

Arts Researchers and Teachers Society Presidents Report 2014

Dear Colleagues in ARTS:

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of ARTS this second year of a two-year term, following a two-year term as Vice-President of ARTS. Working closely with Dr. Monica Prendergast and Dr. Pauline Sameshima has, again, been a particular privilege. I thank both Monica and Pauline for their continued contributions and for their support.

Pre-Conference

As this was a year when it was expected that CACS would hold its biannual pre-conference, ARTS did not plan one; we had previously decided to hold a pre-conference biannually, offering an ARTS pre-conference in the year when CACS was not offering one. CACS, however, is not offering a pre-conference this year because our CACS Executive was not able to find anyone to plan the event. I completely understand this reasonable, though difficult, decision of our CACS Executive. I will address this further in relation to our own SIG later in my report.

ARTS Awards

This year, added to the coordination of the ARTS Graduate Research Awards (Master and Doctoral Levels) was the responsibility of the President of ARTS to coordinate the ARTS Publication Award. This year the ARTS Publication Award was offered for 2011, 2012 and 2013 as a way to celebrate our publication history. Next year, the award will be offered for a publication in 2014 only. This year I decided to invite colleagues to form committees to review the applications for awards and make a decision together. Finding reviewers was a challenge, and I am most grateful to the reviewers for the ARTS Graduate Research Awards (Master Level, Dr. Fiona Blaikie, Dr. Terrah Keener, Dr. Pamela Richardson; Doctoral Level, Dr. Bernie Andrews, Dr. Maureen Connolly, Dr. Alexandra Fidyk), as well as to the reviewers for the ARTS Publication Awards (Dr. Marni Binder, Dr. Diane Conrad, Dr. Carl Leggo). The winners of the ARTS Awards are as follows:

- ARTS 2014 Graduate Research Award (Master Level), the Master of Arts thesis by Kathleen Morris (EMERGING VIEWS ON MAKING FIBRE GRADUATES REFLECT ON THEIR PRACTICE).
- ARTS 2014 ARTS Graduate Research Award (Doctoral Level), the dissertation by Graham Lea (Homa Bay Memories: Using Research-based Theatre to Explore a Narrative Inheritance).
- ARTS Publication award for 2011, Joe Norris for Towards the use of the 'Great Wheel' as a model in determining the quality and merit of arts-based projects (research and instruction). *International Journal of Education & the Arts*, 12(Special Issue 1.7).
- ARTS 2012 Publication Award, Susan Walsh for Contemplation, artful writing: Research with internationally educated female teachers. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 18(3), 265-276.
- ARTS Publication Award for 2013, Rubén Gaztambide-Fernandez for Why the arts don't DO anything: Toward a new vision for cultural production in education. *Harvard Educational Review* 83(1), 211-236.

The Health of Our SIG and Support for Our SIG's Officers

This has been a challenging year for our SIG's Executive Officers. While I feel proud of the work we have accomplished, including a superb list of ARTS sessions organized by Monica in the conference programme, a wonderful website maintained by Pauline, and five awards which I coordinated with the support of colleagues mentioned above, and the inclusion of a CCGSE PD session in the conference programme this year, also with the participation of colleagues who volunteered to give a brief overview of their work, I feel that the continuing increase in the responsibilities of our SIG's Executive Officers is putting challenges on those who choose to serve which could be alleviated by a more flexible structure. I came close to making some decisions similar to the decision our Association's Executive had to make, which would have meant cancelling some of the awards for this year. These activities, though wonderful to engage in and lovely to celebrate, take considerable time. Unless we have more members of ARTS taking on those tasks, the roles of the Executive Officers of ARTS will become increasingly time-consuming and less desirable—not as much fun as they should be.

You will note that our colleague, Dr. Monica Prendergast, who served ARTS wonderfully these past two years as Vice-President, has resigned from the ARTS Executive, and has made a nomination for President, a role she would have occupied for two years after her two years of service to our SIG as Vice-President; Monica also offers an encouragement and a suggestion for specific actions. While I support Monica's intentions in regards to her nomination, encouragement and suggestion, I believe a broader discussion by our membership is necessary as we move forward. As well, beyond providing support in terms of encouragement and suggestions to our new President and new Vice-President, and helping Pauline with the website by providing any updates from my four years of service to the SIG, I feel that my role on the Executive as Past-President needs to be a less active one than it has been in the past four years; otherwise, I, too, would need to resign in order to continue to be a member of ARTS.

I join Monica in saying that we are a wonderful community of artists and scholars. We need to continue to give careful attention to the roles and responsibilities we create, and the people who occupy them and implement them, so that the community we have created, and are creating, will continue to be one that nourishes us and our work as arts researchers and teachers.

Respectfully,

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