

ICE Annual Report FY17

I. OVERVIEW

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.

Support

In FY17 ICE received support from the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Graduate School. Throughout its history, ICE has been supported by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Lamar Dodd School of Art, Department of Dance, Department of English, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, the Georgia Museum of Art, and the generous support of many volunteers, businesses, and individuals.

Administration

David Saltz is the Executive Director and Mark Callahan is the Artistic Director of ICE.

Advisory Board

Thirteen members of the ICE Advisory Board are appointed by the Executive Director for a three-year renewable term. The Advisory Board gives counsel to the Executive Director on ICE-sponsored programs. The FY17 members are as follows:

Jason Cantarella (Mathematics)
George Contini (Theatre and Film Studies)
Chris Cuomo (Women's Studies and Philosophy)
John English (Professor Emeritus, Journalism)
Chris Garvin (Art)
Hope Hilton (Athens community)
Katherine McGuire (Athens community)
Kyle Morrison (Student Representative)
Jed Rasula (English)
Bala Sarasvati (Dance)
Peter Van Zandt Lane (Music)
Meredith Welch-Devine (The Graduate School)
Andrew Zawacki (English)

See **Appendix A** for the ICE Bylaws.

Graduate Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research

Graduate School Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research foster expanded research activity at UGA and serve as a beacon to the most innovative graduate candidates in the arts. Three assistantships per year are awarded to students entering programs in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies. Assistantship recipients 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.

Graduate assistants in their second year are Elizabeth Rogers (Art), Stewart Engart (Music), and Kyle Morrison (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants in their first year are Matthew Flores (Art), Carla Cao (Music), and Rebecca Jackson (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants starting in August 2017 are Ann Catherine Carter (Art), Ciyadh Wells (Music) and Jason Woodworth-Hou (Theatre and Film Studies).

See **Appendix B** for a report of Graduate Assistant activities.

Partnerships

The Willson Center for Humanities and Arts is a showcase for faculty innovation and achievement. It facilitates intellectual exchange with the University and the public by the encouragement of interdisciplinary activity, which extends to the sciences and other orders of knowledge. The mission of the Willson Center is to promote research and creativity in the humanities and arts. It supports faculty through research grants, lectures, symposia, publications, visiting scholars, visiting artists, collaborative instruction, public conferences, exhibitions, and performances. It is committed to academic excellence and public impact.

Idea Lab is a UGA student organization committed to providing an open, interdisciplinary platform for engagement with topics in arts.

Watershed UGA facilitates the use of the UGA campus as a living laboratory to advance sustainability and environmental stewardship through teaching, research, service, and university operations.

The Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR) an interdisciplinary research and training unit that focuses on environmental conservation and sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability coordinates, communicates, and advances sustainability initiatives at UGA in the areas of teaching, research, service and outreach, student engagement, and campus operations.

II. PROJECTS and EVENTS

ICE Conversation Series

In FY17 ICE continued a series of public events focusing on topics related to creativity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research in the arts.

Ecovention

October 26

A presentation by ICE Graduate Research Assistant Carla Cao about art projects designed to help restore ecosystems. The conversation drew upon examples from the *Ecovention: current art to transform ecologies*, a 2002 exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati featuring the work of the Harrison Studio, Buster Simpson, Agnes Denes, Tera Galanti, Brandon Ballengee, and Lynne Hull.

Elizabeth Corr

November 10

Elizabeth Corr, Art Partnerships Manager with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), shared examples of projects that combine art, science, and environmental activism. Elizabeth Corr works with artists, architects, and designers to heighten public awareness of and interest in the environmental issues that face today's communities. She launched NRDC's Artist-in-Residence program and is expanding support for NRDC's art and climate-related projects, from

such organizations as the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Public Concern Foundation, and the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts. Co-sponsored by Watershed UGA.

Stephen Wood
November 11

Stephen Wood is a composer, educator, and performer who travels the United States in search of inspiration from our country's wildest places. He has served as Composer-in-Residence for Cumberland Island National Seashore, the Okefenokee N.W.R., the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, Red River Gorge Geological Area, and participated in Denali N.P.'s monumental Composing in the Wilderness Field Seminar.

Keetra Dean Dixon
January 25

Keetra Dean Dixon is a designer, director, and artist whose hybrid background often leads her work towards speculative terrain, leveraging emergent technologies and process-focused making. Dixon completed commissions for the 2009 U.S. presidential inauguration and the 2012 Olympic games, has shown at the Walker Art Center and the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and has acted as Design Director for installations featured at the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale. She recently joined the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design. Sponsored by the Lamar Dodd School of Art Visiting Artist/Scholar Series.

The Innocents Project
February 15

A conversation featuring Atlanta-based contemporary chamber ensemble Bent Frequency and guest artists Professor Allen Otte (Cincinnati Conservatory of Music) and Dr. John Lane (Sam Houston State University) to discuss the collaborative and cross-disciplinary aspects of their performance project *The Innocents*. *The Innocents Project* residency examined the issue of wrongful conviction in the American penal system through live musical performance and theatre inspired by the work of photographer Taryn Simon. Bent Frequency, Otte, and Lane led the UGA residency with participation by the director of The Georgia Innocence Project, a nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit. Sponsored by a Willson Center Public Impact Grant.

European Video Game Music
March 15

Dr. David Haas, UGA Professor of Musicology, presented case studies of three controversial video games with context, observations on music and game psychology, clips, and audience gameplay. Dr. Haas teaches courses in late Romantic and early twentieth-century topics. His research focuses on Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Russian opera, Russian music criticism, and music and literature. He is the author of *Leningrad's Modernists* (1998) and the translator of Boris Asafyev's *Symphonic Etudes* (2007).

a2ru Student Summit
April 7

A presentation by Gabriella Andino, Berea Antaki, Carla Cao, Stewart Engart, and Suzie Henderson, UGA students who attended the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) 2017 Emerging Creatives Student Summit *Water: New Directions Through Arts and Science* at the University of Florida.

