

**Award of the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award March 2008 – Boston –**

**Lorna Stern, Director Institutional Relations, Arcadia University, Center for Education Abroad**

Every year the Forum on Education Abroad has the pleasure of awarding the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award. Named in honor of the first Chair of the Forum Council, the award honors a Forum member who has been exceptionally effective in influencing educational institutions to understand and support education abroad through the effective dissemination of the fruits of the Forum's other goals: standards of good practice, data collection and research, curricular development and academic design, and assessment.

This year's nominee has exceeded these criteria and added to them from an overflowing cornucopia of skills, talents, and vision. He has demonstrated a persistent commitment to excellence that has served to advance our field. At every turn in his professional career, the nominee has been first and foremost an educator, dedicated to the proposition that a global education has a profound potential to transform individual lives, communities, institutions, and our world. Whether on the smaller, but no less significant platform, of the day-to-day workings of a busy office and institution, or the larger stages provided by NAFSA, the Forum, CIEE, AIEA, IIE, the Fulbright Commission and the American Council on Education to name just a few, his commitment to excellence, common-sense thinking, integrity of practice and largeness of vision has been unwavering.

Through all the various avenues of service to our field, the nominee has been led by a guiding principle which can best be summed up by the words – "Do the right thing".

The nominee has been the key person in the transformation of a small regional college into a truly international university. On campus, he has been a leader in the establishment of spring inter-session educational trips for freshmen, and the freshman semester abroad program; he has overseen a dramatic increase in enrollment in study abroad and led the way in developing innovative overseas programs; he has helped to usher in an innovative General Education program that provides an integrated global experience for all students. Because of his leadership, his institution has been recognized by the American Council on Education as one of eight American institutions demonstrating promising practices of campus internationalization; resulting in the prestigious **Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization**.

The nominee's achievements in the international education profession have been no less significant than those at his home institution. He was a founding member of the Forum on Education Abroad, providing the fledgling organization not only a venue to meet on a regular basis in its formative days, but also assuming many early administrative responsibilities before the organization moved to the Smith College campus and subsequently to Dickinson College. NAFSA, AIEA, CIEE, the Pennsylvania Council on International Education, and other professional associations have also benefited from his wise counsel, expertise and excellent work. Membership in these organizations has not been simply paying dues, but has represented his active engagement on all levels, from participation in committees to leadership roles. He presently serves on the board of directors of NAFSA and the Fulbright Center. He is a long-standing and key member of the Inter-Associational Task Force on Health and Safety in Study Abroad and led the way for seminal work in this area which continues to form the standards for good practice in Health and Safety. He is a member of the International Education Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and he regularly consults on the development of international/intercultural programs with colleges and universities in the U.S.

In 2003, he was the recipient of the SECUSSA Education Abroad Leadership Award.

The list of accomplishments, both those that are widely known, and those known only to a few are endless, and frankly become repetitive were I to enumerate them all. What is most laudable and

memorable to each and every one of us who has had the pleasure to work with him is the kind, modest and generous spirit that was brought to each endeavor; and the unwavering focus on the worth of each individual's contribution to our common purpose. In a world where 'dissembling' and 'deniability' have become commonplace, the nominee has built a career out of the following character traits –integrity, perseverance, commitment, hard-work, humor, patience, insight, good judgment, and above all a certain unflappability of spirit, that could only have been born in the rocky soil of the great state of Maine.

On behalf of the Forum for Education Abroad it is with great pleasure, that I present the Peter A. Wollitzer Award to Dr. David Larsen.