

## **ICE Annual Report FY08**

### **Mission**

Ideas for Creative Exploration (ICE) is a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary creative projects, advanced research and critical discourse in the arts, and for creative applications of technologies, concepts, and practices found across disciplines. It is a collaborative network of faculty, students, and community members from all disciplines of the visual and performing arts in addition to other disciplines in the humanities and sciences. ICE enables all stages of creative activity, from concept and team formation through production, documentation, and dissemination of research.

### **Background**

ICE began in 1999 as a series of discussions among faculty and students throughout the university and local community to address the need for a program that would support collaborative projects and advanced research across disciplines in the arts.

In the spring of 2001 a series of meetings and events called the ICE Summit was held at UGA, developed through the coordinated efforts of the departments of Art, Dance, Drama (renamed Theatre and Film Studies), English, and Music. Although the ICE Summit mainly addressed art and technology, the resulting conversations revolved around the potential of an interdisciplinary unit at UGA that could generate projects and partner with other institutions to bring these efforts to the attention of local, national and international audiences.

During the past seven years ICE has supported the development of original projects, hosted visiting artists and scholars, held workshops, developed a Web site and online forum, and established a project space in the historic Tanner Building. The ICE network has expanded to include faculty and students in the Honors Program, Faculty of Engineering, an increasing number of people in the sciences, UGA alumni, community members, and national and international organizations. ICE revolves around a healthy Project Grant program, a weekly electronic mailing list serving over three hundred members, events, and an academic/social/mentoring network.

### **Funding**

ICE is supported by Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Vice President for Research. Additional support for ICE projects has been provided by the Lamar Dodd School of Art, Dance, Theatre and Film Studies, English, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, The Honors Program/Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities, New Media Institute, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and the generous support of many foundations, businesses, and individuals.

### **ICE Project Grants**

Fourteen projects received support from ICE during the 2007-2008 academic year. Eligibility was restricted to UGA faculty and students, and a total of thirty-four proposals were received from seven undergraduate candidates, four graduate candidates, and twenty-three faculty members.

A five-member ICE Project Grant Selection Committee considered the proposals and awarded a total of \$25,060 in grant funds. The selected projects were chosen based on intellectual and artistic merit, feasibility of the project under sponsorship of ICE, extent of collaborative and interdisciplinary activity, degree of innovation, and potential for future funding and development.

The awards reflect a range of emerging interests in the arts at UGA, including projects that involve collaboration across disciplines, experiment with new technology and address current social and environmental issues while engaging the community, service learning and undergraduate research. ICE will support the new projects through various stages of development with funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).

The grant recipients are as follows:

Mirla Criste, Assistant Professor, Theatre and Film Studies  
*Water: Drought*

Michelle Penland Dodson, Graduate Candidate, Theatre and Film Studies  
*Water Body*

Margot Ecke, Assistant Professor, Lamar Dodd School of Art  
*Dynamic Reading*

Koqunia LaTrice, Forte Graduate Candidate, Theatre and Film Studies  
*Girls Talk*

Tim Foutz, Professor, The Faculty of Engineering and Biological and Agricultural Engineering  
*The Biomechanics of Conducting Music*

Amanda Gailey, Assistant Professor, English  
*Race and Children's Literature of the Gilded Age*

Jean Kidula, Associate Professor, Hugh Hodgson School of Music  
*Our New Silence*

Jon Roy, Graduate Candidate, Lamar Dodd School of Art  
*A New Dissonance: Translating Ben Johnston's 10th String Quartet*

Rick Silva, Visiting Assistant Professor, Lamar Dodd School of Art  
*Sound Source*

Paul Sutter, Associate Professor, History  
*The Athens Heritage Project*

Martijn van Wagendonk, Assistant Professor, Lamar Dodd School of Art  
*Descending: Part Three of "Mechanical and Metaphysical Phenomena"*

Jonathan Vance, Undergraduate Candidate, Computer Science  
*Satellite Dishes, Moveable Walls, and a Snowscape*

Edward Whelan, Undergraduate Candidate, Lamar Dodd School of Art  
*2012, the Instruction Manual for Living in Post-Apocolypsus*

Andrew Zawacki, Assistant Professor, English  
*Georgia*

See the **Appendix A** for full project descriptions.

