Summary

The ISA - Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 11 – 13, 2011. Dr. Wesley Renfro (St. John Fisher College) and Dr. Marc O’Reilly (Heidelberg University) served as co-program chairs. The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) joined the ISA- Midwest at the conference. Two ISA sections, Active Learning in International Affairs (ALIAS) and Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA), served as conference sponsors. ALIAS sponsored a teaching workshop and breakfast that Dr. Carolyn Shaw (Wichita State University) and Dr. Sue Davis (Denison University) co-facilitated. Their workshop was on effective assignments. FPA sponsored a number of panels, including a special roundtable on “Exploring the Frontiers of Foreign Policy Analysis: New Subfield and Interdisciplinary Intersections.” Dr. Cameron Thies (University of Iowa) chaired the roundtable, which featured Dr. Ralph Carter (Texas Christian University), Cooper Drury (University of Missouri), James Scott (Texas Christian University), and Marijke Breuning (University of North Texas). We also received a generous grant from the ISA Professional Development Committee (PDC) to sponsor a special panel on “Hiring Non-Academics: Or What a Former Spy and G-Man Can Do for Your Department & Institution.” This panel featured Dr. John Bing (Heidelberg University) and Professor Tom Newcomb (Heidelberg University) and capitalized on Professor Newcomb’s extensive experience in the policy community to address the practitioner/academic divide. The session was recorded and is available as a video podcast.

In 2010, we had 228 participants. 88 of those participants attended as part of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS). In 2011, MALAS did not participate in the conference. In 2010, we had 70 faculty members and 70 graduate students as part of the ISA MW/CSC program.

In 2011, we experienced significant growth -- especially considering we did not have MALAS as a partner organization. Our attendance grew to 250. We had 101 faculty members and 149 students on the ISAMW/CSC program. We believe that this growth was a response to a more aggressive recruiting effort in the region. We exceeded our room block of 200 room nights, and the hotel added, a number of rooms to accommodate our increased demand. Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generate a $2000 surplus. The Board voted to convert the entire surplus into travel subsidies for graduate students who participated in the 2011 conference. This should leave us with approximately $6500 in reserves. Our current contract with the Hilton at the Ballpark extends through 2014.

Highlights

The ISAMW honored Dr. James McCormick (Iowa State University) as our 2011 Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar awardee. He delivered an address, “Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy: Some Future Agenda Items,” at our luncheon. ISA President, Dr. Beth Simmons (Harvard University) delivered a keynote address on “International Studies in the Information Age” following our annual reception. Dr. Rebecca Glazier (University of Arkansas, Little Rock) won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Faculty Paper (2010). Youngho Cho (University of Missouri) won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Graduate Student Paper (2010). Dr. Baris Kesgin (Susquehanna University) won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies (2010). Finally, Dr. Alexander Thompson (The Ohio State University) won the inaugural Best Book Award (2011).

The conference featured a number of special workshops and roundtables on a wide range of themes, including: challenges of internationalizing a university, multi-method approaches in international relations, perspectives on teaching, academic job search strategies, publishing journal articles, the Arab
Spring, exploring the new frontiers of foreign policy analysis, hiring non-academics, and designing effective assignments.

**New Developments**

The notes from our 2011 Business Meeting are available online: [http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/isamw/Bus%20mtg%20minutes%202011.pdf](http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/isamw/Bus%20mtg%20minutes%202011.pdf).

At the Business Meeting, the organization decided to name our best book award the J. David Singer Best Book Award. The organization also created a subcommittee, headed by Wesley Renfro (St. John Fisher College) and Carolyn Shaw (Wichita State University), to discuss how to implement an award to honor teaching and mentoring excellence.

CSC will continue to join us in 2012. We are actively seeking other partner organizations.

We also elected a new slate of officers:

- **Wesley Renfro** (St. John Fisher College) and **Marc O’Reilly** (Heidelberg University), Co-Presidents
- **Sara Mitchell** (University of Iowa), Program Chair
- **Laura Janik-Marusov** (University of Northern Iowa), Secretary. Term expires in 2014
- **Tatyana Kelman** (University of North Texas), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2012
- **Polly Diven** (Grand Valley State University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2013
- **Rebecca Glazier** (University of Arkansas, Little Rock), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2013
- **Ralph Carter** (Texas Christian University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2013