



September 2012

HACA Represented At Boston HAUS Meeting

In her capacity as HACA president and Montreal regional chair, Mo Klinkert attended the 2012 Heidelberg Alumni United States (HAUS) annual meeting held in Boston on September 21 - 23. Also present was HACA member Petra Rohrbach from Montreal.

Honoured guests at the Boston meeting were Dr. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University, Heidelberg alumnus and Nobel Laureate Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle and the German Consul General of Boston, Rolf Schütte. Among Heidelberg University's representatives were Silke Rodenberg (Director of Heidelberg Alumni International), Marietta Fuhrman-Koch (Director of Communication and Marketing), Elisabeth Trnka-Hammel (US Coordinator, International Office), Johannes Scharr (Project Coordinator of the Research Alumni Program), and Irmintraud Jost (Director of the Heidelberg University Association, New York).

Highlights of the meeting included a discussion of how best to launch a HAUS-initiated mentoring project and a report by the Rector on recent university affairs with emphasis on Heidelberg's unique success among German universities in achieving full funding for its programs in the second round of the "Excellence Initiative". At the seminar, participants learnt about the creation of "Clusters of Excellence" that connect the University with leading area research institutes and businesses. During a post-dinner open conversation between the Rector and Dr. Ketterle, moderator Kathleen Lance (HAUS President) posed questions related to how their lives may have changed in the course of gaining conspicuous professional success. The participants were also asked to share their views on the current status of Germany's leading universities and how these universities define and work to maintain both academic freedom and the highest possible academic quality.

The meeting's chief relevance from HACA's perspective was the potential of the soon-to-be launched mentoring program for Canadian application. We will provide you with more details as they become available.