

THE  
FORUM  
ON EDUCATION  
ABROAD

FORUM NEWS  
OCTOBER 10, 2008

### Last Call for Member Comment!

The member comment period on the draft of the Standards of Good Practice for Short-Term Education Abroad Programs ends Tuesday, October 14. Please submit comments to [info@forumea.org](mailto:info@forumea.org). As with all Forum projects, member feedback is essential! The first edition of the Standards for Short-Term Programs will debut and be discussed at the Forum Conference in Portland.

### Conference Spotlight: Plenary Speaker, Peter Chilson

Peter Chilson, author and Associate Professor of English at Washington State University, went to West Africa in 1985 as a Peace Corps English teacher where he taught junior high school in Bouza, a village in southern central Niger. After the Peace Corps, Chilson worked as a freelance journalist based in Ivory Coast. He later worked for the Associated Press in Connecticut and as associate editor at High Country News, the magazine that covers public lands issues in the American West.

To research his first book, *Riding the Demon*, Chilson went back to West Africa in 1992. Based in eastern Niger, he spent a year on the road through Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Ivory Coast, living and traveling with bush taxi and truck drivers to write about modern Africa and the African genius for survival. His work has appeared in *The American Scholar*, *Audubon*, *Ascent*, *Best American Travel Writing*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Long Story*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere.

*Riding the Demon* won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Prize for Creative Nonfiction. Chilson has won the Gulf Coast Fiction Prize and most recently the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Bakeless Prize in fiction for his new book, *Disturbance-Loving Species: A Novella and Stories*. The stories in this book are about Americans in Africa who are struggling to cope with political and social conflict, and Africans trying to adjust to life in the United States.

**Chilson's talk, "In the Bright Country: Travels Through an African Borderland," will feature a reading from his new nonfiction about traveling the border between Ivory Coast, a country divided by war, and Mali, which is at peace. He will explore the legacy of Africa's colonial borders and what they mean for Africa's future.**

**WELCOME!**  
To these new  
Forum members:

Frostburg State  
University

St. Lawrence  
University

University of  
Redlands

#### DATES TO NOTE

October 15, 2008  
Deadline for [Fireside  
Dialogue Applications](#)

November 15, 2008  
Peer Reviewer  
Training Workshop,  
after the CIEE  
conference,  
Nashville, TN

December 15, 2008  
Early-bird conference  
registration ends

February 18-20,  
2009: Fifth Forum  
Conference,  
Portland, OR

**Record  
Number of  
Sessions  
Offered at  
Conference**

**We are pleased  
to announce  
that the Portland**

## Fireside Dialogue Application Deadline October 15

that the Portland  
Conference  
will feature  
[56 sessions.](#)

**Don't miss out on this outstanding professional development opportunity! Choose from one of the following Fireside Dialogues:**

- "Mid-Career Professionals: Topics in Leadership" facilitated by Patti Brown, Paul Primak and Stevan Trooboff
- "Making the Case: Beyond the Basics of Risk Management" facilitated by Natalie Mello and Bill Frederick

Fireside Dialogues will begin Sunday evening, February 15 and continue through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17. Participation in each Fireside Dialogue will be limited to 20 participants. The Fireside Dialogue format offers a unique opportunity to focus intensively on important education abroad topics. Participants must have at least five years of experience in the field of education abroad and a long-term commitment to international education. Applications are due Wednesday, October 15. Selected participants will be notified on Friday, October 31. Forum members will be given preference over non-member applicants and a waiting list will be maintained. The fee to participate in the Fireside Dialogue is \$325, which includes group meals. Visit the [Fireside Dialogue webpage](#) for further details and to fill out a brief application.

### Travel Grants for Portland Conference

The Forum is pleased to make available a limited amount of funding to assist individuals who may have difficulty paying to attend the Forum Conference. The purpose of the Forum Conference Travel Grant is to defray costs for participating in the annual Forum conference for education abroad professionals who would be unable to attend the conference without financial assistance. Selection will be based on need and demonstrated benefit from attending the conference. Grant awards are expected to range from US\$200 to US\$500.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be from a Forum institutional member in good standing. Preference will be given to session presenters.

**Use of Grant Funding:** Grant recipients are expected to attend the entire conference, submit a post-conference report on how the conference benefited them, and include a detailed expense sheet.

**Deadline:** Applications must be received by December 1, 2008. Grant recipients will be notified by mid-December. Visit the [travel grant webpage](#) to download an application.

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