UGA Sustainability Artist-in-Residence
April 12

A presentation by Kira Hegeman, the first UGA Office of Sustainability Artist-in-Residence, about the challenges and discoveries of integrating arts, sciences, and operations at UGA, increasing awareness of sustainability issues among expanding audiences, and inspiring effective actions. Hegeman is an Art Education PhD student in the Lamar Dodd School of Art.

ICE Open House

ICE hosted an open house and collaborative installation by new recipients of Graduate Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research, Carla Cao (Music), Matthew Flores (Art), and Rebecca Jackson (Theatre and Film Studies) in conjunction with the Lamar Dodd School of Art building-wide fall *Art Party Extravaganza!* event.

Daylighting the Watersheds Design Competition

ICE partnered with Watershed UGA to produce a design competition and exhibition to raise awareness about streams that flow through the UGA campus and to create a community ethic for environmental restoration. Interdisciplinary student teams were invited to propose projects for sites in the Tanyard Creek and Lilly Branch watersheds on campus. The competition guidelines were created with guidance from the Office of University Architects, Grounds Department, Office of Sustainability, and Watershed UGA. Seven public information sessions were held during the application period. Winning proposals were selected by an interdisciplinary committee based on merit, innovation, feasibility, collaboration, and presentation. The *Daylighting the Watersheds Design Competition* was generously supported by a grant from the Ray C. Anderson Foundation.

Since the founding of UGA in 1785, many natural features of campus watersheds have been steadily altered and relegated to obscurity. Tanyard Creek and Lilly Branch, both tributaries of the North Oconee River, are the most prominent streams that run through campus. *Daylighting the Watersheds* offered an opportunity to explore the history and significance of two streams that were once part of the daily lives of students, but now lack visibility and recreational benefit.

The competition culminated in a poster exhibition hosted by the College of Environment and Design and an awards ceremony during UGA Spotlight on the Arts. Fifteen teams applied, including 18 graduate students and 14 undergraduate students representing Lamar Dodd School of Art, College of Environment and Design, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Ecology, Engineering, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and College of Education.

An outreach component was developed with Barrow Elementary School teacher Sarah Clarke to introduce students to watershed concepts and environmental stewardship in the community. Student posters were exhibited with the *Daylighting* competition entries and each student was provided with a catalog publication of the poster art.

Design Competition participants Kiley Aguar (College of Environment and Design), Zachary Harris (Lamar Dodd School of Art), and Suzie Henderson (Ecology) were selected to represent UGA in the *SEC Campus Water Matters Challenge* competition as part of the SEC Academic Conference, *The Future of Water: Regional Collaborations on Shared Climate, Coastlines, and Watersheds* at Mississippi State University. The conference also featured a presentation by Watershed UGA director Laurie Fowler and ICE Artistic Director Mark Callahan about the *Daylighting* project and other arts and environment projects at UGA during the *Campus Water Quality and Watershed Projects* session.

XR Seminar and Showcase

ICE produced Extended Reality (XR) seminar and showcase events featuring UGA researchers who are exploring new concepts of “reality” using emerging technologies in Augmented Reality,

Mixed Reality, Virtual Reality, and Locative Media. The seminar included presentations by professors Grace Ahn (Grady College of Journalism), Chris Eaket (Theatre and Film Studies), Kyle Johnsen (College of Engineering), and Brian Orland (College of Environment and Design). The showcase featured a panel discussion with professors Ahn, Johnsen, and Orland moderated by ICE Graduate Research Assistant Kyle Morrison, and interactive demonstrations using HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, Google Daydream, and XR projects developed by UGA faculty and students.

Language/Image/Metaphor Workshop

ICE developed an interdisciplinary workshop prototype co-sponsored by the Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR) for faculty and graduate student participants to foster interdisciplinary conversation and to help refine research questions about the role of the arts and environment. A second iteration of the workshop, to explore ways that environmental issues are described, framed, and analogized across multiple fields and perspectives, was held during the UGA Sustainability Summit, a day-long event combining the CICR Sustainability Science Symposium with the Office of Sustainability's Semester in Review. The workshop will be adapted as an orientation and collaboration exercise for future interdisciplinary activities.

unsolved: math+de-sign Workshop and Exhibition

ICE facilitated a yearlong residency by professors David T Gay (Mathematics) and Moon Jung Jang (Art) to explore possible collaborations in math and art. Supported by ICE Graduate Research Assistant Matthew Flores, Gay and Jang developed and led an interdisciplinary workshop for math, art, and design research, *unsolved: math+de-sign*, with the goal of making products to be used in math outreach contexts. Fifteen student participants engaged in thinking about unsolved problems in mathematics and took part in problem solving to discover intersections between math and design.

The weekend workshop included three sessions: design, math, and synthesis. In the design session, participants collaborated on drawings by using a conditional design method. In the math session, they tried to solve an unsolved math problem in a collaborative setting. In the synthesis session, they designed and built a final product by combining the two perspectives as they experience the process of shared problem solving.

Visual outcomes of the workshop were featured in an exhibition in the C-U-B-E gallery in the Lamar Dodd School of Art.

Arts + Environment Events During UGA Spotlight

Arts + Environment Roundtable: How Artists, Scientists, and Environmental Activists Can Work Together

A roundtable discussion featuring special guest Elizabeth Corr [Art Partnerships Manager with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC),] Laurie Fowler [Watershed UGA,] Chris Cuomo [Philosophy/Women's Studies,] Lizzie King [Ecology/Forestry,] Nate Nibbelink [Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR),] and moderated by Mark Callahan [ICE]. Co-sponsored by Watershed UGA.

