

Arts Researchers and Teachers Society Presidents Report 2013

Dear Colleagues in ARTS:

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of ARTS this year. Working closely with Dr. Monica Prendergast and Dr. Pauline Sameshima has been a particular privilege this year. Both offered wise and generous advice and support whenever I needed it. I thank both Monica and Pauline for their contributions and for their support.

Off to a Good Start

I began this first term by passing on information to Monica regarding my experience in the role of Programme Chair, a position I held the two previous years as Vice-President of ARTS. Monica and I had a discussion via Skype. I wish to thank Monica for putting together such a strong programme for our SIG.

Pre-Conference

While Monica and I were discussing how to plan the pre-conference, by finding another colleague on site to take on this role, and opportunity to co-host a pre-conference was suggested to us. Dr. Pamela Richardson has planned a wonderful pre-conference with CASWE and CASAE this year. A big thank-you goes to Pamela for her work on the pre-conference.

ARTS Graduate Research Awards

This is certainly the biggest task for the President of ARTS. Applicants for the awards submit a pdf copy of the signed committee acceptance of the dissertation/thesis/project, an abstract of 1000-1500 words, as well as a pdf of, or a link to, the full dissertation/thesis/project. As President of ARTS, it was my responsibility to coordinate the process for the review. A minimum of three reviewers are required. I invited fifteen colleagues to serve as reviewers. Seven colleagues were able to accept this invitation. Four of the reviewers were able to review submissions in French. I am deeply grateful to our colleagues who served as reviewers, and, on behalf of all members ARTS, I offer them our sincere gratitude for the incredible amount of time and care they brought to their reviews. The names of the reviewers are kept in confidence, and they do not communicate with each other during the process. After confirming that the submissions were completed within two years prior to the year of the CSSE conference, I sent the abstracts to all reviewers with a timeline for completion of the first stage, which is a rating scale with comments. When submissions score high and are close in scores, the reviewers are provided with ratings and/or comments from other reviewers. This process is to ensure that the final decision expresses the will of the committee of reviewers. This process may continue until a clear final decision is made. The president of ARTS does not participate in making the decision. I wish that I could be present to present the awards this year, but I must send my regrets. I thank Monica and Pauline for announcing and presenting the awards from our SIG. The one change that I would make to the criteria for this award is that it must be a project, thesis or dissertation that was defending in the calendar year prior to the CSSE Conference when the award is given. Having the criteria include the past two years creates additional work for the committee of reviewers, who already do an incredible amount of work during this process; it also creates

additional work for the President of ARTS. We have an abundance of work being done each year; there is no need now to stretch back two years to find work to celebrate.

ARTS Publication Award

Depending on the decision of the membership at the AGM this year, we may have another award (or awards) in 2014. Dr. Bernie Andrews, Dr. Marni Binder, Dr. Kathy Browning and Dr. Joe Norris, following a motion last year's AGM, formed a working group with me this year; they gave considerable time and thought to developing criteria and a process for an ARTS Publication Award. Their discussions, in which I sometimes participated, were all conducted via e-mail and were all passionate, thoughtful, insightful and diverse. Both Kathy and Joe will be presenting at the AGM on behalf of the working group. A form is provided which describes the criteria and process. We would like to move forward with this award for next year with the understanding that feedback from the reviewers will help inform the further development of the criteria and process. Much gratitude is expressed to Bernie, Marni, Kathy and Joe for their contributions to this working team.

Please accept my regrets for not being able to attend CSSE this year. I hope that you all enjoy the CSSE Conference, our co-hosted Pre-Conference, the CACS Celebration of Creative Scholarly Works, the ARTS AGM and the year between now and our next opportunity to come together again for all of the above, which will be at Brock University, and which I will be attending.

On a personal professional note, I am happy to share some good news with you. Effective July 1 of this year, the President of ARTS will be a tenured Associate Professor. You have all been a part of my journey and I thank you all for your contributions to my growth within this community over these past years. I look forward to serving the second year of my term as President of ARTS.

Respectfully,

John J. Guiney Yallop, PhD
President, Arts Researchers and Teachers Society