

AIRS Update January 18, 2010

**To the AIRS Research Team from Annabel Cohen (Director of AIRS):**

Happy 2010 to all as we begin the last quarter of AIRS' first year. It's the startup year and we are well establishing the foundation for the research ahead we are looking forward to carrying out. Thanks to all of you for your co-operation, and to our staff working hard on the home front at UPEI, the dedicated Steering Committee, and the Team Leaders.

**MILESTONE DOCUMENT**

The AIRS Milestone document, submitted to SSHRC in the fall, received positive feedback for the clear description but a request for additional information about how the different teams would benefit from each other. The present document [attached] now includes a section on cross-fertilization. The version has not been officially approved by SSHRC, but we will use this as our working version. SSHRC emphasized that the MCRI awards are given to address important issues that require the co-ordination of separate projects. Time is needed to get the separate projects off the ground first, of course.

**GOVERNANCE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER**

The **Steering Committee** (Frank Russo, Patricia Campbell, Mary Gick-representing the 3 Research Themes-and myself, supported by the Project Managers **Deborah Annear** and **Cynthia Dennis**) have met monthly or bimonthly to discuss and develop policy (particularly Policy 1 – Student Funding, and Policy 2 - Travel funds) and the next Annual Meeting, as well as plans for the Policy and Planning Committee meetings.

The **Policy and Planning Committee** representing the 15 separate AIRS constituencies met November 16 via teleconference, from Vancouver to Japan (thanks Rena at 6 am and Mayumi, midnight)! Reports on the AIRS 9 sub-themes were represented as well as a report from the Digital Library/ Web-site Development group. The focus was also on Policy #1. Based on the discussion, this policy was revised and has now been passed by a majority vote. The P & P Committee will meet in early February, following the Subtheme Teleconferences (see below)

**Policy #1 Student Funding** outlines the procedure for requesting funds to support students for the next year (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011). The policy includes two forms: one for a proposal, one for reviewers, so that those submitting a proposal can be sure to address the criteria. The total amount of funding for students across the 9 sub-themes for the entire project for next year is \$140,000. Each sub-theme is expected to submit at least one proposal for student funding. The proposals from each sub-theme should be coordinated within the sub-theme, and a meeting dedicated to each sub-theme is therefore to take place in January (for 3.1 it will be early February).

**JANUARY SUB-THEME TEAM TELECONFERENCES**

**Cynthia Dennis** has been working hard with team leaders to schedule sub-theme meetings for early this quarter. Each member of AIRS will be contacted or has been contacted by a team leader or Cynthia Dennis regarding the January meeting for the Sub-theme (early Feb for 3.1). Teleconference dial-in-numbers will be provided. The team leader for the sub-theme will chair the meeting unless otherwise arranged. The AIRS Director and Project Managers will join the meetings for purposes of co-ordination across the project, and for information and support.

As a trial run, **Sub-theme 1.3** (AIRS test battery) met via teleconference in December. The meeting of 1.5 hours involving over a dozen persons from Vancouver to Estonia, including France, Iceland, Switzerland, Poland and Japan entailed the introduction of all team members, the review of the goals of the sub-theme with respect to the Milestone document, the work to date, planned work and planned dissemination. One outcome of the meeting was the decision to break further into subgroups to address theory, research, and practice. A detailed set of minutes reflected valuable discussion about the AIRS battery itself and what specific research was required for each component and on what overall timeline. It was decided to pilot until the Annual Meeting in August 2010, and make decisions then as a group about the final configuration of the battery. The meeting accomplished a lot and encouraged the meetings for all remaining Sub-themes. The meeting structure for 1.3 is also serving as a guide for the remaining team meetings.

In preparation for the team meetings please:

1. read the Milestone document for overall familiarity with the research scope, governance, role of students, and dissemination plan, and deliverables
  2. focus on the Milestone Document section connected with the meeting.
  3. think of how your work might eventually benefit or benefit from other research or researchers in the AIRS project,
  4. think of the issue of student compensation for next year
  5. try to arrange for a speaker phone if your students/associates wish to join you in the call
- As a team member, your name should appear on at least one of the pages 7-9 of the Milestone document as part of a sub-theme (also an appendix of this newsletter). The time for the meetings is shown in Table 1. The membership at meetings is based on the list from pages 7 – 9 in the Milestone document. If you would like to join a meeting in which you are not formally listed, please contact Cynthia Dennis (cydennis@upei.ca). Students working with you or your associates in AIRS research are most welcome to sit in on the teleconference.

