

This is a partially edited transcript (for length and clarity) from an information session we held on

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Representing the program were:

Director Henry Jenkins <Henry Jenkins>, Director William Uricchio <WU> and students Amanda Finkleburg <amanda>; Geoffrey Long <geoffreylong>; Ivan Askwith <ivan>; Steve Schultze <Steve Schultze>; Sam Ford <Sam>

Topics of conversations are capitalized and bolded.

INTRODUCTIONS

<Henry Jenkins> greetings, earthlings. it's Henry Jenkins, co-Director of CMS

<WU> Good morning! I'm William Uricchio, one of the professors & directors of CMS ... just here from a meeting that ran over....!

<amanda> Oh, ok- I'm Amanda Finkelberg second year grad- studying maps and digitization, was into VFX dream of surfing...

<geoffreylong> I'm Geoff Long, I'm doing my thesis in transmedia storytelling, and I'm dreaming of a barn studio in Ohio full of cats and Macs.

<ivan> I'm Ivan Askwith, doing work on how television is becoming a more interactive and cross-platform medium, and I dream of electric sheep.

<Steve Schultze> I'm a computer science guy who comes most recently from public broadcasting. I work with the New Media Literacies research group and am interested in media regulation.

<Amigosito> Rick Thompson. I'm in San Francisco *yawn

<CJ> Good morning. I'm CJ, from Florida.

<Sun Jingyi> Nice to meet you, Professor Jenkins. I am from China. I am working on a part-time job at China Central Television, the biggest tv station in China.

<Henry Jenkins> greetings, earthlings. it's Henry Jenkins, co-Director of CMS

<Henry Jenkins> we have been organizing these sessions to allow people who might not be able to get to campus to learn more about the program

<amanda> Oh, ok- I'm Amanda Finkelberg second year grad- studying maps and digitization, was into VFX dream of surfing...

<amanda> hope to graduate

<geoffreylong> I'm Geoff Long, I'm doing my thesis in transmedia storytelling, and I'm dreaming of a barn studio in Ohio full of cats and Macs.

<geoffreylong> Ivan?

<ivan> I'm Ivan Askwith, doing work on how television is becoming a more interactive and cross-platform medium, and I dream of electric sheep.

<geoffreylong> LOL

<ivan> Steve?

<ivan> Or Sam... you're just in time to say who you are and what you work on!

<Steve Schultze> I'm a computer science guy who comes most recently from public broadcasting. I work with the New Media Literacies research group and am interested in media regulation.

<CJ> Man... I know I'm not awake yet when someone says that and I can't think of a unicorn joke.

<ivan> Think origami. It'll come to you.

<Henry Jenkins> well, as you can see, **CMS students** come in all shapes, sizes, and intellectual interests.

<geoffreylong> (Round is a shape.)

<Henry Jenkins> there's no such thing as a typical student. out of 20 students in the program, almost everyone has a different undergraduate major

<ivan> (But not well-rounded. That's a type.)

<Henry Jenkins> we maintain a pretty good gender ballance -- not that you can tell today, since Amanda is out there holding her own.

<Henry Jenkins> we also have a pretty decent mix **of international students**. at the moment, we have 2 students from China, 1 from Columbia, 1 from Pakistan, and 1 from Belgium.

<Sun Jingyi> Nice to meet you, Professor Jenkins. I am from China. I am very glad to talk with you.

<Sun Jingyi> I have sent you my application package. I wonder whether you have received it.

<Henry Jenkins> hello Sun Jingyi. welcome to cms.

<Henry Jenkins> so what can we tell you about the program?

<Amigosito> well you mentioned 20 people in program...how many people apply each year? **How many accepted each year?**

<Henry Jenkins> We accept roughly 10 new students per year from an application pool of around 100

<Henry Jenkins> we try to keep the numbers small so we can customize to the needs of the students as much as possible

<Sun Jingyi> It is **a cross-disciplinary program**. Can we choose the course we like if admitted?

