The ISA Innovative Pedagogy Conference Planning Committee has worked steadily over the past nearly two years to advance plans for a series of ISA conferences on innovative teaching and learning. Our first conference was held on November 15, 2018, in St. Louis, MO, in conjunction with ISA Midwest, and it was very successful. The committee held two formal meetings at ISA Baltimore in 2017 and ISA San Francisco in 2018, and corresponded frequently to advance our planning throughout the past two years. Pursuant to our charge from the Governing Council for a three-year pilot program, our goal is to hold successful conferences and establish the foundations for future ISA support for pedagogy.

HISTORY

This pilot project was advanced in 2016 by ISA members Carolyn Shaw and Victor Asal, on behalf of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Their original proposal called for a full-day workshop on active teaching and learning in international studies to be held prior to the annual meeting of the ISA. They ran a successful pilot project as a pre-conference workshop at the 2017 ISA meeting in Baltimore. ISA President-Elect Ashley Leeds and Executive Director Mark Boyer helped advance the initiative to the Governing Board in a new form: a proposal for a three-year pilot program that would offer one or two-day workshops on active teaching and learning and would be held in conjunction with regional ISA meetings. The goal would be to create an interactive workshop format with hands-on exercises, debriefing and discussion. The intention was not a conference that would produce publishable output, but rather offer participants an opportunity to exchange information and perspectives on best practices in innovative pedagogy. This workshop pilot plan was seen as an attempt to mirror the best aspects of the APSA’s Teaching and Learning Conferences—and as a creative extension of alternative formats in the ISA (e.g., Working Groups programs, Workshop Grants, and Career Courses). This three-year pilot project received unanimous support from the ISA Governing Board at the Baltimore meeting in February 2017, and the planning committee immediately began its coordination and dialogue with all interested parties.
2018 Conference Planning

The planning process for our first conference in 2018 involved committee correspondence and meetings for nearly two years. In addition to face-to-face meetings during the annual conventions in 2017 and 2018, we engaged in hundreds of e-mail exchanges between committee members, the chair, and ISA headquarters staff. Committee e-mails included regular planning updates and requests for input. In addition, the planning process involved solicitation of co-sponsorship support for the IPC from dozens of different organizations. Our direct sponsors for the 2018 IPC were: The International Studies Association; Professor Paul Diehl and the University of Texas-Dallas; the Department of Political Science and College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri; ALIAS: The Active Learning in International Affairs Section of ISA; the Department of Political Science, The University of North Texas; the International Education Section of ISA; Department of Political Science, The College of Wooster; and Stylus Publishing. We also received valuable help from student workers and administrative coordinators at Wooster and Webster University.

In addition, the promotion effort for this conference was extensive. We began sharing news that the Governing Council had approved a three-year pilot project for pedagogy at the ISA meeting in Baltimore in 2017. Jeff Lantis attended the ALIAS and International Education Section business meetings and made brief announcements about our plans. We then began promotion through the ISA website and postings in the ISA Newsletter. We advanced our promotional efforts in 2018 as we approached open enrollment, including more Newsletter postings and announcements at ALIAS and International Education Section business meetings at the ISA meeting in San Francisco. Jeff Lantis and the committee also shared announcements about the conference with the leaders of ISA Midwest, ISA West, and ISA South, and we met with representatives of those sections and other pedagogy initiatives throughout the conference. We sent a direct appeal to graduate directors of Ph.D.-granting institutions within 200 miles of the conference location to help advertise the IPC and encourage their students to participate. With the assistance of ISA Midwest leaders and staff, we also established a cross-registration system on the isanet.org website to encourage individuals to sign up for both Midwest and IPC.

2018 Conference Success

Our first ISA Innovative Pedagogy Conference in November 2018 was very successful. 84 people registered for the conference, including participants, workshop presenters, and speakers. 214 people registered for ISA Midwest. 62 people registered for both the IPC and Midwest. 19 people who registered for the Pedagogy conference had not attended the Midwest conference in the last 5 years. 15 people who registered for both Pedagogy and Midwest had not attended the Midwest conference in the last 5 years. In short, we saw attendance increases for both the Pedagogy and Midwest conferences, and there was a substantial amount of professional synergy and shared interests between participants at these meetings.

There were three types of sessions at the Innovative Pedagogy Conference: workshops, plenary meetings, and a graduate student teacher training seminar. All workshops and sessions were directed by leading voices on pedagogy, assessment, and professional development. Participants attended four different workshops during the day, chosen from a rich menu, to share innovations and ideas about different themes in international studies pedagogy. Among the workshop themes for 2018 were: Simulations & Games for Teaching Violence and Peace; Publishing Your Innovative Teaching Work; Essentials of Teaching Intro. to International Studies; Assessment; International Studies Curriculum Design; and Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs. These interactive sessions provided hands-on experience and materials for ready application, along with opportunities for professional networking and sharing of ideas. Plenary sessions focused on best practices in innovative teaching and promote opportunities for networking, collaboration, and exchange. ISA President Patrick James gave a wonderful keynote address during our evening plenary session focused on best practices in active teaching and learning. Professor Paul Diehl of the University of Texas-Dallas led an engaging
graduate student teacher training workshop that provided professional development opportunities (and was a certificate program).

FINANCES
To date, the Innovative Pedagogy Conference initiative has been financially successful. Our first conference finished with a positive financial balance, and we expect to carry at least several hundred dollars in balance forward to our second conference initiative. Some of the largest expenses were audiovisual requirements in conference rooms, plus catering and service costs to the Hilton Ballpark hotel. Additional costs included printing, materials shipment, and miscellaneous. Key factors that helped us remain financially solvent included: co-sponsorship support from other associations, departments, and individuals; wonderful support for ISA staff in negotiation of lower-cost options with the hotel; and our strenuous efforts to keep conference and hotel costs lower.

CONFERENCE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
Our committee is now engaged in assessment of the 2018 conference experience and planning for a 2019 conference. We are pleased to report that the leaders of ISA West have agreed to host a joint conference in September 2019 in Pasadena, California. We expect that our conference format will be somewhat similar—with plenary sessions, workshops, and graduate student teacher training. But our committee is also carefully considering creative options for 2019 and beyond. Among the ideas we are considering for future workshops are: mentoring undergraduate research; experiments in the classroom; internationalization on campuses; teaching sensitive issues; Model United Nations programs; diversity and education in the 21st century; and gender and international studies.

ISA-IPC PLANNING COMMITTEE
We are thankful for contributions of the International Studies Association leaders and staff, as well as members of the planning committee in development of this exciting new initiative for the Association. Committee members include:

- Jeffrey S. Lantis, Chair, The College of Wooster
- Amy Below, California State University-East Bay
- Paul F. Diehl, University of Texas-Dallas
- John Ishiyama, University of North Texas
- Heidi Hobbs, North Carolina State University
- Ashley Leeds, Rice University, Past President of ISA, ex officio
- Patrick James, University of Southern California, President of ISA, ex officio
- Cameron Thies, Arizona State University, President-Elect of ISA, ex officio
- Mark Boyer, Executive Director of ISA and University of Connecticut, ex officio