ICE Conversation: Elizabeth Corr

Elizabeth Corr, Art Partnerships Manager with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), shared examples of projects that combine art, science, and environmental activism. Elizabeth Corr works with artists, architects, and designers to heighten public awareness of and interest in the environmental issues that face today's communities. She launched NRDC's Artist-in-Residence program and is expanding support for NRDC's art and climate-related projects, from such organizations as the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Public Concern Foundation, and

the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts. Co-sponsored by Watershed UGA.

Driftmier Woods Happening

A site-specific performance featuring sound and movement in Driftmier Woods, a small area of old-growth forest on campus adjacent to Driftmier Engineering Center. Participants included visiting composer Stephen Wood, ICE Graduate Research Assistants Carla Cao, Stewart Engart, and Elizabeth Rogers, Scott Eggert (Music), Hannah Fenster (Comparative Literature), Zachary Harris (Art), Jonathan Nowell (Art), and the Ecotones.

ICE Conversation: Stephen Wood

Stephen Wood is a composer, educator, and performer who travels the United States in search of inspiration from our country's wildest places. He has served as Composer-in-Residence for Cumberland Island National Seashore, the Okefenokee N.W.R., the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, Red River Gorge Geological Area, and participated in Denali N.P.'s monumental Composing in the Wilderness Field Seminar.

Arts + Environment Zine

A limited-edition zine and program guide for Arts + Environment events during UGA Spotlight on the Arts. Featuring photographs, drawings, collage, and digital art of Rinne Allen, Megan Burchett, Matthew Flores, Annette Griffin, Zachary Harris, Lindsay Pennington, Lindsey Reynolds, Seth Stephens, and a fold-out poster by Justine Stevens.

a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summit and Challenge Grant

ICE Graduate Research Assistants Carla Cao and Stewart Engart, Zachary Harris (Art), and Suzie Henderson (Ecology) were awarded a2ru Travel Grants and additional support from ICE to participate in the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) 2017 Emerging Creatives Student Summit, *WATER: New Directions Through Arts and Science* at the University of Florida.

The a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summits bring together students who have an interest in the arts, crossing disciplinary boundaries, and developing collaborative projects. Each year, approximately 120 undergraduate and graduate students attend the summit from a2ru partner universities across the country, along with 20-30 administrators, faculty, and staff. These summits have a strong project-based component with activities such as panel discussions with special guests, keynote speakers, site visits or field trips, performances and exhibitions, networking opportunities, and skill-building experiences built in throughout. *WATER: New Directions Through Arts and Science* featured panels and working group leadership from distinguished professors in the life sciences and the arts at the University of Florida, as well as leading artists and water scholars from around the country.

Student Summit participants were eligible to apply for an a2ru Student Challenge Grant to support interdisciplinary team projects that address a social, community, societal, or real-world problem. ICE supported proposal development by a team featuring ICE Graduate Research Assistant Carla Cao, Berea Antaki (Textiles and Merchandising), Iva Dimitrova (Mass Media Arts), Suzie Henderson (Ecology), and University of Iowa student Nima Hamidi (Music). The proposed project, *Alliance for Arts + Rights of Nature*, was selected by a2ru to receive \$3,500 in project funding and support for two team members to attend the a2ru national conference in November 2017.

Ritual Habit

Ritual Habit was a collaboration by former ICE Graduate Research Assistant Hanna Lisa Stefansson (Music) and previous ICE Project Grant recipient Andrea Trombetta (Art) that portrays the formation of a ritual as a search for balance with nature with the aid of three percussionists, a string player, a woodwind player, and four dancers in an electroacoustic

performance with fixed and live electronics in a quadraphonic setup. The project explored multiple levels of collaboration between composers and choreographers, and the relationship between music and dance. ICE Graduate Research Assistant Elizabeth Rogers conducted interviews with Stefansson and Trombetta during the project to capture the complexities and best practices of collaborative work. *Ritual Habit: An Electroacoustic Music Composition and Dance Collaboration* premiered at the Dancz Center for New Music as part of Stefansson's final Doctor of Musical Arts recital.

Screening: The Lanthanide Series

ICE hosted a screening of *The Lanthanide Series* at Ciné with visiting filmmaker Dr. Erin Espelie. Espelie is an assistant professor at University of Colorado Boulder with a joint appointment in the Film Studies Program and the Department of Critical Media Practices. Her films have shown at the New York Film Festival, the British Film Institute, the Natural History Museum of London, Whitechapel Gallery, Crossroads (San Francisco), the Rotterdam International Film Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the Full Frame Documentary Festival, and more. Her feature-length experimental documentary, *The Lanthanide Series*, examines the materiality of the digital world, combining approaches of non-fiction narrative essay, abstract visual and sound exploration, and the history of black mirrors; it recently premiered at CPH:DOX in Copenhagen.

Most of her professional career in print journalism has been on the staff of Natural History magazine, where Espelie serves as Editor-in-Chief and as a columnist. Since 2002 her monthly column, "The Natural Explanation," has highlighted high-caliber wildlife photographers and human influences on the environment. She has also worked in television production for public broadcasting and various other channels. With a degree in molecular and cell biology from Cornell University and an MFA in experimental and documentary arts from Duke University, Espelie taught courses in environmental issues and the documentary arts from 2012 to 2015 at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, the Nicholas School of the Environment, the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, and the Program in the Arts of the Moving Image.

