



July 15, 2011 UPEI, Canada

To AIRS members following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting:

It was a great meeting thanks to all of you - your conference presentations, singing, enthusiasm for all activities, and your enjoyment in the opportunity of meeting others from far and wide with mutual interests in singing research.

There were over 50 in attendance with a good balance between experienced researchers/professionals and students and young professionals. Over 60% were from Canada (including those non-Canadians enrolled in Canadian universities), and the rest from many parts of the world: US, UK, Brazil, China, Kenya, Estonia, and representing India, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. Sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses were also well represented. A great mix, all in all.

My appreciation goes out to each one of you who shared so much of yourself at the meeting. The presentations were all well prepared lightning talks. The posters lining the walls were impressive. These contributions to the meeting are vital, and your work leading to the presentations is highly valued.

#### **A few acknowledgements for contributions that helped make our meeting such as success**

1. To our Advisory Board members Hilary Apfelstadt and Philip Smith for taking the time out of their schedules to spend at our meeting in person so as to best offer guidance as AIRS strives to reach its proposed milestones for the midterm deadline. We are already benefiting from their advice which including getting out a note about deadlines soon (more about that later).
2. To the Theme Leaders, Frank Russo (Theme 1, Development), Patricia Campbell (Theme 2, Education), and Mary Gick (Theme 3, Well-being) represented their themes for us throughout the meeting. Their efforts for their theme were apparent at the meeting, but what is not apparent is their continued similar service from month to month as the members of the AIRS Steering Committee. Thank you for helping the meeting run smoothly and providing enough information to provoke and facilitate discussion.
3. To the sub-Theme leaders attending, Christine Tsang (Theme 1.1), Sandra Trehub (Theme 1.2), Carol Beynon (subbing for Theme 2.2 Darryl Edwards), Jenny Sullivan and Andrea Rose (Theme 2.3), Lily Chen-Hafteck (Theme 3.1), Carol Beynon again (subbing for Rachel Heydon), and Marya Stonehouse & Katie McCaw (subbing for Jennifer Nicol 3.3) are thanked for their leadership at the meeting and during the year. They (including Frank Russo and Patricia Campbell) are the ones who are to keep their sub-theme on track according to the milestone document, a role that becomes more clear and significant as we move on in this 3rd year of the project. They will soon (August or early fall) be organizing a meeting within their theme to discuss the state of the milestone achievements, a plan for future student funding proposals for the Year IV competition. Each of the 9 sub-themes has been so productive over the last year,

and the 3rd Annual Meeting program also reflected this progress. The team members and the team's leader(s) should take a bow.

4. To the home team in PEI took on much responsibility over the last weeks and even months as well as during the meeting. Deborah Annear shouldered most of the responsibility for arranging accommodation and travel for everyone's individual schedule. Jonathan Lane provided technical support with postings to the web-site, electronic forms, communications, and AV support at the meeting, and as well as serving as digital library guru and demonstrator. Kristin MacDonald who did not attend the meeting worked hard to acquire all of the information about you for the program. Denise Beaton, Erica Ross, and Kelly Gillis assisted us with other details like name tags. Bing-Yi Pan's arrival in February meant that the home base could more easily have direct research efforts in each of the three Themes and this means a lot in understanding the needs of each theme and how these needs can best be met.

5. To the students who have carried out the data collection and analysis and produced slides and posters and organized talks in many cases. Some of the students are actually risking their lives as they travel to learn about the role of singing in non-western cultures. Other students have gone to much effort in putting the research on singing first. It is a great pleasure for any faculty member or professional to see how the ideas of students take wings, or to see how an idea suggested for a thesis topic becomes a reality and provides fundamental new knowledge. We are grateful for engagement by the students, fostered well by the leadership of Rayna Friendly with support from Christopher Roberts and others. The student newsletter under the editorship of Rayna with support from Christopher and contributions from many of the students was also a new milestone for this group and AIRS. (AIRS has yet to announce awards for presentations and posters, but stay tuned for a future e-mail about this).

