



WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Email: info.accute@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jason Haslam

This past term was another productive and exciting one for ACCUTE and for the Halifax office. Since our last newsletter in September, we've participated in the annual conference of the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Science (CFHSS) in Ottawa; worked on a multi-association event for Congress 2016 related to the anniversary of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report; completed the first two stages of our ongoing (and thus far successful) membership drive; been represented at the MLA subconference by our CAF Representative, Erin Wunker (more on that in our Spring Newsletter!); and kept on top of all the usual conference planning. You can read about some of these efforts below, along with a few other solicited pieces for this issue, so I'll keep this message relatively short.

Importantly, next month we'll be relaunching the ACCUTE Membership directory: containing the names, email contact information, and research and teaching areas of those members who gave permission to be included, the directory will be posted on a password-protected portion of the ACCUTE website. Active members will receive an email with the password, for access.

But there is one more exciting development I want to highlight here before we move on to discussing those other important events. Much of the below repeats a [blog entry](#) posted on the website before the holidays, but we wanted to bring your attention again to this important news—and the below includes some new information about celebrations at Congress!

Many of us remember when *ESC: English Studies in Canada*, ACCUTE's journal, moved to the University of Alberta. Believe it or not, that move took place in 2002, nearly fifteen years ago. Edited first in the new location by Jo-Ann Wallace, then by Michael O'Driscoll, and currently by both Mike and Mark Simpson, *ESC*

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has had unprecedented success at the UofA. *ESC* has, over the years, become a world-class English Studies journal, with a readership that includes approximately 600 individual print subscribers in this country alone, representing 69 different institutions, and with a full text article being downloaded, on average, every 3.9 minutes in more than 80 countries around the world.

Fifteen years is a significant length of time for the journal to be housed in one institution — likely the longest in the journal's history. The current editorial team has therefore approached the ACCUTE Board to suggest it is time for us to look to the **next stage of *ESC*'s development**, and find both a new Editor and a new home for the journal. ACCUTE's Board and our members will have some time to celebrate the profound work that the UofA team has put into *ESC*, and we will, starting at this year's conference. In addition to the annual *ESC*

Bash, ACCUTE will be hosting a special post-AGM reception with food and drink, where we'll announce this year's F. E. L. Priestley Prize winner, and celebrate the achievement of the Alberta editorial team.

In the meantime, the task ahead for the Board and the current Editors is to find that new home. As part of this process, we have issued the Call for Expressions of Interest, which you can find at the end of this Newsletter and on our website. This Call details the support we feel necessary, as well as the benefits that accrue to the host institution. We have circulated this call to Chairs of English in Canada, as well as to our campus representatives. Instructions for sending in expressions of interest are listed in the document.

Thanks again to Mike, Mark, and the whole team at UofA!



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lyn Bennett

Welcome to 2016, with wishes for a great start to a new year. January is a busy month at the ACCUTE office as we begin putting the final touches on our conference program. You already know about our plenary speakers, Christine Bold and Stephanie LeMenager, and we're equally excited about our Joint and Member-Organized Panels as well as those we're putting together from this year's notably rich General Pool. Featuring members new and seasoned, ours is going to be a memorable conference that you won't want to miss. (Word has it that [Margaret Atwood will also make an appearance at this year's Congress](#), speaking at an event open to all—we'll keep you posted as more details are made available).

I'm not alone, I think, in saying that we east-coast dwellers are especially looking forward to a Congress hosted in the beautiful province of Alberta. Both in the city of Calgary and around campus, you'll find lots to see and do. After our conference wraps up on 31 May, you may even want to extend your stay to include a visit to the nearby Rocky Mountains (I know that a day or two of hiking is high on my agenda!).

When planning your trip, be sure to check out the hotels Congress organizers have blocked for the event. The Congress website provides detailed information about [accommodations](#), including nearby or easily accessible hotels and University of Calgary residences, as well as many [local options](#) to amuse and entertain during your stay.

Let's all have a great winter dreaming of Calgary—spring will be here before we know it!



Calgary in 2010 (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Lynne Evans

The Halifax office focused its attention in the fall months on increasing ACCUTE membership. We circulated a re-vamped ACCUTE membership-benefit flyer for our campus reps to distribute to their respective faculties, along with a list of inactive ACCUTE members to help reps target their efforts. Thanks to the hard work of our campus reps and ACCUTE's new RA, Brittany Kraus, I'm pleased to report that we had very good results from this initiative. Specifically, as at the end of December 2015, ACCUTE has 515 active members, which represents a 13% increase from our 455-person membership of December 2014. This, of course, is very good news for our finances. Membership revenue at December 2015 was up 16% over the same period in the previous year.