Co-sponsored by the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

Art and Nuclear Weapons

ICE supported concept development in collaboration with the Center for International Trade and Security for a graphic novel and animation project that explores the history, politics, and intrigue of nuclear weapons. Two storyboard workshops were facilitated by ICE Graduate Research Assistant Kyle Morrison and Dr. Sara Z. Kutchesfahani, Executive Director, Center for International Trade and Security with participation by the UGA Society for Students in Animation. Based on the workshops, Dr. Kutchesfahani will lead a fall course, *Critical Thinking: Art and Nuclear Weapons*, designed to bring together students from across disciplines (including, but not limited to, history, international affairs, creative writing, and art/design) who are interested in fusing art with politics. Specifically, it will foster a space for creative thinking and learning such that by the end of the semester, a prototype of a graphic novel relaying the history of the nuclear weapon will be created.

SynkroTakt

Idea Lab Mini Grant recipients Cody Brookshire (Music Composition), Richard Saney (Computer Science), and Jake Reeves (Genetics) continued development of their *SynkroTakt* technology project involving the streaming of synchronized audio to wireless devices for use in concert music and other applications. The technology was used in a variety of performance settings including a live demonstration during opening convocation ceremonies at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music featuring an ensemble of twenty musicians conducted by UGA Director of Bands Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner, along with the mobile phones of 250 audience members; *Triple Helix*, a new work for marimba trio utilizing SynkroTakt to stream click tracks of different tempi to each player

performed by Lineage Percussion; performances of *Honeycomb* as part of a touring program by the Hodgson Wind Ensemble, culminating in at the national conference of the Concert Band Director's National Association in Kansas City, Missouri. Future events will include the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, the Avaloch Farms Music Institute residency program, and public release of the technology in fall 2017.

Hyphenated American: Diversity Enriches

Hyphenated American: Diversity Enriches was an event featuring artists of a variety of cultures and backgrounds who came together at the Ciné Lab in downtown Athens for a night of spoken word, new music compositions, visual art, and dance. Performances were followed by a discussion about the importance of diversity and inclusivity in daily life, moderated by Dr. Dawn Bennett-Alexander, Associate Professor of Employment Law and Legal Studies. The production was an extension of *Hyphenated American*, a project supported previously by an Idea Lab Mini-Grant and focused on Latinos in the U.S., and was supported in part by the UGA Hispanic Student Association.

Visual Art Exhibition

Featuring works by Nancy Tawfiq Alhabashi, Margaret Anderson, Jamie Calkin and ULEAD Athens, Broderick Flanigan, Joe Leone, Brian Wilkerson, and Andrea Murillo.

Performances:

Composer Badie Khaleghian (Persian-American) with Daniel Allen, violin

Composer Daniel Allen (Panamanian-American) with Sahada Buckley, violin

Guitarist Luis Angel Medina (Mexican-Canadian)

Asura Fusion Dance Team (Bollywood, bhangra, hip-hop, and contemporary) members Mayank Ghandi, Xander Contreras, Anusha Gopali, and Nihar Sahasrabudhe

Poet Micah Hicks (African-American)

Composer Monique Osorio (Colombian-American) with Kaitlyn Gilmore, Deborah Stephens, Philip Reed, and Conner Hart

Gypsy at Heart global music performed by Joe Leone and Jeremy Raj

Arts + Environment

ICE continues a leadership role in arts + environment initiatives at UGA with key partners Watershed UGA, the Center for Integrated Conservation Research (CICR), and the Office of Sustainability. ICE led arts planning of the \$43,000 Ray C. Anderson Foundation Gray Notes Grant awarded to Watershed UGA in 2014 and provided a tiered arts strategy for a \$39,000 reapplication for Phase Two (successful) that supported multiple events in FY17 and planning for a conference series to bring together artists, scientists, activists, funders, and policy makers.

ICE initiated a National Science Foundation *Innovations in Graduate Education* grant proposal (re-submitted, under review by NFS). The ten-member team includes participants from arts, sciences, engineering, philosophy, and education. The proposal *Applying Creative Inquiry Methods to Build Imaginative Capacity and Interdisciplinary Understanding in STEM Scholarship* will provide \$500,000 over three years for the project if successful. ICE, CICR and the Graduate School will co-sponsor a summer prototype interdisciplinary graduate student workshop and research study based on concepts and activities described in the proposal.

ICE is also participant in a National Endowment for the Arts grant proposal (submitted, under review by NEA). The proposal *The Social Ecology Studio: Watershed Sustainability and Resiliency Studio* joins participants in the arts and members of Watershed UGA. The grant will provide \$50,600 for the project if successful.

UGA Campus Sustainability Grant applications now feature special consideration for arts integration and in FY17 the Office of Sustainability, in consultation with ICE, created an Artist-in-Residence paid internship position.

APPENDIX A: ICE BYLAWS

Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the budget and overall direction of ICE. The Executive Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Executive Director reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Artistic Director

The Artistic Director is responsible for the daily operation of ICE. The Artistic Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Artistic Director reports to the Executive Director of ICE.

Advisory Board

Members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Executive Director for a three-year renewable term. There shall be thirteen members. The Advisory Board shall include one student representative. The Advisory Board gives counsel to the Executive Director on ICE- sponsored programs. The Executive Director shall convene the Advisory Board at least three times each academic year. The Executive Director or any member of the Advisory Board may convene a meeting of the board at any time with at least one week of prior notice. A simple majority of the Advisory Board constitutes a quorum.

Grant Selection Committee

Members of the Grant Selection Committee are appointed by the Executive Director, upon recommendation by the Advisory Board. There shall be five members. The committee must contain at least two members of the Advisory Board. The Grant Selection Committee is responsible for the review and ranking of competitive applications following a call for proposals. The Artistic Director shall act as a non-voting chairperson of the committee. The committee shall be dissolved after reporting to the Executive Director.

Amendment Procedures

The Bylaws may be amended by a vote of nine members of the Advisory Board. Amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted to Board members at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote is taken. The ballot may be taken by mail if all members are not present at the designated meeting.