<Henry Jenkins> It's more flexible than that. There are a small number of required subjects -- media theory and methods, media in transition, major mmedia texts, workshop

<Henry Jenkins> beyond that, you can choose what courses to take from our offerings, those elsewhere at MIT or Harvard or Wellsley or Mass College of Arts

<Henry Jenkins> everyone here has found their own path through the program.

<Henry Jenkins> can the students give some sense of the kinds of things you are studying through your **electives**?

<amanda> I took a great film course at Harvar'ds VES program last year and am taking a not-so-great film course this semester also at Harvard.

<Henry Jenkins> VES equals?

<WU> Good morning! I'm William Uricchio, one of the professors & directors of CMS ... just here from a meeting that ran over....!

<amanda> sorry: visual and environmental studies... although that's as much as i can understand

<Sun Jingyi> Will I choose a path at the beginning of the term?

<Henry Jenkins> Generally, Sun Jingyi, students spend the first term finding their footing. we have a pretty set curriculum for the first term

<Henry Jenkins> by the second term you can start exploring further afield.

<amanda> what are your interests?

<Henry Jenkins> many students grow a lot during the first term as they discover the full range of approaches in cms

<Steve Schultze> Next semester I'm TA'ing for my elective... getting teaching credit helping to design and run a course on media policy.

<Sun Jingyi> I am interested in visual arts, motion picture.

<Sam> I don't know if my text ever came through...I was trying to say that there are a lot of independent study options for grad students.

<WU> well, we have plenty of folks with as strong film interest here....

<Sun Jingyi> I am working on a part-time job at China Central Television, the biggest tv station in China.

<Henry Jenkins> there are **film courses** taught at MIT -- in our program and in the Arts and Architecture program -- and there's a growing film program at Harvard.

<Sam> Several of us are taking a class with Henry right now on **comic books** that he had offered in the past but hadn't since we had been here.

<Sam> And we took one last semester with William Uricchio on the nature and conceptualization of television.

<Henry Jenkins> Jing Wang as a faculty member in our program who focuses on media change and branding in China.

<WU> - we have specialists in film sound, early cinema, and interactive cinema among othe things....

<Henry Jenkins> we have several China focused projects at the moment -- a collaboration with the Beijing Film Academy to produce a digital archive of Chinese animation...

<Henry Jenkins> and some work on branding and mobile phone culture in China through our Convergence Culture Consortium group.

<Sun Jingyi> Great! That's what I am passionate about!

<Henry Jenkins> what are some of the rest of you interested in, topics-wise?

<Sun Jingyi> I am both interested in audio and visual, for I started to learn Chinese painting and violin since a young age.

<Chris Wight> I've been in theater/film in ny for a (long) while now. Interested in how rapid tech advances are going to change the industry.

<Henry Jenkins> very interesting. we have some pretty strong faculty in performance and theater arts as well.

<Justin> call me crazy, but i'm interested in print culture

<WU> we've got a great collaboration with colleagues in MIT's theater & music department

<WU> and we've been developing projects with places like the Royal Shakespeare Company ...

<Henry Jenkins> so far not as much thesis work has been done on theater but that's more of a product of student's own interests

<Henry Jenkins> Justin, the folks in Literature would eat you with a spoon. They just hired a new professor who does work on the past, present, and future of print

culture

<Amigosito> sometimes I am torn between CMS and Media Arts and Sciences...how much overlap/**collaboration** is there between the programs?

<geoffreylong> Justin, that's not crazy -- in fact, if you do it right that could be a very rich field

<WU> Justin, what aspect of print culture?

<Henry Jenkins> she's going to be teaching subjects in the history of the book and the history of reading next year.

<CJ> I'm from a liberal arts background, so I'm mostly interested in looking at various newer media (namely animation and video gaming) in literary/religious terms.

<Sun Jingyi> I am not a professional on music and picture, but I think I have a good sense which can be developed and used in media field.

<Henry Jenkins> Sun Jingyi, if music and film is of interest, Martin Marks is your man. He's a leading expert on scores for films -- has a book on music and silent cinema

<geoffreylong> Lately as a side project I've been eyeballing the integrations between print and the web, and there's a long, LONG way to go there

<amanda> About the overlap with MAS- I think it depends on your interest in "making stuff" as opposed to studying stuff

<Henry Jenkins> and he also regular performs live to silent film screenings.

