

ALIAS Notes

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ACTIVE LEARNING IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

issue 4, may 2005

Recent Accomplishments, New Opportunities, and a Challenge: A Message from the President of ALIAS

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The College of Wooster

Members of ALIAS, and those interested in joining our section. . . . Welcome! I am so proud to represent a section that continues to grow, both in membership and in relevance. ALIAS members continue to do some of the most interesting, innovative, and important work in the study and practice of teaching and learning. I want to begin my first message to our section with praise for some of our recent accomplishments, but conclude with a challenge to us all—one that I firmly believe will determine the relevance of our efforts for years to come.

Our Recent Accomplishments

First, I want to thank our ALIAS participants from this past year's ISA Meeting in Honolulu for a wonderful array of panels, and some very stimulating discussions. As Vice-President/Program Chair of ALIAS for the 2005 Annual Convention, I can attest to the excellent and increasingly diverse collection of paper, panel, and roundtable proposals submitted to the section. The diversity of panel topics at the 2005 ISA Convention reflects the growing range of interests of our members. Panels focused on active learning approaches that employ case studies, simulations, games and role-play, service and service learning, study abroad, film, as well as interdisciplinary active learning approaches and overarching curricular issues in international studies.

In 2005 we were allotted twice as many panels as in the previous year. This is due in large part to the increasing number of submissions received by ISA that listed ALIAS as their preferred sponsor. Moreover, through co-sponsorships with the International Education, Environmental Studies, Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies, and Peace Studies sections, we increased the number of ALIAS-related panels from ten to fourteen.

New Opportunities, New Conferences, New Members

We expect to receive an equally interesting and diverse set of proposals for the 2006 ISA Meeting in San Diego, California (USA). Please note the call for papers by Carolyn Shaw, our newly elected Vice President and Program Chair, in this newsletter. Even if you do not have an ALIAS-related paper, panel, or roundtable idea for this year, I encourage you to consider serving as a Panel Chair or Discussant, and to let Carolyn Shaw know about your willingness to do so. This is a great way to continue your Active engagement with the section.

I also want to encourage our members to publish their best work on active learning. There now exists a wider variety of venues for our work than ever before. Most of you are already familiar with the ISA journal *International Studies Perspectives*, home to some of our best and most interesting work of late. Please also note John Ishiyama's column in this newsletter, and in particular his discussion of the new APSA journal, *The Journal of Political Science Education* (JPSE). Conversations with the editors of JPSE have made clear their interest in the efforts of members of our section, and their desire to publish work on active learning approaches in international studies. Of course, other venues exist for our work, including more familiar journals such as *PS: Political Science and Politics* and *Simulations and Games*, and journals that have published articles on active learn-

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ing in international studies, but which you may not have thought of as options for your work, such as *Teaching Sociology*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *The Michigan Journal of Service Learning*, and *The Journal of Economic Education* (among others).

In addition, I want to invite all ISA members with an interest in active teaching and learning to join the ALIAS section. ALIAS membership is only \$5 per year (\$3 for students). It would be especially heartening to see more graduate students involved in the section. If you would like more information about the section, feel free to e-mail me at mkrain@wooster.edu. I also encourage all ALIAS members to attend our business meeting at the ISA Annual Convention. This meeting is traditionally held over breakfast on Friday and serves as a good way to learn more about active learning and to connect with other ALIAS members engaged in this area.

My Challenge to our Membership

Finally, I want to end this message with a challenge to the members of ALIAS. Our work as dedicated international studies educators and scholars is just beginning. In reading many of our conference papers, and even our publications of late, I have noticed a disturbing trend. Too few of us take the time or make the effort to carefully situate our work in the rich literatures to which our respective pedagogical projects potentially speak. Even fewer of us make even rudimentary attempts (qualitative or quantitative) at assessing the effectiveness of our endeavors. We are often self-congratulatory, but rarely think critically of our endeavors. This has not

gone unnoticed by skeptics in the wider field of international studies. For instance, in a provocative piece published in *International Studies Perspectives* in 2003, J. Martin Rochester notes this unfortunate trend, and calls for a more scientific, systematic approach to evaluating the comparative benefits of active learning techniques:

More effort should be made to do research on teaching, that is, to test whether active and cooperative learning strategies as well as other new approaches necessarily are superior to traditional instructional strategies. Perhaps the claims made for the new progressive pedagogical paradigm are valid, but we should insist on no less rigorous empirical evidence for judging competing hypotheses in education than we do in our scholarly disciplines (Rochester, 2003:2).