**Table 1: Schedule of AIRS Research Team Meetings #1**

Sub-theme		Date	Eastern Standard Time (New York)
1.1	Development: Perception & Production	Jan. 25	9 a.m.
1.2	Development: Multimodal	Jan. 26	9 a.m.
1.3	Development: AIRS test battery [past]	Dec. 26	12 p.m.
2.1	Education: Learning to sing naturally	Jan. 20	10 a.m.
2.2	Education: Formal training	Jan. 28	2 p.m.
2.3	Education: Learning through singing	Jan. 22	9 a.m.
3.1	Well-being: Cross-cultural understanding	Feb. 3	9 am
3.2	Well-being: Intergenerational understanding	Jan. 21	1 p.m.
3.3	Well-being: Health benefits	Jan. 26	12 p.m.
Dig Lib	Digital Library and website (VRE)	TBA	
P & P	Policy and Planning	Feb. 4	2 p.m.

It is expected that a record of the primary outcomes of these meetings will be written by either the team leader or someone else as he or she designates or who volunteers. The meetings take time in both organization and participation. A meeting without outcomes is not worth the time. There are of course intangibles that result from the meetings, e.g., becoming familiar with the knowledge, skills, interests, and resources of collaborators. However, decisions must be made

about achieving the AIRS goals for each theme, the specific research projects, plans for involvement of students, and dissemination.

If you belong to the **Digital Library sub-theme**, telephone conversations with each of you individually are first being arranged by Cynthia Dennis for a discussion with Annabel Cohen, Jonathan Lane (tech support AIRS) and a member of the Digital Library (Fedora) team at UPEI to gain your perspective on digital library issues based on your particular expertise, be it digital library itself, or audio quality, digital rights management, singing data bases or analysis, etc. The UPEI team will then synthesize the advice and come up with a plan or plans to present to the Digital Library team as a group in regard to a design for the AIRS digital library.

**<http://www.airspace.ca>**

**AIRS NEW PLACE ON THE WWW**

**AIRS WEB-SITE (Virtual Research Environment) UPDATE**

The AIRS web-site, running on the DRUPAL5 platform, was moved to the upgraded DRUPAL6 to increase functionality. We are rebuilding the site with three features: 1. a public face for AIRS 2. The gateway to the AIRS digital library, and 3. OPEN ATRIUM, an integrated set of tools for collaboration to be used by the AIRS Research Teams (following discussion with the Digital Library Team of UPEI and McGill and some pre-testing). OPEN ATRIUM should make it possible to share specific information with sub-themes and across themes as desired.

We have moved the domain name from <http://vre.upei.ca/airs> to <http://www.airspace.ca>. The site is currently under development, so you may see periodic downtime or lack of expected functionality. Anyone who goes to the old site will soon be automatically sent to the new one. You are to feel free to contact **Jonathan Lane**, the AIRS IT Support Assistant at [jmlane@upei.ca](mailto:jmlane@upei.ca). Eventually this web-site would be our primary communication source, having interactive capabilities.

#### **OF INTEREST ONLY TO CANADIAN CO-INVESTIGATORS WITH RESEARCH TIME STIPENDS**

We have clarified with SSHRC that your Research time stipend can be taken when most convenient for you and your Department. The amount of funding cannot be used for anything but teaching release, but it can be used in any year of the grant. As SSHRC has otherwise frozen its RTS program, this is an opportunity that we have. It is assumed that if you are using the RTS for the semester, you will direct attention to AIRS research equivalent to the time you would normally put into all aspects of the course from which you are released (e.g., ~10 hours/week), and progress toward the goals of AIRS can be made.

