

## **C & W 2008 Proposal**

### **University of Georgia Athens, GA**

#### ***Call for Papers: Open Source as Technology and Concept***

*In 2006, Blackboard purchased WebCT, its closest competitor in the CMS market, and also filed a suit against rival Desire 2Learn, Inc. on a controversial claim of patent infringement. In response, at its October meeting Educause issued an open letter urging Blackboard to abandon its suit on the grounds that the suit will stifle collaboration and innovation; this interchange has, in turn, prompted renewed interest in the role that can be played by open source technologies and communities in the development of educational computing. The concurrent growth of open source LMC's such as Sakai, Moodle, and OSP suggests that we have the opportunity now to reconsider even more broadly the reigning corporate models for educational technology, models that can draw on and enhance values that are important to the computers and writing community and to composition pedagogy in general.*

*Open source development, as both a technology and a concept, is grounded in values of collaboration, interaction, and respect for the user; these same values have also informed writing pedagogy of the process and post-process eras. There is, therefore, an important and enduring connection between the values that inform open-source technology and composition pedagogy.*

*We invite papers concerning the relevance of open source technologies to writing practice and pedagogy; on the philosophy, ethics, and politics of using writing technologies within the academy and other workplaces; and on all topics relevant to computers and writing. We encourage participants to range beyond the narrowest definition of "open source" to explore the values and practices such collaborative ventures promote.*

#### **Background Information**

##### **1. Date Application Posted**

November 1, 2006

##### **2. Name of Applicants**

Christy Desmet (Director of First-year Composition) Nelson Hilton (Director, Center for Teaching and Learning), and Ron Balthazor (Academic Professional)

### **3. Institution**

University of Georgia

### **4. Postal and Email Address**

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### **5. Phone**

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(706) 542-1335 (Center for Teaching and Learning)  
(706) 546-0185 (home for Christy Desmet)

### **6. Year to Host Conference**

2008

### **7. Proposed Date for Conference Weekend**

May 21-24, 2008

WAC 2008 meets May 29-31 in Austin. WPA is not yet set, as the special call for 2008 proposals only ended Oct. 15, but my informant says to expect that this conference will

take place in the second full week of July. RSA meets in Seattle in May, but we do not yet have an exact date. We are coordinating with the ALLC/ACH meeting, which often conflicts with Computers and Writing, to avoid a conflict this year. For their European meetings, they usually meet the first or second week in July.

## Conference Funding

### 1. Sources of Funding

University of Georgia

Registration

Publishers

Possible internal grants for K-12 and community-based initiatives

### 2. Amount of Funding

We used TTU's estimates as a baseline and have received pledges of monetary support from the additional sources on our campus that are noted below.

Registration \$125 per teacher and \$100 for graduate students (estimate of 150 faculty and 150 students)	\$33,750
Publishers	\$5,000
President's Venture Fund	\$5,000
Department of English	\$2,500
Center for Humanities and Arts Conference Fund	\$5,000
Center for Teaching and Learning	\$3,000
University Libraries	\$1,000
Center for Humanities and Arts grant toward speaker honorarium	\$1,500
Franklin College Dean's Office	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57,250</b>

The Department of English will provide server space, administrative and technical support, and the Department and Center for Teaching and Learning will provide a course release each for the software designer and graduate assistant for one semester (\$7,000). We will work with publishers to sponsor meals, and with Nick Carbone at Bedford St./Martin's on the program.

### 3. Preliminary Budget

Friday night banquet	\$16,000
Saturday banquet lunch	\$6,100
Keynote Speakers (fees, travel, lodging)	\$6,000
Lunches at Georgia Center (3)	\$6,000
Daily costs (includes refreshments at breaks, juice, water)	\$9,000
Awards	\$1,000
Post-conference Publications	\$3,000
Reception	\$5,000
Promotion	\$2,000
Vans and transportation	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57,100</b>

### 4. Registration and Additional Costs

We plan to charge \$125 for teachers and \$100 for graduate students as registration fees (late fees add \$25). We will handle registration on our own, on a volunteer basis. The potential bus tour of Madison, Georgia (see below) would cost a modest fee (about \$25) plus lunch or tea; the Atlanta tour (Aquarium, Cyclorama, and MLK Center) would cost about \$50, and the bowling extravaganza (on Saturday night) would be paid for by conference attendees on site.

