

FORUM NEWS

APRIL 2, 2010

Annual Conference Draws Over 900 to Charlotte

The Sixth Annual Forum Conference attracted over 900 attendees for three days of workshops, roundtable discussions, presentations and networking in Charlotte, North Carolina. Session materials, including PowerPoint slides and handouts, will be uploaded to the Forum web site as they become available.

Bryan Higgins, Director of International Education at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, expressed what many participants felt: "The Forum conference sessions are insightful and well organized. What I especially appreciate are the conversations in the hallways and events. It is great to meet new professionals and hear what they are doing to make global connections in the field."

At the inaugural Standards of Good Practice Institute and during the preconference workshops, attendees focused on special topics in seminar settings. Jeannie Bonner Simmons, International Programs Specialist at the Ohio State University, noted that "The Standards of Good Practice Institute provided a unique opportunity to choose from a wide variety of in-depth sessions on health, safety, and security. The small setting really allowed the participants to engage with the presenters and take full advantage of their expertise." One new workshop offering was co-sponsored by the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The workshop, "Crossing Borders, Creating Culture: Digital Storytelling & Study Abroad" produced several storytelling projects that were presented during a conference session, and one example may be viewed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfpqCkjCADO>

The Forum extends its appreciation to the many people who made the conference a success, including the conference committee, colleagues from the sixteen host institutions, conference volunteers, workshop and session leaders and presenters, and conference exhibitors and sponsors.

Conference Attendees Receive New Resources

Those attending the Annual Conference received as part of their registration the following new publications:

- A special volume of *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, the official journal of the Forum, called "A History of U.S. Study Abroad: 1965 – Present"
- The State of the Field Survey 2009
- The Preliminary Report of the Forum's Education Abroad Incident Database Pilot Project

These resources will be mailed to Forum members who did not attend the conference within the next two weeks, and others may order copies by visiting the [Forum](#) and

[Frontiers](#) web sites.

Jim Langridge Honored with the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award

To a rousing standing ovation, James Langridge of the University of Wollongong accepted the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award at a plenary session at the Forum's Annual Conference. Jon Booth, Executive Director of Syracuse University Abroad, and a member of the Award's Selection Committee, stated in his introduction to the ceremony, "The Peter A. Wollitzer Award is to honor a Forum member who has been remarkably effective in influencing educational institutions to understand and support education abroad. We all need heroes. We all need role models. The Forum set up this award to identify heroes and role models amongst the Forum membership." His full remarks about the Award may be read here: <http://www.forumea.org/wollitzeraward.htm>

Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Wollongong, read a citation to honor Langridge, which read in part, "This year's recipient, Dr. James Langridge, has created a significant international focus for the direction of international education within his own university, at a state and national level and in several countries around the world. He has been a key player in transforming his university into a truly global university. He has driven and guided the international mission and has developed programs, student exchange agreements and off-shore operations in regions which were not on the radar for many of his counterparts." The full citation may be read here: <http://www.forumea.org/wollitzeraward.htm>

Along with Jon Booth, the members of the Wollitzer Award Selection Committee included Mark Ferguson (Junior Year Abroad Munich); Mary Ann Grant (ISEP); Helena Kaufman (Carleton College); and Wedigo de Vivanco (Freie Universität Berlin).

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