

## MAPC Musings

-Sean Williams

So how much does it cost to run the MATRF? More than you might think!

Many students wonder why there is a \$35 user fee for the MATRF and many people wonder why we don't always have all the best stuff. I'd like to talk a bit about how much it costs to operate the MATRF hopefully to clarify some of your questions.

First, the MATRF receives no money from the university. Let me say that again: we receive absolutely no money from the university to maintain the facility. Everything that we have is paid for by student user fees, grants, and gifts.

But surely all those user fees generate a lot of money, right? Actually not. On average, the user fees generate about \$4,000 per academic year. Sounds like a good bit of money, but consider this:

a license for *Photoshop* costs \$2300. A license for *Dreamweaver* costs \$1800. A license for *Quark* costs \$2000. POOF! That \$4,000 is more than spent already. And that's just three software packages of the 20 that are available in the MATRF.

Also consider this: since the MATRF computers are not "standard" DCIT machines (ours have bigger hard drives, they have ZIP drives, and more RAM, among other things), you can figure about \$2,000 per machine not including a monitor. If we were to purchase 16 new machines at once, that's \$32,000. You can see how quickly costs add up when you're talking about a room with almost 20 computers with some of the most expensive (and best) software available.

In a nutshell, in any given year, the user fees really only cover a couple software packages and not much else. So please, next time you're

frustrated because you paid that user fee and that one machine doesn't quite work right, or because we don't have this or that device, remember that user fees don't go very far, and we stretch user fees and every other dollar as best we can to meet your needs.

## Need Help?

The friendly staff of the MATRF lab is here to assist you.

Christy Byrd	cbyrd
Kristin Dane	kdane
Jessica Hankinson	jhankin
Melissa Merkel	mmerkel
Winston Williams	winstow

## MATRF hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30AM-4:30PM	8:30AM-12:30PM	8:30AM-1:30PM	9:30AM-12:30PM	9:00AM-5:30PM	12:00PM-4:00PM	2:00PM-8:30PM
6:30PM-10:00PM	1:30PM-7:00PM	3:30PM-7:00PM	1:30PM-3:30PM			

## Summer School 2003

A recent addition to the MAPC faculty, Dr. Teddi Fishman has already set in motion plans for a seminar that she would be offering for Summer Session I, 2003.

The course number and title is **English 831- Principles of Effective Website Design**. It will focus on the ways in which employing rhetorical principles is key in making webpages persuasive. A hands-on course conducted in the MATRF, ENGL 831 will begin in two ways: 1) by identifying core principles of persuasion and 2) by assessing existing web sites using those principles. From that point, students will begin the construction of their own web pages, utilizing the identified principles to maximize the effectiveness of the project.

What each student should take away from the course is a sound understanding of web design from a rhetorical perspective and an impressive and useful addition to his

The main purpose is to afford MAPC students the opportunity to catch a glimpse of principles applied to the real world

or her portfolio. No previous web design or rhetoric experience is necessary.

## Learning Curve

As of this newsletter's typing, there have been several workshops conducted by the friendly neighborhood staff in the MATRF. These sessions have been in *Quark*, *Dreamweaver*, *Photoshop* and *Fireworks*. So far they have been a success with the limited space being occupied for all sessions. Upcoming tutorials include *Flash* and *SoundForge*. Interested participants for future tutorials may register by contacting the staff or Sean Williams directly.

## October 2002

edited by Winston S. Williams

### Deadlines

**Nov 17-** Dec grads must have GS2s in to Dr. Howard and have completed thesis and project defences and oral exams

**Dec 06-** Last approval day for Dec. 2002 grads for thesis or dissertation

**Dec 13-** Last submission day for thesis or dissertation to Grad Office

**Dec 19-** GS2 due for those who plan to graduate in May 2003

### Smooth Surfing

The MAPC website has received some fine tuning and new additions. Here are some of the upgrades that have been made.

**Deadline Dates:** Both the Graduate School timeline and deadline dates for graduation are available.

**Timelines:** PDFs that outline timelines for three and four semesters with thesis or project options are available.

**Careers Page:** The MAPC Careers brochure is available as a PDF for print-out.

**Contacts:** The faculty listing has been updated with contact information for new faculty members.

**Updated Handbook:** The 2002-2003 MAPC Handbook is now on the webpage to aid students in their matriculation.

**Current Student Forms:** Forms for graduation, projects and thesis options, and many more are now available on the website.