<Henry Jenkins> Ah, thanks for following up on that one Amanda.

<Henry Jenkins> In a few years, CMS and MAS will be sharing a building together and we are starting to look for more formal ways of collaborating

<WU> as for animation, we've been collaborating with folks in several asian countries to develop an animation center. Henry already mentioned the Beijing Film Academy, but there are others

<amanda> MAS is a pretty tech/engineering intensive environment but they also look at theoretical side-- it's related but not the same as CMS

<Sun Jingyi> Thanks a lot! I wonder whether we will study under a particular teacher if admitted?

<Henry Jenkins> Amanda's right that it's about the ballance between making things and studying things to some degree.

<WU> - Ian Condry, for example, has been very active with Japanese popular culture

<amanda> yes that's true- the **workshop** class enables CMS students to make whatever they'd like to work on.

<Sun Jingyi> Professor Jenkins, I noticed you've done some research on bloggers. And I did a small investigative report on school newspaper.

<CJ> (Totally haven't moved.)

<Henry Jenkins> part of the problem with differentiating cms and mas based on production is that our projects more and more involve production work

<WU> but te CMS / MAS starting points are different

<Sun Jingyi> Does CMS has a balance between **theory** and **production**.

<WU> balance? yes ... both through the workshop course and especially through our many research initiatives

<ivan> Yeah, next time we go back to AOL and IM. :D

<Henry Jenkins> I was starting to say -- we call this approach applied humanities. it's about adopting a more pragmatic response to the study of media and culture

<Henry Jenkins> about **blogging** -- there's a strong interest in both the act of

blogging and the study of blogging here at the moment

<Henry Jenkins> many of the research projects have their own blogs. students are blogging about their thesis work

<Henry Jenkins> and I have my own blog.

<Henry Jenkins> we are also trying to get moving on a new center for civic media, a potential collaboration with the media lab

<Sun Jingyi> yes. In China, blog becomes popular within a short time.

<WU> you should all check our our various blogs -- our web site is a portal

<Henry Jenkins> and we've been running a bunch of programs on citizen journalism this term

<Henry Jenkins> you might also check out [Project Good Luck](#), the blog Beth Coleman has set up to explore media change in China. she's got lots of contact with the Chinese blogging world

<WU> - another suggestion to get the flavor of our program is to check our our newsletter -- In Medias Res -- linkable from our website....

<Sun Jingyi> I actually interviewed some students in our school who are very proficient in blogging, and try to find what are they seeking from blogging.

<Amigosito> for IM, you guys might want to experiment with IMVU (www.imvu.com)...3D avatar online chat

<Henry Jenkins> oh and to continue on production based research, there will be the Singapore MIT Games Innovation Lab which will be developing games prototypes

<CJ> ... that was *not* the sound of me drooling. You heard nothing!

<Henry Jenkins> and there's the Metamedia/Repertoire projects which are essentially digital data base initiatives -- multimedia archives

<Henry Jenkins> so are you into games, CJ?

<Sun Jingyi> I find some features, like blog is the channle for self-expression, easy to operate, authentic way to know ohters, community to share interests---

<Henry Jenkins> but all of these projects differ with the media lab.

<Henry Jenkins> media lab mostly prototypes cutting edge uses of new tech

<Henry Jenkins> while we are trying to really apply those technologies in culturally meaningful ways

<WU> - by the way, we will be shifting our location in a couple of years to the building that also houses the Media Lab, so I expect that we will see the synergy between our operations intensify!

<Henry Jenkins> it's a good time to come if you are interested in games. the [Singapore](#) lab will link us with Comp Science and with about 10 universities and polytechniques in Singapore.

<Henry Jenkins> every summer about 70 of us will be working in teams to produce game prototypes which will be pitched to industry and are designed to explore new directions in game design

<Henry Jenkins> around this we are hosting lectures, adding more classes, and hopefully bringing on more games-related faculty

<CJ> I said that I was from a mostly liberal arts background, so I was interested in looking at various newer media (mostly animation and games) in literary/religious terms.

