Q & A Critical Thinking Conversations:
Pairing Professors and Professionals
Evolving the Traveling Tech Artist

Q. Jobs with "low-level skills" are very important to many people. How will a balance be found between using AI for these jobs and AI taking over to the point of people losing jobs (which would cause issues for many low-income people and families)?
A. Technological progress has reshaped industries many times in the past, and it can be challenging! While AI seems like a risk to many workers, the transition may be slower and less impactful to low-income groups whose jobs are less centered around the computer. Certainly, jobs and careers are already being impacted and reshaped by this technology. Learning to use AI tools, even at a functional level, is a great way to build new skills and gain access to work that might otherwise be out of reach.

Q. You have mentioned AI tools as "bringing in knowledge," but due to the nature of LLMs, nothing can be generated without input from existing experts. Many of the larger AI tools have come under fire for scraping their "knowledge" from public-facing sources without the consent of the original sources. From what I understand, *this* is the primary fear of creative folks: that their work, the total of all their hours of training, could be stolen, fed to an algorithm, and then regurgitated haplessly for a company that does not even know they exist. How would you propose this pipeline be mitigated?
A. This is a concern and this is rapidly changing - it is anticipated that AI will self-train and exceed human capabilities in the next year or two. How to mitigate scraping? Local AI, Laws, and new technology. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mhk-otOlo1c&t=344s.

Q. Aiden Padulla, you mentioned using ChatGPT a lot. What are your thoughts on the ethical concerns with AI and ChatGPT specifically? (Bias, privacy, security, impact on education and the environment, etc.).
A. Making AI fair and ethical will be challenging as this technology is adopted at scale. In many cases, these concerns are warranted, and as Shaun says above, society will need to push for legal, technical, or other solutions to maintain equity.

Q. With AI being used more and more, it can create and reinforce more barriers for disabled people. How can we ensure AI is accessible (especially when a lot of tech, even some of RIT's websites, are still inaccessible)?
A. Technology access is a concern as is the downstream risk. Society and organizations need to reduce risk. If you feel the risk is OK, you can use your AI account (not connected to RIT's email). RIT is working to build connections with other AI providers, but currently only hosts MS CoPilot: https://www.rit.edu/its/generative-ai.

Q. Is critical thinking assessment objective, or does it rely on the evaluator's critical thinking skills?
A. both-- it depends on what the need for the thinking is-- there are general frames https://www.rit.edu/criticalthinking/overview of applying critical thinking across all topics and problems, the WAY in which it is applied and demonstrated varies. How you demonstrate critical thinking in art and creativity is different than math for example. Evaluation of critical

thinking absolutely depends upon the evaluator critiquing their own bias, etc. As human beings, that is always a challenge.

Q. How worrisome is it that large corporations (despite recognizing the importance of human creation) could choose to use AI solely to cut costs on a larger scale?
A. We're already seeing companies incorporating AI to replace workers, but I expect we will also see some backlash. Many parts of human creativity are unique to us. As AI tech advances, we will learn more about its fundamental limitations and where human creativity will continue to shine through (AI is notoriously bad at creating new AI training data for example).

Q. Not everyone can afford to start their own company right out of college.
A. I understand your point. Launching and running a business has not been a part of US Culture. However, learning to think like an entrepreneur is probably an important "current/future skill." Also, starting a company may be more possible than you may think. A sole proprietorship does not require a lot of capital to launch.
Q. Sounds like this was mentioned...Are you adding (uploading) your own information, data, or understanding of the design that you train your own AI model... (probably the paid version)?
A. I'm (Shaun) currently mainly using LLMs - but also training on Machine Learning models connected to technology developed for the Unreal Engine (by EPIC Games).