For our work to truly have an impact, we need to continue to engage each other, but also to engage others in the field of international studies and beyond. If we use the tools we employ as scholars, we can continue our good efforts at producing innovative active learning techniques that will enhance the quality of education of our students, and that have the potential to convince a generation of up-and-coming educators of the utility and importance of active and experiential learning. If we continue to ignore such valid criticisms, then we will do little to convince the skeptics, we will be unable to change the prevailing pedagogical culture, and will be reduced to “preaching to the converted.”

Rather than choosing the path that leads to irrelevance and marginalization, I challenge all members of ALIAS to choose one that engages active learning skeptics, questions our own assumptions, employs our skills as social scientists, and demonstrates rather than describes the benefits and challenges of an active learning approach to international studies!

Message from the ALIAS Vice-President/ Program Chair for the ISA Convention in San Diego (March 22–25, 2006)

It is my pleasure to take up the job of Program Chair for the ALIAS section of ISA for San Diego 2006. After a very successful series of 10 panels in Honolulu this year, it would be great to see even more ALIAS offerings next year. As you plan your research agenda for the next year, consider sharing some of your active learning techniques with your

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The Active Learning in International Affairs Section of the International Studies Association was founded in 1995. Section Officers for 2005–2006 are:

President

Matthew Krain, *The College of Wooster*

Vice-President/Program Chair

Carolyn Shaw, *Wichita State University*

Secretary

Andrea Grove, *Westminster College*

Executive Committee

Ex-Officio Members

John Boehr, *University of Washington*

Mark Boyer, *University of Connecticut*

Charles Dolgas, *Georgetown University*

Vicki Golich, *California State University, San Marcos*

Newsletter Editor

Andrea Grove

colleagues at ISA 2006. I encourage you to submit individual paper proposals or full panel proposals. I look forward to receiving your submissions by June 1, especially those focused on the theme of The North-South Divide and International Studies. In addition, please contact me if you are interested in serving as a chair or discussant for an ALIAS panel.

Carolyn Shaw
Wichita State University
ALIAS Vice President / Program Chair

Minutes for ALIAS Business Meeting, ISA 04, 4 March 2005, 7:30-8:30 am

The meeting began at 7:30 with distribution of the agenda by section President Kent Kille. The agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome (Kille)
2. State of the Section and Financial Report (Kille)
3. Report from Governing Council Meeting (Kille)
4. 2005 Program Report (Matthew Krain)
5. Newsletter Report (Andrea Grove)
6. Virginia Bouvier, U.S. Institute of Peace, Education and Training division
7. Elections for 2005–2006
8. John Ishiyama, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Political Science Education* and Chairperson of the Undergraduate Education Section of the APSA
9. New Business

2–3. Kille reported that membership in ALIAS is strong, as is the overall ISA membership (3500 members, 1000 which are non-U.S.). The 2005 conference had the largest number of panels and applicants ever, but also the largest number of late withdrawals. Our section was allotted ten panels (see below). There was some discussion about the size of ISA (is ISA too big?).

Governing Council of ISA is discussing a book prize to award the best book in the field for a year and ten years. ISA announced two new journals, *Foreign Policy Analysis* and the *International Journal of Political Sociology*. There are discussions about an ISA-sponsored Encyclopedia of International Studies.

4. ALIAS was allotted ten panels. With creative co-sponsorships, we managed to have a total of fourteen panels. The panels nicely demonstrated an array of topics, showing a diversity of teaching and research interests. Section conference chairs were asked to aim for five papers per panel, which worked out well

because many panels across the conference had withdrawals.

5. Andrea Grove (section secretary) thanked Charlie Dolgas at the GUIDS Pew Case Study Program for supporting, publishing, and mailing the ALIAS newsletter again last spring and reported that (pending Dolgas's approval) another newsletter will go out this year. The goal is to send an email to ALIAS members the week after ISA to solicit submissions and get the newsletter out in advance of the ISA 05 submission deadline (June 1).

6. Virginia Bouvier from the U.S. Institute of Peace spoke to the group about the many opportunities for professors to find active learning tools at USIP. She asked that we consider the free, downloadable international conflict/conflict resolution simulations (and please offer feedback for improvement, etc.). Also, we may find the scholars-in-residence at USIP useful as guest speakers. She would like to make USIP a clearinghouse for experiences in teaching and learning about conflict resolution.

7. Elections: The one position up for election was the Vice President/Program Chair. Carolyn Shaw was nominated; no other nominations were put forth. Shaw was elected unanimously. Matthew Krain is now the President, and Grove will serve as Secretary for one more year.

8. John Ishiyama spoke about the many opportunities for collaboration between the APSA Undergraduate Education section and ALIAS, and also encouraged ALIAS members to consider submitting articles to the new *Journal of Political Science Education*. Please see his entry in the 2005 newsletter for details.