<WU> the game lab is a tremendous opportunity for us to explore game futures from transnational and trans cultural perspectives

<amanda> Wow- I hadn't heard that but it sounds incredible!

<Amigosito> Henry, do applicants often submit multimedia **applications** to CMS, or does MIT insist on use of traditional media?

<Henry Jenkins> basically if I had to sum it all up: we look for students with a strong sense of direction, with a range of life experiences, and with interests that straddle traditional academic fields.

<Sun Jingyi> Will you need official GT scores by the deadline, or they can be submitted after you make a decision?

<WU> - and one of the medium-to-long term results is that we are developing a formidable network of graduates out there

<CJ> Is a professional recommendation acceptable, or would you prefer scholarly ones?

<Henry Jenkins> sorry that was long winded. let me scan back through to see what everyone else has been talking about.

<Chris Wight> No, it's very helpful

<WU> - former students who are now journalists, futures traders on Wall Street, media activists, teachers, producers, critics....

<amanda> To the application questions- I submitted both multimedia materials and professional recs.

<Sun Jingyi> I sent both production records and academic writing.

<Amigosito> amanda, did you send multimedia portfolio pieces, or was your actual application a multimedia package?

<amanda> it wasn't, but I imagine that would have been pretty cool

<amanda> No one would be opposed to that, I'm sure, so long as you provide what they're asking for in some way

<Henry Jenkins> We can usually work, CJ, with unofficial scores in the short run.

<Chris Wight> I'm a bit stuck on the writing sample. I do plenty of fiction writing, but have not done academic writing since graduating a LONG time ago

<CJ> <-- had the question about professional recs. :)

<Henry Jenkins> CJ, we typically accept a mix of professional and academic recs. many of our students are returning after time in the private sector.

<Henry Jenkins> it helps to have some scholarly recs if possible since this is an academic program but we also value life experiences

<CJ> Okay, I've got a mix, but I wanted to make sure that was alright and you weren't *just* looking for scholarly ones.

<Henry Jenkins> Chris, i understand the issue. it need not be super long as long as it shows us your ability to construct an argument and mobilize evidence.

<Sun Jingyi> I also got a mix.

<Henry Jenkins> at the end of the day, we do need signs of academic excellence. but don't be afraid to also submit some fiction as part of the portfolio.

<Amigosito> any plans for a **PhD** in CMS?

<Chris Wight> Okay, I think I can manage that, thanks.

<Henry Jenkins> we talk about it from time to time but so far, we don't have enough faculty resources committed to cms full time to make it realistic

<WU> - PhD? this is certainly part of our future vision! How soon it will materialize remains to be seen, but we are definitely moving in that direction

<WU> WU -- hmmm...was that just 'half-full ... half-empty'?

<CJ> I'm a little curious to hear about funding/**financial aid**/how the heck I'm going to pay for this if I do get accepted.

<WU> Most of our students are supported as research assistants on our

various research projects

<Sun Jingyi> Is scholarship or TA/RA available?

<WU> the availability of RA positions obviously varies from year to year depending on the projects , funding levels, etc

<CJ> That's what I'd heard from Casiano, but it seemed a little too good to be true.

<ivan> And a few students this year have also found RA positions with other departments, I believe.

<WU> there are also a few students who are being supported by various MIT scholarships

<Henry Jenkins> We put students to work through the various research initiatives we've been describing. almost all RAs. no paid TAs.

<Sun Jingyi> What projects are going on this year?

<ivan> Our website has a full rundown.

<Henry Jenkins> this is one reason why we accept a small number of students each year compared to the applicant pool.

<ivan> <http://cms.mit.edu/research/projects.php>

<Henry Jenkins> education arcade, new media literacies, metamedia, singapore game lab, convergence culture consortium are the key ones

<ivan> (Henry, we need up to update that page with SMIGL!)