### **Graduate Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research**

*Graduate School Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research* will foster expanded research activity at UGA and serve as a beacon to the most innovative graduate candidates in the arts. Beginning in FY09, three assistantships per year will be awarded to students entering terminal degree programs in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies. Assistantship recipients will receive two years of funding from the Graduate School, followed by a third year of funding from the appropriate home department in the form of a Departmental Assistantship.

The FY09 assistantship recipients are Marie Porterfield (Art), Ji Eun Moon (Music), and Hunter Parker (Theatre and Film Studies).

### **AUX 2 Experimental Arts Festival**

Approximately 300 people attended the second AUX experimental art festival on February 23, 2008 in downtown Athens. Audiences enjoyed performances, installations, a video show, and a market area beginning at 4:30 PM and lasting into the late evening hours across three venues. Heather McIntosh organized AUX 2 with the additional assistance of ten volunteers during the event.

The festival is a continuation of the ICE production initiative, beginning with the publication of *AUX*, a collection of experimental sound from Athens, Georgia, presented in a limited-edition CD package. *AUX 2* received support from Ciné, Little Kings Shuffle Club, Flicker Theatre and Bar, and Flagpole Magazine.

See **Appendix B** for a full list of participants.

### **Lecture by Mike Essl**

Mike Essl was a partner at the award-winning design firm The Chopping Block, Inc., which he co-founded in 1996 with a fellow graduate of the Cooper Union. During his six

years with the firm, Essl's clients included Sony, Nickelodeon, National Geographic, MTV, Intel, Microsoft, Roadrunner Records, the band They Might Be Giants, and the rapper Warren G. After receiving his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Mike went out on his own and has done work for Columbia University, Chronicle Books, and DC Comics.

Essl has taught at Parsons School of Design, School of the Visual Arts, and is now an assistant professor at the Cooper Union. Essl's work has been recognized in numerous publications and by the AIGA and the Art Directors Club. In 2003 his work with the Chopping Block was featured in the National Design Triennial. Essl was recently a juror for PDN Pix magazine as well as ID magazine's Media Design review.

### **Elliott Earls Residency**

Elliott Earls first gained international recognition as a designer of digital typography in the 1990s and expanded his practice to include one-person performances utilizing interactive technology of his own design, earning a prestigious Emerging Artist Grant from The Wooster Group in New York. In 1995, Earls formed the Apollo Program, a studio devoted to experimentation with nonlinear digital video, spoken word poetry, music composition and design. Earls' work has been shown in exhibitions and festivals around the world, and is featured in the permanent collection of the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

In 2001, Earls was appointed designer-in-residence and head of the 2-D Design Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. While at Cranbrook his artistic practice has continued to broaden by using film production as a method to generate digital photography, sculpture, paintings, and the music of his band, The Venomous Sons of Jonah.

Earls spent one week at UGA, conducting a workshop, public lecture, performance and film screening, colloquium, and installing an exhibition. Following the residency he designed a catalog documenting his time in Athens.

The Elliott Earls Residency was supported by the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, Lamar Dodd School of Art Visiting Artist and Scholar Series, Lamar Dodd School of Art Galleries, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, and Ciné.

### **ICE Open House: Words & Pictures**

Katherine McGuire (graduate candidate, Art) unveiled *What Lies Here*, an ICE window installation. A reading by Patrick Fadely (undergraduate candidate, English), whose poetic practice has been shaped by an interest in improvised music. Jordan Dalton (undergraduate interdisciplinary major combining courses in Computer Science, English, Drama, and Digital Media) demonstrated *Room-Poem*, a procedure for creating poetry over time with speech recognition software.



