Summary

The ISA - Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 2 –3, 2012. Professor Sara Mitchell (University of Iowa) served as the program chair and Christopher Anderson and Mark Nieman served as the conference assistants. The Central Slavic Conference (CSC) and Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) 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 the University of Iowa’s Department of Political Science and Cengage Publishers. ALIAS sponsored a teaching workshop and breakfast that Dr. Carolyn Shaw (Wichita State University) and Dr. Natalya Riegg (University of St. Mary) co-facilitated. The FPA journal under the leadership of Cooper Drury (University of Missouri) sponsored a roundtable on elections, domestic politics, and 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 “Tips for Success in Publishing and Achieving Tenure”, “Strategies for Achieving Success after Tenure”, and “Women’s Professional Development Issues in Academia”. In honor of Paul Diehl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) being the first recipient of the ISA Midwest Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award, we held a roundtable on “Undergraduate Research: Exploring the Options”.

In 2012, we had approximately 250 participants, a number similar to the 2011 conference. We had 10 roundtables, 58 panels, and 211 papers on the conference program. We covered our hotel room block and our contract with the Hilton at the Ballpark extends through 2014. Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generated a budget surplus to carry forward to the 2013 conference.

Highlights

The ISAMW honored Professor James M. Scott (Texas Christian University) as our 2012 Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar awardee. He delivered an address, “The Academic Puzzle: Making the Pieces Fit”, at our luncheon. ISA Vice-President, Professor Paul Diehl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) delivered a keynote address on “The Evolution of Peace: What Studies of the Decline of War Don’t/Can’t Tell You” following our annual reception. Professors Timothy M. Peterson and Peter Rudloff won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Faculty Paper (2011). Olga Chyzh (University of Iowa) won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Graduate Student Paper (2010). John Beieler and John Robert Butler won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies (2010). Finally, Professor Paul Diehl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) won the inaugural ISA Midwest Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award. The conference featured a number of special workshops and roundtables on a wide range of themes, including interstate and intrastate conflict, international organizations, foreign policy and public opinion, and the Arab Spring.

New Developments

The notes from our 2012 Business Meeting are available online: http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=ISAMW&p=/Board1/.

CSC will continue to join us in 2013. The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS), a previous co-sponsor, is returning for 2013. We are actively seeking other partner organizations.
The board voted to create a new webmaster position (and include the new position in the ISA Midwest bylaws). The Board voted to elect Carolyn Shaw to the webmaster position.

We also elected a new slate of officers:

Sara Mitchell (University of Iowa), President
Cameron Thies (University of Iowa), 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
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