Overall, ISA-West continues to grow as a region. In 2014, our membership increased to 650 from 591 the previous year. In terms of finances, our account balance as of December 2013 is $23,135.67, though this amount does not reflect reimbursements to individual members for conference expenses.

The ISA-West conference, co-sponsored by the ISA International Communication, International Ethics and ALIAS sections, was held for the third consecutive year at the Pasadena Hilton in Pasadena, California on September 27-28. Scholars participated on 21 panels and 9 roundtables. A total of 114 people registered for the conference: 50 faculty members, 55 graduate students, and 9 undergraduates. Participants came largely from southern California, but the conference also attracted scholars from British Columbia, Japan, Israel, Brazil, Taiwan, and Chile.

The conference theme was “Disruptions in World Politics: Policy Challenges, Normative Responses.” It featured an ISA Presidents’ Roundtable (current and former) on professional development that included Ole Holsti, Jacek Kugler, and Harvey Starr on Friday evening. This event was sponsored by the ISA Professional Development Committee, and the video file will be uploaded and made available to the ISA membership as a whole. The other main highlight was “Normative Response in an Era of Skepticism: a generational take,” an address by Brent Steele, University of Utah, at the luncheon on Saturday.

About one-quarter of our panels were on the conference theme, while other panels reflected a variety of topics within international studies. The program featured “Author meets Critics” panels on books by Patrick James and Laura Sjoberg. In addition, an innovative book panel featured four authors who explained the “big idea” behind their books in sixty seconds or less. Thanks to our graduate student representative, Rod Albuyeh, we also hosted a pre-conference grad student happy hour and workshop for first-time presenters.

Our paper awards committee has elected to give two paper awards for the 2013 conference. Shane J. Barter of Soka University of America received the faculty award for his paper "Between a rock and a hard place: second-order minorities in the Aceh conflict", and graduate student Meredith Shaw from the University of Southern California received an award for "Shaming Analogies and Reconciliation Dyads Germany is to France as Japan is to Korea?"

Overall, the conference was profitable and ISA-West maintains a positive account balance. Based on the great feedback from last year, the cost of the luncheon was once again included in the registration fee. This increased revenue while reducing uncertainty about meeting hotel minimums for food and services. In addition to registration fees, the conference was financially supported by ISA International Communication, a grant from the ISA Professional Development Committee, a grant from ALIAS, and a small contribution for morning coffee from the book exhibitor, Scholar’s Choice. Once again, we would also like to thank the grad students at USC for their administrative support of the conference, and in some cases, running a shuttle service between Pasadena and the airport. While our region budget is financially sound, we continue to seek additional sponsorships to help support the conference, including travel grants.
to graduate students. This year we were able to partially support a total of five graduate students, and we aim to maintain and even increase this amount in the future.

At our regional conference board and business meetings, we elected and confirmed members to vacant positions. For the 2014 program, Carolyn James will be taking over as program chair, and Amy Eckert will assume the presidency, with Brent Steele as secretary. We elected three at-large members, Amy Below, Saba Ozyurt, and Amy Skonieczny. Finally, Rod Albuyeh will now co-share the graduate student representative position with Cyrus Mohammadian.

We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at our next regional conference in Pasadena—this time at the Westin—on September 26-28, 2014!