

Memorandum**To: ISA Governing Council; Brittany McCain, ISA HQ****From: Sean Giovanello, ISA-South 2011 Program Chair****Re: ISA-South 2011 Annual Report****Date: 16 December 2011**

The 2011 ISA-South Annual Meeting was held at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina on October 14-15, 2011. The theme of this year's conference was "Political Communication and International Studies." Sean Giovanello, the Program Chair for the 2011 conference, reports that the total number of participants was 92, with approximately 60 faculty members and 32 students. While the majority of the attendees came from within the region, students and faculty attended from as far away as Wisconsin, Iowa, California, London, Israel, and Japan. ISA-South approved and distributed a total of \$2250.00 in student travel grants to 16 students to facilitate their participation in the conference. ISA-South remains grateful to Soomo Publishing, The Washington Center, the Edward Mellen Press, and Oxford Publishing for their financial support for our annual meeting.

The ISA-South conference featured a well-attended professional development workshop entitled, "From Getting a Job to Getting Published: Balancing Life and Work in the Early Stages of Academia." The workshop was proposed and organized by Laura Roselle (Elon University). The members of the panel included Laura Roselle, Jason Kirk (Elon University), Ken Rogerson (Duke University), Alister Miskimmon (Royal Holloway, University of London), and Ben O'Loughlin (Royal Holloway, University of London). The panelists shared their accumulated wisdom and led an excellent discussion with an audience of graduate students and faculty. The topics covered included career advice focused on securing a first job, gaining tenure and promotion, publishing, and how to effectively balance teaching, scholarship, and service. The Department of Political Science at Elon University provided lunch for the workshop attendees.

The first day of the conference also featured a second well-attended and much enjoyed workshop for attendees. Organized by Elon Professor of Political Science Chalmers Brumbaugh and the Model United Nations Club at Elon, the workshop provided attendees with an overview of the International Crisis Conference at Elon (ICCE). Undergraduate students walked attendees through the simulation and a mock crisis, focusing upon simulation design and the role of technology in increasing student interest and participation. Numerous attendees expressed their enjoyment of this workshop, indicating that they would be bringing this knowledge back to their home departments and universities. At least one school (Gardner Webb) will be sending students to participate in the spring 2012 crisis conference at Elon.

The conference continued on Friday with a slate of panels followed by an outdoor reception on Elon's beautiful campus. Featuring a wonderful buffet and cash bar, the reception allowed for attendees to socialize and tie together a productive first day of the conference. ISA-South is very grateful to Elon's Dean of Arts and Sciences, Allison Morrison-Shetlar, who fully funded the cost of the reception.

The conference continued on Saturday morning with the annual Women's Caucus Breakfast. The breakfast was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to network, discuss issues relevant to the Caucus, and set the agenda for the next meeting. The Women's Caucus members thank ISA-South for its continued sponsorship of this annual breakfast.

The Saturday Luncheon once again proved a highlight of the conference. The luncheon provided a nice break from a busy day of panels. It featured a keynote address by Alister Miskimmon and Ben'O'Loughlin, each from Royal Holloway, University of London. Miskimmon and O'Loughlin are two political scientists who are leading researchers on the subject of strategic narratives. The two explained the origins of their research, its relevance to a variety of contemporary problems, and its utility across various fields of study. The audience proved so fascinated by this topic, and the wide-ranging discussion that ensued, that a fifteen minute delay was required before the start of the afternoon panel sessions.

The ISA-South Business Meeting was held following the last panels on Saturday. Sean Giovanello, the Program Chair, provided a preliminary report for the meeting. The conference produced a surplus, thanks to the generous support of Elon University and several outside sponsors. During the meeting, an update was given on the status of plans for the 2012 meeting that will be held in Atlanta, GA and will be hosted by Kennesaw State University. Details about this conference can be found on the ISA and the ISA-South web sites. Plans for the 2013 and 2014 conferences are still being developed and will be firmed up at the next business meeting on Tuesday, 3 April, 7:00am at the ISA annual convention in San Diego. Finally, nominations for officers were made and ballots will go out to ISA-South members in December.

ISA-South has also benefited from the excellent work of Naomi Malone, who has redesigned and greatly improved the ISA-South website. Naomi was recognized at the business meeting for her sustained efforts in this area. The new ISA-South website can be found at isasouth.org. In addition to updating the website, Naomi has also created Twitter and Facebook accounts for ISA-South.

The successful annual meeting would not have been possible without the work of numerous people involved in planning and carrying out the conference. The financial and logistical support of Elon University made it possible to defray expenses and run a surplus for the conference. The staff at the Best Western in Burlington worked hard to make the lodgings pleasant and affordable for our members. The staff at ISA Headquarters greatly assisted the Program Chair, especially Brittany McCain, Mike Rykman, and Elizabeth Fausett. The panel chairs and discussants did an exemplary job discharging their duties, which significantly contributed to the success of the conference. The Program Chair thanked two Elon student volunteers, Greg Nantz and Toorialey Fazly, for their hard work over what would have been their Fall Break. The Program Chair also thanked ISA-South President Mary Meyer McAleese for her leadership and support throughout the past year.