### **ICE Window Installations**

ICE continued to invite artists to create temporary installations in the large double window space of Tanner Building room 101. The Fall semester featured Katherine McGuire, a graduate candidate in printmaking. Kathryn Schoenke created the Spring semester installation.

### **Honors Program**

ICE continued its participation with the Honors Program by offering a CURO seminar called “Introduction to Research in the Arts” during the Spring semester.

The seminar provides an overview of arts research, presents methodological models for sustaining research-based creative practice and acts a workshop for project development. The seminar examines conventional and emerging forms of arts research, ranging from historical and critical studies to project-based works that address newer media and interdisciplinary approaches.

Students visit various areas of campus to become familiar with performance and exhibition resources at UGA and meet leading faculty and professionals who are conducting research in the Departments of Art, Dance, Drama, English and Music, the Georgia Museum of Art and ICE. Students are exposed to a range of models for creative practice based on visits with faculty, outside reading and discussion. The seminar addresses ways that arts research is produced in the form of exhibitions, performances and publications, and how institutional networks, grants, commissions and entrepreneurial approaches support research-based cultural production.

The seminar was led by Mark Callahan and included Dr. David Saltz (Theatre and Film Studies), Dr. Jed Rasula (English), Dr. Pam Kleiber (Honors Program), Curator Ashley Callahan (Georgia Museum of Art), Bala Sarasvati (Dance), Martijn van Wagendonk (Art), Dr. Jose Blanco (Family and Consumer Sciences), Dr. Richard Siegesmund (Art), Dr. Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor (Education), and Dr. Jean Martin-Williams (Music).

### **Partnerships**

ICE is affiliated with two major arts organizations, ASCI and Rhizome.

Art and Science Collaborations, Inc. (ASCI) was established primarily as a network for artists who either use or are inspired by science and technology, ASCI has become a magnet for some of the best examples of this type of contemporary art and for scientists and technologists wishing to collaborate. ASCI programs and services provide members with opportunities for professional growth, increased public visibility, and a supportive community.

Rhizome is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1996 to provide an online platform for the global new media art community. Their programs and services support the creation, presentation, discussion and preservation of contemporary art that uses new technologies in significant ways. Rhizome’s core activities include commissions, email discussions and publications, Web site, and events.

### **Administration**

ICE is advised by a committee with representatives from Art, Dance, English, Music, Theatre and Film Studies, the graduate student body and the Athens community. David Saltz is the Executive Director and Mark Callahan is the Artistic Director.

### **Strategic Planning**

ICE completed strategic plan titled *A Close and Productive Synergy in the Arts*. Committee members include Leonard Ball (Music), Joshua Bienko (MFA Candidate, Art), Mark Callahan (ICE, Art), Jason Cantarella (Mathematics), Cal Clements (Comparative Literature), George Contini (Theatre and Film Studies), David Saltz (ICE, Theatre and Film Studies), Bala Sarasvati (Dance), Georgia Strange (Art), Martijn Van Wagtenonk (Art), and Nora Wendl (Art). Additional participants and reviewers include Philip Auslander (visiting professor, Theatre and Film Studies), Kristen Kundert-Gibbs (Theatre and Film Studies), Laleh Mehran (Art), Ed Pavlic (English), and Brahm Verma (Faculty of Engineering).

### **New Building**

ICE continued preparations for relocation to the new Lamar Dodd School of Art building. In the fall of 2008 the Lamar Dodd School of Art, along with ICE, will join the UGA Performing and Visual Arts Center on East Campus, in a building that will provide state of the art facilities for graduate and undergraduate studio and art history programs, as well as providing faculty studios and administration offices.