APPENDIX B:

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS RESEARCH

Background

Graduate students have been at the heart of Ideas for Creative Exploration (ICE) from its inception in 1999. The ICE Project Grant program, a competitive support structure for collaborative research, established a track record of projects initiated by or involving significant contributions from graduate students. Graduate students in the arts are a driving force behind the development of interdisciplinary creative research at UGA, and in 2008 their ongoing participation led to the creation of a special research assistantship administered by ICE.

Graduate School Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research foster expanded research activity at UGA and serve as a beacon to the most innovative graduate candidates in the arts. Three assistantships per year are awarded to students entering programs in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies. Assistantship recipients 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.

Selection Process

Graduate applicants are invited to submit an additional statement with their application materials to be considered for the assistantships. Each one-page statement contains a description of the applicant's research interests and any previous experience in interdisciplinary or collaborative environments.

Graduate Coordinators in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies submit up to five nominees each for the assistantships. A five-member selection committee reviews the nominations and ranks them within each department. Nominees are considered based on their potential to conduct research in accordance with the ICE mission to generate innovative, truly interdisciplinary creative projects and critical discourse in the arts.

The FY17 selection committee included the following members:

Judy Milton, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
David Z. Saltz, Executive Director, ICE
Marla Carlson, Graduate Coordinator, Theatre and Film Studies
Peter Jutras, Graduate Coordinator, Music
Isabelle Wallace, Graduate Coordinator, Art

Research Support Structure

The graduate assistantship awards require a sixteen-hour per week work commitment. During the first two years of study, recipients develop creative research under the auspices of ICE. Assistantship duties include the student's own collaborative work across disciplines and facilitating projects and proposals with faculty, students, and community members. Individual departments assign duties during additional years of study.

Graduate Assistants develop research within the ICE Project model: creating proposals for review and discussion among peers and faculty, working collaboratively to develop prototypes for critical review, seeking venues for exhibition or performance, and disseminating research through exhibitions, performance, publications, and.

Current Graduate Assistants

Graduate assistants in their second year are Elizabeth Rogers (Art), Stewart Engart (Music), and Kyle Morrison (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants in their first year are Matthew Flores (Art), Carla Cao (Music), and Rebecca Jackson (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants starting in August 2017 are Ann Catherine Carter (Art), Ciyadh Wells (Music) and Jason Woodworth-Hou (Theatre and Film Studies).

Contributions to Interdisciplinary Arts Research

Graduate assistants play an integral role in providing administrative support to ICE, facilitating interdisciplinary events that make research in the arts available to the UGA and Athens communities, participating in faculty-led projects, and creating self-initiated projects. Highlights of FY17 include the following:

- Carla Cao collaborated with an interdisciplinary team of students to create an a2ru Student Challenge Grant proposal *Alliance for Arts + Rights of Nature*, which was selected by a2ru to receive \$3,500 in project funding and support for two team members to present at the a2ru national conference in November 2017.
- Kyle Morrison organized the XR Seminar and Showcase featuring UGA researchers who are exploring new concepts of “reality” using emerging technologies in Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality, Virtual Reality, and Locative Media. The seminar included presentations by professors Grace Ahn (Grady College of Journalism), Chris Eaket (Theatre and Film Studies), Kyle Johnsen (College of Engineering), and Brian Orland (College of Environment and Design). The showcase featured a panel discussion with professors Ahn, Johnsen, and Orland moderated by Morrison, and interactive demonstrations using HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, Google Daydream, and XR projects developed by UGA faculty and students.
- Matthew Flores served as liaison for a yearlong collaborative residency with professors David T Gay (Mathematics) and Moon Jung Jang (Art), and assisted with organizing the *unsolved: math + de-sign* interdisciplinary workshop and the resulting exhibition in the Lamar Dodd School of Art.
- Stewart Engart, Carla Cao, Matthew Flores, Elizabeth Rogers, and Kyle Morrison assisted with logistics for the *Driftmier Woods Happening* event during UGA Spotlight on the Arts; concept development and coordination of participants from art, music, ecology, and comparative literature; development of program featuring site-specific art installation, music performance, and dance; audio and video documentation.
- Carla Cao and Stewart Engart collaborated with a team of five students from ecology, engineering, and landscape architecture create a proposal for the *Daylighting the Watersheds Design Competition*.
- Stewart Engart produced ICE Conversations with visiting composer Stephen Wood (Spotlight on the Arts) and UGA musicology professor Dr. David Haas (*European Video Game Music*).
- Carla Cao produced the ICE Conversation *Ecovention*.
- Kyle Morrison collaborated with the Games and Virtual Environments Lab in Grady College of Journalism to help create a virtual environment to research narcissistic behavior; a virtual environment to research lessened pain perception in endurance training in virtual reality; two virtual environments to research brand recognition in virtual reality.