<Henry Jenkins> there may be other work as well, depending on how some new proposals take off

<Henry Jenkins> yes, so far, there's very little information on SMIGIL. Philip Tan is putting together details at a furious pace but lots of things are still being worked out

<Sun Jingyi> Do you also judge whether a student fits a specific project when making admission decisions?

<Henry Jenkins> Ivan, of course, you mean GOLLUM -- Games, Online Learning, Large, Utterly Massive.

<WU> We're looking at a January launch for the Singapore MIT Games lab...

<ivan> Yessssss, precious.

<Chris Wight> I was wondering about that acronym...

<CJ> <3

<Henry Jenkins> it is one of the factors we look at, Sun, just because we need to line up students with the money

<amanda> Yeah, the **research** opportunities at CMS are really stellar compared to other programs. They're all really good.

<Henry Jenkins> but we always accept some students who don't perfectly match existing research and then try to find ways to put some money under them

<Sun Jingyi> Have you started to review the application materials?

<WU> - not yet...!

<Henry Jenkins> nope -- we don't look at anything before early feb when everything is in

<Sun Jingyi> I see.

<Henry Jenkins> right now, we are doing well to be finishing off the term and closing down shop for the holidays

<WU> ;-)

<ivan> We're finishing off the term?

<ivan> Oh, crap.

<WU> (that's what the wink and nod are all about, Ivan!)

<Henry Jenkins> well, either that or the term is finishing us off. i never know until it's all over

<Sun Jingyi> Is it possible that I wait until you tell me the result to submit official test scores?

<ivan> :D

<ivan> nope, that's half the fun.

<Henry Jenkins> we do need to have some scores to help shape our decisions

<Sun Jingyi> I sent you photocopies of scores.

<Chris Wight> Are there students on who have a media production background? If so, where do you hope to go upon **graduation**?

<Henry Jenkins> that should do for now, SJ

<ivan> Amanda does.

<Henry Jenkins> cue Amanda

<Henry Jenkins> we

<WU> (ahem...)

<ivan> WU WU!

<ivan> she might have stepped afk for a moment.

<Sun Jingyi> I have some media production experience,

<ivan> amanda worked in the sfx industry, rotoscoping in particular, before coming to CMS.

<amanda> oh sorry

<Henry Jenkins> we've had a number of students through the years with production experience -- special effects (like Amanda who ran her own company for a while), new media companies, games design, advertising

<amanda> i was washing the dishes

<WU> we have students with backgrounds in professional journalism, the special effects industry, advertising...

<amanda> Yes, I had a production background and it took a few weeks to learn the ropes for paper writing... but it comes right back

<Henry Jenkins> some of these students have gone back to work in those industries again, often taking on higher level jobs -- in thought leadership.

<Henry Jenkins> for example, one of our students moved from being an advertising account executive to one of the new media gurus at a leading marketing firm

<WU> that's a nice job title Henry -- 'thought leader'...!

<Henry Jenkins> we've had several students land in the games industry and we expect with the focus on games in the coming years more will

<CJ> It sounds almost a little sinister.

<Henry Jenkins> we have people heading up production on reality television series

<amanda> After graduation, I'm still undecided. I'm getting married & moving back to CA so I'm an unusual example. I'll probably work in industry to save up some money before PhD.

<Henry Jenkins> well, one person.

<amanda> And I'd love to get into educational games... or gaming education

<Chris Wight> Great, thanks

<WU> Amigosit -- still out there? any questions??

<amanda> speaking of the end of the semester- I've got to get back to work. It's been nice talking to you all! Best of luck with your applications.

<Henry Jenkins> so, CJ, are you still holding in there?

<Henry Jenkins> I am trying for the record for who can be thrown off the most!

<Amigosito> yes I'm still here, taking in the sights :-)

<ivan> Such as they are.

<Amigosito> I'm juggling the keyboard and my 10-month old daughter

<CJ> I am. I think my talking is what keeps kicking you off, in fact. :)

<WU> I'm with you!

<Henry Jenkins> another aspect of the program we haven't mentioned is the kind of salon culture we are creating here -- lots of interesting folks passing through all the time

<Amigosito> lots of good questions being thrown out there...I was surprised to read Henry's comment in re: RAs vs TAs

<Henry Jenkins> we are just putting up today some of the contents of the Futures of Entertainment conference later this week -- this brought lots of key media industry types.