Unfortunately, as renewing members will have noticed, we have not as yet migrated to the 2015 AGM-approved membership fee structure, in which fees will be based on a member's

professional rank, rather than salary range. The Federation has continued to have difficulties getting a new database platform up and running, and until their new system is in place, we will have to maintain the existing fee structure. Moreover, as a result of database instabilities, a number of our members have experienced technical difficulties with their renewals, and others have not received their renewal notifications. Due to technological reasons beyond my ability to articulate, certain database system-generated messages--such as renewal notices--are being recognized as "spam" by some University servers. (You may want to check your own spam folder in case this is an issue at your university.) The Federation is aware of and working on these issues, and we hope to have these problems worked out prior to ACCUTE's transition to the Western University office. Thanks to all of those members affected by these issues for your patience!

Finally, conference registration is now open, and we encourage members to take advantage of **early bird rates** by registering **prior to March 31**. You can access the registration website [here](#).

To join or renew your ACCUTE
membership, please visit our
website:
[**accute.ca**](http://accute.ca)

REPORT FROM THE 2015 CFHSS CONFERENCE

Jason Haslam

The Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences held its more-or-less annual conference on November 17 of this year (the previous conference was held in March 2014, with an AGM held at the 2015 Congress). With most of Ottawa and elsewhere still reeling from the Paris attacks (members of the Federation board and I went to a gathering at Nepean Point where we heard from French Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis), the conference started with attention to social division, violence, and the role of humanities and universities in working through these issues, a focus that would continue throughout the events. In part, this focus was already designed in the program, with half of the panels at the conference focussed on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, and the Federation's and its members' responses to it. The theme of this year's conference, "Celebrating Impact: 75 years," recognized the Federation's anniversary, which a reception the night before also fêted with the launch of the interactive timeline of the Federation's history on their website (<http://www.ideas-idees.ca/about/history>).

The conference proper started with a welcome by Federation executive director Jean-Marc Mangin, which included a video of the Federation's history (thankfully, Federation board member and ACCUTE member Julia M. Wright caught the misspelling of Northrop Frye's name). This was followed by Stephen Toope's presidential address. Both speakers mentioned the anniversary (really marking the creation of the Canadian Social Science Research Council [CSSRC] more than the Federation itself), but also touched on issues of reconciliation and the role of the humanities and social sciences in that process.

From there, we moved to a 75th-anniversary panel with three past presidents of the Federation:

Roseann Runte (current president of Carleton and past president of the Federation from 1982-84); Don Fisher (past president of the Federation from 2004-2006); and past ACCUTE president Noreen Golfman (Federation past president, 2007-11). Each was asked to speak to the challenges and successes of their time: the topics of research funding and impact measurement recurred several times. During the question period, former SSHRC president Chad Gaffield asked about the structural challenges to the humanities and social sciences posed by the increasing reliance on poorly paid contingent faculty. The responses to this significant question pointed to a "crisis" in enrollment and problems with our delivery methods, with technology again being held up as a possible solution (even granting enrollments in SSH going down, some mention of increasing tuition and debt pressures would have added to the texture and depth of the discussion, to my mind). At least one personal response seemed to dismiss the issue of contingent faculty, and was based on experience contract teaching several decades ago; if I read the dismissal correctly, it points to the continuing need to address and educate even university leaders on the significant problems facing our profession and the most vulnerable members of it. However, one speaker "got it," so to speak, referring to this labour issue as a "time bomb," and pointing to the rank disparity between the massive increase in university participation rates and the lack of investment in the necessary full-time, secure labour force needed to teach those students.

It did seem at several times, however, as if the solution to many of the structural issues facing humanities and social sciences, and our universities as a whole—framed in the form of "decline," be it in tenure-track hires, research funding, enrollments, or so on—were repeating formulas that have been used to varying degrees of success or failure in the past. Specifically, the two recurring themes throughout the conference

