



I remember clearly on the first day of the forum, everyone who had been working hard on the student advisory board for a year couldn't stop saying - with big smiles on their faces - "I cannot believe we're finally here!" Yes, it was thrilling as a student to be there, representing the face of Emma. It was so great to watch the pieces fall into place, and I think all of the volunteers would agree with me when I say it was very rewarding to watch everything run so smoothly. However, the greatest reward that, I believe, all of the students volunteers got out of this, is a new mindset. I have pages and pages of notes taking up my journal of ideas I had never thought of before. These ideas, I hope I can feed off of and apply throughout the rest of my life. Before the forum, I knew why there was an essential need for girls' education in the world today. I knew that only with equal educational access for both genders can a society truly move forward into the modern era. But the question that still lingered in my mind was 'How? How could we possibly convince the rest of the world to share this important vision?' AUDACIA taught us how. It brought together bright minds from all over the world, and we got front row seats as we watched ideas merge together, get broken down, analyzed, and even challenged. All of us picked up on these ideas - new ways to look at the world. As the co-head of the Emma Willard UNICEF group, this was particularly meaningful to me. It pointed me in a direction of thinking I probably would not have gotten to on my own. I hope that I can turn around and help others expand their thinking on this important topic. Not only that, but I made some great connections with interesting people doing interesting things, and who shared the same vision and passions as I did. In my future, I foresee doing a lot of humanitarian work. It has always been a passion of mine, and it's the only thing I can see myself committing the rest of my life too. AUDACIA has not only further cemented this fervent passion, but has expanded my thinking, and given me new ideas and contacts I hope to carry with me for the rest of my life.

-Andrea '12