As with previous years, the Women’s Caucus for International Studies (WCIS) continues to remain engaged in ISA. While many members do conduct research on women and gender, first and foremost, as an advocacy caucus/group, “WCIS is devoted to upgrading the status of women in the profession of international studies. WCIS seeks to promote equal opportunities for women in their professional lives, from graduate school admissions through all stages of employment. WCIS also seeks to promote women's professional development, both in academic and non-academic professional careers in international studies.” Within that vein, WCIS has sought to increase its presence within the Association and to increase its membership. As of January 2013, WCIS has 246 members, up from 199 in 2012.

With the election of a new Communications Director, Serena Serrano, at the 2012 ISA WCIS breakfast business meeting, the WCIS Board determined that the listserv, which had been maintained at Bucknell University when Emek Ucarer was the WCIS Communications person, should reflect that change. In order to maintain continuity for the Caucus moving forward, regardless of who is in the position of Communications person (and thus would not need to maintain it through their university), housing the listserv at ISA headquarters seemed to be a good choice. The link for the WCIS listserv is: http://www.isanet.org/wcis/2007/05_listserv.html. In addition to the listserv, WCIS also has a Facebook group called “Women’s Caucus for International Studies” (http://www.facebook.com/groups/190183197690905/).

As for conference participation and representation, WCIS remains active at ISA and other venues. At the 2012 ISA conference in San Diego, the Caucus was well represented at panels focused on scholarship and mentoring (see section below). At the joint British International Studies Association (BISA)-ISA Conference held in June 2012 in Edinburgh, Scotland, WCIS sponsored a roundtable presentation: “Women and Post-Conflict Social and Political Transformation.” WCIS will sponsor a panel, “Imagined Peace: Women, Security and Post-Conflict,” at the upcoming joint Peace Science Society (PSS)-ISA conference to be held in Budapest, Hungary (June 27-29, 2013).

WCIS Presence at 2012 ISA Annual Meeting in San Diego
WCIS originally had 4 panels allocated by ISA but through co-sponsorship we were able to nearly triple to 11. A couple of the most interesting panels have had to do with mentoring and achieving success in publishing. In particular, the panel on achieving success in publishing was extremely well attended at 35--extremely high for a “non-substantive” panel. It included participants from both international and domestic institutions, large and small, research and teaching-oriented. Additionally, the joint reception held with FTGS and LGBTQA was very well attended, and WCIS thanks the many sponsors who contributed to the event (Ashgate Publishers, Cambridge University Press, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Oxford University Press, and Taylor and Francis).

New Officers for 2012-13
Chair: Kristen Williams (2012-13)
Vice-Chair: Sandra McEvoy (2012-13)
Secretary/Treasurer: Bethany Barratt (2012-13, renewable)
Communications Coordinator: Serena Oswald Serrano (2012-14, renewable)
Nominations and Awards Coordinator: Laura Sjoberg (2012-13, renewable)
Member at Large: Galia Golan (2011-13, renewable)
Past Chair: Laura Sjoberg

The 2013 Deborah (“Misty”) Gerner Grant for Professional Development Awarded to Christine Balarezo
The recipient of the Gerner Award for Professional Development is Christine Balarezo of the University of North Texas. The Deborah Gerner Grant for Professional Development is awarded by the Women’s Caucus of International Studies (WCIS) and sponsored by Lynne Rienner Publishers. Funds from this grant may be used to support any legitimate professional development need identified by the candidate. The Gerner Award will support Balarezo’s attendance and participation at the ISA annual meeting to present her co-authored paper, “Sexual Intervention? Sexual Violence in Conflict and External Intervention.” The paper seeks to answer the question: Does sexual violence increase the likelihood of external intervention by regional or international organizations?

The 2013 Susan Northcutt Award to Professor Sara Mitchell
The Susan S. Northcutt Award was established in 2003 by the Women’s Caucus for International Studies (WCIS) to honor the Caucus’ founder, Susan S. Northcutt. The description of the Northcutt award is as follows: the award “recognizes a person who actively works toward recruiting and advancing women and other minorities in the profession, and whose spirit is inclusive, generous and conscientious.” We are pleased to announce that the recipient of the Northcutt Award for 2013 is Sara Mitchell. As her letters of support indicated, she is an outstanding scholar and has an excellent record of service to the profession. The most notable, but far from only, contribution Professor Mitchell has made to advancing women in our field is the “Journeys in World Politics” program. Since 2004, funded first by the University of Iowa and since 2007 by the National Science Foundation, Mitchell and Kadera invite applications from female graduate students and assistant professors and select 10-12 promising young women to come to Iowa for the weekend along with two “featured senior scholars.” Many young women find it a watershed experience in their careers, as it provides them with a sense of scholarly community that they did not have before. She has done data analysis to provide hard evidence of the challenges women face in the discipline. Sara Mitchell exemplifies these traits and is an outstanding candidate for this award.

ISA 2013
At ISA 2013, WCIS was allotted a quota of 3 panels. Given co-sponsorship opportunities, primarily with Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (FTGS), and one Theme panel, WCIS will sponsor 9 panels/roundtables. In addition to panels/roundtables, WCIS will be hosting a joint reception with FTGS and LGBTQ on the evening of Wednesday, April 3 (thank you again to our co-sponsors: Ashgate Publishers, Cambridge University Press, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Oxford University Press, and Taylor and Francis). The annual WCIS breakfast business meeting will be held on Friday, April 5. In advance of the ISA meeting, WCIS members will elect a new Vice-Chair, two Members-At-Large, and the Awards and Nominations Coordinator. The new Board members will be introduced at the WCIS breakfast business meeting.
Submitted by Kristen Williams, Caucus Chair (March 1, 2013)