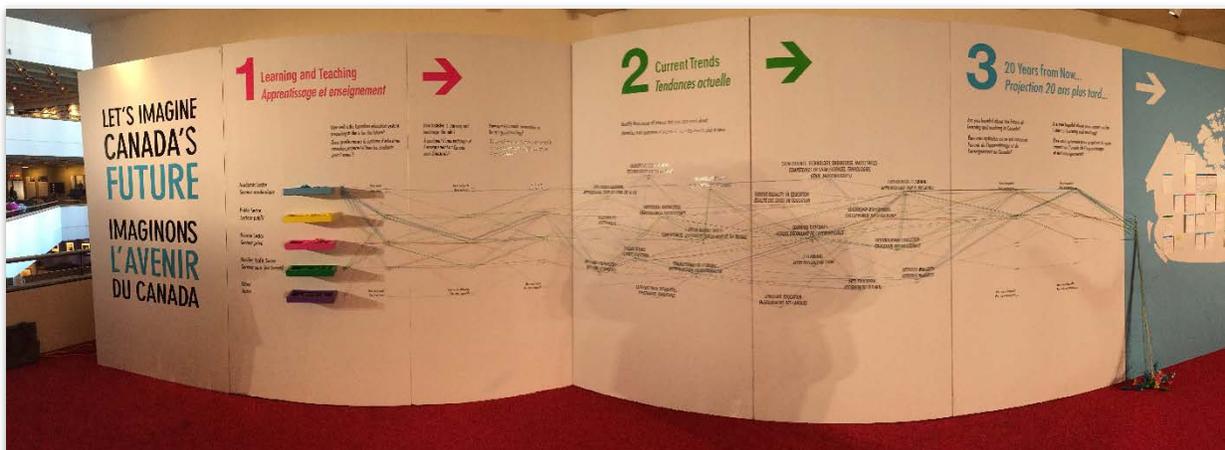
were the need to build on either technology or interdisciplinarity, leading several of us over lunch to joke ruefully that it must be 1984 again--not because of any Orwellian inflection, but because we felt like we were repeating the final pages of Lyotard's *Postmodern Condition*, in an academic version of *Groundhog Day*.

But, don't mistake my grumpy-cat posturing here for a dismissal of the conference or even of the panel, which had many important and edifying moments. Fisher, for example, pointed out that at its creation by Harold Innes, the body that became the Federation was intentionally designed to exclude "management" (for example, anyone Dean and above), in order to focus on research and teaching from the perspective of those on the ground, so to speak. I say this is interesting, because the Federation's membership is now about 50% associations and 50% universities. Looking back through the ACCUTE newsletter archive, I discovered that the ratio used to be weighted even more heavily to the institutions (see "From the Vaults," below). It would be an interesting study to track this ratio, in order to explore what effects, if any, the level of administrative participation has had on the political and advocacy role that the Federation plays. After all, the needs of Humanities and Social Sciences researchers and teachers are, as Innes knew, sometimes at odds with management, and vice versa, even as we all strive to further

what we consider to be in the best interests of our institutions, our disciplines, and the academy as a whole.

The afternoon was more enlightening and transformative in positive ways. In a "Big Thinking on the Hill" lecture, Wab Kinew (Associate Vice-President for Indigenous Relations at the University of Winnipeg) addressed the need for, as well as the hopes and challenges of, Reconciliation within personal, communal, and institutional frames. Discussing his own life, his writings, and the introduction of mandatory Indigenous studies courses at the University of Winnipeg and elsewhere, he challenged the audience to consider what support for Reconciliation means at our institutions and beyond.

This was followed by a powerful panel featuring Tim McTiernan (Chair, Universities Canada Standing Advisory Committee on Education Issues and Funding, President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Ontario Institute of Technology), S. Brenda Small (Vice President, Centre for Policy in Aboriginal Learning, Confederation College), and Gabrielle Fayant (Métis youth leader, Co-Founder of Assembly of Seven Generations [A7G]). Focused explicitly on Reconciliation and the Academy, these speakers all addressed both structural and individual challenges, and the need to remain aware of the academy's history of colonialist attitudes and research, as we strive to find new directions.



Interactive string-art display at the CFHSS 2015 Conference

These presentations led to a powerful, and emotional, audience reaction. Rather than summarize that panel here, I encourage everyone to watch the video of it—and the earlier sessions—on the Federation’s [website](#).

The last event of the day featured several concurrent workshops. I attended “Economy: Economic impacts and readiness of our graduates,” featuring a short presentation by Ron Freedman (Research Infosource Inc.) on data relating to the employment of Humanities and Social Sciences graduates, as well the wider economic impact of our disciplines. Primarily addressing work done for SSHRC in the form of the report, “The Economic Role and Influence of the Social Sciences and Humanities: A Conjecture” ([see the pdf here](#)), Freedman usefully discussed how to frame the economic force of our research, with an emphasis on *applied* SSH research, in ways that could help us respond to administrators and governments who assume we have little impact on the wider economy (of course we can discuss the impacts we have beyond the economy, but that’s not what this session was about). It was here that I was again reminded that the Federation is a body that unites both institutions and researchers, and that the divide between management and labour can be sometimes hidden: when the conversation turned to the value of private-public partnerships, I pointed out that even the Conference Board of Canada has [openly wondered](#) if too much outsourcing of industry R&D to the university sector can damage both the university *and* industry, and so I asked if we were maybe running a risk by not pushing back against too much emphasis being placed on those partnerships. Mr. Freedman’s response was to say if universities don’t want to support these partnerships, we shouldn’t—missing, perhaps, that universities aren’t a univocal body, and that administrators can sometimes push for things that researchers don’t believe are in the best interests of the institution (and vice versa, of course). Once

