The Global Development Section (GDS) of the International Studies Association (ISA) was established in 1995 to advance the analysis of, and debate about, the political economy of international development, theory, politics, policy and planning, criteria and evaluation, especially between the scholarly and policy communities in both the South and North, and to, furthermore, promote mutual communication and research links among scholars, practitioners, and students on the broad theme of global development.

As of September 2012 our finances are very healthy with a positive balance of $8,592.71, a small improvement on last year’s balance. Once again, Routledge Taylor and Francis generously supported our 2012 Convention reception. This financial position allows us to think about setting up some prizes to encourage early career scholars in our section. More details below. Our membership is also very healthy, having grown 10% from 2012 to reach 476 in 2013. More proactive targeting of early career scholars could, however, be an appropriate strategy for the next couple of years.

At the coming GDS business meeting in San Francisco we shall discuss and set up an award for the best graduate paper presented during the annual ISA conference. The paper must be presented in a GDS sponsored or co-sponsored panel; and the paper giver must be an existing member of GDS. The prize will be a small cash amount. This will be part of an on-going strategy to attract more early-career scholars to be actively involved in our Section.

Since the last ISA annual conference we have concentrated on improving our communication facilities. Our Newsletter is now issued bi-annually. Most importantly, we have instituted an email list group (via Yahoo Groups). Approximately half of our members have signed up to this facility, which is used to communicate events, workshops, conferences and job openings. This facility proved quite useful during the initial formation of the GDS programme for the 2013 annual conference. Discussion regarding setting up a Facebook page is still on-going, and will be concluded soon.

In the coming Annual ISA Conference to be held in San Francisco in April, GDS will offer 73 (including co-sponsored) panels and roundtables. We have made a special effort this year to work more closely with the Feminist Theory and Gender
Studies (TFGS) Section. Additionally, in order to interrogate the relationship between gender, security, race and development, we have co-organized an INNOVATIVE PANEL, entitled: “Gendering and Decolonizing International Relations: bridging the divide between Feminist Theory Gender Studies and Global Development Studies”.

Our GDS Distinguished Scholar Award will this year honour Prof Michael Shapiro. His early research was in the areas of political psychology and decision-making, and since the 1980s his research and writing has been in the areas of political theory and philosophy, critical social theory, cultural studies, politics of media, indigenous politics, and critical international studies.

On behalf of the GDS,