The Intersection: Education, Collaboration, Entrepreneurship

February 16-20, 2010, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities will present a large-scale digital arts and humanities festival on the University of North Carolina’s Chapel Hill campus. With three leading research universities, a supercomputing center and a cluster of cutting-edge technology companies all closely located here in the Triangle, UNC sits at an intersection of opportunity. The festival is an occasion to bring to light existing collaborations between researchers in our region, to inspire new collaborations across the state, and to reach out to all corners of North Carolina to share some of the valuable resources CHAT will spotlight.

Why digital arts and humanities? Students, teachers, politicians and community members can see and participate in visual art exhibitions and music, dance and dramatic performances that use technology; they can use a touch-screen or a mouse to manipulate interactive maps and storyboards; and regularly make use of computerized archival systems, all in a very real way.

In times of economic adversity, in particular, technology can be a powerful tool for building and connecting communities, for sharing or gaining knowledge. UNC will embrace this festival as an opportunity to use technology to reach out to North Carolina’s K-12 teachers by offering a series of hands-on workshops and translational sessions in technology topics. We recognize that times are tough, and budgets are tight. This is one, small way that UNC can give back. These teaching clinics will offer teachers a hands-on experience, led by technology experts, on ways to incorporate accessible technological tools into the classroom.

The Festival: Art, Performance and Collaboration

The Institute already has created exciting micro-level partnerships through faculty working groups that comprise faculty and technologists from UNC, Duke, N.C. State and the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI). These faculty working groups will present their projects during the festival—an exciting array of projects that demonstrate the opportunities for innovative, collaborative arts and humanities work enabled by technology.

To promote discussion during the festival, the Institute is partnering at UNC with the School of Law, Kenan-Flagler Business School, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the School of Information and Library Science to select and bring in keynote speakers on current issues in digital arts and humanities.

Technology in the classroom is an issue that extends beyond the University. As part of the festival, the School of Education will partner to offer sessions for K-12 teachers that translate festival topics into classroom-friendly ideas for integrating technology and teaching. Faculty members, doctoral students, and local educators will engage K-12 educators in roundtable discussions. These discussions will occur over lunch February 17, 18, and 19. Hands-on workshops are also planned for K-12 educators. Classroom teachers, technology specialists, and administrators are invited to participate in these events.

Multimedia performances and panel discussions that include visiting artists, faculty, technology professionals, students and audience members will round out the festival. The CHAT festival will be an opportunity for local and national communities to witness and participate in ongoing digital arts and humanities projects by artists, performers, scholars and technologists.

Visit WWW.CHATFESTIVAL2010.COM for information and to register.
FAQs:

Who needs to register for the CHAT festival?

- Anyone who would like to participate in the festival events, including keynotes, panel discussions, exhibitions, performances or workshops throughout the week will need to register. Your registration entitles you to festival access throughout the week; you do not need to register separately for each day. Registration also covers the cost of lunch each day. The only program events not directly tied to registration are the STREB performances sponsored by Carolina Performing Arts, which incur a separate fee, and the Festival on the Hill events sponsored by the UNC Music Department, which are traditionally free of charge.

Where do I go to register?

- To link to our online registration program, please visit the CHAT festival website, [www.chatfestival2010.com](http://www.chatfestival2010.com). Once you are on the registration site, please register under the classification: Speakers and Special Guests.

How much will it cost to register?

- As a K-12 educator, you are entitled to free festival registration. However, you will still need to complete the online registration process using the validation code: FestTeacher, which will ensure your registration is free of charge.

Can I register all attendees from my organization at once?

- Unfortunately, due to the data capture we are looking for, each person will need to register separately.

Why is there a mandated registration for the festival?

- In researching other events of this scale and discussing options with event experts both in and out of academia, the CHAT festival team has opted to institute a registration process for all attendees. It is important to us that we have the ability to communicate easily with all participants leading up to the festival, be able to track demographic information, and have the ability to perform follow up surveys after the conclusion of the festival. Additionally, being able to track registration numbers leading up to the festival will ensure that we can accommodate our participants in the campus spaces we have reserved, and make adjustments as necessary.

Please contact Jeanine Simmons at 843-5464 or jeanine.simmons@unc.edu if you have any questions about registration, or problems utilizing the registration system.