- Carla Cao and Stewart Engart attended the a2ru 2017 *Emerging Creatives Student Summit* at the University of Florida with the support of competitive a2ru travel grants.
- Stewart Engart assisted with logistics and program development for the *Hyphenated American: Diversity Enriches* event.
- Elizabeth Rogers provided research support for the development of a National Science Foundation grant proposal.
- Kyle Morrison assisted with development and production of two workshops in collaboration with the Center for International Trade and Security for a graphic novel and animation project that explores the history, politics, and intrigue of nuclear weapons.
- Stewart Engart served as a member of the 2016-2017 UGA Campus Sustainability Grants Program Selection Committee.
- Matthew Flores assisted with production of the *Arts + Environment* publication distributed during UGA Spotlight on the Arts.
- Carla Cao, Rebecca Jackson, and Matthew Flores created a multimedia collaborative installation for the fall ICE *Open House* event.
- Elizabeth Rogers conducted interviews about collaboration with Hanna Lisa Stefansson and Andrea Trombetta during the development of their performance *Ritual Habit*.
- Rebecca Jackson collaborated with the Graduate Acting Ensemble on *Performing Dada*.
- Stewart Engart organized *The Lowest Form of Poetry*, a collaborative event including eight visiting musicians and dancers in a public performance and moderated discussion held at the Dancz Center for New Music.
- Carla Cao was selected to participate in the Dance Exchange 2017 Summer Institute *Artmaking in Practice: Evolving Creative Practices* in Takoma Park, Maryland with the support of ICE and a travel grant from the Hugh Hodgson School of Music.
- Elizabeth Rogers choreographed and produced a 45-minute solo movement migration for the *Driftmier Woods Happening* event during Spotlight on the Arts.
- Carla Cao created a site-specific composition for the *Driftmier Woods Happening* for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and four gongs in live performance.
- Elizabeth Rogers and Carla Cao participated in the *Language/Image/Metaphor* prototype workshop for faculty and graduate students.
- Elizabeth Rogers and Stewart Engart collaborated on *If When, Now Then*, a multi-media two-room installation in the Lamar Dodd School of Art featuring choreography and sound design.
- Elizabeth Rogers collaborated with Hannah Fenster (Comparative Literature) and Florian Vollmer (Georgia Institute of Technology) on a three-day site specific Installation and documentation on Jekyll Island, *Project Imperative*, a documented performance installation that explores the fragility of the interdependent relationships between human bodies and natural environments.
- Matthew Flores served on the UGA Graduate Student Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives Graduate Student panel.

- Carla Cao premiered the experimental piece *In Our 13th Hour*, incorporating music, video art, acting, and storytelling, performed by the UGA Rote Hund Muzik ensemble.
- Carla Cao helped organize a group of UGA students to participate in Athens' inaugural MLK Day parade organized by the United Group of Artists and the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement.
- Carla Cao provided volunteer assistance to the *Athens Hip Hop Awards* organized by the United Group of Artists.
- Kyle Morrison created *Starboard* in collaboration Annie Suther, Nina Smith, and Adrian Hanson, an HTC Vive VR game which was Runner Up at KSU Game Jam and was presented at FutureX Live in Atlanta.
- Kyle Morrison and Stewart Engart created *World Tour Z* in collaboration Annie Suther, Nina Smith, and Adrian Hanson, an HTC Vive VR game and workout simulator which received Third Place at UGA Hacks.
- Kyle Morrison created *Stickygrams* in collaboration Annie Suther and Nina Smith, a Microsoft Hololens AR communication application which was Runner Up at Holohack.
- Kyle Morrison and Stewart Engart created *slimGYM VR* in collaboration Annie Suther, Nina Smith, and Adrian Hanson, an Oculus Rift VR game and workout simulator which received Third Place and Best Design at the GSU Hacks.
- Kyle Morrison and Stewart Engart created *Fruit Punch!* in collaboration Annie Suther and Nina Smith, an AR Card game which won Best Game at the Athens Game Jam.
- Kyle Morrison created *Swamp Hatch* in collaboration Annie Suther and Nina Smith, an Oculus Rift VR game at Hack GSU.
- Kyle Morrison coordinated with technologist Dan Smigrod to create a 3D of the Athens Welcome Center for interactive virtual tour feature.
- Kyle Morrison presented a lecture on Virtual Reality to first-year animation students in the department of Theatre and Film Studies.
- Kyle Morrison presented a lecture on MAYA software to third-year animation students in the department of Theatre and Film Studies.
- Stewart Engart and Kyle Morrison expanded the ICE Graduate Research Assistant Manual to include an equipment policy.
- Rebecca Jackson expanded the ICE Graduate Research Assistant Manual to include updated reporting protocols and graduate assistant evaluation form.
- Kyle Morrison and Elizabeth Rogers assisted with the redesign and editing of the ICE Links resource website with over 300 links to funding, exhibition, performance, research, and community resources online.

ICE graduate research assistants worked collectively on the following projects and tasks:

- Administration of Idea Lab, a UGA student organization committed to providing an open, interdisciplinary platform for engagement with topics in arts.
- Arts funding research. Review local, national, and international funding sources for research in the arts, expansion of ICE Internet resources for those seeking funding, study reports of

organizations and projects that receive funding nationally, alerting individual faculty of potential funding opportunities.

- Assistance with publicity for ICE events (press releases, campus flyers, and departmental announcements).
- Planning, facilitation, and logistical support for the ICE Conversation Series public events.
- Content development for ICE Announcements and social media outlets. ICE operates a website, Facebook, Twitter, and weekly listserv program that highlights interdisciplinary events and opportunities for the UGA community.
- ICE project digital archive (2000-present). Ongoing effort to digitize and maintain database of documentation materials from ICE-supported projects. Organization of archival materials, video capture and rendering, creation of document files to navigate archive, research equipment and software needs for maintenance of archive.
- Orientation for new ICE graduate research assistants, including technical demonstration of ICE office equipment (media software, HD video and sound production).

