The ISA - Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 17-18, 2017. Brian Lai (University of Iowa) served as the program chair.

Stephen Quackenbush (University of Missouri) was the president. Our sponsors this year included:

- Active Learning in International Affairs Section (ISA)
- Arizona State University, School of Politics and Global Studies
- Foreign Policy Analysis Section (ISA)
- Foreign Policy Analysis Journal
- Kansas State University, Department of Political Science
- Oxford University Press
- University of Texas- Dallas, Paul Diehl
- Scientific Study of International Processes Section (ISA)
- University of Illinois, Department of Political Science
- University of Iowa, Department of Political Science
- University of Missouri, Department of Political Science.

With generous support from the ISA Professional Development Committee, we were able to continue the Emerging Scholar Forum. This is similar to the Junior Scholar Symposium at ISA, and it placed two groups of four emerging scholars with two senior scholars in the field.

There were also several roundtables. One of them honored the Best Book Award Recipients Gary Goertz (University of Notre Dame), Paul Diel (University of Texas- Dallas), and Alexandru Balas (SUNY-Courtland) while others covered teaching and learning topics, publishing, and success in an academic career. We had approximately 161 participants and 37 panels and roundtables. We were able to cover our hotel room block. We were also able to provide small stipends to students who attended the conference. Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generated a budget surplus to carry forward to the 2018 conference.

**Highlights**

ISA President Brett Ashley Leeds (Rice University) gave the keynote address, “Interests, Institutions, and Foreign Policy Change,” at the reception on Friday evening. Cameron Thies was the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar this year and delivered an address, titled “Foreign Policy Role Theory: How (and Why) to Revive a Research Program,” at the Quincy Wright luncheon on Saturday.
We had also several other award winners listed in the program. We honored them at the reception on Friday evening Gary Goertz (University of Notre Dame), Paul Diel (University of Texas- Dallas), and Alexandru Balas (SUNY- Courtland) won the Best Book Award, Sara Mitchell (University of Iowa) and Andrew Owsiak (University of Georgia) won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Paper Presented by a Faculty Member. Sojeong Lee (University of Iowa) won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student. Dennis Foster (VMI) and Jonathan Keller (James Madison University) won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies.

New Developments

The notes from our 2017 Business Meeting are available online: http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Regions/Midwest/Reports

We Also Elected a New Slate of Officers

- Brian Lai (University of Iowa), President
- Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University), Program Chair
- Jonathan Ring (Cleveland State University), Secretary. Term expires in 2018
- Leah Windsor (University of Memphis), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2018.
- Chuck Rowling (University of Nebraska-Kearney), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2018
- Thomas Guarrieri (START, University of Maryland), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2019
- Michael Tyburski (Kansas State University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2019