6. To Lily Chen-Hafteck, assisted by Nancy Gleason, for organizing the AIRS workshop based on one of the projects of 3.1 Singing and Cultural Understanding - the Quadcountry songbook project. The spirit of the wonderful student/YP representatives of the 4 countries (Zuraida Bastiao and Angelita Broock and Beatriz Ilari from Brazil; Kelly Gillis, Arla Good and Frank Russo from Canada; Yue Xiao, Bing-Yi Pan, China; and Elizabeth Andan'o from Kenya) was contagious and added a valued dimension to everyone's Annual Meeting experience. This team of students and faculty advisors is a great asset for AIRS and provides a wonderful model for research collaboration within a theme across cultures and among students and faculty. The goals of each sub-theme however lead to different best research practices.

7. To all who stayed until July 13th and participated in or attended the AIRS "quad-plenary": Frank Russo, Christopher Roberts, Carol Beynon, Bing-Yi Pan, Jenny Sullivan, Mary Gick, Lily Chen-Hafteck, Merrill Tanner, Jonathan Lane, and Andrea Rose. This public whirlwind tour through AIRS representing research from all the 9 sub-themes and the Digital Library was quite an undertaking and one that the AIRS team is clearly up to. We know now how to plan for a similar event next year. I greatly appreciate all participant's good will and flexibility in condensing 2 years of research into several minutes of highlights and examples (a feat also performed by the team leaders on the opening day of AIRS, but to an audience that knew the context).

8. To the vocal performers and choral leaders at the AIRS concert (Merrill Tanner, Utpolah Borah, Sally Busch, Jenny Sullivan, Bing-Yi Pan, Yue Xiao, Jim Sparks, and the India Gate restaurant, and during our meeting sessions (Kedmon Mapana, Jim Sparks, Carol Beynon) added that experiential singing dimension that is not only great fun but reminds us of the importance of the research we are doing. Carol Beynon is thanked for arranging the unforgettable concert of young boys of the Amabile Choir. The willingness of the AIRS attendees to switch from academicians to singing and dancing choristers makes for a most energizing and motivating meeting.

9. To our videographer Brian Pollard was more than a passive cameraman. He has some real insight into what we at AIRS are about. We look forward to the compilation he will provide that will serve as a reminder of our time together at Memorial University during Festival 500, the Phenomenon of Singing, and AIRS - Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing-- 3rd Annual Meeting. It will be interesting to see how the video of the plans from the 1st year Start-up meeting have materialized by the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting.

10. To the Policy and Planning Committee met the night before our official 3rd Annual AIRS meeting began. This group represents all the Committees and sub-themes of AIRS. Almost everyone in attendance was sleep deprived, and yet they met for over 3 hours to plan for the year ahead, and for the mid-term review, just over a year away. One of the outcomes of that meeting was the importance of providing much advance notice for deadlines. A few deadlines were defined at the meeting which we can provide now, so that AIRS members can be working throughout the year with these goals in mind rather than learning about them at the last minute. We will see that the deadlines are made visible on the AIRS web-site soon, so that they can be updated and highlighted as need be. The deadlines that came out of the Director's meeting are shown at the end of this letter. The Committee also emphasized the need for improved efficiency in communications (e.g., web-site, e-mails). Already steps are being taken for updating mailing lists and more.

P & P Committee members for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting

Hilary Apfelstadt, AIRS Advisory Board

Philip Smith, AIRS Advisory Board

Christine Tsang, Co-leader 1.1

**Frank Russo, Co-leader 1.2 and Theme 1 Leader (Steering Committee)**

[Sandra.Trehub@utoronto.ca](mailto:Sandra.Trehub@utoronto.ca) Co-leader 1.2

**Annabel Cohen, leader 1.3 and Director (Steering Committee)**

**Patricia Campbell, Leader 2.1 and Theme 2 Leader (Steering Committee)**

Carol Beynon for Darryl Edwards, Leader 2.2

Jenny Sullivan Co-leader 2.3

Andrea Rose, Co-leader 2.3 (did not attend)

**Mary Gick, Theme 3 Leader (Steering Committee)**

Lily Chen-Hafteck Co-leader 3.1

Jonathan Lane, facilitator Digital Library and IT support

Theresa Leonard, Digital Library

Rayna Friendly, Student Young Professional Group

Jaan Ross, Global Group

Lee Willingham, Partner (could not attend, but came to other sessions)

Deborah Annear, Administrative Project Manager (Finance) ex officio  
Bing-Yi Pan, AIRS Postdoctoral Fellow ex officio

11. To the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada provided the funding for the Annual Meeting and the student research support that makes AIRS both a reality and a project that can make a difference in many ways as became even more apparent at the annual meeting.