### Conference Facilities

1. We have reserved blocks of rooms at three local hotels. The Georgia Center of Continuing Education is a full-service conference hotel rather like the one the Computers and Writing community experienced at Purdue. The hotel facilities are comfortable and affordable; there is dining on site, but the Center is also conveniently located in relation to the center of campus and to downtown, with its shops, restaurants, bars, and music venues. (See

[http://www.gactr.uga.edu/.](http://www.gactr.uga.edu/)) There are also excellent rooms at the Holiday Inn, located downtown on Broad Street, and at the brand-new Hilton Garden Inn, also downtown. For attendees who want to save money, we have reserved 100 dormitory rooms. Sessions will be held in the Student Learning Center (SLC), which is a beautiful, new classroom facility with completely wired rooms, ranging from 22 person-300 person rooms, many online computer stations, and wireless access. There are also several small computer labs for workshops.

2. The SLC has several large open areas that would serve as exhibition space where vendors and exhibitors can have ample and equitable space.

3. The Georgia Center charges the following rates:

- Classic Single – \$79
- Classic Queen – \$89
- Classic King – \$89
- Select Double/Queen – \$99

Dormitories:

- Suite-style room and bath with linens – \$30 for double occupancy
- Suite-style room and bath with linens – \$42 for single occupancy
- Room with a community-style bath – \$18 per night for double occupancy

4. Athens is a great site for the Computers and Writing Conference for several reasons. First, the university and its surrounding community are relatively large, diverse, and lively. It has all the facilities of a large university and the charm and pleasures of a college town. In late May, the weather will be warm, but still pleasant. School will be out, with only Maymester classes in session, so that the campus will be relatively uncrowded, but the town and its day/night life will still be active and appealing. Athens is the home of the B52s and R.E.M, a legacy that supports a vital music scene. It is also a family-friendly town, with plenty to do for all ages, and lots of stuff for those of us who like to eat. (See the *New York Times* article from 10 May, 2002: “36 hours: Athens, Ga.” See also the Flagpole Guide to Athens at [http://www.flagpole.com/guide/.](http://www.flagpole.com/guide/)) Athens will provide an atmosphere that fosters intense participation in sessions followed by casual social exchange, the kind of collegial ethos that we have enjoyed previously in Computers and Writing conferences.

The University of Georgia also has a particular affinity with the Computers and Writing community. Members of the rhetoric and composition and humanities computing programs have been very active in the conference for the last five years, making presentations and participating in Town Hall Sessions. In 2003, 2004, and 2005 a UGA Teaching Assistant won the *Kairos/Lore* award for pedagogy. With the mutual growth of our Rhetoric and Composition and Humanities Computing Programs, our faculty and students become more involved in this conference every year.

First as Department Head and now as Director of UGA's Center for Teaching and Learning, furthermore, Nelson Hilton strongly supported the Department's presentations about <emma><sup>TM</sup> and other computers and writing and humanities computing topics. As the new Director of UGA's Center for Teaching and Learning, he has continued this support. Other departments and centers around campus are also enthusiastic about hosting C&W, as indicated by their pledges of support. The Center of Humanities and Arts, in particular – and its director, Betty Jean Craige – has supported <emma><sup>TM</sup>'s first online, multimedia journal, *Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation* (<http://www.borrowers.uga.edu>) and is interested generally in humanities computing initiatives. The Center for Teaching and Learning has provided major funding for the <emma><sup>TM</sup> project. Furthermore, a number of groups across campus – the First-year Composition Program, Franklin College Writing Intensive Program, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Division of Academic Enhancement, University Libraries, and the UGA Writing Center – have recently initiated a major survey about campus writing practices, with the support of the Office for the Vice President for Instruction. Finally, the <emma><sup>TM</sup> project has been collaborating with the University Libraries on a wide-scale study of citation behavior in First-year Composition. Our campus leadership supports both writing and computing, severally and in conjunction with one another.