<Henry Jenkins> Steve is organizing the Beyond Broadcasting event next term on citizen journalism, podcasting, the like.

<Henry Jenkins> we will be hosting the media in transition conference in the spring.

<Amigosito> it sounds like many of these research projects are oriented towards the entertainment industry...is this a fair characterization?

<CJ> I'm mostly just sitting here gaping in amazement at how in love I am, to be perfectly honest.

<Henry Jenkins> we have weekly events -- next term, including a visit from Mick Foley from the World Wrestling Entertainment and a soap opera writer, among many others

<ivan> Fair, perhaps, Rick, but not exclusively so.

<ivan> Our focus tends to shift with our students.

<WU> (and with students like Ivan, it can be a real adventure!!!)

<CJ> It IS. It IS my talking that's kicking you off!!

<Henry Jenkins> back again. one of these days i am going to get the message

<Henry Jenkins> some one was asking before about [RAs vs. TAs](#).

<Amigosito> I was responding to your comment that CMS doesn't have paid TAs

<Henry Jenkins> most academic programs emphasize TAs. we will certainly allow students a chance to TA if they wish but they TA for credit

<Henry Jenkins> there's a stupid policy at MIT that gives us some extra money if we hire students as RAs rather than TAs.

<Amigosito> exactly, that is a striking distinction between CMS and most grad programs I've seen

<WU> Again Amigosito -- are you referring to masters or PhD programs?

<Henry Jenkins> and in many cases, the RAship is more valuable than the TAship for many of our students, given about a third of our students are going into academia and the rest are aimed at all kinds of other jobs

<Amigosito> not that I have anything against being a TA, but it's nice to know the students get a lot of face time with actual professors

<Henry Jenkins> yes, faculty spend lots of time interacting with students here.

<Henry Jenkins> both in formal ways through classes or research projects and informally through office hours and social events

<WU> every Thursday, after our weekly colloquium, we gather at Henry's house for food and discussion with our speakers...

<WU> it's a great way to relax, to think, and to keep the community thriving

<WU> actually, the other night, we had a party at a nearby ice skating rink -- amazing what a balanced bunch we have here !!

<Henry Jenkins> they may serve on a thesis project as needed. This allows us to cover lots of ground while having a small number of people who are on top of the day to day operations of the program

<Henry Jenkins> yes, and how astonishing it was to see so many folks from the

Southern hemisphere take to the advice. Our Aussie did especially well.

- <Amigosito> so...Henry...non-sequitur question. Chris Claremont or John Byrne? In the context of X-men, of course... ;-)
- <ivan> I still suspect our Aussie was a ringer.
- <WU> and our Columbian wasn't bad either!!
- <Henry Jenkins> I am probably more of a Byrne guy though for my money Joss Whedon tops them both
- <Henry Jenkins> i don't think there has ever been a time when there were more great writers working in the mainstream of American **comics**
- <Amigosito> that's not fair to bring in Whedon!
- <Henry Jenkins> the problem is that i didn't spend that much time with classic x-men. it falls into the period when my interest was in decline.
- <Henry Jenkins> i was a DC kid and have made mine marvel much more as an adult.
- <Henry Jenkins> and x-men hit its stride when i was in college and grad school -- a dark age in my relation to comics
- <Henry Jenkins> but i am determined not to make it so for my students who borrow freely from my vast collection
- <WU> (let me underscore the word VAST!)
- <CJ> I say again that I'm mostly so quiet because I am overwhelmed currently by love.
- <ivan> Like library of Alexandria vast.
- <Henry Jenkins> we feel the love, Cj
- <Amigosito> define vast. I have 15 boxes myself ;-)
- <ivan> Floor to ceiling shelves.
- <CJ> (Okay, that was weird... it just erased all of the rest of my chat. Is someone logging this?)
- <geoffreylong> VASSSSST.
- <Henry Jenkins> yes, we collect this.
- <ivan> Gene usually logs and posts online afterward.
- <CJ> (I was *trying* to, but I just failed miserably.)
- <Henry Jenkins> i mean, yes, we archive the chats for future reference.
- <Amigosito> nice...comics are a rare resource for research
- <Henry Jenkins> indeed. i spend a great deal of my research chair on comics.
- <geoffreylong> I'm just waiting for an X-Men arc penned by Mignola, Gaiman or Ellis. That would break my head.
- <CJ> Ah good.
- <CJ> Mmm... Gaiman....
- <Henry Jenkins> i just brought back some amazing stuff from Poland. I am going to scan some representative images and throw them out on the blog next week.
- <geoffreylong> Cool
- <Henry Jenkins> there's some chance Gaiman will be coming to speak in the coming year.
- <Amigosito> I'm waiting for Frank Miller to do a Sin-City treatment of Wolverine
- <Amigosito> but it won't happen
- <Henry Jenkins> that would be pretty cool. you know Miller's work on Daredevil I assume.
- <Amigosito> oh yeah
- <WU> Chris, Sun ... any questions?
- <Amigosito> I stocked up on the revised-origin mini series