12. To UPEI has provided space and facilities and support for the AIRS project. In particular are the Department of Psychology, Department of Music, Faculty of Arts, University Library, Vice President Research, Vice President Academic, and until his departure from UPEI that the end of June after 12 years, the President of UPEI, Wade MacLauchlan.

So thanks to each of you as we look forward now to the year ahead that will culminate in a great 4th annual meeting and the mid-term review at the University of Prince Edward Island.

See below for the deadline list.

Sincerely,

Annabel Cohen  
Director, AIRS  
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**AIRS Deadlines August 1, 2011 to June 1, 2011 (more deadlines and details to come; subject to change with notice).**

By August 1, 2011 - the three Team Leaders will have decoded their portion of the Milestone Document and sent it to Annabel, the AIRS Director, for ratification or feedback and discussion.

By August 15, 2011 – Theme Leaders send the approved recoded milestone to the Sub-theme leaders

By August 31, 2011 Sub-theme leaders will send the de-coded Milestone to each of the sub-theme leaders and to all members of the subtheme. It is up to the sub-theme leaders and members to meet and discuss the milestones for the sub-theme. This entails clarifying the progress made on each milestone, and the plan for completing each milestone by the end of December 2012. The sub-theme team is to get together and brainstorm and problem solve regarding the completion of the milestones. At this meeting a plan for the next round of student funding should also be discussed from the point of view of what would a) be helpful for advancing toward the milestones in the 4<sup>th</sup> year and b) at the same time benefit the students of the AIRS collaborators in the sub-theme, in the first instance, although other students may also be considered. The outcome of this discussion may be shared with Annabel, with feedback or discussion from her to be offered within 2 weeks.

January 16 , 2012 – student funding abstracts due - These are not submitted by students. They are submitted by the AIRS co-investigators by the sub-theme leader (e.g., as one package from the sub-theme leader or as bundled submissions from individual researchers in the sub-theme), and should ideally represent a plan agreed to by the entire sub-theme. Ideally, the sub-theme leader(s) would submit one or more applications on behalf of the sub-theme. [This date of Nov. 30 is about 10 weeks earlier than in the past 2 years in the hope of accelerating delivery of the funds earlier in the student's term.]

February 10, 2012 - Student Funding Review Committee will have met and made decisions

April 1, 2012 - Annual Reports from Co-investigators and Collaborators (i.e., not students, though students may be asked for information) due from individual co-investigators and collaborators (using the template, similar to one used this year). It will be determined what kind of help will be provided in organizing this information further by the Sub-theme leaders, as it is possible that the Director or a Project Officer will summarize the information for the sub-theme (taken from the individual reports from the sub-theme) and then send that summary back to the Sub-theme leaders and members of the Sub-theme for approval for inclusion in the mid-term report. If it is decided that the sub-theme leaders are the ones to create the first draft of the annual report, then the following deadline is in place.

April 15, 2012 – Annual Reports due to Annabel (Director) (a template will be provided be prepared)

May 15, 2012- Draft report prepared by Director and AIRS Project Manager for SSHRC submitted by Director to the 3 Theme leaders, who in turn will circulate a next iteration (approved by the Director) to their sub-theme leaders and sub-theme members for feedback to be passed back to the Director.

June 1, 2012 – Midterm report to be submitted to SSHRC by the Director

August - sometime in the last 2 weeks of August - the Midterm review and 4th Annual meeting - UPEI, Charlottetown

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Each individual researcher must keep track of all publication details associated with their work for AIRS for the year April 1, 2011 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Students should keep track of thesis titles and degrees achieved assuming the research has some focus on singing.