



# October 1999

By Angela Snyder and Allen Swords

- What's behind door number 409?
- Dr. Longo blinds you with science.

## NEWSLETTER

### Facility Upgrades

Now that you know a little more about the MATRF, here are some new upgrades for 1999-2000.

- Two new 450 Mhz machines with internal CD recorders
- Sony digital camera
- Hewlett-Packard 6250 flat bed scanner with an automatic document feeder
- Epson LCD projector
- Photoshop version 5.5
- RoboHelp Office 7.0
- Authorware version 5
- PageMaker 6.5
- Dreamweaver 2
- Fireworks 2
- Director 7
- Flash 4 (on Berlin, Aristotle, and Isocrates)
- OmniPage Pro 9.0 (on Isocrates)
- Zip disk drives added to all machines
- Tutorials for Dreamweaver, Authorware, Director 7, Photoshop 5.5, and PageMaker 6.5

### What is the MATRF?

The MATRF (Multimedia Authoring, Teaching, and Research Facility), in room 409 Daniel, plays a pivotal role in many departmental operations throughout the year. Through the dedicated leadership of Dr. Tharon Howard, the lab helps to publish and edit 4 journals per year including: *The Upstart Crow* (working under the close supervision of Dr. James Andreas), *The South Carolina Review* (Dr. Wayne Chapman.), The AAH college journal--*MIRARE* (under the direction of Richard Woodward), and the *English Departmental Newsletter* (also under the supervision Dr. Wayne Chapman). In addition to these fine publications, the staff of the MATRF helps edit and produce the monthly *MAPC* newsletter, as well as Dr. Jacobi's *NOTES* on English teaching in Georgia and South Carolina.

The lab is the embodiment of the types of collaborative processes that go into departmental publishing. This year's staff includes Julie Campbell, Shannon Gilstrap, Angela Snyder, Allen Swords, Melissa Tidwell, and Bill Wentworth. Each staff member is required to work on one (if not several) of the publications during the school year. The staff works closely with our editors to ensure that a superior publication can be produced within the academic year. These publications are a valuable recruiting tool for the department and the university. Some of their many benefits include helping to focus the important work of the faculty while highlighting individual professors, providing an academic forum for many of the world's top Shakespearean scholars, and updating many of the important events in AAH. By working in the lab, the staff gains experience in desktop publishing, software interaction, document layout, document design, and various computer related skills such as copying CDs and converting existing documents into publishable web material. In fact, if you happen to have missed last month's exciting issue of *The MAPC Newsletter*, then look no further than the web to read it right now. These skills play an important part in making the MATRF and important function within the English department.

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In addition to their editorial and publishing requirements, the staff maintains the lab for student use during open hours between scheduled classes. During this time, they work on their projects, try to aid students using the lab for class assignments, and continue their efforts to master some of the most highly sought after software in the computer industry. The lab is equipped with the latest versions of PageMaker, PhotoShop, DreamWeaver, and Premiere just to name a few. These programs are essential in maintaining top-of-the-line desktop publishing capabilities. They allow the lab to put out the superior product that our department has come to expect from the MATRF. We also provide laptop computers for faculty use, maintain a digital video editing station, and possess several scanners, which allow a variety of sources to be placed into any number of software applications. Registered students are able to check out self-help manuals, CD caddies, clip art, and much more.

Classes are also an important part of the MATRF. The lab comes with a projection screen to allow professors to demonstrate useful skills and programs for graduate and undergraduate courses. Faculty wishing to reserve the facility for their classes should contact Dr. Howard.

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## **New Course Offering for Spring 2000!**

Are you looking for something new in the MAPC program? Perhaps you need an alternative to all of the “required” classes that await you. Look no further than the upcoming English 494/694 class with Dr. Bernadette Longo. The course will be titled *Writing About Science*. Dr Longo gave us her thoughts on this intriguing new class.

Q: What is the course?

A: “The class will be similar to a writing workshop. We’ll be writing about scientific topics with a focus on communicating complex scientific ideas in a clear and understandable language.”

Q: How can other courses help in preparation for this one?

A: “Some of the MAPC students may have taken the *Rhetoric of Science* course. That course gives them a basic understanding of how science writing works. My course can build on that knowledge. Having said that, I think students can come in fresh and learn a lot as well. This course is open to all MAPC majors as well as science undergraduate students, MA Literature students, English undergraduates. I encourage any of these folks to take my class, because it will be a wonderfully collaborative experience with real interdisciplinary value.”

Q: What advantages are there in taking a course like this?

A: “I want to build a sense of community in this course. We’ll be writing and critiquing each other’s work. With the advanced work in scientific writing, students will gain practical experience in writing and editing manuscripts for publication and professional uses. I think this class could be really influential for those students who would like to specialize in writing once they complete their degrees.”

Q: What are your hopes for this class?

A: “I helped design this course for graduate and undergraduate students in the sciences, engineering, English, computer sciences, or other related disciplines who want more experience in the specialized forms of science writing. I want to help steer the writers in my class towards communicating tough scientific ideas in the kinds of language that people can more easily understand.”

If you are interested in the writing aspect of your MAPC degree, this may be a class that you want to sign up for. This class looks to be of tremendous interest. Couple this with Dr. Longo’s enthusiasm, and you are sure to have a fascinating experience in writing about science. Give English 494/694 a shot next spring.

