The Intelligence Studies Section (ISS) was established in 1985 in order to promote scholarly research and teaching in all aspects of intelligence, to internationalize the study of intelligence, and to build healthy, collaborative relationships with other academic disciplines. It has grown significantly over the past 10 years:

- ISS currently has over 300 members, up from 83 members in 2005.
- ISS has also continued to expand its participation in the annual ISA conference. Over the past 10 years, the total number of panels and roundtables sponsored or co-sponsored by ISS has doubled from 9 panels in 2004 to 19 panels in 2014.
- The Section’s financial balance is currently $7358, up from about $4000 in 2008.

We attribute this growth to a number of factors, including greater awareness of intelligence among scholars, the high quality of the panels and papers presented by Section members at the ISA conference, the Section’s work to promote and encourage the study of intelligence among junior scholars and students, and the active participation of Section members in ISA.

As of April 2013, Section officers are:

- Stephen Marrin, Section chair, elected to a three year term in 2013.
- Shlomo Shpiro, Section Secretary-Treasurer, elected to a three-year term in 2011.
- Julian Richards and Bill Lahneman, Section Program Co-Chairs, appointed to one year terms in 2013.

The focal point of the Section’s activities is the annual ISA conference. At the 2013 conference:

- ISS sponsored or co-sponsored 20 panels and roundtables. An average of 30 people (participants and attendees) attended each of these panels.
- Section members organized a workshop on the subject of “Intelligence Analysis, the Social Sciences and History: Understanding and Explaining International Actors and Outcomes” which took place the day before the conference began.
- The Best Student Paper Award was awarded to Aaron F. Brantly, University of Georgia for his paper on Defining the Role of Intelligence in Cyberspace. This continues the effort to recognize scholarship by students by continuing its best student paper award program. Many thanks to Glenn Hastedt and Mark Phythian for serving on that selection committee.
- New committees were established for selecting candidates for the Section’s 2014 awards, including the Distinguished Scholar Award nominating committee (Arthur Hulnick, Michael Andregg and Philip Davies), and the 2014 Outstanding Student Paper Award selection committee (Terry Quist, Erik Dahl).
- A Junior Scholar Committee (Melissa Graves, Tamir Libel) was established to encourage and facilitate participation and engagement with young scholars and junior academics.
- Two intelligence-oriented receptions were organized by Pherson Associates and the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI).
Since the 2013 Conference, additional activities have taken place including:

- Subscription discounts: ISS acquired a subscription discount for all ISA members to the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. This is in addition to the existing discount for ISA members to the journal Intelligence and National Security.
- Ongoing communications: ISS has facilitated communications with members through emails approximating newsletters which provide members with information about conferences and publications of potential interest, calls for papers/presentations, other resources, and a variety of other research-oriented opportunities.
- ISS Website transition: Since 1999 the ISS website has been hosted at Loyola University under the guidance of Kevin Hula. After many years of service to the Section, this website is going to be phased out, with content transitioning to the Section’s website hosted by ISA. Many thanks to Kevin for his many years of service. For those who are interested to see the new website, it can be found at: http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/ISS.aspx

In 2014, Section activities at the annual conference will continue to increase.

- Content for the 2014 conference includes two panels derived from the 2013 workshop on “Intelligence Analysis, the Social Sciences and History” as well as two panels based on outreach to and consultation with the Canadian Association of Security and Intelligence Studies (CASIS), a longtime ISS collaborative partner.
- There will be a Distinguished Scholar Reception in honor of Loch Johnson for all that he has done to establish the field of intelligence studies. This reception will be sponsored by Oxford University Press, Praeger/ABC-CLIO; and Routledge.
- There will be a film showing of the documentary Our Man in Tehran: “Canadian filmmakers set the record straight with the help of real-life Canadian hero Ken Taylor, former Ambassador to Iran, who was actually responsible for the high-risk rescue of six U.S. citizens trapped in Iran.”
- There will be an ISS Meeting to discuss the impact of NSA files disclosure on intelligence studies with Pete Gill, Richard Aldrich, Melina Dobson, Julian Richards and Wesley Wark

Looking to the future, there are a number of opportunities for ISS to become more active by:

- Improving communications: This can be done specifically by sharing more information about new intelligence studies resources and other items of interest via the existing ISA email list. There are also prospects for creating a platform for direct communications between members of ISS.
- Increasing outreach and engagement with other intelligence studies associations: In the 1980s and 1990s, ISS collaborated with CASIS as well as the British Security and Intelligence Studies Group. In summer 2012, ISS contributed two panels to the ISA/British International Studies Association conference and in 2014 CASIS is contributing 2 panels to the ISA conference. These kinds of collaborations with other disciplinary, national or international associations provide significant opportunities for ISS members.
- Promoting scholarship through the compendium project: ISS seeks volunteers to work on the ISS’ contributions to the Compendium Project as authors or managing editors. The Compendium Project is an effort to evaluate the state of the intelligence studies body of knowledge through evaluative literature reviews. Previous publications are listed here:
  http://intellit.muskingum.edu/refmats_folder/teachingiss.html