



ISA-SOUTH REGION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

FULL REPORT

The 2015 ISA-South Annual Meeting was held October 23-24, 2015 at the Downtown Tampa Hilton, hosted by the University of South Florida. The theme of the conference was “Global Governance: The United Nations at 70” and the conference dates coincided with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The program co-chairs were Mark Amen and Scott Solomon of the University of South Florida, who were assisted by a local organizing committee comprising Mary Myer McAleese (Eckerd College), Denis Rey (University of Tampa) and Susan Northcutt (University of South Florida). There were 167 registered participants and 36 total panels. As has become the norm for ISA-South, conference participants included faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from across the United States and overseas (including the UK, France, Switzerland and S. Korea).

The conference opened with a professional development panel on “Careers in the Global Arena” and included two presenters from the U.S. government (USAID and the State Department), a former United Nations official, and an executive director of an international NGO. The panel was offered its own slot and was quite well attended. The two hour panel included presentations and extensive question and answer time from the audience. A recording of the panel was made and will be presented to ISA national.

After a full afternoon of panels participants gathered at the Tampa Museum of Art for the traditional opening reception. Attendees enjoyed drinks and hors d’oeuvres along the Hillsborough River. A short program featured welcoming comments by co-chair Scott Solomon, Dr. Steven Tauber (chair of the new School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies at USF), and Dean Eric Eisenberg (of the College of Arts & Sciences at USF). The Honorable Betty Castor then offered brief remarks endorsing the United Nations Association of America’s efforts to promote municipal endorsement and U.S. Senate ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). By all accounts the reception was a delightful way to end the first day of the conference.

Saturday began with a well-attended Women’s Caucus breakfast where scholars and students had an opportunity to discuss their scholarship, network, and plan future activities. After a full slate of panels in the morning the Saturday luncheon was held with strong attendance. The scheduled speaker, President of ISA Paul Diehl, was unable to attend due to severe weather in Dallas. President Diehl kindly offered to deliver an address by Skype or to speak at a future ISA- South event. Given the logistical and financial challenges involving a Skype presentation at the hotel, the latter was chosen. ISA-South leadership felt that giving participants more time to get to know each other was consistent with the organization’s ethos of providing mentorship and networking opportunities for young scholars and graduate students. ISA-South would like to note that President Diehl spent an entire day at DFW airport trying to get to Tampa and we greatly appreciate his efforts!

The Saturday luncheon was hosted and emceed by former ISA-South President and current Treasurer Tom Badey who graciously filled in for current ISA-South President Vincent Wang (who was unable to attend the conference due to professional obligations in Taiwan). The winners of the Jim Winkates Graduate Student Paper Competition were announced at the luncheon. The committee that reviewed the papers was chaired by Mary Manjikian (Regents University) who was joined by Aart Holtslag (Shepherd University), Dorian Brown Crosby (Spelman College), Sandy P. Mihal (Troy University) and Gynta Palubinskas (West Virginia State University). The chair of the committee made the awards at the luncheon and each prize winner received a plaque and a check. The Grand Prize winner was Christopher Faulkner (University of Georgia), Second Place went to Rebecca Schiel (University of Central Florida) and Third Place went to Megan Lounsbury (University of Georgia). The committee reported that this year's entrants were exceptionally strong and that making a final decision was challenging.

Financially the conference was a success, thanks to generous donors and conference participants staying at the conference hotel in sufficient numbers. ISA-South would like to thank Dean Eric Eisenberg and the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of South Florida, the journal *Globalizations*, and Dr. Susan Northcutt, a treasured and long-serving member of ISA-South, for their generous sponsorship of the conference reception. ISA-South is also grateful for a professional development grant from ISA national that provided generous support for the professional development panel. In order to encourage conference attendance ISA-South provided 14 student travel grants totaling \$2,100. The conference budget, excluding travel grants and Winkates awards paid through ISA-South general funds, finished with a net gain of 1109.78.

The ISA-South business meeting was held immediately following the close of the conference. It was agreed that the 2016 annual meeting would be held at Shepherd University, chaired by Aart Holtslag. There was some discussion about the possibility of holding the 2017 conference at the University of Central Florida. Houman Sadri of UCF is exploring the possibility. Among a number of items discussed at the business meeting: introduction of junior faculty travel grants starting at the 2016 annual meeting, improving networking of the executive council, and better promotion of the Winkates award competition. The 2016 slate of officers and executive council were nominated at the meeting, and are expected to be voted on in January 2016. The nominees were:

- President: Scott Solomon (seconded, passed by acclamation)
- VP: Aart Holtslag (seconded, passed by acclamation)
- Secretary: Andreea Mihalache-O'Keef (seconded, passed by acclamation)
- Treasurer: Thomas Badey (seconded, passed by acclamation)
- Executive Council
 - Credentialed members: 3-year appointments; no limit on membership; 4 terms are up this year: Sandy Mihal, Dorian Brown Crosby, Mary Meyer McAllese, Aart Holtstag. Nominations:
 - Ginta Palubinskas (seconded, passed)
 - Mary Meyer McAllese (seconded, passed)
 - Sandy Mihal (seconded, passed)
 - Dorian Brown Crosby (declined)
 - Graduate student members: 1-year appointment. Nominations:
 - Christopher Faulkner (seconded, passed)

The conference co-chairs and local organizing committee want to acknowledge, in addition to those named above, all of the people who contributed to a successful conference. We are very grateful to current and former ISA-South presidents, officers, and members who shared their wisdom from past conferences and encouraged their students and colleagues to attend the conference. We are also indebted to the USF graduate student volunteers who worked so hard before, during and after the conference. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Ms. Jennifer Vincent, Academic Services Administrator at SIGS, the University of South Florida, who assisted in almost every aspect of the conference. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of ISA national, particularly Liz Fausett and Jeanne White, who worked with us while simultaneously relocating from Arizona to Connecticut.