again, I worry that the *research* role of half of the Federation members may have been somewhat at odds with the administrative concerns of the other half.

The day ended on another positive note, with an address by SSHRC President Ted Hewitt, who had earlier raised similar concerns about going too far down the public-private route since, as he mentioned in his address, we are in the early days of a new Federal government, which has indicated a different, seemingly more positive, attitude towards research than the previous regime. Stressing that it was still early days, still he struck an upbeat chord that was a nice change of tune from what we’ve heard these past many years.

FROM THE BLOG: RESEARCH CLIMATE CHANGE

Julia M. Wright

(Below is an opinion piece originally solicited for this newsletter and our blog. –ed.)

This piece comes out of thinking about what I’ve learned over the last decade or so about research policy, and particularly the dramatic transformation of [SSHRC](#) programs over the last few years. Over the last decade or so, I’ve been on adjudication committees for new programs as well as attended a meeting of tier-2 Canada Research Chairs in Ottawa, and, for the last two and a half years, I’ve been my Faculty’s Associate Dean Research and my university’s SSHRC Leader. As a [SSHRC Leader](#) (the term always reminds me of the [Simpsons’ “Leader” song](#)), I get SSHRC news for my institution, meet with SSHRC executives and other university SSHRC Leaders twice a year, and occasionally pester SSHRC for some information (they’re very patient with me). I’ve also served on an *ad hoc* SSHRC committee to discuss the [Insight Grant](#) program, and on the SSHRC panel for the five-year review of the [Vanier CGS](#) program. And

now I'm on the Board for the [Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences](#), and meet with SSHRC in that capacity as well.

We are all well aware that the Harper Interruption, as I like to call it, pushed SSHRC towards promoting research with industry and community partners on terms one could view as facilitating corporate subsidies and cuts to services, two hallmarks of global austerity. The Partnership program, in this light, is the flagship of an attempt to use research funds to reinforce, rather than inform or challenge (or even just ignore), government policy. [Nova Scotia's infamous Bill 100](#) is also in this vein, though, of course we have seen nothing as dire as the public-private partnership at the centre of *Spectre* (2015).

Also in line with austerity's tacit premise that those with more money are more capable, maximum amounts for grants were raised while overall funding was largely unchanged, dropping some success rates down as low as 20-25%, nearly half what we saw in the old Standard Research Grant program (typically 39% in its final decades). The lower success rate was exacerbated by increased opportunities to draw on multiple grants: the same person, for instance, could be a co-applicant on two Partnership Grants and the principal investigator on a Connection and an Insight Grant, so that lists of successful applicants were not only shorter but also overlapped. All of this led to concern about a shrinking number of funded researchers, with related concerns about the diversity of our research culture, the range of questions we are exploring, and regional distributions. This concern extends to the rebranding of scholarships under the Talent program: there could have been twice as many [Vaniers](#) at \$25,000, for instance. And, likely at least in part in response [to government devaluing of the social sciences](#), SSHRC has invested some of its very limited resources in promotional initiatives that celebrate a small group of stellar outcomes. We

are far from talking about [the 1%](#) in Canadian research, but an effect of all these changes has been to push us in that direction—more resources in the hands of fewer scholars.

Programs may change again, and hopes are high with a new federal government that includes many Social Sciences and Humanities graduates. The more durable effects of the Harper Interruption, and the continuing reliance on austerity principles in general, may be felt at the policy level: the push to cut duplication or overlaps in government services has been mirrored in our granting councils through "harmonization." While many of us are happy to see the Tri-Agency attending to the problem of interdisciplinary research that falls through the chasms that divide the three councils (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC), harmonization has had other foci: [open access](#), [research misconduct](#), and [an allocation system for Master's scholarships](#). Oh, and thank harmonization for the Canadian Common CV and the Research Portal too.