<Henry Jenkins> we have a partnership now with Paul Levitz of DC to bring some comics speakers through every year in honor of Julius Schwartz.

<Henry Jenkins> Gaiman is on the planning committee with me.

<Henry Jenkins> it's a trade off. I get to work with Gaiman and have to work with Harlan Ellison. :-)

<Amigosito> LOL

<CJ> LOL!

<Amigosito> Harlan...everyone's favorite guy

<Henry Jenkins> you haven't lived until Harlan rewrites your drafts of invitation letters.

<Amigosito> scary

<Chris Wight> Will anyone from the dept. be around the week after xmas? Rotten time to look for a meeting, but I'm from the Boston area and will be there.

<WU> not I....

<Henry Jenkins> we have had lots of other comics folks through in recent years -- Art Spiegelman, Joe Sacco, Jessica Abel, Paul Pope, Nick Bertozzi

<Henry Jenkins> i fear you will find a ghost town, Chris

<Chris Wight> As I suspected

<Amigosito> I met Art Speigelman in Berkeley, he is tre cool

<Henry Jenkins> Scott McCloud came through this term -- he's come back regularly and really likes CMS

<Amigosito> you read my mind, I was just going to ask about Scott

<Amigosito> his work is SO important to CMS

<Chris Wight> Got to go - many thanks

<WU> bye!

<Henry Jenkins> we had him through for a week long intensive workshop on comic theory and design a few years ago

<Henry Jenkins> bye, chris

<Amigosito> his concept of Closure is so key

<Henry Jenkins> it was in many ways the rehearsal for his new book

<Henry Jenkins> what else can i tell you?

<WU> ((air silence))

<Amigosito> um, let's see...

<geoffreylong> Actually, Chris, I might be

<geoffreylong> ping me -- glong@mit.edu

<geoffreylong> I'm flying back on the 26th

<Amigosito> is there a role for "conventional" **literary theory**? Deconstruction, post-structuralism, etc?

<CJ> Oooh, nice question. I love it when people ask a question I want to know the answer to, but didn't know I did.

<geoffreylong> We run those people out of town on a rail, covered in pitch and pigeon feathers. :-)

<WU> sure -- somethign we cover in the theory and methods course, something that can be put to work in various projects

<Amigosito> For example, applying Roland Barthes critique of metalanguage to the use of metadata in the semantic web?

<Henry Jenkins> using Bourdieu's theory of cultural distinction to talk about intelligent agents and social networks, Eisenstein to talk about virtual reality...

<WU> I'm thinking of a mapping interface made by one of our past students, and its framing through Deleuze's notion of the rhyzome

<Amigosito> lovely

<CJ> ... <head explodes>

<Henry Jenkins> there are definitely people here who are invested in some of those literary theories.

