Full Report

Over the past year, the Professional Development Committee undertook an expansion of its responsibilities and resources. In addition to presenting and co-sponsoring panels at the annual meeting, the PDC will present four new Career Courses. The PDC is also now overseeing the development of the new Resource Center web portal. The committee received funding to film past ISA presidents to create short videos that will serve as a teaching and career development resource to be placed on the Resource Center pages. The PDC further provided support for a variety of professional development activities at the five regional ISA conferences.

ISA Annual Conference

Panels

As with the last two conferences, the PDC is organizing three panels for the 2015 Conference. We met at the 2014 ISA annual conference in Toronto to suggest and discuss panel ideas for the 2015 conference. The panels the committee proposed and accepted are focused on development at all stages of students/academics careers and include a “Getting Your Dissertation Published: What Format and Where to Start,” and “Alternative Academic Careers.” The current, ISA president, Amitav Acharya proposed a panel on Social Media in Academia which was ultimately sponsored as a presidential panel. We will once again present the Professional Development Café, which was introduced at the 2014 annual meeting. This short panel provides new and emerging scholars with the ability to interact with established professors and professionals in academia and publishing. In addition, as with the 2014 annual conference, the PDC is co-sponsoring and also helping to fund the externally proposed “Critical Security Studies Methods Café.”

Career Courses (Appendix A)

For the first time, the Professional Development Committee will support short Career Courses. These half-day courses offer participants an in-depth instruction on advanced topics such as methodology, teaching strategies, software, and more. Course instructors receive a stipend for organizing the course (either $300 for a single instructor or $500 to be divided equally among multiple instructors). ISA conference participants pay a fee of $25 to register for a course. The committee received submissions for 11 career courses. We were able to fund four of these submissions. The four career courses were chosen among the 11 proposals by majority vote of the PDC committee members (vote results available upon request). The career courses all easily obtained full registration. There are between 30 and 40 participants per course. Given the relatively high number of submissions for a brand new item on the program and the

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1 Additional Help: The PDC would not have operated nearly as well or been able to support its panels, workshops, and activities without the help and guidance of Andrea Gerlak, Jeanne White, and Laura Gottshalk.
full capacity registration for each of the courses, I would recommend ISA consider adding another slot for career courses at the 2016 meeting. The career courses to be presented at the 2015 meeting are as follows with complete descriptions listed in Appendix A:

- Introduction to Big Data Analytics and Text Mining in International Affairs Research
- Doing and Using Elite Interviews
- Case Writing and Case Teaching in International Relations
- Simulations and Games for the Classroom

**RESOURCE CENTER AND PRESIDENTIAL VIDEOS**
The resource center will provide a central portal for many of ISA’s career development materials, videos, and teaching materials. Professional Development Committee members will be providing the initial syllabi to help populate part of the teaching page. After that, I propose that ISA offer to host and organize syllabi and professional development materials for each individual ISA section on the Resource Center’s teaching or professional development pages. If sections are willing to participate, they can supply the syllabi, teaching, or professional development materials they feel would be most useful to their section.

An additional section of the Resource Center web portal will include short videos of past and current ISA presidents. These ten-minute videos, to be filmed at the 2015 meetings, will feature past-presidents’ discussions of their research, the state of the discipline, and teaching. These videos were originally conceived as a teaching and career development tool for professors and others to familiarize students and other interested parties with some well-known scholars in the various fields of international relations research.

For this first round of videos, ISA presidents from the past 15 years were contacted to fill 12 video slots. All 12 slots were filled and, fortunately, no presidents were turned down for slots. In the future, I would recommend that ISA dedicate a small portion of its videography time to continue filming 10-minute videos of current presidents and any past presidents who were not able to be filmed at the current ISA annual conference.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PANELS AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES (APPENDIX B)**
The PDC has a budget of $10,000 to fund ISA regional panels. Any remaining funds are used to support PDC panels and activities at the annual ISA meeting. For the 2015 year, the ISA received requests from the five regional conferences to support a variety of professional development panels. The total amount requested for these activities was $8,840.08.