I've written on Open Access ([here](#) and [here](#)), and remain deeply concerned about its disregard for the specific concerns of the Social Sciences and Humanities (particularly in dealing with sensitive or copyright material), its high cost (by increasing the payment of high open-access fees charged by large, multinational academic publishers), and the effects on tenure and promotion applications and even SSHRC adjudication. How will committees evaluate the scholarly record of applicants who have been bound by the policy but work in fields where the top journals do not allow open access?

The drive to harmonize also includes the [Draft Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management](#), a further extension of SSHRC's recent Research Data Archiving Policy. They're having trouble defining "data," except in terms so broad that the year of first publication for *Lyrical Ballads* may count as data under the policy: "recorded material that validates research

findings and results, and enables reuse or replication.” Here’s the good news: the Draft includes the requirement that “Research data must be managed in conformity with all commercial, legal and ethical obligations,” which arguably erases the need for most SSHRC researchers to think about this policy at all, given the requirements of copyright, confidentiality and privacy, and publishing contracts, and the obvious uselessness of archiving data (texts, facts) that are already in libraries.

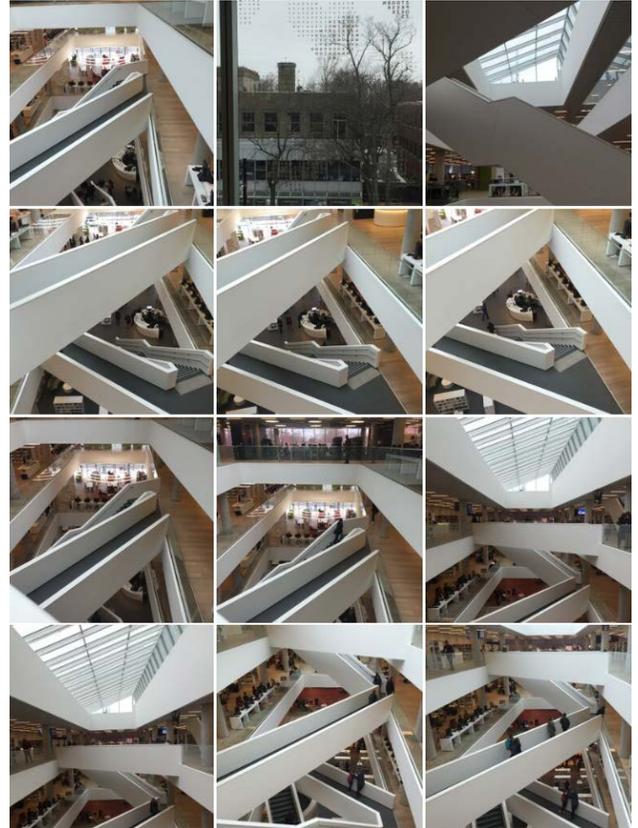
But here’s my bigger concern. Touch the casing of a desktop computer and feel it vibrate—that’s the fan cooling the CPU. Run your cellphone for a 20-minute voice-only call and feel how hot it gets. Heat is the side-effect of significant and inefficient energy consumption. USB memory keys draw little power and none at all when they are unconnected, making them rather green ways of storing files for occasional access, but the Data Management push implies internet connectivity: “All research data resulting from agency funding should normally be preserved in a publicly accessible, secure and curated repository or other platform for discovery and reuse by others” (“Draft”).

The environmental costs of such storage are potentially massive, requiring the manufacture of both servers and the cables that connect them to the internet ([have you read about the shortage of rare earths and problems with their extraction?](#)), the power that the servers need to run, and the power and water that it takes to cool all those hot servers. This is not news. Wendy Chun mentioned it in her ACCUTE/CDSH plenary at the 2015 Congress, and it has been widely reported (see examples [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). This isn’t about text files, which are very low-impact, but video, sound files, hi-res images, big data, and the risk that duplication will multiply the storage costs for a single unit of information. There are green technologies, but using them to reduce the impact of new server farms rather than offsetting

our current oversized carbon footprint doesn’t exactly seem like the smart ecological choice. And there’s still that pesky problem with rare earths.

Our research climate change may, this time, also affect planetary climate change.

(Join the conversation [on our blog!](#))



The interior of the new Halifax Central Library.

