

### Portland Conference Recap

720 attendees from 25 countries participated recently in the Fifth Annual Forum Conference in Portland, Oregon to explore the theme "Being There: Teaching and Learning Abroad." Over 100 participants were resident directors, on-site program staff, or work at host institutions. Over 100 faculty representing a wide range of academic disciplines also attended. The Forum thanks the host institutions, volunteers, and sponsors for their support and assistance, and without which the conference would not have been possible.

In the pre-conference Fireside Dialogues, 40 participants worked closely with leaders in the field to concentrate on critical education abroad topics. Hosted at Lewis and Clark College and AHA International, respectively, this year's Fireside Dialogues focused on "Mid-Career Professionals: Topics in Leadership" and "Making the Case: Beyond the Basics of Risk Management."

260 people participated in a total of 9 pre-conference workshops covering education abroad topics ranging from student learning and outcomes assessment to a new workshop on "An Introduction to the Forum Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad," which will be offered as a webinar later this spring.

For most attendees, the 57 different roundtable sessions, some of which received media attention from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed*, were highlights of the conference.

Cristina Grasset of Spain Education Programs in Madrid noted at the conference that "the sessions have been fabulous and the networking opportunities have been great. I've told our team about the conference so now everyone wants to be in Charlotte next year. Hopefully we'll all be there, together with more institutions from Spain."

Conference Chair, Shaik Ismail of Linfield College, offered his perspective on the conference: "One of the pleasures of being the Conference Chair was to receive so many compliments about the conference from the participants -- its seamless operation and organization, the diversity of roundtable sessions and the many opportunities to interact with one another. For me, the highlight of the week was to witness the remarkable achievements by the students in their award presentations."

Monique Fecteau, Director of Tufts in Paris, praised the many volunteers that worked so hard to make the conference a success. She noted that the conference "was truly a pleasurable experience as well as a professionally stimulating one, and I look forward to 2010!"

Joe Hoff, Director of International Degree and Study Abroad at Oregon State University, reported that: "What I most like about the Forum on Education Abroad conference in addition to the roundtable set-up of most of the sessions are the presentations by undergraduates on their research they've conducted overseas. These amazing students are truly representative of the value of education abroad and I praise the Forum for its support of this fine endeavor."

Conference session materials are being loaded onto the Forum web site and will be available in the near future. Conference attendees have received an email with a link to the conference evaluation. If you attended the conference, but did not receive this email, please contact the Forum at [info@forumea.org](mailto:info@forumea.org)

### Sixth Annual Forum Conference to be Held in Charlotte

The Sixth Annual Forum Conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina, March 24 – 26, 2010. The conference theme, call for session proposals and other details will be announced in the near future. If you would like to contribute to the planning of the 2010 conference in any way, please contact the Forum at [info@forumea.org](mailto:info@forumea.org)

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