Summary

The ISA - Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 7–10, 2013. Professor Cameron Thies (Arizona State University) served as the program chair and Spencer Willardson (University of Nevada-Las Vegas) served as the conference assistant. The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) and Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS) joined the ISA - Midwest at the conference. Three ISA sections, Active Learning in International Affairs (ALIAS), Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA), and Scientific Study of International Processes (SSIP), served as conference sponsors. The ISA sponsored journal, Foreign Policy Analysis, also served as a sponsor of the meeting. Other sponsors included Arizona State University’s School of Politics and Global Studies, the University of Iowa’s Department of Political Science, and Cengage Publishers. ALIAS sponsored a teaching workshop and afternoon snacks that Dr. Carolyn Shaw (Wichita State University) facilitated. The FPA journal under the leadership of Cooper Drury (University of Missouri) sponsored a panel and breakfast on U.S. foreign policy. We also received a generous grant from the ISA Professional Development Committee (PDC) to sponsor several roundtables on professional development issues including “Surviving and Thriving in a Temporary Academic Position”, “Success Strategies for International Students on the U.S. Job Market”, “Women’s Professional Development Issues,” and a Job Seekers’ Café.

In 2013, we had approximately 225 participants, a number similar to the 2012 and 2011 conferences. We had 15 roundtables, 41 panels, and 190 papers on the conference program. We covered our hotel room block and our contract with the Hilton at the Ballpark extends through 2014. We are currently in negotiations for the next 2-3 year contract with the hotel. Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generated a budget surplus to carry forward to the 2014 conference.

Highlights

The ISAMW honored Professor A. Cooper Drury (University of Missouri) as our 2013 Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar awardee. He delivered an address, “Foreign Policy Analysis: New Pathways and Broader Conceptualizations”, at our luncheon. ISA President, Professor Harvey Starr (University of South Carolina) delivered a keynote address on “Inquiry, Logic and International Politics 25 Years On” following our annual reception. Professors Amanda Murdie and Dursun Peksen won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Faculty Paper (2012). Bryce W. Reeder, Ashly Adam Townsen and Matthew Powers won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Graduate Student Paper (2012). Timothy Rich won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies (2012). Finally, the deadline for the Best Book Award has been extended through December of 2013. The book award will be presented either at ISA’s annual meeting in Toronto or at the next ISA-Midwest meeting. The conference featured a number of special workshops and roundtables on a wide range of themes as usual.

New Developments

The notes from our 2012 Business Meeting are available online: http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=ISAMW&p=/

CSC will continue to join us in 2014. MALAS is having their next conference outside of the U.S. We are actively seeking other partner organizations.
We also elected a new slate of officers:

Cameron Thies (Arizona State University), President

Amanda Murdie (University of Missouri), Program Chair

Laura Janik-Marusov (University of Northern Iowa), Secretary. Term expires in 2014

Ryan Kennedy (University of Houston), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2014

Stephen Quackenbush (University of Missouri), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2014

Olga Chyzh (University of Washington at St. Louis), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2015

Carla Machain Martinez (Kansas State University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2015

Dursun Peksen (University of Memphis), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2015.

Carolyn Shaw (Wichita State University), Webmaster