<Amigosito> I always got myself in trouble at UCSC by applying lit theory to manga

<WU> and the Barthes notion is interesting -- would fit nicely with the latest instantiation of MetaMedia (which now embraces semantic web and tagging)

<geoffreylong> We also used Eisenstein in the Character Design course this semester

<Henry Jenkins> the great thing about cms is that we are totally undisciplined -- as in we don't operate within traditional disciplines

<CJ> That's a lot of what I want to do, so I hope that's not taboo in CMS!

<Henry Jenkins> we steal from the theory rich to give to the theory poor

<geoffreylong> Amigosito, you're coming to the right place. It's that sort of collision of **high theory and pop culture** that we do all the time

<Henry Jenkins> and we take what we want from any and all fields

<Henry Jenkins> there's strong interest here in anime culture. Ian Condry runs our cool Japan series

<Henry Jenkins> we've featured key anime scholars and producers in recent years.

<geoffreylong> You know you're in CMS when you start debating the concept of neumena and phenomena as applied to BATMAN

<Henry Jenkins> I just linked to the podcast of some of those events on my blog this morning if you want to learn more about Cool Japan

<WU> (separating of which -- Geoff, I brought the bats book in today)

<Amigosito> Henry what kind of coffee do you drink? your blog entries are epic in length!

<Henry Jenkins> Ian Condry just finished a book on hip hop in Japan and is now working on anime fansubbing and the process of opening the western market to Asian content

<Henry Jenkins> well, you can see here that I type faster than most humans.

<CJ> !

<Henry Jenkins> there's a reason why the Flash is a role model for me!

<Henry Jenkins> but I am a marathon runner, not a sprinter, which is why my posts are unfashionably long by blogosphere standards.

<Amigosito> I'm getting a visual of the data entry robots in Ghost in the Shell...five bionic typing digits popping out of each finger

<Henry Jenkins> keep in mind that I don't know touch typing. this is still all hunt and peck.

<Amigosito> yikes

<Amigosito> you sound like a candidate for speech recognition

<Henry Jenkins> so between fast typing skills, a large social network, and experience as a journalist, the blogging part comes pretty naturally

<CJ> Arrrrgh! Thanks a bunch. I can touch type provided ONLY that I don't think about the fact that I'm touch typing.

<geoffreylong> Wm -- nice! Can you leave it in my mailbox? I may or may not be on campus today -- I'm in full-on writing mode

<CJ> Which now, of course, I am.

<WU> I'll copy the appropriate piece for you

<Henry Jenkins> that's probably close to where I am at.

<geoffreylong> thx!

<Henry Jenkins> I started typing in second grade because my handwriting never

was going to work

<WU> any more burning questions???

<Henry Jenkins> and by the time they offered typing, it kept slowing me down

<Henry Jenkins> yes, let's get back to more pressing issues.

<CJ> I just spent so much time in middle school in AOL chat rooms that I sort of accidentally taught myself somewhere along the way.

<Amigosito> ok...thanks for holding this info session

<Henry Jenkins> i think that for your whole generation -- the idea of typing class may be archiac. it is normal now to learn to key board in second grade. when i learned, it was on a manual typewriter.

<CJ> I don't really have much else as far as questions go. I mostly just wanted to get a feel for some of the people in the program, which is one of the big things you do get if you're far away.

<Henry Jenkins> our pleasure, Amigosto.

<CJ> Don't get.

<Henry Jenkins> well, you probably got a taste for us -- bad jokes and bragging included. :-)

<Amigosito> definitely

<WU> I'm relearning with my thumbs...but damn, those keys are small

<CJ> If I think of any other pressing questions, I'll have my undercover agent at MIT ask you.

<Henry Jenkins> so you aren't ready to text message inside your pockets like in The Departed

<geoffreylong> tell CC we're onto him

<WU> - glat ot meet you Amigosit ... take care CJ

<Amigosito> ciao!

<CJ> Hee hee hee, I will.

<CJ> I'm actually about to go meet him at the airport.

<WU> later Chris!

<Henry Jenkins> give him our fond regards and tell him to get me the papers he owes me

<CJ> I'll make sure he works on them. It's Christmastime at Disney-- he's going to spend an unfortunate amount of time alone.

<Henry Jenkins> i can but imagine.