

# Inquiry Institute

An Invitation to Preserve and Extend  
the Great Conversations of History

What if the greatest thinkers of history could still teach us today?

# The Problem We're Solving

## Knowledge is Dying

- • Great works sit unread in libraries
- • Historical context is lost
- • Personal connection to thinkers fades
- • Wisdom becomes inaccessible

## Education is Failing

- • MOOCs: 5-15% completion rates
- • One-size-fits-all curriculum
- • No personal connection to teachers
- • Learners want dialogue, not video

*"The unexamined life is not worth living." – Socrates*

But how do we examine life when we can't truly converse with those who shaped our understanding?

# The Vision

What if you could have a **real conversation** with Aristotle, Turing, or Marie Curie —  
and they actually **knew their life's work**?



## 1,000+ AI Faculty

Trained on complete corpora—  
every book, letter, speech. They  
remember everything they wrote.



## Real Conversations

Not chatbots. Not search engines.  
Genuine dialogue with historical  
figures who know their work.



## K-PhD Education

From kindergarten through  
doctoral studies. Engineering,  
science, music, liberal arts.

# What Your Support Enables

## Immediate Impact

- ✓ **Faculty Development** – Train new AI personas on complete corpora
- ✓ **Platform Infrastructure** – GPU compute for real-time conversations
- ✓ **Course Creation** – Structured learning experiences
- ✓ **The Inquirer** – Quarterly journal authored by Faculty
- ✓ **Learning Experiences** – Symposia, Salons, Debatea, Drama

## Long-Term Legacy

- ✓ **Knowledge Preservation** – Complete works of great thinkers, accessible forever
- ✓ **Educational Innovation** – New model for inquiry-based learning
- ✓ **Intellectual Community** – Global community of serious inquirers
- ✓ **Transparent Governance** – DAO structure with OpenCollective transparency
- ✓ **Named Positions** – Endowed chairs that carry your name or dedication

# What We've Built

**1,000+**

AI Faculty  
Across 10 Colleges

**1:1**

SAMWISE Tutor  
Per student

**3D**

Voxel Busts  
Speaking portraits

**8+**

Experiences  
Symposia, Salons, etc.

## Learning Experiences & Publishing

Encyclopædia

Knowledge base

Symposia

7-session dialogues

Salons

Intimate  
conversations

Debatea

Structured  
disputation

Drama

Embodied role-play

The Inquirer

Quarterly journal

iNQ Publishing

Academic imprint

## Atelier: Engineering & Innovation

Expert Mentors

Invention Experts

a.franklin

# Why This Matters Now

## The Technology is Ready

LLM costs dropped **10x since 2023**. Real-time conversational AI is now economically viable. GPU advances enable multi-modal experiences (text + voice + avatar) that feel genuinely human.

## The Opportunity is Unique

No one else is building **1,000+ AI Faculty** trained on complete corpora. No one else combines real-time conversations with structured learning across engineering, science, music, and liberal arts.

```
<div class="bg-slate-800/50 rounded-xl p-5">
  <h3 class="text-blue-400 font-semibold mb-3">The Case for AI
  <p class="text-slate-300 text-sm">
    Traditional education is failing. Learners want support,
    Knowledge is being lost as great works become inaccessible.
  </p>
</div>
```

```
<div class="bg-slate-800/50 rounded-xl p-5">
  <h3 class="text-blue-400 font-semibold mb-3">The Case for AI
  <p class="text-slate-300 text-sm">
    We're building a new model of education, one that
    creates accessible, personalized learning experiences.
  </p>
</div>
```

# Transparency & Governance

## Complete Transparency

- ✓ **OpenCollective** – All funds publicly visible
- ✓ **Real-time Budget** – See exactly where money goes
- ✓ **Expense Reports** – Every transaction documented
- ✓ **Public Governance** – DAO structure with Council of Inquiry
- ✓ **No Hidden Costs** – What you see is what you get

## Your Voice Matters

- ✓ **Named Positions** – Endowed chairs carry your name
- ✓ **Guiding Directives** – Shape Faculty agent behavior
- ✓ **Community Input** – Participate in governance
- ✓ **Direct Engagement** – Connect with Faculty you support
- ✓ **Recognition** – Featured in The Inquirer and annual reports

We're not asking you to trust us blindly. We're inviting you to **see everything** and **shape the future** alongside us.

# Ways to Support



## Endowed Chair

**\$10,000**

One-time

Named position with guiding  
directives that shape Faculty  
behavior



## Full Professor

**\$2,000**

Per year

Support senior faculty  
leading research and  
teaching



## Associate

**\$1,000**

Per year

Support mid-career faculty  
advancing research



## Research Fellow

**\$100**

Per month

Support focused research  
projects

Every contribution, at every level, makes a difference. **Your support directly enables** Faculty development, course creation, and platform growth.



# The Team



## Daniel McShan, PhD

Founder / Custodian

- **PhD Computational Biosciences** (CU Med)
- **25+ years NASA**: Orion, Mars Phoenix, Stardust
- CTO Formul8.ai (AI/ML), VP Eng AVS (aerospace)
- 5 publications, 1 patent

## Why This Matters to Me

After decades in aerospace and AI, I've seen how knowledge gets lost, how great ideas fade, and how education fails to connect learners with the thinkers who shaped our world. This is my life's work—preserving and extending the great conversations of history.

```
<div class="bg-slate-800/50 rounded-xl p-5">  
  <h3 class="text-sm font-semibold mb-2 text-slate-400">  
    Platform MVP complete. 1,000+ Faculty in 60 countries.  
    We're not waiting for permission—we're building.  
  </h3>  
</div>
```

# What Happens Next

## ● Phase 1: Now

- • Platform MVP live
- • 1,000+ Faculty in development
- • First courses launched
- • Private beta with early patrons

## ● Phase 2: 6 Months

- • Public beta launch
- • Full Faculty roster active
- • Audio2Face integration
- • Community governance active

## ● Phase 3: 12 Months

- • 5,000+ active learners
- • Full course catalog
- • PersonaPlex integration
- • Self-sustaining operations

Your support today accelerates this timeline. Every contribution brings us closer to making the world's greatest thinkers accessible to everyone.

**Transparent progress updates** via OpenCollective. **Direct engagement** with the team. **Recognition** for your contribution.

# An Invitation, Not a Request

We're not asking you to **fund a startup**.

We're inviting you to **preserve knowledge**.

To **extend the great conversations** of history.

To become part of something that will **outlast us all**.

*"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."*

We've built transparency into our DNA. We've shown you what we've built. Now we're inviting you to join us in building the future.

# Join Us

Preserve knowledge. Extend conversations. Build legacy.



**Become a Patron**

[inquiry.institute/patronage](https://inquiry.institute/patronage)



**Explore the Platform**

[inquiry.institute](https://inquiry.institute)



**Get in Touch**

[custodian@inquiry.institute](mailto:custodian@inquiry.institute)

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Inquiry Institute is building a new kind of intellectual institution—one that preserves and extends the great conversations of history through AI-powered dialogue and learning.