The following regional PDC panels were approved by the ISA PDC committee (see Appendix B for further details):

**ISA West**
1. Emerging Scholar Forum
   (Total $1909.68)

**ISA South**
1. First Year Faculty Challenges in the University
   (Total $960.40)

**ISA Canada**
1. Workshop I: How to Write a Lot ($470)
2. Workshop II Perfecting Your Application Dossier ($1500)
3. Panel I: International Relations Careers Outside the Academy ($0)
   (Total: $1970)
ISA MIDWEST
1. Turning Your Conference Paper into a Publication: Strategies from Those in the Trenches
2. Post-Tenure Blues: A Roundtable on What Comes Next in Professional Careers
3. Roundtable on Women’s Professional Development Issues
4. Job Seekers Café: Success Within and Beyond the Ivory Tower
   (Total $2000)

ISA NORTHEAST
1. Workshop Session on Interpretive and Relational Research Methodologies
   (Total: $2000)
APPENDIX A: CAREER COURSES FOR ISA 2015

INTRODUCTION TO BIG DATA ANALYTICS AND TEXT MINING IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Instructor: Derrick Cogburn
This course is designed to introduce participants to some of the opportunities and limitations of “Big Data” Analytics in International Affairs research. While the concept of Big Data is relative to each field, as much as 75-80% of the world’s available data is unstructured text. Data of this type includes: email archives, websites, twitter feeds and other social media, blog posts, speeches, annual reports, published articles, and much more. In the aggregate, these sources can easily run into thousands or hundreds of thousands of discrete items. Textual data at this size and scale is particularly challenging to the analyst using only traditional forms of content analysis, and is even challenging to those scholars using Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS) tools, who find it difficult to cope with the time and effort required to analyze these large data sources. This course provides an initial exposure to the tools and techniques used to analyze large-scale unstructured textual data. These approaches are applicable for a range of social science research topics, such as identifying: core themes and regional variation in State Department blog posts; sentiment analysis of twitter feeds; emerging areas of concern or interest on email lists; similarities and differences in national reports on international treaty commitments. In this course, we will employ a “learn by doing” technique. This means the course will include an introduction to the theoretical background to big data and text mining, but will focus primarily on a practical, hands-on approach. This technique allows participants to spend more time working in the software that enables them to harness computational power to analyze the large-scale unstructured textual data. Essentially, this course can help set participants on the path towards being able to find the proverbial needle in the international affairs big data haystack.

DOING AND USING ELITE INTERVIEWS

Instructor: Peter Haas and Kathryn Hochstetler
The course will seek to combine goals of rigor with the art of elite interviews. The course will introduce students to issues involved with conducting elite interviews: the nature of data, how to design an interview, logistics, data confirmation, and dealing with IRBs.

CASE WRITING AND CASE TEACHING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Instructor: Volker Franke
This half-day course, participants will be introduced to the case study method and learn how to develop and use case studies effectively in an academic classroom. This course presents a number of different teaching cases (historical, fictional, decision-forcing) and engages participants as both active learners and potential instructors. The course will also discuss how to adapt the case teaching method for using novels and films in the classroom.

SIMULATIONS AND GAMES FOR THE CLASSROOM

Instructors: Victor Asal, Nina Collars, Chad Raymond, and Amanda Rosen
In this Career Course, participants will examine the use of simulations and games in the classroom. They will play several simulations to learn about the benefits and challenges of running such exercises with students. The instructors will also provide a wealth of resources, including samples of games and sims that can be used with little modification in their own classes.
## Appendix B: ISA Professional Development 2015 Budget for Regional Panels and ISA Panels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISA West</td>
<td>$1,909.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISA South</td>
<td>$960.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISA Canada</td>
<td>$1,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISA Midwest</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISA Northeast</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,840.08</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Potential Remainder: $1,159.92**

If given permission from ISA headquarters, this remainder will be used to help fund the ISA Professional Development Methods Café, the Professional Development Career Courses, or the Professional Development Sponsored Panels.
ISA West

Emerging Scholar Forum

FUNDS REQUESTED: $1909.68
Junior Scholar Paper Mentorship with four senior Scholars. Panel themes will likely be: international security, international political economy, international ethics, and transnational issues.

Senior scholars will receive a full night at the conference hotel, and junior scholars will receive a half a night (but may cover one or more full nights by sharing rooms).

