ISA-West Region Annual Report 2014

Program Chair: Carolyn James

ISA-West President: Amy Eckert

In 2015, our membership decreased slightly to 628 from 650 in 2013.

The ISA-West conference, co-sponsored by the ISA International Communication, International Ethics and ALIAS sections, was held in Pasadena at a new venue, the Pasadena Westin, on September 26-27. This year’s conference, organized around the theme “Interdisciplinary Approaches to International Studies,” included two important events. One was the presentation of the first Ole R. Holsti Distinguished Scholar Award, which was created to honor a senior scholar with a record of research, teaching and mentoring, and service to ISA. Dr. Holsti, who has generously endowed this award, was its first recipient. His speech, “Present at the Creation,” traced the early stages of ISA’s organizational development.

Additionally, ISA-West held an Emerging Scholars Forum as this year’s professional development activity. Modeled on a similar program held at main ISA, this program matches junior scholars with senior scholars who discuss their work. While the inaugural ESF was small, many of the participants expressed an interest in returning to the conference next year to present on their progress with the research that they presented this year.

ISA President Amitav Acharya delivered the keynote address, “Global IR in a Multiplex World.”

Overall, we had 156 people register for the conference and held 34 panels and roundtables.

Thanks to the efforts of ISA-West board member Cameron Thies, the conference received generous sponsorships. Our sponsors included Chapman University, Pepperdine University, the International Studies and Languages Department, Pepperdine University, ISA International Communications Section (ICOMM), ISA International Ethics Section (IETHICS), ISA Active Learning in International Affairs Section (ALIAS), USC School of International Relations, and the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. Scholar’s Choice was an exhibitor. ISA-West would also like to acknowledge USC for again furnishing student volunteers to the conference.

With the election of Lui Hebron as program chair for the 2015 conference, Carolyn James assumes the presidency of ISA-West. The 2015 meeting will again be held at the Pasadena Westin on September 25-27, 2015.