Wheelock celebrated its 125th anniversary last summer in Boston by throwing itself an amazing party. The centerpiece event was the International Conference focusing on the global challenges facing children, youth and families.

More than 500 people from across the world attended and were energized by speakers who discussed education, health and human rights in plenary sessions, panels and interactive workshops. Global policy makers, leading academics and activists together offered their perspectives on what needs to be done to tackle these issues.

Many of the guests had longstanding ties to the College and Singapore, one of Wheelock’s oldest international partners, was well represented.

The Government of Singapore was one of the institutions honored with a Global Leadership award. Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, former Minister of State, and a strong advocate for early education received the award on behalf of the government. Six alumni also received awards for their global impact, including Francis Ng ’04MS, the founder of Carpe Diem preschools.

A panel of five university presidents from four continents, including Singapore Institute of Technology head, Tan Thiam Soon, gave attendees a sense of the ways higher education can help meet these global challenges.

The Conference also featured research coming out of Singapore. Karen Tan ’13MS presented her Master’s work on developing self-regulation skills in children while a SEED Institute and Caterpillar Cove panel showcased a project on woodworking and toddlers.

New international ties between Wheelock and other global institutions were forged at the Conference. The Qatar Foundation chose two Wheelock students for inclusion in its WISE (World Innovation Summit for Education) Learners program, including A’qilah Saiere ’14 from Singapore.

To see images from the Conference, please see page four.
Wheelock is synonymous with service to the larger community. It was part of founder Lucy Wheelock’s approach to all she did and her famous statement that “the one thing that makes life worth living is to serve a cause” still animates our students and alumni.

To celebrate that legacy, Wheelock World Service Weekend brings together members of the Wheelock family – students, alumni, faculty and friends – to engage in service activities in their communities all over the world. By scheduling activities on a single weekend, it is a powerful collective statement about the College’s commitment to service.

For the first time this year, Singapore will host an event for World Service Weekend. Current students are looking forward to joining alumni on Saturday, April 12th for a morning of fun and giving back to the community.

The project chosen for this year’s event combines both Wheelock’s focus on improving the lives of families and children with its emphasis on the role of arts in society.

Despite Singapore’s rich artistic heritage and world-class museums, many children never have the opportunity to experience them first hand. On Wheelock World Service Day, volunteers will introduce children to the treasures to be found in some of the country’s iconic institutions.

We are still in the planning stage but

SAVE THE DATE

We are looking forward to meeting old and new friends, doing something for the community and renewing our ties to Wheelock. If you would like to help with the preparations or for more information, please drop us a note at AlumniSG@wheelock.edu.

To learn more about World Service Weekend around the globe, go to http://www.wheelock.edu/alumni/wheelock-world-service-weekend
At Wheelock, we agree with David McCullough, the highly celebrated American historian, narrator and author who said, “Writing is thinking.” There are a lot of both going on at Wheelock in Singapore.

**Writing Centre** Last year, the undergraduate program opened the Writing Centre, a place for those interested in honing their craft and powers of expression. Peer tutors, trained during the summer immersion program in Boston, staff the centre. Seniors Vaness Quek, Gurdeep Kaur and Iz Aron say that in addition to the chance to interact with their peers, they love working on finding their own voices. They’ve taken to Twitter to share ideas about writing. Follow them at [http://bit.ly/1ce0Y1G](http://bit.ly/1ce0Y1G).

**Opinion Writing** Wheelock students are encouraged to make a difference. In Professor Margaret Leitch Copeland’s Policy Advocacy course, they are doing just that through the written word. Encouraged by guest lecturer, Tom Benner - a journalist and editor - students are learning what makes for a powerful and convincing op-ed or letter. Look for their pieces in the local news media as they champion early childhood education in Singapore.

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS:**

- **Riot Green** by Woon Tai Ho. Candid Creation Publishing, 2013. In January, students, faculty and staff all read and discussed this novel by the co-founder of Channel NewsAsia. We were taken by its themes of the role of art in society and the clash of values in the traditional and new Singapore.


