

Greetings! My name is @fraistat, though some know me as Neil Fraistat, the Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, or MITH. In my capacity as Chair of ADHO's Steering Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to DH 2013 on behalf of our 6 constituent organizations:

- ALLC: The European Association for Digital Humanities
- ACH: The [Association for Computers and the Humanities](#)
- CSDH/SCHN: The [Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques](#)
- aaDH: The [Australasian Association for Digital Humanities](#)
- [centerNet](#), the international network of digital humanities organizations
- And our newest member, JADH: The [Japanese Association for Digital Humanities](#)

This has been a busy, challenging, and exciting year for ADHO on multiple fronts: most notably, in changes to our institutional structure, our technical infrastructure, our relationship with members, our publications, and, of course, our annual conference. Even a cursory glance at the program for DH 2013 will demonstrate the remarkable vitality of DH as a field and the extraordinarily thoughtful job done by our international program committee, which has been so ably chaired by Bethany Nowviskie. What such a glance might not reveal is just how much the program committee, in response to community feedback, successfully experimented with key elements of our submission and review process to make it more welcoming, open, and rewarding for all concerned. Bethany and company, we owe you our deep gratitude and a rousing round of applause!

We on the ADHO Steering Committee recognize that our largest challenges in the coming years involve how well--across the range of our activities--we continue to welcome, enable, and promote the accelerating international and disciplinary growth of DH. In this regard, during the past year, beyond radically revamping our conference procedures, we substantially dropped membership rates for students and senior citizens; established a pilot Special Interest Group for Global Outlook; opened opportunities for other Special Interest Groups, many of which will be based on new approaches, collaborations, and disciplinary concerns; and selected Sydney, Australia as the site of DH 2015—the first time ever the conference will be hosted outside of Europe and North America.

This morning, in an important new development, the ADHO Steering Committee approved a new protocol establishing an ad hoc Working Group on Inclusivity. Such a group may, from time to time, be charged with projects that help ADHO's committees examine their governing documents, public communications, and evolving customs. Its purpose is to promote the use of broadly inclusive language and participate in the development or refinement of policies, protocols, and informal practices meant to welcome more diverse constituencies to ADHO and strengthen the organization and field of digital humanities through their involvement. We have charged Bethany Nowviskie with developing and leading our

inaugural Working Group on Inclusivity, which will move forward over the course of the coming year with attention to ADHO's governing documents and procedures.

Other forms of welcoming designed specifically by our Constituent Organizations for conference participants include the mixer for DH Directors and staff hosted by centerNet last night and ACH's Newcomers' dinner, which already has over 90 participants, as well as ACH's Mentoring program, the details of which can be found in the Conference program.

We invite you to learn more about the activities and initiatives of ADHO's Constituent Organizations in the lunchtime members meetings that will be held by EADH, ACH, ADHO and centerNet over the course of this week. The ACH meeting tomorrow will include its justly celebrated annual Job Slam and a round of lightning presentations on digital pedagogy. And the joint ADHO/centerNet annual meeting on Friday will focus on DH in an international context, featuring presentations on centerNet's forthcoming new journal DH Commons and on GO::DH, ADHO's global outlook special interest group, as well as a SIG Slam, where those wishing to start new special interest groups will be able to make one-minute pitches to find like-minded colleagues. Best of all, the first 50 people to arrive will receive a free lunch!

One of ADHO's ways of welcoming promising new members into our community and celebrating the achievements of those already working in the field is the presentations of prizes. As you may know from the conference schedule, the Busa award will be presented this Thursday to one of the DH community's most widely respected and influential figures, Willard McCarty.

In the closing session on Friday, you will hear more about the other prizes. One of these is the Fortier Prize, which will be awarded to the young scholar giving the best presentation at this conference. The Fortier Prize honors the memory of Paul Fortier, who lived from 1939-2005. Paul had a keen ear not just for new voices, but also for the newness in what those voices had to say. In 1993, Paul was awarded the honor of University Distinguished Professor by the University of Manitoba, where he had taught at the rank of Professor since 1979 in the Department of French, Spanish and Italian.

The winner of last year's Fortier prize was Marc Alexander, from Glasgow, for his paper "Patchworks and Field-Boundaries." This year's carefully selected shortlist contains five papers by presenters from the US, UK, Australia and Germany. Their range of topics is broad, so that several disciplines of digital humanities are represented:

Peter Organisciak: Incidental Crowdsourcing: Crowdsourcing in the Periphery

Christof Schöch: Fine-tuning Stylometric Tools: Investigating Authorship and Genre in French Classical Theater

Paul Matthew Gooding: The Digitized Divide: Mapping Access to Subscription-Based Digitized Resources

Ben Jasnow and Courtney Evans: Mapping Homer's Catalogue of Ships

Jack Elliott: Unsupervised Learning of Plot Structure: A Study in Category Romance

One of these will receive the Fortier Prize 2013, to be handed out during the closing session--we hope that many of you will be there; the suspense is already building!

Finally, ADHO is especially pleased to be holding this year's DH Conference on the splendid campus of the University of Nebraska, home of one of the premier digital humanities centers in the world and one of the most distinguished Digital Humanities faculties. We thank you for welcoming us to your campus! Our special thanks go to Kay Walter and Ken Price, our local co-organizers and their hardworking staff, who have done so much to make this conference possible. Kay and Ken: based on my own experience as a conference co-organizer for DH 09, I can say that although things may well get worse before they get better, in another year or two you'll probably only remember the happy moments. Let's have a heartfelt round of applause for Kay and Ken!

I'll end with my best wishes to you all for a stimulating week of intellectual exchange. May we all be warmed not just by Nebraska's summer sun, but by the white heat of thought! Over to you, Kay!