



TO: All Faculty
FROM: Ken Tabbutt
DATE: December 8, 2008
RE: **2009-10 PLATO Lecture Series -- Call for Proposals**

Royalties received from the PLATO computer-aided instruction materials developed at Evergreen during the early eighties have been used during the past years to endow an annual lecture series on computer-related topics. Some themes of past series have been computer reliability and SDI, computers in the arts, software engineering, artificial intelligence, and the Internet.

Each year the academic deans are to notify faculty of the amount available for the public lecture series in the coming academic year and request proposals. If more than one proposal is received, the deans will publicize and hold an open meeting at which the proposals will be presented and discussed by any interested faculty and students. The deans will then select a proposal for the coming academic year (and a faculty coordinator for that year's lecture series).

Approximately \$5,000 will be available to support the lecture series for the 2009-10 academic year. (The lecture series is funded by an endowment, whose purchasing power in the face of inflation is to be held constant, so the sum available each year may vary.) The deans hereby invite proposals for the 2009-10 PLATO Lecture Series from interested faculty, to be submitted to Ken Tabbutt, Library 2002, by 5pm, Friday, January 30, 2009.

Proposals must address these criteria, established when the series was endowed:

- 1) The purpose of the lecture series is to enhance the understanding of computing within the liberal arts tradition, both at Evergreen and in the larger Olympia community. Topics need not be restricted to computer science narrowly defined, although one primary audience for the series should be students with an interest in computing and/or computer science. In addition to technical topics, lecture series may focus on the impact of computers and information technology on society or on applications of computers in the arts or humanities, for example. Ideally, each series should:
 - a) expose students and the general community to state-of-the-art research in computer science and/or developments in computer applications;
 - b) provide opportunities for public, interdisciplinary consideration of important social issues raised by computers and other information technologies;
 - c) provide sustained faculty development opportunities for the faculty most directly involved in the series;
 - d) coordinate with several academic programs and with external groups, so as to reach a large audience.
- 2) In addition, a successful proposal (or subsequent discussion) should leave the deans confident of the willingness and ability of the proposer(s) to take on the responsibilities of administering the series and obtaining suitable speakers.
- 3) The funding for the series is not to be used merely to provide substitutes for faculty or to replace state support for computer studies. The annual public lecture series is to be seen instead as an enhancement to the curriculum.

Faculty who have questions or need more information about the PLATO Lecture Series and/or about developing a proposal should contact Ken Tabbutt or Rip Heminway.