The University of Georgia Department of English has been active in establishing public service and outreach initiatives within the K-12 community and the community at large, both emphases that the C & W community has favored. Christy Desmet has been active for some years in cross-college initiatives with Language Education, including the GSTEP or Georgia Systemic Teaching Education Program initiative (<http://www.coe.uga.edu/gstep/>), and with College of Education's PT3 initiative. She has also participated in several cross-college collaborations between English and High School Shakespeare classes (e.g., [http://www.english.uga.edu/cdesmet/lost\\_moments](http://www.english.uga.edu/cdesmet/lost_moments), a project supported by the <emma><sup>TM</sup> project). Furthermore, the <emma><sup>TM</sup> Working Group has been working towards collaborations with faculty and students at other campuses in the large University of Georgia System and with several local high schools. We would be happy and able to offer C & W outreach workshops to K-12 teachers and to system teachers. In this case, we would apply for local SEGUE grants for community-based learning ([http://www.uga.edu/outreach/artman/publish/04\\_SEGUE\\_IDEAS.shtml](http://www.uga.edu/outreach/artman/publish/04_SEGUE_IDEAS.shtml)).

Since 2000, Computers and Writing has been held in Midwestern and Western venues, Honolulu representing the conference's furthest reach westward. 2008 would provide a good opportunity to bring the conference back East. The Southeastern states of the U.S. are notable for their strong interest in rhetoric and in new media studies. Within close range of the University of Georgia, for instance, is the Pearce Center for Writing and Clemson University, the writing programs of Florida State University, South Carolina, and Alabama, the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture at Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State College and University, and Georgia Southern University provide a rich resource for computers and writing theory and practice and notable names associated with the C&W community (such as Kathleen Blake Yancey, Carolyn Handa, Janice Walker, and Victor Vitanza). Further away, perhaps, but still within our geographical sphere, are the programs at the University of Florida and the University

of Virginia.

Athens and the Georgia Center are located 70 miles from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. A convenient van service to the Center and local hotels takes 1½ hours (\$40 one way). For those who might want to spend a few days in Atlanta before or after the conference, rental cars are readily available. The car trip takes about the same time. Hartsfield-Jackson is served by all major airlines. The Athens airport, a mere ten minutes from the Center, is served by U.S. Air Express through the Charlotte hub.

5. The Georgia Center has a very good Business Center, and all the rooms have dataports. The dorms have computer labs as, well, and the UGA Tate Center also has a full business center. The Hilton Garden Inn has a Business Center and high-speed internet access. C&W Sessions will be held in the new Student Learning Center (10 minutes walk from the Georgia Center, 10 minutes from the Holiday Inn and Hilton), which has over 500 computer stations, state-of-the-art smart classrooms, and wireless access throughout the building (<http://www.slc.uga.edu/>). Other parts of campus and the central part of downtown are under a wireless cloud, as well. (Very good for those of us who haunt coffee shops!) In 2003, the Georgia Center and University of Georgia hosted the ALLC/ACH Conference, which is of slightly smaller size but has similar technological requirements. That conference was a great success.

6. The University of Georgia is a diverse community with the welcoming attitude and safe environment expected from a university campus. The University works hard to cultivate diversity in faculty and students and has a well-established support system for LGBT students, faculty, and staff that has been sponsored by the Dean of Student Affairs. Anyone walking about downtown after 2 AM should exercise reasonable caution, of course.

7. The Georgia Center for Continuing Education and the Student Learning Center are both fully accessible to the disabled. The Center's Website provides this additional information:

Special needs can be arranged for in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are five queen and one club queen room that are wheelchair accessible, designed with wider doorways, support bars, and closed captioned televisions. Additional equipment for hearing impaired guests may be checked-out at the front desk. Restrooms have grab bars and can be supplied with a tub seat and commode seat extension. No walk or wheel-in showers are available.

(<http://www.gactr.uga.edu/b2b/foodandlodging/lodging.phtml>)

The Hilton Garden Inn is wheelchair accessible, as is the Holiday Inn.

## **Conference Program and Events**

### **1. Program Structure**

All sessions will take place in the Student Learning Center. The theme would be "Open Source."