Individual Accomplishments

- Carla Cao was granted the Osborne Fellowship for the 2017-2018 school year for her merit as a composer, music student, and interdisciplinary arts collaborator.
- Carla Cao was accepted into the two-week Charlotte New Music Festival Composition Program.
- Stewart Engart received a Graduate Fellowship to support his upcoming doctoral studies at the University of California Santa Barbara.
- Matthew Flores was selected to participate in the *Can Serrat* International Artist Residency, Catalonia, Spain.
- Stewart Engart participated in the *Pianos Without Organs Festival* of new works written for computer controlled pianos and small ensemble.
- Stewart Engart participated in the SCI Region IV 2017 Student Conference for the presentation of student compositions in the southeast with his work for percussion quartet, *Construction Paper*.
- Stewart Engart participated in the Florida State University *34th Annual Music Theory Forum* presenting music theory research from graduate students across the country.
- Stewart Engart participated in Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS) National Conference in performance with the UGA Laptop Ensemble.
- Stewart Engart was commissioned by the Florida State University Crumhorn Ensemble to create *Miserere Mei, Deus*, premiered at Dohnányi Recital Hall.
- Stewart Engart participated in live video installations in the Lamar Dodd School of Art, Dancz Center for New Music, and downtown Athens.
- Matthew Flores attended the Society for Photographic Education (SPE) National Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- Matthew Flores was featured in the *Locus* exhibition at the Lamar Dodd School of Art.

- Matthew Flores was featured in the *Shawn Campbell and Matthew Flores: You'll Never Walk Alone* exhibition at the Lamar Dodd School of Art.
- Matthew Flores was featured in the *Mediated: An Urban Projection Event* exhibition at the University Art Galleries, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.
- Matthew Flores was featured in the *Ironic Methods with Sincere Motivations* exhibition at the Kiosk Art Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri.
- Matthew Flores was featured in the *Endless Biennial* exhibition at Endless Editions, New York.
- Rebecca Jackson participated in the UGA Spotlight on the Arts 4:33 competition.
- Rebecca Jackson will present her paper "Performing Grief Journeys and the Spectacle of Child-guided Memorials" at the 2017 ATHE Conference in Las Vegas.
- Rebecca Jackson created a proposal *Remember Orlando* for the Center for Puppetry Arts 2017 XPT (Experimental Puppetry Theatre).
- Rebecca Jackson attended a presentation by Theaster Gates, *Examining Art and Activism* during the AJC Decatur Book Festival.
- Kyle Morrison was selected for an internship with Rockwell Collins to Portland, Oregon to work with cutting-edge Extended Reality technology projects.
- Kyle Morrison was nominated for James L. Carmon Scholarship.
- Elizabeth Rogers founded the Atlanta-based non-profit (501c-3 status pending) Center for Creative Intervention to offer low-pay sliding scale psychoanalysis and applied psychoanalysis to young adults and to conduct research into creative interventions specific to 21st century subjectivities, including movement and art interventions. On a larger scale the Center will develop and support public interventions such as public art collaborations.
- Elizabeth Rogers participated in interdisciplinary workshops in multiple settings including Eiko, Atlanta in collaboration with Tanz-farm; gloATL, Atlanta; Meg Stuart, Paris, France; Wies van Houplines and Gaga movement at Mica Danses Paris; Cité des Artes, Paris; Israeli Dance Festival, Atlanta, GA.
- Elizabeth Rogers presented *Mary Wigman, No Other to Herself*, to the San Francisco School of Psychoanalysis' seminar on Lacan's Seminar XXIII.
- Elizabeth Rogers passed boards for mental health clinician in the state of Georgia and moved into private practice.
- Elizabeth Rogers became a charter member of the Lacanian Compass, the first affiliate group of the World Association of Psychoanalysis in the U.S.
- Elizabeth Rogers attended the 10th annual Clinical Studies Days in Miami, *Beyond Oedipus, Family Dramas/Family Traumas*.
- Elizabeth Rogers attended the Annual Psychoanalytic Congress of the New Lacanian School, *About the Unconscious* in Paris.
- Matthew Flores, Elizabeth Rogers, and Kyle Morrison applied for the Willson Center Graduate Research Awards.

Outcomes Assessment

“My position as a Graduate Research Assistant has made it much easier for me to expand the already rich, diverse network of students, faculty, and community members in ICE’s circle. For instance, as a representative of ICE, I was able to make connections with Knowa and Mokah Johnson, the activists behind Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement and several interdisciplinary arts events celebrating diversity within the community. My collaborations with Knowa and Mokah in Athens’ first-ever MLK day parade and the 5th annual Athens Hip Hop Awards helped pave the way for an ongoing relationship based on the mutual interest to integrate justice and the arts.” [Carla Cao]

“I have also used my position at ICE to bring together students from a wide variety of disciplines who, like myself, are invested in exploring research questions and then applying the knowledge and skills gained in practical pursuits designed to directly improve the well-being of our human community and natural environment. Ecology student Suzie Henderson was first introduced to interdisciplinary arts collaboration through an ICE info session on the *Daylighting the Watershed Competition*. Having joined my project team, I found her especially receptive and natural to this type of work and continued to invite her to events and projects hosted by ICE. By the end of the year, she had become a leader in interdisciplinary arts work, having attended the annual Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) summit and, then co-writing and submitting a a2ru grant proposal for a year-long arts and environmental policy collaborative project.” [Carla Cao]

“After attending the a2ru 2017 Emerging Creatives Summit on water issues funded by ICE, I took the exclusive opportunity as an attendee to submit a grant proposal to a2ru for a year-long project that integrated my interest in the Community Rights Movement and in interdisciplinary approaches for community building and policy action. My frequent consultations with artistic director Mark Callahan regarding the grant was a crucial component in producing a well-organized, compelling proposal. I am greatly impressed not only by the support that Mark and the ICE affiliates have provided me, but also the way they have helped expand and enrich my ideas and my process of inquiry.” [Carla Cao]

“The ICE Assistantship has put me in contact with students and professors from different disciplines than mine and these collaborations, and even informal communications, with individuals outside of my ‘sphere’ has had transformational qualities on both my music and my artistic outlook. Meeting with students from the sciences, I have learned more than I ever thought I could learn about water treatment, stream design, and riparian barriers. Working with students from computer science has inspired me to push myself to learn multiple programming languages and environments to solve artistic problems. Through taking classes in Art X I have reevaluated my artistic process several times and have changed my critical assessment of my own music. This has led to a change in my approach to representation in both art and music.” [Stewart Engart]

