COMPARATIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES SECTION:

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT: 2014

CISS continues to serve the needs of the international studies community by providing a forum within the International Studies Association for the exchange of interdisciplinary perspectives and comparative studies. The section’s emphasis in recent years has increasingly centered on encouraging a cross professional and cross-disciplinary dialogue amongst scholars, policy makers, military and business professionals, and non-governmental actors and organizations. The Millennium Series of international conferences were started in 1999 to draw together a small group of participants in a retreat-like setting to engage in an intensive exchange of ideas and scholarship. This has led to increased participation by scholars and other interested individuals from a wide range of international institutions located across the globe. In addition, student participation has noticeably increased, resulting in the institution of a graduate student paper award, the Millennium Award, for interdisciplinary scholarship presented at the CISS Millennium Series conference. Thus far, ten conferences have been successfully organized. The international Millennium Series conferences have been highly successful in achieving the goal of bringing together a diverse cross section of professionals from different disciplines. The conclusion of the Millennium Series of conferences with the 10th Annual Conference in 2010 was followed by a renewed emphasis on joint meetings and outreach conferences to expand the scholarly interaction beyond the section membership and provided us with a broader perspective.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 3rd-6th, 2013

CISS organized a record number of panels and roundtables, as well as poster sessions for ISA’s 54th conference in San Francisco on “The Politics of International Diffusion: Regional and Global Dimensions”. The Section held its annual Business Meeting and Joint Reception which were well attended by the membership. The reception was co-sponsored by CISS, DPLST, ENGSS, and Keesing’s World News Archives.

CISS/UNU CRIS Joint Conference, Bruges, Belgium, June 19-21, 2013

The conference theme “Cooperation, Integration and Alliances: Regional and Global Perspectives, Challenges and Solutions “was designed to identify and explore integrative and cooperative policies and institutional structures to meet the variety of challenges that confront the international community in an interconnected world. A number of issues spanning a wide range of economic, political, social and cultural dimensions were identified for discussion and to suggest creative integrative responses.
Conference sessions were organized around the following topics:

- Alliances: Costs and Benefits
- The Dark Side of Globalization: Human Trafficking and Infectious Diseases
- Problems of Regional Security
- Latin American Regionalism I&II
- State Actors, Alliances, and International Stability
- US Security Issues
- Problems of African Security and Integration
- Comparative Studies of Regionalism
- The Political Role of Women in Development and Security
- Eurasian Cooperation
- Comparative Approaches to Regional Cooperation and The Politics of Diffusion
- Challenges of Economic Development
- Decision Making in Intergovernmental Organizations and Transnational Governance
- R2p and the International Criminal Court
- Economic Integration and Trade Agreements
- Minorities and Income Inequalities
- Defining Regionalism
- Who Speaks? Actors, Interests, Norms and Legitimacy in Global Internet Governance
- Security Policy and Doctrine
- Energy and Space
- Women, the State(Less), Nature and Political Realism
- Cooperating to Meet the Challenges of ‘Single Markets’: European and Trans-Tasman Experiences Compared
- Regional Cooperation and Security

Millennium Conferences

- Venice Italy, 2010
- Potsdam, Germany, 2009
- Paris, France 2008
- Bucaco, Portugal, 2007
- The Hague, Netherlands, 2006
- Salzburg, Austria, 2004
- Bruges, Belgium 2002
- Heidelberg, Germany, 2001
- Washington DC, USA 2000
- Paris France, 1999

Joint Conferences

- Bruges, Belgium, 2013
- Prague, Czech Republic, 2012
- Porto Portugal, 2011
- Budapest, Hungary, 2003
- Istanbul, Turkey, 2005
- Lucerne, Switzerland, 2005

**Outreach Conferences**
- Global Cooperation Initiative

**Membership:**

The section’s membership reflects a marked increase and the membership continues to be representative of a broad range of countries, institutions, and professional levels. Diversity has also been achieved in that members represent senior scholars, as well as junior scholars, active professionals, and retired scholars. The section membership was reported to be 237. Countries represented include: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, USA, Russia, South Korea, Colombia, Philippines, Singapore, India, and Qatar.

**Financial Base:**

The section’s finances are sound and judicious disbursement has enabled the Section to continue to host its various conferences and outreach activities. As of the most recent statement (September, 2013) from ISA Headquarters, the section had a balance of approximately $967.27.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sai Felicia Krishna-Hensel

CISS President