

International Forum II - May 8, 2009

Meknès, Morocco

On Friday May 8th 2009 ISA and the University Moulay Ismail's Faculte des Lettres et Sciences Humaines celebrated the awaited Second Intercultural Forum. Attending this open dialog between Moroccans and Americans were students from The United States, Morocco and West Africa, as well as several professors from the Departments of English, French and Arabic of the University Moulay Ismail.

The focal point for the panel members was the general topic of "Stereotypes: Between West and East". The panel was an even number of both Moroccan students from University Moulay Ismail's English Department and American students studying abroad in Meknes, Morocco through ISA. Previously composed questions were presented by two moderators Jihane ElHilali (UMI) and Lauren Austin (ISA).

Audience member had moments throughout the afternoon to propose questions of their own as well as presenting their own ideas concerning the subject at hand. The stereotypes presented passed through topics of patriotism to sexuality to economy, gender roles, religion and society. At times the discussion heated up, but the moderators did not let the discussion boil over. Since the Forum's focus is to celebrate cultural diversity and to promote education through understanding, the moderators' questions led the discussion to grasp the idea of the stereotype as a concept worthy of shedding light upon. Ultimately the audience and panel members were inclined to always search for a deeper meaning behind the differences which were intentionally brought to the surface.

Audience at Forum II in the UNI Imam Malek Amphitheatre



Audience and panel of the Forum II



Students and Professors from Morocco, USA and Sub-Saharan Africa pose after the Forum II

