



November 2011

Report of HACA Regional Chairs Meeting in Denver (Oct 1 - 2, 2011)

HACA regional chairs from Edmonton (Peter Nazaruk), Montreal (Mo Klinkert), Toronto (Ali Toufighi), and Vancouver (Melanie Solterbeck) were invited to participate in a Heidelberg Alumni US (HAUS) regional chairs meeting in Denver, Colorado. Since HACA is the younger and smaller organization, the aim of the joint North American meeting was to give its members the chance to benefit from HAUS's broader base (to date it has 12 regional chapters) and richer institutional memory.

After a round of introductions, Irmintraud Jost, director of Heidelberg University Association, gave an overview of the University's alumni jubilee celebrations. HAUS president Kathleen Lance and HACA president Mo Klinkert each reported on the history, structure and current status of their clubs. Updates of the regional chapters followed. Ample time was dedicated to an exchange of ideas regarding roles, responsibilities, and the efficient running of the chapters. Further discussion included branding (e.g. emails, letterheads, templates), marketing/communications, and strategies to build and expand the current alumni membership.

At the breakout session, HACA chairs were joined by Irmintraud Jost, who again pledged full support from the New York office for regional meetings as well as HACA publicity, promotion and recruitment.

The regional chairs look forward to the next joint meeting. In the meantime, they would like to thank Kathleen Lance and Al Fink (HAUS regional chair, Denver), for sharing their expertise, for their hospitality and for their efforts in making the meeting a success. Finally, HACA would like to express its appreciation to Irmintraud Jost for her hard work and dedication in supporting both HACA and HAUS regional chapters.