



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The construction of space that can hold difficult conversation in and about conflict, differences and sometimes perceived competing needs requires as much care as any architect's building plans. As the above quote suggests, it calls upon the neutral or the host of the space to develop the skill set necessary to mediate among a plurality of perspectives in achieving optimum resolution. As this Newsletter reports, RockRose Institute most recently partnered with Dr. Mario Patera and Ulrike Gamm of Konfliktkultur (www.isbm.at) to create a learning laboratory, the International Summer School on Business Mediation, in Admont, Austria. Other supporters of this event include organizations with which RockRose has partnered on other projects: the JAMS Foundation, the Daniel Weinstein Group, and the ABA Dispute Resolution Section.

Under the leadership of Dr. Patera and Ms. Gamm, participants learned about and experienced new ways of approaching dispute resolution with special emphasis on conflicts that include cross-border and cross-cultural aspects. Much like RockRose, the Admont organizers are interested in personal, local and global issues as well as cross-disciplinary approaches that incorporate both the sciences and the arts. The Summer School is held every two years and the fifth session is scheduled for July 16-20, 2010. We hope you will join us then in RockRose's collaborative efforts to hone skills in dispute resolution and explore creative ways of harnessing the energy of conflict.

Rebecca Westerfield



RockRose Institute sponsored **Lejla Mavris of Global Majority** and **Teresa Carey, founder of Professional Mediation Associates**, to participate in the International School for Business Mediation conference in Admont, Austria in July. RockRose Co-Founders Rebecca Westerfield and Dana Curtis presented programs at the conference, as did RockRose supporter Daniel Bowling. The following is an excerpt from Lejla's report:

"Mastery of mediation would seem to be rooted in an understanding of the interplay between intuition and expression. This was the lesson I carried home from this year's International School for Business Mediation conference, "Crossing Borders" in Admont, Austria. ... For one week, approximately eighty participants were immersed in sharing knowledge about what it means to cross borders in the context of mediation. ... Heightening the experience was the fact that the conference incorporated a participatory approach to learning using mindful and artistic activities which enhanced the learning experience through creative illustration."

The next ISBM conference,
"Mediation - Past, Present and Future"
will be July 16-20, 2012.
For information, please see www.isbm.at.