#### **DISSEMINATION**

##### **Meetings**

**Canadian Conference on Learning on the Arts** took place on December 2 – 4, at the Royal Conservatory of Music, in Toronto. Larry O'Farrell was one of the organizers of this meeting. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 AIRS researchers (Annabel Cohen – overview; Frank Russo – Theme 1; Darryl Edwards – Theme 2; Larry O'Farrell – Theme 3) briefly represented the AIRS project in a session on research in the arts in Canada. A poster was also developed for a session that followed. Thanks Larry for seeing that AIRS was represented on this program, and thanks Darryl and Frank for giving up your time to participate in the meeting. As this organization

advocates for Arts within the Canadian education context and is connected to UNESCO, it is critical to show the importance of research in the arts that Canada is supporting. Acceptances received for presentations at future meetings

**Educating the creative mind.** – Kean University, NJ, March 4 – 6. Organizer (Lily Chen-Hafteck) [http://www.kean.edu/~creative/conference\\_main.html](http://www.kean.edu/~creative/conference_main.html). A Poster on AIRS has been accepted (Cohen & Chen-Hafteck)

**MENC 2010 Biennial Music Educators National Conference – Anaheim CA**  
March 25-27. A dialogue session with Lily Chen-Hafteck, Andrea Rose (A. Cohen co-author).

### Future Meetings

Next Annual Meeting – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 - pre-convention to ICMPC11  
The Next Annual Meeting of AIRS will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, prior to the Eleventh International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC11) in Seattle. Already, we are aware that there will be a strong AIRS nucleus at ICMPC as a whole and at the AIRS Annual meeting. As with the previous ICMPC10 meeting, the travel support for each AIRS participant in the AIRS pre-convention meeting will amount to a night's accommodation. This time all meals together on the pre-convention day will be provided.

The travel policy (#2) should be finalized by mid-February, so that attendees and students can plan accordingly. Given budget constraints and the hope to fund some travel beyond the Annual Meeting, the assumption is that if ICMPC is a meeting that you would normally attend, funding will be expected to come from your usual (non-AIRS) sources. However, there will be extra support for some researchers who need to be only at the AIRS meeting, and there should be support for at least one student from each research theme.

### Other meetings associated with AIRS members, e.g., as organizers

**ISME** – Beijing Aug 1 – 6 (ISME President Graham Welch) If you will be attending, please contact Annabel Cohen or Lily Chen-Hafteck. Lily has organized a symposium.

**ICMPC11** – University of Washington, Seattle, August 23-27, (co-chairs: Steven Demorest, Steven Morrison, Patricia Shehan-Campbell)  
[http://www.musicperception.org/resources/ICMPC11\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.musicperception.org/resources/ICMPC11_Flyer.pdf). Note AIRS Annual meeting will take place August 22.

**cAIR Conference on Applied Interculturality Research** – Graz, Austria, April 7-10, 2010, Deadline Sept 30, <http://www.uni-graz.at/fAIR/cAIR10/index.htm> - Organizer Richard Parcutt

### AIRS Publications - Call For Papers –

**UNESCO Observatory E-Journal** - Volume 1 Issue 6, The University of Melbourne Refereed E-Journal, Multi-Disciplinary Research in the Arts. ISSN 1835—2776

Singing: Interdisciplinary perspectives on a natural human expressive outlet  
Deadline March 1, 2010

Guest Editor: Larry O'Farrell, Professor and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning,

Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Canada

Taking its inspiration from AIRS, and as announced at the AIRS meeting in PEI, the issue will focus on the origins and implications of singing, a natural, human expressive outlet. Linked to social, cultural, and biological development, singing draws on many disciplines and submits to many forms of analysis and specific explorations. Submissions are invited reflecting multidisciplinary knowledge about singing from the perspectives of psychology, music, linguistics, sociology, anthropology, education, and other disciplines. Submissions may relate to one of the three themes around which the issue will, provisionally, be organized although other perspectives are welcome.

Theme 1: Development of Singing

Theme 2: Education

Theme 3: Singing and Well-being

For full details see:

<http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/unesco/ejournal/vol-one-issue-six.html>

Larry O'Farrell will be seeking reviewers for papers also. Should you be willing to serve as a reviewer please also follow up at the above web-site.