SHARING THE LAND, SHARING A FUTURE AT CONGRESS 2016

Jason Haslam

You will recall from both the previous newsletter and our call for papers that ACCUTE was working with the Federation and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA) on a joint panel (or set of panels) in response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. This panel has now been replaced by a much larger project. While

we were working on those plans, Gauri Sreenivasan, the Director of Policy and Programs for the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences, contacted representatives from several associations within the Federation, including ACCUTE and CHA, to forward an invitation from the "Sharing the Land, Sharing a Future" project, "struck to mark the 20th anniversary of the Report by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal peoples (RCAP)." The project's Oversight Committee was hoping to partner with several associations at Congress, and with the Federation itself, "to collaborate on an interdisciplinary initiative at the 2016 Congress in Calgary as part of the wider project to mark the RCAP anniversary." This larger project, as described in the invitation, "has four dimensions: *awareness* of the challenges that undermine good relations; *research* on progress toward addressing the challenges; *dialogue* on the roles of various sectors of society in effecting change; and *policy priorities* to be pursued after the central anniversary event." With the central event planned for November 2016, the Project hopes to connect at Congress with scholars from several disciplines and associations in order to work through some of the ways in which researchers, teachers, and our larger associations can work to help further these goals.

Following this invitation, to which ACCUTE responded enthusiastically, the Federation hosted a teleconference between several associations and Drs. Marlene Castellano and Frederic Wien from the RCAP Anniversary Project. In addition to ACCUTE and the CHA, the teleconference included representatives from the Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT), the Canadian Association for the Study of Indigenous Education (CASIE), the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE), the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE), and the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). (Apologies if I've missed anyone!)

The teleconference began with a discussion of the ways in which these different associations could work together at Congress to aid in the goals of the RCAP Anniversary project, with a focus on two different but complementary approaches: 1) how an event at Congress can help to identify research done within the different associations that can relate to the public and policy agenda of the project; and 2) how the event at Congress can also help to foster or further develop dialogue within our own associations and disciplines about how to respond to the educational and larger goals identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and by RCAP before it. Both external and internal approaches were identified, then, to help further our shared goals of Reconciliation.

Two primary plans came out of the teleconference. The first developed out of the discussion of the work the different associations were already doing in relation to Reconciliation and related topics. After each association listed already planned or likely panels, plenaries, reading groups, and other events, a suggestion was made for the Federation to centrally collect these events, creating a version of the "shared program" of allied associations that ACCUTE's own Marjorie Stone managed in the past. This shared program, though, would focus solely on research, policy, and public events related to Indigenous issues and Reconciliation. These events will then be made open to the larger Congress community in order to foster wider discussions.

The second action was to plan a one-day event, to be held on June 1st, dedicated to discussions of the Sharing the Land, Sharing a Future project. In addition to introductory remarks and a keynote lecture, this event (as currently planned) will include a panel discussion on the role social science and humanities disciplines can or should play in Reconciliation, featuring representatives of the associations who are participating in the event. This will be followed by

small, group discussions: the Sharing the Land initiative is commissioning background papers to be presented at their November event, and these discussions will be focussed on helping in the revision of those papers. Four topics relevant to the associations that are participating will be chosen, with representatives designated to provide a brief commentary.

As ACCUTE's President-Elect, Manina Jones will be attending the June 1 event. We are hoping to engage ACCUTE members with a research and/or teaching focus on the RCAP/TRC. If you are planning on attending Congress and are interested in the session, please contact [Manina](#) and [myself](#).

FROM THE VAULTS

Revisiting the ACCUTE Archive

(This piece by ACCUTE past president Len Findlay, documenting the very first conference of the HSSFC—as the Federation was then known—originally appeared in the March 1997 edition of our Newsletter. To see that issue and many others, see our online [archive](#). –ed.)

March 1997

An ACCUTE Representative's First Impressions of HSSFC

Len Findlay

(University of Saskatchewan)

The new Humanities and Social Sciences Federation had its first Annual Meeting in Ottawa in December. There was a healthy attendance at the General Assembly which comprises 69 universities, 53 associations, and three individual members. One could sense the excitement and anxiety in the room where we convened for an orientation session at the National Arts Centre, with people feeling themselves poised between making history and being overtaken (yet again) by events apparently beyond their control.

A review of the Federation's mission, mandate,

finances and governance structure got us off to a good start before we went off to four electoral colleges comprising universities, and small, medium, and large associations, to discuss how we will all be represented on the new Board of Directors. Elections were duly held next morning, and (with the gracious assistance of the representative of the Canadian Association of Political Scientists) the ACCUTE representative was one of those elected to the Board.

Later that morning there were four workshops. I attended the President's one, and listened to Chad Gaffield respond to questions about where the new Federation needs to go, and what its priorities ought to be. The other workshops dealt more specifically with External Communications, Women's Issues, and Research Dissemination.

