The ISA-Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 22-23, 2019. Baris Kesgin (Elon University) served as the program chair; Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University) was the president.

Sponsorships

- Active Learning in International Affairs Section (ISA)
- Arizona State University, School of Politics and Global Studies
- Elon University, Department of Political Science & Policy Studies
- Elon University, School of Law
- Foreign Policy Analysis Journal
- Foreign Policy Analysis Section (ISA)
- Institute for Intelligent Systems, University of Memphis
- International Studies Review Journal
- Iowa State University, Department of Political Science
- James Scott, Texas Christian University
- Kansas State University, Department of Political Science
- Oklahoma State University, Department of Political Science
- Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society
- Religion and International Relations Section (ISA)
- Ryerson University, Department of Political Science
- Scientific Study of International Processes Section (ISA)
- START, University of Maryland
- University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- University of Georgia, School of Public & International Affairs
- University of Illinois, Department of Political Science
- University of Iowa, Department of Political Science
- University of Memphis, Department of Political Science
- University of Missouri, Department of Political Science
- University of North Texas, Department of Political Science
- University of Tennessee, Department of Political Science
- Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science

Sponsorship totaled $13,300 (plus some student travels costs covered by Elon); the 2019 registration income totaled $15,165.

With generous support from the ISA Professional Development Committee, we continued the Emerging Scholar Forum (ESF). This is similar to the Junior Scholar Symposium at ISA, and it placed three groups of four emerging scholars with three scholars in the field. In addition to the ESF, our region hosted the Pay-
It-Forward (PIF) program. Dr. Marijke Breuning (University of North Texas) put together the Pay-It-Forward events, and the ISA’s Women’s Caucus provided funds towards this program.

There were also several roundtables, some associated with the ESF and others with the conference awards. The special programs (i.e. ESF and PIF) sponsored Women’s Caucus Mentoring Café, Navigating the Publication Process, and Male Mentors for Female-Identifying Graduate Students. This year’s recipient of the Quincy Wright Award was Jeff Pickering (Kansas State University); and, there was a roundtable for the Singer Best Book Award in 2019 honoring Oliver Kaplan (University of Denver) for his book Resisting War. One other roundtable organized by the recent recipients of the Quincy Wright Award was one of the highlights of the program and focused on maintaining scholarship. In addition, there were four Undergraduate Research panels -which had dedicated support from many participants, two other panels on Religion and IR.

We received 171 paper submissions (201 in 2018, and 194 in 2017), and scheduled 56 panels and roundtables (42 in 2018, and 37 in 2017). 241 individuals registered (211 in 2018, and 161 in 2017). We used all the available conference rooms on Friday and Saturday, and again did not schedule Sunday panels. We were able to cover our hotel room block. We were also able to cover the cost of registration for the two Elon students and one graduate student each from University of Connecticut and the University of Memphis (who volunteered at the registration desk), and for all undergraduate students. The stipends covered their conference registration, hotel rooms. Based on the funds raised and large attendance, after the conference, we were able to provide some travel reimbursement to students (undergraduate and graduate) and part-time faculty. Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generated a budget surplus to carry forward to the 2020 conference.

**Highlights**

The President of the International Studies Association Cameron Thies (Arizona State University) gave the keynote address at the reception on Friday evening. Jeff Pickering (Kansas State University), the 2019 Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar, delivered an address at Saturday’s luncheon. Both events were well attended.

- This year’s ISA-Midwest paper (presented in the 2018 meeting) award winners were honored at the reception on Friday evening:
  - “The Effects of Dog Whistle Politics on Domestic Violence” by Olga Chyzh (Iowa State University), Mark Nieman (Iowa State University), and Clayton Webb (University of Kansas) won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Paper Presented by a Faculty Member.
  - Travis Curtice’s (Emory University) “Police Shuffling, Coethnic Bias, and Citizen Cooperation: Evidence from Two Experiments in Uganda” won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student.
  - Susan H. Allen (University of Mississippi) and Leah Windsor (University of Memphis) won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies for their paper “The language of coup-proofing in Saddam Hussein’s Iraq.”

We continued with the green initiatives started recently (i.e. the default vegetarian option for the luncheon, the bring your own badge holders). In addition, we added an option this year to opt out to receive a printed program; this saved approximately 2000 pages of printing. Following last year’s conversation, we had an incentive ($5 gift card raffle) for those who brought their own badge holders and opted to not receive a print program. Once again, we passed on many recycled badges to next year’s program chair.
For the first time at the ISA-Midwest, we surveyed the attendees ahead of the program and were able to print their preferred gender pronouns on their conference badges. In addition, small gender pronoun stickers were available at the registration desk.

There was also a concerted effort to raise the online presence of the region -especially on Twitter. The attendees were encouraged to use a certain hashtag for the 2019 meeting.

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

The ISA-Midwest Executive Board in 2020 is as follows:

Baris Kesgin (Elon University), President  
Leah Windsor (University of Memphis), Program Chair  
Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University), Past President  
Michael Tyburski (Kansas State University), Secretary  
Rebecca Best (University of Missouri, Kansas City), At-Large Member [term ends in 2020]  
Mark Nieman (Iowa State University), At-Large Member [term ends in 2020]  
Kate Perry (Georgia Southern University), At-Large Member [term ends in 2021]  
Stephen Nemeth (Oklahoma State University), At-Large Member [term ends in 2021]

The region’s Executive Board will organize subcommittees among its members for our annual awards. Otherwise, the committee to select the 2020 Excellence in Teaching & Mentoring Award is:

Stephen Quackenbush (University of Missouri), Chair  
Nazli Avdan (University of Kansas)  
Stephen Bagwell (DePauw University)