



Director Diane Magrane Travels to Brazil for International ADEA Conference

September, 2010 - Sometimes, it can take traveling to a different hemisphere to reconnect with some familiar faces. This was the recent experience of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Director Diane Magrane as she traveled to Salvador, Brazil for the 4th American Dental Education Association (ADEA) International Women's Leadership Conference.

This year's conference, themed "Global Health Through Women's Leadership," was held from September 5 – 8 and featured presenters from over 15 different countries with topics ranging from nutrition and oral health in aging women to attracting more dental educators.

With the ELAM program's goal of becoming more of an international program (2010 sees the first ELAM Fellow from across the Atlantic) the idea of traveling across borders to run into ELAM alumnae (ELUMs) and friends is an exciting one. Diane represented this evolving goal and the ELAM program at the conference by presenting plans for an international expansion of the current educational model used by the ELAM program. As Diane explains, "We are exploring what it would take to adapt our current program to different countries all over the world."



Pictured from left to right are: Mary "Franci" Stavropoulos, Diane Magrane, Pam Zarkowski, Cherae Farmer, Ana Lopez, Lisa Tedesco, Marilyn Woolfolk, and Sandra Andrieu



L to R: Pam Zarkowski, Diane Magrane, Franci Stavropoulos, and Ana Lopez explore the old city of Salvador.

The relationship that ELAM shares with both ADEA and the field of dentistry goes back to ELAM co-founders Dr. Walter Cohen and Dr. Patti Cormier, who both have roots in the field of academic dentistry. The ELAM program included Fellows from dental schools in its second class in 1996 – Lisa Tedesco and Pam Zarkowski - both of whom were in attendance at the conference. Also in attendance were ELUMs Sandra Andrieu, Cherae Farmer, Ana Lopez, Mary "Franci" Stavropoulos, and Marilyn Woolfolk. One of these women is the current president of ADEA (Andrieu), two are previous presidents (Tedesco and Zarkowski) - and all are remarkable leaders who have stayed well connected with the ELAM community.

While her attendance at the ADEA conference served as an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and classmates and explore the international capacity of the ELAM program, Diane also describes it as an amazing opportunity to hear stories of women of tremendous courage and resilience. "Some of these women have overcome great adversity and broken through numerous barriers to become leaders in dentistry in their countries."

This conference was the fourth international gathering ADEA has held, and was organized in part by Jeanne Sinkford, ELAM faculty and speaker for ELAM's upcoming 2011 graduation ceremony.

About ELAM - ELAM® is a core program of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership® at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa. For more information on the ELAM program curriculum, faculty and participants, visit www.drexelmed.edu/elam.