### **Appendix A**

#### **ICE Project Descriptions**

*Water: Drought* initiates a series of works in Contact Theatre, a performance modality that explores the intersection between theatre and contact improvisation, an approach found in the modern dance environments. Professor Mirla Criste, who has a background in drama and modern dance, will collaborate with Lori Teague, Professor of Dance at Emory University in Atlanta. They will develop a work that responds to the current water shortage in Georgia, exploring ideas of water that are both concrete and symbolic, such as thirst, growth and birth.

*Water Body* is a community project that brings together artists to create an original work combining video projection, aerial performance, spoken word, and a soundscape. Michelle Penland Dodson, who has a background in visual arts as well as theatre, will feature the project in her MFA research employing the use of video media in a performance setting with live performers. *Water Body* involves the collaborative efforts of Dodson, Susan Murphy, Creative Director of Canopy Repertory Company, and Janisse Ray, renowned environmental author and activist. Citing art as vehicle of change, the performance will celebrate water while encountering the prevalent disregard of its precious life-giving qualities.

*Dynamic Reading* grew out of an ICE-sponsored discussion and workshop with visiting artist Buzz Spector about the role of the narrative in contemporary culture and the dilemma of making language a visual experience. Professor Margot Ecke will be joined by Dr. Jed Rasula, Helen S. Lanier Distinguished Professor of English, and Jordan Dalton, a UGA Foundation Fellow pursuing an Honors Interdisciplinary Studies degree combining Computer Science, English, and Digital Media. The project will engage in a series of collaborative experiments at the printing press and the Web, exploring how different formats influence the reading of text.

*Girls Talk* will investigate the importance of identity, community and personal growth in the minds of adolescent girls through participation in the Tanzania Service Learning program, sponsored by Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, the African Studies Institute, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the School of Social Work, and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Koqunia LaTrice Forte, an MFA candidate and Graduate Advisor in the African American Cultural Center, will use recorded media and transcripts to compose a solo performance piece for American audiences about the needs and passions of Ukerewe youth.

*The Biomechanics of Conducting Music* will develop new methodologies to quantify skills in the mechanics of conducting music. Dr. Tim Foutz, working in collaboration with Dr. F. David Romines, Associate Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music, will employ motion capture camera systems to model accelerated gestures that are difficult or impossible to observe with the naked eye, enabling music faculty and students at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music to evaluate conducting with greater scrutiny.

*Race and Children's Literature of the Gilded Age* will create a digital archive of illustrated American children's literature published between the end of the Civil War (1865) and the foundation of the NAACP (1913), beginning with Joel Chandler Harris, author of Uncle Remus tales, who lived in Eatonton, Georgia. Professor Amanda Gailey, working in collaboration with Dr. Gerald Early, Merle King Professor of Modern Letters at Washington University, will use the project to help students and scholars examine how adults wanted children to think about racial difference during this pivotal period in American history. The project brings together methods in humanities computing, literary criticism, art history, illustration and printing technology to form an interactive database for cross-disciplinary study.

*Our New Silence* is an ambitious project that will provide Athens musicians with the opportunity to work with a new palette of sounds from Indonesia and let them rework, reinterpret, and personalize this music culminating in a public performance. Dr. Jean Kidula, a professor of Ethnomusicology, will work in collaboration with Kai Riedl, an instructor in the department of Religion and accomplished musician with firsthand expertise in the music of Indonesia through multiple visits to Java. The project will pair students in music, religious studies and the community with individualized tracks, loops and samples from Indonesia to create new compositions that will be available on the Web along with original source material.



*A New Dissonance* will document the preparation, rehearsal and performance of Ben Johnston's 10th String Quartet, providing insight to the creative process of Johnston and his unique notation methods. Ben Johnston was born in Macon, Georgia in 1926 and studied with music legends Harry Partch, John Cage and Darius Milhaud. Johnston is currently Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Illinois, where he taught composition and theory from 1951-1983. Jon Roy, an MFA candidate in Art, will combine his background in visual art, film and music to enable a historic staging of the composition by the Kepler Quartet in Madison, Wisconsin. Performed only once before, the 10th String Quartet has been developed further by Johnston using computer-generated MIDI realizations. Roy will translate the composition's microtonal acoustical principals to other disciplines, such as film and color theory, making the results available via the Web and DVD.