### **Music and Mothers**

**Rachel Heydon** received an urgent request from the Association of Research in Mothering, and thought a member of AIRS may be interested in or able to follow up:

Andrea O'Reilly, general editor of the first ever Encyclopedia on Motherhood is in need of a Replacement entry for the topic "**music and mothers.**" The entry is needed by February 1, 2010 and is to be 2500 words including a work cited of approx 5 titles. The entry is to provide an overview of the topic historically but most of the entry should focus on the following: motherhood as a topic/theme in various musical genres of the 20th/21<sup>st</sup> centuries; rock, blues, jazz, hip hop, country etc; contemporary popular mother musicians such as Courtney Love, Britney Spears, Dixie Chicks etc. (their music, how treated/perceived in the industry); the contemporary motherhood rock movement with special attention to Mamapalooza. The encyclopedia is being published by Sage Press and will out in April 2010

Please email [aoreilly@yorku.ca](mailto:aoreilly@yorku.ca) directly asap.

Association for Research on Mothering (ARM) Demeter Press

206T Founders, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON Canada, M3J 1P3

416-736-2100 x60366 (fax) 416-736-5766 [arm@yorku.ca](mailto:arm@yorku.ca) [www.yorku.ca/arm](http://www.yorku.ca/arm)

### **Research advice sought on an Intergenerational Choir Concert experience in NA**

**Julie Jackson-Gough**, a colleague of **Stephen Clift** in New Zealand, directs the following to the attention of those interested in Intergenerational Singing;

We are in preparation for a concert entitled 8-80. A school choir of 50, average age 8-9, combining with a retirement complex choir of 31, average age 80. At the concert the two choirs will sing together approx 25% of the concert. Three combined rehearsals before the event which is happening February 26th. I want to collect data from both groups before the first meeting, i.e. Expectations, and then collect data from both groups after the performance to compare with first data. Length of whole project: 3 weeks, from first combined rehearsal to the concert. Planning has been going on for much longer. Time frame is limited by the start of the elementary school

year (southern hemisphere, we are in summer) which occurs at the beginning of February, and the Garden Arts Festival in which the concert is occurring.

[http://www.hamiltongardensartsfestival.co.nz/performers/87-9-8-to-80\](http://www.hamiltongardensartsfestival.co.nz/performers/87-9-8-to-80)

For further information on me and my work thus far: <http://gerontologyandsinging.blogspot.com>

Dr Julie Jackson-Gough [jjjnz@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:jjjnz@waikato.ac.nz)

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## **OF NOTE AND CURIOSITY**

### **From Lauren Stewart on LIET International Song Contest for European Minority Languages**

Lauren Stewart attended an interesting music festival for regional minority languages, since her husband, Simon Hooper, was covering it for CNN. The event took place in the northern Netherlands. There was a singing contest for different minority cultures (including a Sami yoik group!). Thanks Lauren for drawing this to AIRS' attention.

See: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/11/03/netherlands.liet.minority.languages/> for the CNN report

and <http://www.liet.nl/fy/> on the event (if you understand Dutch or Frysk)

### **Birdsong: FYI Scientists Map Brain Pathway for Vocal Learning**

A UPEI colleague Eric Richard passed this on:

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100113122259.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29&utm\\_content=Netvibes](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100113122259.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29&utm_content=Netvibes)

### **Photos from AIRS at UPEI 2009**

Does anyone have photos of the AIRS meeting in PEI, particularly the group shot. Please send to [jmlane@upei.ca](mailto:jmlane@upei.ca) for the web-site or potential use in a promotional publication.

## **CLOSING COMMENT**

Now beginning the final quarter of this start-up year, we should be very pleased about how much has been accomplished in laying the groundwork for the years ahead. The cooperation of so many people is heartening. Research activity within every sub-theme has commenced, and funding of students has begun. The metaphor of a choir of researchers is applicable -we are writing and singing in three-part harmony (our research themes) with the foundation of the digital library and website (virtual research environment) as the bass line well into development.

-Annabel Cohen, Director AIRS MCRI  
[acohen@upei.ca](mailto:acohen@upei.ca)

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Acknowledgement to Cynthia Dennis, Mary Gick, and Patricia Campbell for comments on an earlier version of this update.