The afternoon was the first meeting of the General Assembly, and allowed an opportunity to formalize, augment, and ratify administrative procedures favoured during the transition to a single Federation. Before we got to questions of eligibility, rules of membership, and Federation finances, there was discussion of the principal concerns emerging from the four workshops. There was overwhelming support for developing a new communications strategy that will include more effective lobbying of government, often in concert with organizations such as AUCC, the Association of Canadian Publishers, and the other granting councils; self-representation via Breakfasts on the Hill and similar initiatives at the provincial level; and enhanced communication with member societies and senior university administrators through the new electronic newsletter edited by Wayne Kondro, "Perspectives," available at the Federation web site: *[defunct link removed –ed.]*

Much of the current effort to inform and influence government policy has focused on Research Infrastructure. There has been significant progress in persuading members of Cabinet that such projects as the Community Research and

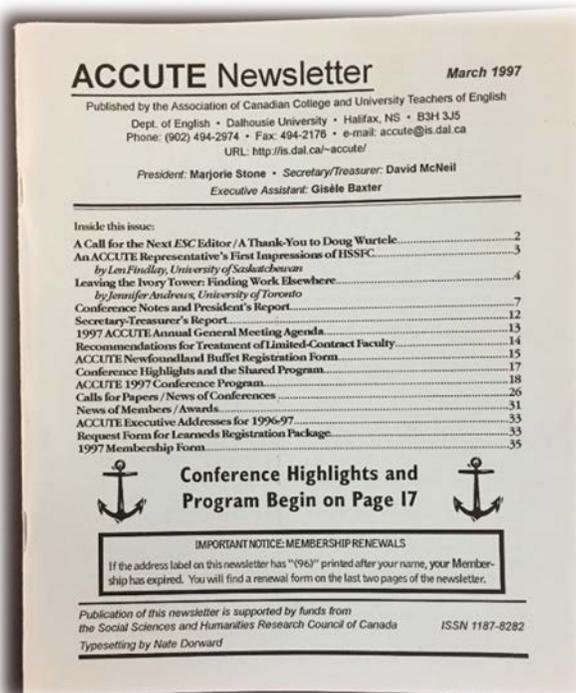
Information Crossroads, which would see about twenty-five such centres established across the country, should be supported under the aegis of Research Infrastructure or some other way. The most recent federal budget failed to recognize the CRICS as worthy of support, but the Federation was encouraged to continue promoting them, as well as conference workshops, public lectures, and a fellowship program relating to literacy. Success with the Data Liberation Initiative, the level of concerted action in response to the new Copyright Bill and the Tri-Council Code of Conduct for Research Involving Humans, and the securing of representation on some of MRC's most important standing committees, all suggest that the Federation's efforts can make an important difference to how our activities are understood and supported.

The Federation is also investing heavily in the future of the new Congress that will replace the Learned's in 1998 in Ottawa. Paul Ledwell is currently consulting societies about their

preferences, and ACCUTE, as one of the largest and a major financial contributor to HSSFC, needs to ensure that it has sufficient say in organizational matters and in joint sessions and thematic programming.

The Federation is continuing a close association with SSHRC, including advising the Council about needs for research dissemination through the Learned Journals and Aid to Scholarly Publications Programs. The new HSSFC Vice-President for Women's Issues, Cannie Stark of the University of Regina, is currently at work establishing a new network: for member societies and universities, and would welcome queries and suggestions about how best to build on almost ten years of work by SSFC and CFH. And as ACCUTE representative to HSSFC I look forward to hearing your concerns and suggestion. The Federation seems better focused and more effective than its predecessors, but it cannot continue to be so without your support and criticism.

March 1997



CALL FOR ESC EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English seeks Expressions of Interest from colleagues who want to serve as editor of the journal *ESC: English Studies in Canada*. Viable candidates will work at Canadian post-secondary institutions with the capability to house *ESC*, and will demonstrate the expertise required to manage the journal.

ESC will make this transition on July 1, 2017. In anticipation of that date, the ACCUTE Board of Directors will consider Expressions of Interest from potential Editors prepared to assume this responsibility for a minimum of five years. The Expression of Interest should take the form of a letter detailing the following information, which the Board considers essential to the continuing vitality of the journal:

Personnel and Services

- Relevant disciplinary and managerial expertise of the proposed Senior Editor, including grant application skills and experience (please append an up-to-date CV)
- The ability to staff the complementary continuing faculty roles of at least four supporting editors in the roles of Associate, Submissions (2), and Reviews positions (potential candidates should be named if possible)
- The ability to staff the 10hr/wk paid position of Journal Coordinator to manage journal finances, correspondence, distribution, and so on
- A commitment of Graduate Research Assistant support from the host department, faculty, or university
- A commitment of teaching release for the Senior Editor from the host department, faculty, or university
- The ability to secure reliable and reasonable printing and mailing services (note: the current editorial team would advise maintaining the current typesetting services)