- $636.56 = one night at conference hotel for four senior scholars
- $1273.12 = one half night at conference hotel for sixteen junior scholars

Junior scholars will be encouraged to submit their papers to ISA journals. In addition, ISA-West will publish on its website insights from both junior and senior scholar participants about the insights that they have taken away from their participation in this activity.

SUGGESTIONS:
- Provide a clear explanation of how Junior Scholars will be selected for the mentorship program.
- Provide a list of Senior Scholars who have agreed to participate in the Junior Mentoring Program.
- Dissemination: PDC funded activities must be made available to all ISA members. Junior Scholar papers and senior scholar comments could be published on the ISA West website to help fulfill this requirement.
- Consider the option that accepted Junior Scholars without a paper will not receive hotel funding.
ISA South

First Year Faculty Challenges in the University Environment

Funds Requested: $960.40

Speaker: Betsy Brown, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at NC State, (bio below) who will address first year faculty challenges in the university environment and the important role mentoring can play in navigating the challenges.

Mentoring tables on the topics of: how to navigate departmental politics, meet service and research expectations, faculty meeting dynamics, time management, family and work balance, and teaching advice.

Dissemination: A Podcast will be provided.

- Transportation reimbursement for Betsy Brown – 163 miles x .56 per mile - $91.28
- Hotel for Betsy Brown – Saturday, October 25, 2014 - $146.42
- Conference registration - $100 for non-member
- Transportation for Heidi Hobbs – 163 miles x .56 per mile - $91.28
- Hotel for Heidi Hobbs – Saturday, October 25, 2014 - $146.42
- Conference registration - $85.00
- Video/Podcast costs - $300.00

Suggestion

- Clarify where the podcast will be hosted in the ISA South program.
ISA Canada

Two Workshops and a Panel

FUNDS REQUESTED: $1970

Workshop I: How to Write a Lot ($470)
Mark B. Salter

- 20 copies of How to write a lot @ $16 $320
- Video Recording and Technical Support (through University of Ottawa) $150
  - setup fee $50
  - 2 hours Recording @$25 $50
  - costs for formatting for web $50

Workshop II (Perfecting Your Application Dossier):

- Travel subsidies for faculty mentors:
  - Dr. Ashworth (St. John’s, NF – Ottawa) $500
  - Dr. Whitehall (Halifax, NS – Ottawa) $500
  - Dr. Smith (Prince George, BC – Ottawa) $500

Panel I: International Relations Careers Outside the Academy

Dissemination: The workshop will be recorded or livestreamed for the use of those who are not able to attend.

SUGGESTION

- Provide a clear explanation of how participants for the first workshop be selected. Will they need to pre-register as they will do with workshop II?
**ISA MIDWEST**

**FOUR ACTIVITIES**

**FUNDS REQUESTED: $2000**
Travel and Hotel Expenses for 8 participants @ $250 each: $2000

Four Activities

- Activity #1: Turning Your Conference Paper into a Publication: Strategies from Those in the Trenches
- Activity #2: Post-Tenure Blues: A Roundtable on What Comes Next in Professional Careers
- Activity #3: Roundtable on Women’s Professional Development Issues
- Activity #4: Job Seekers Café: Success Within and Beyond the Ivory Tower

Dissemination: A summary and a podcast of the discussion will be made available to the ISA community.

**SUGGESTION**

- Clarify the selection of funded faculty participants.
ISA Northeast

Workshop Session

FUNDS REQUESTED: $2000
Travel and Hotel Expenses for four participants @ $500 each: $2000

(I am assuming that there will be the four faculty participants listed instead of the three mentioned in the proposal.)

Workshop Session on Interpretive and Relational Research Methodologies

Participants Include:

- Francois Debrief (Virginia Tech)
- Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University)
- Lauren Wilcox (Cambridge)
- Jennifer Mitzen (Ohio State)

All attendees of the conference may come to the workshop sessions, the 6-8 graduate students officially participating in the workshop will have the opportunity to receive detailed feedback and specialized instruction in the methodologies under discussion.

SUGGESTION

- Dissemination: Place participants’ papers and feedback on ISA northwest website.