Annual Report of International Organization Section Activities 2011-2012
Submitted to ISA Governing Council by section chair Carolyn Stephenson

The International Organization Section Charter revision was approved unanimously by the membership of the Section by a vote of 74 out of 74 as of 7 March 2011, and the Section was re-chartered by ISA in 2011. Membership in the IO section rose from 516 in 2011 to 584 in 2012.

The Executive Committee of the International Organization Section consists of: Carolyn Stephenson (University of Hawaii at Manoa), Section Chair, 2010-2012, Melissa Labonte (Fordham University), Secretary (2011-2012), Joel Oestreich (Drexel), Treasurer (2010-2013), Bob Reinalda (Nijmegen) (2011-2012), Ken Stiles, Program Chair (2011-2012), Daniel Warner (Graduate Institute of International Studies Geneva) (2010-2013), and Roger Coate (ex officio: former chair) (Georgia College and State University).

For the 2012 San Diego Annual Convention, a total of 193 paper proposals and 22 panel proposals were submitted as 1st choice to IO. A total of 53 panels were accepted into the final program. The International Organization section will hold its business meeting Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

The section offers three awards, the Chadwick Alger Prize for the best book published in the previous year on international organization and multilateralism, the Lawrence S. Finkelstein Prize for the best graduate student paper on international organization presented at the previous ISA Annual Meeting (not awarded last year due to lack of submissions), and the Distinguished Scholar/Best Mentor Award, given every other year for research, mentoring and other service in the field of international organization.

The Alger Award submission deadline was moved last year from December 1 to December 15. Nineteen books were nominated. This year’s committee, chaired by Karen Mingst (University of Kentucky), consisted of Severine Autesserre (Barnard College), Valerie Sperling (Clark University), Carolyn Stephenson (University of Hawaii at Manoa), and Alex Thompson (Ohio State). Co-winners for 2011 are: Susan D. Hyde (Yale) for her book The Pseudo-Democrat’s Dilemma: Why Election Monitoring Became an International Norm, and Randall W. Stone (University of Rochester) for his book International Organizations and the Global Economy.

The Finkelstein Prize committee was chaired by Bob Reinalda (Radboud University Nijmegen) and included Dan Nielsen (Brigham Young University). The chair designed a new process this year, following the usual dearth of nominations, and looked at all graduate student papers on international organization that were posted on the ISA 2011 Convention paper archives, i.e. 71 potential winners. The committee winnowed the list down to five and chose as winner Heidi Hardt of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva for her paper “Keep friends close but colleagues
closer: Informal relationships in peace operation decision-making.” The runner-up was Christina Kiel of University of New Orleans for her paper “Third-Party Intervention in Civil Wars: Do resolutions by the United Nations Security Council Shorten the Duration of Conflicts?” We commend this method of selection to sections having trouble with a lack of nominations and thank the chair of this committee for his extra hard work.

The Distinguished Scholar Committee, chaired by David Forsythe (University of Nebraska) and including Margaret Karns (University of Dayton) and Courtney Smith (Seton Hall University), received six nominations, an increase over last time, and decided upon Chadwick F. Alger. The IO section will hold its Distinguished Scholar Reception Sunday, April 1, 2012 to honor Chadwick F. Alger, Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, following a special roundtable panel on his scholarship, mentorship, and service. The reception will be co-sponsored by Routledge, the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at Ohio State.