- **The Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivy. Reagan Arthur/Back Bay Books, 2012. This mystical and intense novel, set in the bleak but appealing Alaskan landscape, is almost impossible to put down, according to Iz.

- **Totto-Chan** by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi not only demonstrates the importance of a nurturing school environment but Gurdeep thinks it is a great way to introduce children to autobiography.


**TEACHING LITERACY, ENCOURAGING LITERACY**

In all our programs, there is a strong focus on teaching literacy to the youngest readers and to do it in a way that will turn children into lifelong readers with a love for words and books. This year, in a cross disciplinary endeavour, three of the faculty members in our Bachelors degree program – Judith Gold (Language and Literacy) Shaireen Selamat (Information Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom) and Tan Beng Chaik (Environmental Science) – worked with students to create electronic story books featuring Singapore-based content around environmental themes. The result was *Keep it Clean Keep it Green Singapore: A Collection of Digital Stories for Children*. Request a free copy of the DVD, which contains digital stories as well as activity sheets for teachers and parents, at [infosg@wheelock.edu](mailto:infosg@wheelock.edu).

A scene from the e-book, *Jamie’s Recycling Adventure*.
RECRUITING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE WHEELOCK FAMILY - YOU COULD WIN AN IPAD

As an institution that has been in Singapore for almost a quarter of a century, Wheelock has many graduates here who are working in all kinds of ways, big and small, to improve the lives of families and children. Do you know someone here who has what it takes to join Wheelock?

We are recruiting our next intakes at the Bachelors and Masters levels. Our BSc degree is offered in conjunction with Singapore’s newest autonomous university, Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). This two year, full time program offers advanced standing to students or current teachers with a full time Early Childhood diploma and features our globally renowned faculty and an overseas immersion program on campus in Boston. Help our recruiting efforts and you could win an iPad. Simply send us the name and email of a prospective applicant and we’ll do the rest. Or encourage someone to apply at http://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/about/wheelock-college by March 18th and let us know. If the student enrolls, your chances to win are doubled. Send your nominations to infosg@wheelock.edu

We are also recruiting for our 9th Master’s cohort. Offered with SEED Institute, this part time program in Early Childhood Education prepares professionals for leadership and management positions in Asia and the world. A program preview session will take place at SEED on March 1st. infosg@wheelock.edu

WHAT WHEELOCK MEANS

Recently, we asked our students here in Singapore how they would describe Wheelock in a single word. To echo their thoughts, we were so inspired by the responses. The word cloud above shows graphically what they said. We are family above all, but also inspiring, life-changing and empowering. It’s what we mean to be and why we know they will be inspiring a world of good.

The latest issue of the Wheelock Magazine has arrived. To see the stories and read more about the 125th anniversary celebration and international conference, simply log onto http://www.wheelock.edu/alumni/wheelock-magazine or better yet, come by the Wheelock office here in Singapore and pick up a copy. We’re located on the campus of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Block 53, #03-03, 535 Clementi Rd, Singapore 599489

Scenes from our 125th

First Row:
1. Prof. Sue Kosoff with students from Singapore at a Conference workshop
2. Panel presentation by SEED / NTUC researchers
3. SIT President Prof. Tan and Alan Wong at new Earl Resource Center
4. University Presidents Panel including Wheelock President Jackie Jenkins-Scott and Prof. Tan

Second Row:
1. Kerry Kennedy giving keynote address at gala Passion for Action dinner
2. President Jackie Jenkins-Scott presenting the Alumni Global Impact award to Singapore alum, Francis Ng Kok Liang ’04MS
3. Cherie Blair, human rights activist and former first lady of Great Britain, offering remarks under the watchful gaze of Lucy Wheelock

First Page bottom:
Karen Tan Ah Wan ’13MS presenting her research