“Most importantly, through these interactions I have gained a much clearer conception of what I want to do artistically and professionally. This clarity was most noticeable during my application process for my doctorate. I was able to articulate to professors from other institutions both why I was a good fit for their university and why their university was a good fit for me. This direction was something that I was lacking in applying for my master’s program and I am confident that without my experiences in ICE, is something I would still be lacking.” [Stewart Engart]

“I couldn’t have asked for a position as deeply engaging and intellectually challenging as the one I received this year. ICE allowed me to connect with artists both in my own situation as a graduate student, but also a wide range of faculty and community-based artists that I otherwise would not have an opportunity to work and create with, much less meet and know.” [Matthew Flores]

“Getting to collaborate and strategize with scientists, mathematicians, designers, and social justice advocates has been an incredible outlet for me to make deep connections between my own practice and the rich projects existing in every corner of the Lamar Dodd School of Art, or the wider University, or Athens in general. Specifically, working with Dave Gay and Moon Jung Jang to develop a curriculum and tactics to bridge the daunting gap between Mathematics and Art has given me a completely unanticipated set of conceptual tools that not only have a direct, observable impact on the students we worked with, but also enrich the art I make and the way I conduct artistic research.” [Matthew Flores]

“I’m amazed at the ease with which mentioning ICE serves as a built-in conversation starter with so many individuals around town (an ICE-breaker!); it seems like anyone with a drive to better the community or collaborate in a meaningful way has some relationship with ICE, and if they don’t, they certainly will soon. I think that’s really the core of the ICE experience: the opportunity to engage with the smartest, most driven, most creative people around and make a difference, even if it’s as simple as opening someone’s eyes to the impact art can have on the world.” [Matthew Flores]

“Working under the ICE graduate research assistantship engenders both research and civic engagement. I’m thrilled to be able to ask research questions that extend past the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and into the world. Collaborating with others on and off campus has cultivated a sense of pride within my new community. As I finish my first year at UGA, I’m realizing the different people and amazing opportunity that ICE has shared with me and I’m grateful to be a member of this organization.” [Rebecca Jackson]

“Being a part of ICE has afforded me opportunities that most graduate students do not have while they are in graduate school. Because of being an ICE research assistant, I have been able to build relationships with students and faculty with different skillsets and research interests. This has benefited me immensely by absorbing new ways of tackling my own research and asking new research questions. Creating these relationships has given me the vocabulary to understand others research and afforded others the ability to better understand my research as well.” [Kyle Morrison]

“Some of my fondest memories of ICE have been the many ICE conversations outside of my own field. For instance, I loved learning about the Elizabeth Corr’s work with resident artists at an institution that had never had such a program before. The relationships built through this process are very similar to the ones I feel like I have built through ICE. It was great to see such a positive response from scientists and artists working together. So much of what we have discussed this year has been about building these relationships and finding a good way to harbor them. Not only that, finding a way to promote real change through interdisciplinary work. These questions go beyond university research and I find ICE at the forefront of finding answers to these difficult research questions. [Kyle Morrison]

“Leaving ICE, I have attained so many great research and collaboration skills. Beyond these skills, I am leaving with a completely new way of approaching tough research questions. I can combat them with multiple new vocabularies and move among different approaches from an array of disciplines and reach different solutions to the same problems. These skills are invaluable and have prepared me to be a better collaborator, researcher, and communicator in my future career.” [Kyle Morrison]

“ICE made collaboration possible by providing platforms for meeting people from other departments and schools. This is, simply stated, invaluable. I met Hannah Fenster, MA Comparative Literature, UGA, early in my first year in the MFA program at an ICE event.

Hannah and I have gone on to collaborate, working together weekly, for nearly a year and a half now on 5 different projects.” [Elizabeth Rogers]

“Another significant ICE event that continues to resonate for me is the arts+environment workshop in November of 2016. I worked at a table with Elizabeth King and Carla Cao that day. Carla and I also worked together on the *Driftmier Woods Happening*. We are planning a collaborative piece for next year. Elizabeth King has provided research resources tangential to my landscape work that has led me to explore some different directions and ideas for this work.” [Elizabeth Rogers]

Selected Alumni News

- Rachel Debuque (MFA Art), Assistant Professor of Art and Studio Foundations Coordinator at George Mason University, has presented work in exhibitions and given presentations in New York, the University of New Mexico, Washington, D.C., and the Lamar Dodd School of Art.
- Kai Riedl (doctoral student, Ethnomusicology) was selected to become the Executive Director of Moogfest, a major music, art, and technology festival based in Durham, North Carolina that draws thousands of participants and global news coverage.
- Hilary Schroeder (MA Art History) organizes interdisciplinary programs as the Semmes Foundation Intern in Museum Studies at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas.
- David Mitchell (DMA Music), Director of Education at the Atlanta Institute of Music, presented research on music marketing at the 2016 College Music Society National Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Victoria Eudy (MA Art Ed.) will present “Emerging Methodologies: Organizational Autoethnography and Duoethnography in Museum Evaluation” at the Visual Studies Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio.
- Michael Krzyzaniak (MM Music) received his PhD degree from Arizona State University.
- Fernando dos Santos (DMA Music) is the tuba and euphonium professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte State (UFRN) in Brazil.
- Hanna Lisa Stefansson (DMA, Music) presented her final doctoral recital, *Ritual Habit*, in collaboration with previous ICE Project Grant recipient Andrea Trombetta.
- Taylor Hobson (MA Art History) is pursuing a doctorate at Bryn Mawr College with full assistantship.
- Ernesto Gomez (MFA Art) is a member of the art faculty at Georgia College and State University, in Milledgeville.