

WELCOME

On behalf of the ICAD 2003 Organizing Committee, it is my honor to welcome you to Boston University for the 9th International Conference on Auditory Display.

This is the first time ICAD has been held in Boston and also marks ICAD's return to the United States after two years of being held in other countries (in Finland in 2001 and in Japan in 2002). It is almost surprising that it has taken nine conferences for ICAD and Boston to meet, for they make a near-perfect match: few places in the world boast as high a density of researchers investigating auditory perception, auditory neurophysiology, audio technology, and audio engineering as the Boston area.

We have assembled what we think is an exciting mix of scientific and social events to make the inaugural Boston ICAD meeting memorable. The one-day workshop on auditory displays in assistive technology brings together academic researchers as well as consultants and practitioners who use auditory displays in real-world applications ranging from museum displays to everyday navigation. The main ICAD conference boasts over 60 technical presentations, selected (after careful peer review by an international panel of experts) from very high-quality submissions. In addition to talks, poster presentations, and what we hope will be a provocative panel discussion ("Science vs. Art in Auditory Displays"), we will visit the MIT Media Lab to see how technophiles use audio in displays. The social events (an informal pizza party, a "Duck Boat Tour" of Boston, the conference banquet, a reception at the Media Lab) are designed to nurture the already-strong camaraderie of the ICAD community and provide informal opportunities for ideas to be exchanged, discussed, and argued with a healthy give and take.

While we are here because of shared intellectual interests, we hope you take time to enjoy Boston during your stay. Walk the Freedom Trail; visit the Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, and Quincy Market. Between the laid-back nightlife of Harvard Square, live music clubs in and around Central Square, sports venues, museums, and other sights in and around Boston, there is something in our friendly city to appeal to everyone.

Generous financial support from the Boston University Hearing Research Center, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and Tucker-Davis Technologies allowed us to offer substantial subsidies to many student and post-doctoral participants and offset other ICAD 2003 meeting costs. Nancy Maguire and Joan Brown assisted mightily with administrative and logistical planning. The members of the ICAD 2003 Organizing Committee, particularly treasurer Barry Blesser, were extraordinarily generous with their time, ensuring the success of ICAD 2003. Many student volunteers will be helping in a variety of ways, down to guiding the ICAD community through the Boston subway system. However, more than anything else, the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants is responsible for the success of any conference. Thank you all for making this conference, and the ICAD community, as strong as it is. Because of you, it has been a pleasure to put together the program you are about to enjoy.

I look forward to seeing you all in Sydney for ICAD 2004!

Barbara Shinn-Cunningham
General Chair, ICAD 2003