

**May 2012****Report of HACA Regional Chairs Meeting in Denver (May 5 - 6, 2012)**

HACA Regional Chairs Mo Klinkert (Montreal), Ali Toufighi (Toronto), Melanie Solterbeck (Vancouver), and Peter Nazaruk (Edmonton) were joined in Denver by regional chairs representing the 11 chapters that make up Heidelberg Alumni US (HAUS).

Irmintraud Jost, director of the Heidelberg University Association, began the meeting with a summary of measures introduced to enhance Heidelberg's status as a "comprehensive university." As part of this effort, the University has established "Clusters of Excellence" in the natural sciences and humanities and continues to strengthen interdisciplinary programs among university and related institutions. Irmintraud also reviewed recent activities of Heidelberg Alumni International and Heidelberg's new Research-Alumni network sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

HAUS President Kathleen Lance and HACA President Mo Klinkert then reported on their clubs followed by an update on the status of the HAUS regional chapters. HAUS members shared information about the organization's planned mentoring program, one of whose goals is to attract younger alumni. A proposed member-interest survey was also discussed.

In the communications area, discussion focused on the use of social media as a potentially valuable tool. HACA was encouraged to follow HAUS's lead in establishing a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, only one of which HACA can now claim. Ali Toufighi will continue to maintain the club's Facebook page and will connect HACA with LinkedIn, while Melanie Solterbeck volunteered to open a Twitter account.

HACA would like to thank HAUS and in particular Kathleen Lance and Al Fink, HAUS regional chair, Denver, for hosting the meeting and sharing their experiences in managing alumni associations. Finally, HACA wishes to express its appreciation to Irmintraud Jost for her hard work and dedication in supporting both HAUS and HACA regional chapters.

Submitted by Mo Klinkert
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HACA