The ISA-West conference, co-sponsored by the International Ethics section and ALIAS, was held for the second consecutive year at the Pasadena Hilton in Pasadena, California. Over two days, 126 people participated on 23 panels and 9 roundtables. A total of 130 people registered for the conference: 66 faculty members, 56 graduate students, and 8 undergraduates. Participants came largely from southern California, but the conference also attracted scholars from British Columbia, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Taiwan, and the Netherlands.

The conference theme was “Climate Change and Human Security.” It featured the California Film Award documentary on climate change (“Things Fall Apart”) by Miroslav Nincic of UC-Davis Friday evening and a keynote address (“Climate Change and Security: Where Do We Stand?”) by Josh Busby of the LBJ School at the University of Texas, Austin at the luncheon on Saturday. In addition, a Friday evening wine-tasting event featured a talk on globalization and the wine industry by Mike Veseth of the University of Puget Sound.

About one-quarter of our panels were on the conference theme, while other panels reflected a variety of topics within international studies. One of the most well-attended panels focused on ethics and foreign policy, with much of the conversation surrounding the US’ controversial drone policy. Our annual “Author Meets Critics” panel featured Hans Schattle’s new book, Globalization and Citizenship, which helped to further our goal of attracting scholars from other disciplines. The conference also featured four roundtables related to professional development, two of which were supported by a Professional Development Committee grant. “Navigating the Mentor-Mentee Relationship,” “Navigating Departmental and Campus Politics,” “Walking the Walk: Human Rights Activists in the Field,” and “Teaching Insights by Award-Winning Teachers.” The two roundtables supported by the PDC grant were videotaped. Video files will be uploaded and made available to the ISA membership as a whole.

Overall, the conference was profitable and ISA-West maintains a positive account balance. For the first time in a number of years, the cost of the luncheon was 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 supported by a separate fee for the wine event, a generous grant from the ISA Professional Development Committee, a grant from Pepperdine University, ALIAS, and a small contribution from the book exhibit, Scholar’s Choice. Loyola Marymount University also provided travel funding for the luncheon speaker and paid student workers to assist program chair Jennifer Ramos prior to and during the conference. While our region budget is financially sound, we continue to seek additional sponsorships to help support the conference, including travel grants to graduate students.

For the 2013 program, Amy Eckert will be taking over as program chair, to be followed by Carolyn James for the 2014 program. Our current board members include: Jennifer Ramos (President); Amy Eckert (Program Chair); Lisa Burke (Secretary); Laura Sjoberg (Treasurer); Rod Albuyeh (Graduate Representative); Carolyn James, Robert Williams, Jessica Peet, Alison Holmes, Patrick James, Hans Schattle, Lui Hebron, Doug Becker, Mary Jane Parmentier and Amy Skonieczny (Board Members).