, and governmental service. On the first questionnaire, 12% of the students anticipated graduate studies in political science. Six weeks later, at the time of the second questionnaire 45% indicated that they intended to pursue graduate studies in political science.

An important element of the institute was the visit by graduate recruiters from 15 graduate institutions. The concerns of the participants that emerged during their discussions with the recruiters were the quality of the graduate programs; the existence of financial aid; the subfields of specialization available in the respective departments; the departments' records of graduate study by minority students; the quality of campus life for minority students; and the presence of minority faculty.

The work of the institute will not stop with the summer session. There is an intensive follow-up program to ensure that the students take the GREs and apply to graduate programs in the fall. The students will also be tracked beyond graduation to determine the long-term career patterns of the participants.

The Summer Institute will be held again



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next year and applications will be distributed by the APSA this winter. Please address any inquiries about participation to Thomas Mann, Executive Director of the APSA. □

### Political Scientists, Reporters Named Congressional Fellows

The APSA has announced the winners in the national competition for the 1986-87 Congressional Fellowship Program. Fellows come to Washington in November for a one-month orientation session followed by nine months of full-time work as legislative aides in congressional offices.

The new political science and journalism Congressional Fellows are:

#### Political Science Fellows

Jeanne C. Blamey, formerly Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Wheaton College

David B. Magleby, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

James M. McCormick, Professor, Department of Political Science, Iowa State University

Candice J. Nelson, formerly Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University

#### Journalism Fellows

James Alexander, Jr., Metro Desk Reporter, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Paul J. Furiga, City Hall Reporter, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Andrew Pollack, City Hall Reporter, *The Democrat* and *Chronicle* Newspapers

Jean Powell, News Reporter, KEZI-TV, Eugene, Oregon (Ms. Powell is the recipient of the First Annual Joan Shorenstein Barone Congressional Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism.)

Sponsored by the Association since 1953, the purpose of the Congressional Fellowship Program is to give outstanding political scientists, journalists, medical faculty and federal agency executives

an opportunity to acquire a rich understanding of the national legislative process.

The 1,163 alumni of the program include university presidents, deans and professors; newspaper and magazine publishers, editors and reporters; high ranking executives in the federal bureaucracy; and congressmen and congressional staff aides.

Other participants in the 1986-87 program will include:

#### Carl Albert Fellow

Arturo Vega, Teaching/Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma

#### French Fellow

Camille Louise Mangin, Administrator of Services, National Assembly of France

#### West German Fellows

Claus Gramckow, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Hamburg

Stephan-Goetz Richter, Visiting Research Scholar, School of Public and International Affairs, George Washington University

#### American Anthropological Association Fellow

Alaka Wali, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park

#### Asia Foundation Fellows

Pisan Manawapat, Second Secretary, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Jai Chang Park, Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Administration, Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, Korea

Socorro L. Reyes, Chairman, Department of Political Science and Director of the American Studies Program, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

#### Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows

K. Danner Clouser, Ph.D., Professor of Humanities (Philosophy), College of Med-