ICE will host artist and composer Jason Freeman during *Sound Source*, a two-day workshop, public presentation and collaborative community performance organized by Professor Rick Silva. Freeman is an Assistant Professor of Music in the College of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology whose work employs cutting-edge technology and unconventional notation to transform audiences and musicians into compositional collaborators.

*The Athens Heritage Project* will share the uniquely varied history of Athens and its neighboring communities through a series of oral history-based theatrical productions. Professor Paul Sutter will work in collaboration with the Rose of Athens Theatre to conduct interviews with Athens residents representing many communities: African-American, Faith, Immigrant, Music, Old Town Athens, the University of Georgia and more. Their stories will be crafted into dramatic compositions using text, music, media and movement, creating an enduring living history for the city and its region.

Professor Martijn van Wagtenonk's studio research combines his background in animation and sculpture to create installations with kinetic elements, interactive video, music, electric motors and audience-triggered mechanical events. *Descending* proposes to extend this research to the realm of engineering, referencing what engineering does and how it influences lives and society as a form of problem solving that describe a tale. The project is a continuation of *Mechanical and Metaphysical Phenomena*, previously funded by a UGA Research Foundation Junior Faculty Research Grant.

*Satellite Dishes, Moveable Walls, and a Snowscape* will explore the potential of multi-point interactive whiteboards using the Nintendo Wiimote, used in conjunction with live performance. The project will bring together a group of dancers, musicians, set builders, costume designers and lighting technicians, organized by Jonathan (BS candidate, Computer Science) and Maryn Vance (BFA Dance).

Spearheaded by Edward Whelan (BFA candidate, Digital Media), Margaret Allgood (BA candidate, Art History), and Mariquita Davis (BFA Digital Media and 2006 ICE Fellow), *2012* will examine public fascination with apocalyptic themes through the production of a video "field guide" for post-apocalyptic living. Using a documentary

approach, the team will travel the United States conducting interviews with experts in a vast range of disciplines including communications, horticulture, technology, political science, religion, survival skills, sociology, astronomy, Scientology, weather and climate and Mayan history.

*Georgia* is a collaboration of Creative Writing Professor Andrew Zawacki, visiting Dance faculty member Denise Posnak, acclaimed percussionist Seth Hendershot and Digital Media BFA candidate Jocelyn Negron. The quartet will conduct a formal exploration of the parallels and interferences between ear and eye, proceeding from the short lyric poem “Georgia” by Surrealist writer Philippe Soupault and culminating in a series of short performances in locations throughout the state.

## **Appendix B**

### **AUX 2 Participants**

Black Swan Network  
Dark Meat/Pterodactl Wingspan  
Paul Thomas  
Maps and Transit  
Chris Herron and Friends  
A Horse Is a Sphere  
Howling Jelly  
Hidden Noise Ensemble  
Dream Circle  
Lorkakar  
Kid Pork  
Eyes and Arms of Smoke  
Dan Hole Pond  
Mark Callahan  
Julie Rothschild  
Andrea Trombetta  
Laura Glenn  
Laura Hoffman  
Maryn Vance  
Kate Schoenke  
Dixie Blood Moustache  
Dickie Cox  
Jonathan Railey  
Jorge Torres  
John Crowe  
Tony Bravo  
Ash Sechler  
Eddie the Wheel  
Matt Blanks  
Kristen Bach

Lou Kregel  
Hannah Jones

## **Appendix C**

### **ICE Budget**

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences	+ 4,000
OVRP	+ 26,000
CURO	+ 1,500
ICE Sales (Gross)	+ 130
Total	+ 31,630

**Payroll** **1800**

**Projects** **27,180**

**Visitors** **700**

**Office** **1950**