

Intro remarks by Ron Heckelman, Ph.D., Prof. of English & CAC Chair  
Communication Across the Curriculum (CAC) Panel on A. I.  
Wed, Feb 14, 3 to 4:30, G102

## **“Synthetic Knowledge: Reframing Plagiarism and Information Literacy in the Age of A.I.”**

What we now term the Age of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) constitutes a Paradigm Shift in culture on multiple levels including the epistemic and ethical. Paradigm Shift: A change in a set of unconscious and conscious assumptions about what we interpret is both possible and “real.” In our CAC panel today, we situate A.I. and this shift in context of other past paradigm shifts and liminal historical moments, such as the movement from oral to writing culture and the development of (ancient) writing systems themselves, the Renaissance rise of the individual, the 15<sup>th</sup> century invention of the printing press and the rise in literacy it instigated, the development of the modern scientific method in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the consequent transformation of economic and political systems and esp. the theorizing of private property in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and the rise of capitalism, and last but certainly not least, the history of selfhood extending into the post-modern 21<sup>st</sup> century which includes the very concept of the author. Amidst all this, the issue before us today is *how do we go forward* in the face of what many, including Elon Musk, have warned amounts to a bona fide epistemological threat to what we think we know and how we know it. In this Age of A.I., how do we navigate, especially as students of the past, amongst

competing and inextricably connected synthetic discourses? What must we do to help both students and ourselves understand specifically what, how and why to recognize and responsibly cite the information we borrow in a clear, unambiguous and ethical way.

Panel:

- Basil Angelo, IP Attorney, The Woodlands
- Ellen Dubell, Prof. and Science Librarian, LSC-M Lib.
- Britt Michelsen, Prof. of Philosophy, LSC-M
- Sarah Wilhelm-Palacios, Dean and Dir. of LSC-M Library