

Over 700 Participate in Forum Conference!

A record number of attendees convened in Boston last week at the Forum's Annual Conference to discuss and debate education abroad issues and topics.

Highlights included:

- Over 30 discussion-based roundtable sessions on various topics, including ethical issues;
- Provocative keynote addresses by Isabelle de Courtivron and [Regge Life](#);
- The Undergraduate Research Awards presentations;
- David Larsen receiving the [Peter Wollitzer Advocacy Award](#);
- A weekend Fireside Dialogue for mid-career professionals focusing on leadership issues.

Full summaries of the conference sessions, the plenary addresses, and additional information will be posted on the Forum web site as they become available.



Wollitzer Award recipient David Larsen with Forum President Brian Whalen



Mike Woods, Counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, DC commented, "I appreciate that the Forum dynamics are clearly changing as the membership base grows rapidly, but I still found that there was much more opportunity for dialogue and exchange of ideas in the Forum's sessions than in typical international education conferences."

Angi Yucas, Director of the Study Abroad Office at the University of Pittsburgh stated, "I was pleased to have the opportunity to join my colleagues in a thoughtful discussion of such aspects of the recently crafted Code of Ethics as site visits, participation on advisory boards, approval of third party provider programs and pricing of study abroad programs."

Undergraduate Research
Award winners Brittany Murlas
and Lauren Gersbach

Trish Tindall of the University of Wollongong in Australia gave her perspective on travelling across the globe to Boston: "The Forum Conference was again worth the long journey from the other side of the world. It continues to provide a valuable combination of information, discussion and networking as well as an opportunity to really focus on the latest issues and trends in the field of education abroad."

For Ellie McHugh of the University of Limerick, "It was gratifying to come away with inspiring ideas, direction, solutions and hope for resolutions to some of the long-term challenges we all face."

According to Shaik Ismail, Director of International Education at Linfield College in Oregon, one of the host institutions for the Forum's 2009 conference, "The focus on ethics and access at the Boston conference provided a refreshing opportunity to reflect on where we are in our profession. I hope we can continue this dialogue in Portland next year. We look forward to welcoming Forum members to this beautiful part of the country."



Isabelle de Courtviron, plenary speaker, with Sheila Bayne, Forum Council Chair

Finally, Chris Welna, President of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, summed up the feelings of many attendees: "The Forum Conference was an exceptionally useful meeting. Each session was engaging and on-topic, and the conference was well-organized throughout. I'll certainly be there next year."

It is an Excellent Time to Join the Forum!

There is no better time to join the Forum than right now. By joining the Forum your institution or organization can start receiving member benefits and services right away! Visit the Forum web site or contact the Forum today for information on becoming a member.

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