

FACULTY EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Professional Development Travel Grant Proposal

(Spring–Summer FY 08)

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Summary: Proposal to travel to the Digital Media and Composition (DMAC) professional development institute at The Ohio State University, May 29–June 10, 2008.

Department Chair, Dr. Tim Hunt

PROPOSAL: Attend the Digital Media and Composition Institute (May 29–June 10, 2008)

Overview of Institute

The nationally recognized Digital Media and Composition institute is the only hands-on, professional development workshop focused on multimedia and new media theory and production within English Studies. The two-week institute is hosted by English department faculty at The Ohio State University; all discussions and workshops are held in the department's Digital Media Project lab. During the workshop, which meets daily from 8am–5pm (see a past schedule and syllabus at <http://dmp.osu.edu/DMAC/schedule06.htm>), participants engage in learning about the effective use of digital media in humanities classrooms. Participants explore a range of contemporary digital literacy practices—alphabetic, visual, audio, and multimodal (i.e., combinations of communicative strategies)—and apply what they learn to the design of meaningful assignments, syllabi, curricula, and programs. Among other activities, participants

- design, create and use webtexts, online portfolios, video projects, audio essays, and other digital compositions;
- experiment with different genres of digital representation (e.g., documentary, literacy autobiography, interview) and primary resources (e.g., letters, photographs, maps, sound recordings);
- discuss the complex issues of access, equity, agency, and literacy using the perspectives of both theory and practice to unpack these important concepts.

The goal of DMAC is to suggest and encourage innovative rhetorically-based approaches to composing that students and faculty can use as they employ digital media in support of their own educational and professional goals, in light of the specific context at their home institutions and within their varied personal experiences.

Professional Development Components

As you can see from the institute description above, the workshops are set up specifically to cater to the professional development of participants in regards to both the theory and practice of composing in digital media. Although I am familiar with this composition style (as it is what I research and teach), attending the institute has additional benefits:

- meeting new faculty and graduate students from across the U.S. (and sometimes internationally) who are interested in digital media studies, with whom I can network to share teaching and research ideas. This is important given my national service role in the field: as editor for the top multimedia journal—*Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, Pedagogy* (<http://kairos.technorhetoric.net>)—and as chair of the field-wide committee on the use of digital technology in writing instruction.
- interacting with participants—especially those very new to digital writing studies, as the institute often attracts—to help ground and inform my research on teaching readers new to reading and composing new media texts
- working one-on-one with top scholars to get feedback on my projects (see outcomes below)
- working in state-of-the-art digital writing labs and learning what the best equipment for multimedia writing production is (see second outcome below)

Expected Outcomes

- (1) to create a better, outcomes-based syllabus with sequenced assignments for my Multimedia Writing Workshop class (now ENG 289.22; has been approved as a permanent offering under ENG 249: Multimodal Composition). This class is of use, in part, to fulfill NCATE's technological literacy component for English Education majors but is also open to all majors.
- (2) to start work on a proposal and budget justification for renovating the English department computer labs (Stv 408 and 221a) by FY 09–10 so that the rooms are more pedagogically and technologically current for digital writing instruction.

Also, there are plans for me to teach some multimedia workshops for my department upon return.

Budget Justification

I have been invited to the 2008 DMAC institute as a guest instructor; I will teach 1–2 workshop sessions in exchange for a waiver of the institute fee (\$1800). The institute fee includes all instructional costs, receptions, and most social activities. The institute fee does not include transportation or room and board costs. Housing at the local hotel (the Holiday Inn on Lane, Columbus, Ohio) is available to institute participants for a reduced rate of \$100/night. The meal costs for 14 days (13 workshop days + 1 travel day) would total ~\$450 (using the \$28/day per diem). I plan to drive my own vehicle, since Columbus is only 6 hours away. The trip is approximately 700 miles roundtrip and the expense below is calculated using the FY07 mileage rate of \$.445 per mile. I will not have any remaining departmental travel funds to use towards this professional development trip.

Line-Item Budget

based on 15-day trip

DMAC Institute Fee	\$1,800
(fee waived)	-\$1,800
Hotel	\$1,500 + tax
Meals	\$450
Transportation (car)	\$312
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,262