9. New business: A motion from the floor asked that we assign a new webmaster and get the ALIAS website updated. Leanne Powner offered to help build a new interactive website through the University of Michigan's C-Tools system (please see the article in the 2005 newsletter).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20.

Respectfully submitted
Andrea Grove

CALL FOR ALIAS PAPER PROPOSALS: ISA 2006

Requests for paper proposals have been received for several potential ALIAS panels for the 2006 ISA meetings in San Diego. If you are considering a paper

that fits one of these panel themes you are invited to contact the panel organizers by May 1st 2005.

“Innovative Teaching Across the North-South Divide”

We are seeking papers that identify, describe, analyze, and evaluate an innovative approach to active learning in international relations or comparative politics. Although papers involving case studies or classroom simulations are welcome, we are especially interested in novel or engaging approaches to writing assignments, student presentations and debates, service learning, use of new technologies, or other assignments designed to enhance active learning. In keeping with the conference theme it would be an added bonus if the paper explicitly deals with some dimension of North-South relations, but this is a secondary consideration.

If interested, please contact Andrea Grove, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Westminster College (PA); groveak@westminster.edu.

ALIAS member Leanne Powner, University of Michigan, is interested in assembling panels on the following topics:

1) A panel on activities and techniques for teaching research methods (broadly defined). Ideally, the conference session where these are presented would be less a traditional paper presentation panel and more an opportunity for presenters to share, demonstrate, or discuss their activity/technique. Papers addressing any aspect of teaching students to conceptualize or conduct research are welcome.

2) A panel or roundtable on the use of active learning techniques in both large-class (traditional lecture) formats and/or by teaching assistants and the kinds of adaptations and modifications necessary to make active learning work in these contexts. If interest exists, this might conceivably be developed into a pre-conference workshop proposal with an aim of producing an essay on best practices and lessons learned in these aspects of active learning.

If interested please contact Leanne Powner at LPowner@umich.edu.

ALIAS Fields Array of Panels at ISA 2005!

The following panels represented a wide array of topics and issues in Honolulu. By working with other sections as co-sponsors, more active learning papers were presented this year than ever. Many thanks to

2005 Program Chair Matthew Krain for a job very well done.

Panels sponsored by ALIAS

- Active Learning Beyond Cases
- Learning by Doing: Simulating Formal and Informal Institutions
- Simulating Global Problems and Processes in the Classroom
- The Use of Model UN as a Simulation Tool for the Classroom

Panels co-sponsored by ALIAS

- Case Studies for Teaching About Political, Religious, and Economic Dynamics in the “Non-Western” World, co-sponsored with Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies Section (CISS)
- Simulating Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Reconciliation in the Classroom, co-sponsored with Peace Studies
- Service, Service-Learning, and Activism, co-sponsored with Peace Studies
- The Return of the Student: Integrating International Studies Across the Disciplines, co-sponsored with CISS
- Art, Literature and Narrative in and of “International” Relations, co-sponsored with CISS
- Multidisciplinary Approaches to Active Learning in the “International” International Studies Classroom, co-sponsored with CISS
- The International Studies Curriculum: Searching for a Common Core, co-sponsored with International Education
- Assessing Trends in Professional IS Masters Programs: Teaching About Emerging Issues in the Post-9/11 World, co-sponsored with International Education

Roundtables

- The Celluloid Conflict: Cinematic Representations of War, sponsored by ALIAS
- Pedagogical Issues in Global Environmental Politics, co-sponsored with Environmental Studies

Opportunities for Collaboration on Active Learning Issues

Dear members of ALIAS:

My name is John Ishiyama, professor of Political Science and chairperson of the Undergraduate Education (UE) Section of the American Political Science

Association. I am also editor in chief of a new APSA section journal, the *Journal of Political Science Education* (JPSE).

In short, I want to update you on the UE section during the past three years. I would also like to invite you to consider submitting your work on teaching and learning to JPSE.

In many ways UE and ALIAS share much in common. Both sections are dedicated to promoting teaching; both seek greater attention to teaching and learning issues, and to promote the teacher-scholar model. UE has been watching what ALIAS has accomplished over the years, and in many ways has been inspired by your section's activities.

Currently the UE section has about 460 members (double the size of the membership four years ago). In addition we have helped launch three new initiatives in APSA that have galvanized the movement to promote teaching and learning issues. First, we have helped launch the APSA teaching and learning conference. The Second Annual Meeting of the TLC was held in Washington, DC from February 19–21, 2005 and was attended by 250 participants from the United States and abroad (for a summary see http://www.apsanet.org/content_11986.cfm and http://www.apsanet.org/section_236.cfm). Second, APSA has established a new teaching and learning standing committee, with UE prominently represented on this committee.