Technical Support and Space

- Available support for digital activities, including server space and maintenance of the public website and online submission system
- Available space to house the operations of the journal and its working archive of publications
- A commitment from the host unit or university for telecommunications support and incoming hard-copy mail

Financial Records

- A commitment of clerical support from the host unit or university for the management of and generation of financial reports for SSHRC and operating funds
- The ability to work with the ACCUTE board to ensure proper day-to-day bookkeeping and that the financial records of the journal are regularly and properly kept

Any other matters, circumstances, or capabilities that speak to the sustainable maintenance of the journal may also be included in Expressions of Interest (e.g., bookkeeping support or expertise, extended digital expertise, and so on). Although written confirmation of the institutional commitments specified above is not required for Expressions of Interest, provision of such confirmation at this stage will be favourably considered.

The relevant documents should be submitted to Jason Haslam, ACCUTE President, by no later than April 1, 2016 (jason.haslam@dal.ca). Further information may be solicited from the current Co-Editors, Mark Simpson (dms7@ualberta.ca) or Mike O'Driscoll (mo@ualberta.ca). Follow-up and confirmations will be conducted in a timely manner.

ESC: ENGLISH STUDIES IN CANADA JOURNAL PROFILE

ESC: English Studies in Canada is widely regarded as the most important generalist journal in the field of English Studies in this country. *ESC* was founded in 1975 as an official publication of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). The current mandate of *ESC*—"to reflect the discipline back to itself"—is necessarily broad. The journal publishes articles that make a clear and original contribution to scholarly and theoretical debates of current interest and ongoing significance to members of the discipline of English Studies. *ESC* welcomes submissions that adopt an interdisciplinary approach or reflect the turn to cultural studies, submissions which make excellent and rigorous use of more traditional scholarly methodologies, and submissions which address emergent areas of the discipline. *ESC* works to maintain its position as a venue of first choice for academic publication.

As the official quarterly journal of the ACCUTE, *ESC* boasts amongst its readership and contributors many of the key Canadian scholars in the discipline, as well as graduate students and junior members of the profession. Indeed, *ESC*'s readership includes approximately 600 individual print subscribers in this country alone, representing 69 different institutions. Members of all departments of English in Canada, from teaching colleges to research universities, receive the journal, while all of the country's centres of excellence in the field register impressive numbers of subscribers.

ESC operates as an Open Access journal with a six-month delayed window. Institutional libraries carry the journal worldwide, and *ESC* is distributed through four digital aggregators, including the preeminent Project Muse. An *ESC* full text article is downloaded, on average, every 3.9

minutes in more than 80 countries around the world, and our foreign contributors (from China, Egypt, Iran, South Africa, Australia, India, UK, USA, etc.) account for 40% of our submissions over the past two years.

The Editor of *ESC* is appointed by the ACCUTE Board of Directors, and ordinarily serves for five years, renewable once. The Editor, assisted by an editorial staff of his or her choice, is responsible for the regular production of the journal, the setting of editorial guidelines, and the day to day administration of the journal (including required financial reporting). The Editor is an ex officio member of the ACCUTE Board of Directors, and the President of ACCUTE serves as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. Other members of the Editorial Advisory Board are nominated by the Editor (for a five-year term, renewable once) and ratified by the ACCUTE Board. The Editor reports annually to the ACCUTE Board and Membership on matters relating to the journal's finances and operations. The ACCUTE Board provides advice and feedback on the management of the journal and on its editorial policies. On those matters deemed to represent a major shift in editorial policy, the Editor will seek approval of the ACCUTE Board and ratification by its Membership.

ESC currently employs one part-time Journal Coordinator (10 hours/week), contracts typesetting services, and depends on the services of a Graduate Research Assistant and the volunteer contributions of five continuing faculty members. The journal operates on an annual budget of \$80,000 per year, and is maintained through SSHRC funding, subscription and royalty revenues, and the generous support of its home institution. *ESC* maintains a reserve fund equivalent to one year of operating expenses.

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With thanks...

As always, the ACCUTE office thanks the ACCUTE Board of Directors for all of their work, and Dalhousie's Department of English and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for their invaluable support.

And thank you for your support, and please don't forget to renew your membership. It's quick and easy, and you can do it [online!](#)

And, of course, a special thanks to David Bowie, who provided the office soundtrack for much of the past month.

(All photos by the prez, unless otherwise noted)