



The first time I walked into the Credit Suisse building, Somewhere Over the Rainbow was playing on the overhead music system. From that moment on, it continued to play on repeat for the next two days. By the end of the trip, I knew all the lyrics to the song. At the time, I thought it was the most annoying thing, having to listen to the song over and over again, but as I left New York and began to reflect back on my experiences at the forum, I realized that the song was a perfect summary for everything I had learned. Somewhere over the rainbow, the dream of every girl everywhere receiving a quality education becomes a reality. From the forum, I learned that AUDACIA has the potential to be the vehicle to transport everyone to that world, where freedom and education are essential parts of every girl's life. I learned that there are two hundred plus hard-working and dedicated women already in that world, and what they need most now is the chance to demonstrate their ingenuity and ideas to others so that the movement will spread. There is work to be done, but it is worth it because we have the chance to give millions of other girls what we often take for granted – the ability to acquire knowledge through quality education and use it to become successful in the world. From this forum, I have learned that such a seemingly impossible goal is now within our reach if we are only able to move past the storm and look somewhere over the rainbow to see the land where dreams really do come true.

-Grace '14