<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00-4:00	K-12 and Georgia System Programs  <emma> <sup>™</sup> , eports and webfolios
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00-4:00	Full-day Workshops
	9:00-12:00	Half-day Workshops
	1:00-4:00	Half-day Workshops
	2:00-5:00	ANTEBELLUM TOUR OF MADISON, GA.
	5-6:30	Opening Reception (SLC)
	6:30 –	Dinner and Entertainment on your own
<b>Friday</b>	8:00-9:15	Town Hall 1
	9:30-10:45	Session 1 ( 7 rooms)
	10:45-11:15	Break (refreshments + exhibitors)
	11:15-12:30	Session 2 (8 rooms)
	12:30-2:00	Lunch at the SLC (provided)
	2:00-3:15	Session 3 (8 rooms)
	3:15-3:30	Break (refreshment with exhibitors)
	3:30-5:00	Session 4 (8 rooms)
	6:30-9:00	Banquet and keynote (at the State Botanical Gardens)
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00-9:15	Town Hall 2

	9:30-10:45	Session 5 (8 rooms)
	10:45-11:15	Break (refreshments with exhibitors)
	11:25-12:30	Session 6 (8 rooms)
	12:30-2:00	Lunch in the Banquet Hall of the Georgia Center (with keynote)
	2:00-3:15	Session 6 (8 rooms)
	3:30-5:00	Session 7 (8 rooms)
	5:00-6:30	ATHENS MUSIC TOUR
	8:00- ?	BOWLING EXTRAVAGANZA DOWNTOWN MUSIC SCENE
	6:30- 8:00	Dinner on your own
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00-10:30	Town Hall 3
	10:30-10:45	Break
	11:00 -12:30	Session 8 (7 rooms)
	12:30-2:00	7C's meeting
	12:30-2:00	Lunch and sendoff; ATLANTA TOUR
	6:00 –	Farewell dinner at Christy Desmet's house for conference attendees spending the night in Athens

The Friday major banquet will be held either in the Georgia Center or the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia, which is where we held the ACH/ALLC banquet in 2003. Finally, based on our experiences from Hawaii through Stanford and Texas Tech, we like the idea of having three town hall meetings; these are among the most robust of the conference activities.

## 2. Proposal Reviews

We will rely on the help of the 7C's leadership for identifying and contacting appropriate proposal reviewers.

### **3. Other Events**

***Local Antebellum Tour of Madison, Georgia:*** Madison is a town that was spared by Sherman (hence its architectural significance), but whose profile is interesting in terms not only of American history, but also of recent development and, in terms of equity, community relations. It's a pleasant trip with potential for shopping, tea, and some historical enlightenment. The 30-minute trip to Madison also traverses some beautiful agricultural country. (Thanks to WebX 2003 for this description.) Trip takes about three hours.

***Athens Music Tour:*** As suggested above, Athens is a town with a rich musical and counter-cultural heritage, mixed with traditional university culture. (Thanks to WebX 2003 for this description.) 1½ hours.

***Bowling Extravaganza:*** Finally, Athens has a cool bowling alley to rival the stellar experiences we had with the sport in Normal and at Purdue. An alternative or prelude to the downtown music scene.

***Atlanta Tour (Aquarium, Cyclorama, and King Center):*** We put this trip on Sunday in part because it involves a 1½ hour trip back to Atlanta (ideal as a prelude to the return flight home). The new Aquarium is beautiful and innovative, while the Cyclorama and King Center both offer powerful insights into America's history.

### **4. Specific Features**

We like to think that Athens fits the general parameters for a Computers and Writing Conference: participants are placed together in a setting that encourages interaction and collaboration; then they are released into an environment that is fun and relaxing. We think that the University of Georgia's unique merging of Computers and Writing and Humanities Computing initiatives will also suggest new directions for the C&W community.

There also a number of well-known figures from our field in the immediate area – as well as others – who might serve as keynote speakers. Jay Bolter, Janet Murray, Richard Lanham, Kathleen Yancey, Barbara Cambridge, Victor Vitanza, Eric Raymond, Jimmy Wales, Alan Liu, Richard Katz, Diana Oblinger, Greg Ulmer, and Yochai Benkler have been suggested as possible speakers.

### **Conference Management and Staff**

1. We could use help in planning such things as the Graduate Research Network.
2. Christy would be willing to serve on the CCCC's Committee on Computers and Composition for 2006 and 2008
3. Christy Desmet (and others) have attended the Computers and Composition Conference in 1997, 2000-2006.