Finally, the first issue of the section's *Journal of Political Science Education* was published and debuted at the TLC. The journal is published by Taylor and Francis/Routledge, and is edited by Marijke Breuning and myself (Marijke is a foreign policy scholar and a long time member of ISA; I am a comparativist who specializes in democratization and political parties—so in case you were wondering, yes, we do want submissions from international studies scholars). The journal web site is <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/15512169.asp>. You can find a statement of the journal's mission at this site. We aim to publish scholarly work on teaching and learning—work that assesses pedagogy and curriculum using the same standards of scholarship that we employ in our own substantive areas. We also publish reviews of textbooks and teaching technology in all fields, and invite reviews of textbooks that you use.

In closing, I would like to invite you to consider participating in the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference for 2006 (the call for papers will be issued in

the next few months) and invite any of your section's members who attend APSA to attend the UE section's business meeting and reception at APSA in Washington, DC in September.

Further, I invite you to submit your work on teaching and learning in international studies to JPSE. The APSA in particular has pressed forward in recent months to “internationalize” the curriculum, and we would like to see as one of the expressions of that push the appearance of articles in JPSE that illustrate how the curriculum in political science can be “internationalized.” I can think of no better contributors to this evolving discussion than the members of ALIAS.

Also please think about subscribing to the journal. It only costs 30 bucks for a year (the cost of a moderately priced meal) for UE members—Taylor and Francis has also authorized me to offer members of ALIAS the same deal. Contact Taylor and Francis/Routledge at customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com.

I have discussed many issues with your section's leadership. We agree that there is much room for collaboration between our two sections. Perhaps together we can push ISA and APSA to recognize the centrality of teaching in learning in what we do as scholars in the profession. The time for such a change, I believe, is at hand.

New ALIAS Website Goes Online

We are proud to announce the new ALIAS section website, <http://www.isanet.org/alias/>. The site features section leadership contacts, minutes from the last section meeting, and the newsletter. We are also pleased to announce a new Web Archive for working papers and lesson plans related to active learning in international affairs. This archive, housed on the University of Michigan's CTools website, allows users to browse and upload files, communicate via an email list, and use an on-site discussion board. Directions for accessing the Archive are on the new web site.

Foreign Policy Case Studies, 2nd Edition

ALIAS member Ralph Carter (Texas Christian University), editor of *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy: From Terrorism to Trade* announces the publication of the second edition of the text (CQ Press, 2005). Seven of the 15 cases are new to this edition (U.S. ‘War on Terror,’ the intervention in Iraq, North Korea's nuclear ambitions, creation of the Department of Homeland Security, canceling the Army's Crusader Artillery system, U.S. steel import tariffs,

and the rights of detainees). The remaining cases (the Bosnia intervention, the Colombia intervention, rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Helms-Burton Act, Sino-American trade relations, the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, the International Criminal Court, and IMF reform) have all been updated. The online, password protected instructor's manual has been appropriately updated as well.

Web Projects Focus on Asian Issues

ALIAS member Vincent K. Pollard (University of Hawaii) has created and with the assistance of trans-

national advisory boards continues to edit two online projects, each of which is part of a larger Web library:

Taiwan Cross-Strait Directory

<http://apdl.kcc.hawaii.edu/~taiwan>

Asia-Pacific Digital Library, July 2002–present

Chinese Cultures Abroad Directory

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/chculture.html>

China WWW Virtual Library & Asian Studies WWW

Virtual Library, May 2003–present

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Institute for the Study of Diplomacy
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service Georgetown University

The GUISD Pew Case Study Center announces the latest case studies in international affairs:

274: Oligarchs: Simulating Economic and Political Dynamics in Post-Communist "Narkonia,"
John Gould

275: A Question of Sovereignty: Bahrain, Qatar, and the International Court of Justice, Deborah Gerner and Omur Yilmaz

276: Saving the Coffee Industry in El Salvador, Robert Letovsky

277: When People Elect the Wrong Leaders: The United States and Elections in Algeria, 1991–92,
Christopher J. Fettweis

278: Going to the United Nations: George W. Bush & Iraq,
Curtis Martin

279: Gaps at the Seams of the Dayton Accord: A Role-Play Scenario, Karen Guttieri

280: Political Economy in Putin's Russia: The YUKOS Affair and the

Demise of an "Oligarch," Thomas Rotnem

The abstracts and pdf file links for these and other case studies are provided on the Faculty Club site:

<http://data.georgetown.edu/sfs/ecase/>

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