The MAD team has successfully made it through these challenging times during the two-year pandemic to ensure that our students, staff, and faculty receive the best user experience. As we return to what we hope is our new normal, we look back on some of the activities of the past year.

**Personnel changes:**
Jennifer Keir, our IST Account Rep, retired at the end of June 2021 and in October we welcomed our new IST Account rep, Keith Peck to the team. In March 2022, Scott Anderson took on a new role as Supervisor, Learning Environment, with Instructional Technologies and Media Services (ITMS). Dan Beaver’s role has changed in that he is no longer the Faculty Health & Safety representative – Neil Carnegie has taken on this role.

**Projects:**

- Migration from WCMS 2 to WCMS 3 is going at an excellent pace with about half of ENV sites left to migrate. The pace will slow down as we work on bigger and more complicated sites. MAD has hired a co-op for the spring term to work on the migration. Michael will be in touch with the point of contact people when the WCMS 3 is ready for your site.
- MAD successfully moved the support of thesis defences over to a self-serve model.
- Implemented Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) to allow remote access to software that is on our lab computers.
- We have moved our MAD Service and Support pages webpages of information into the Confluence Knowledge Base. [https://uwaterloo.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/MAD/pages/42606821394/](https://uwaterloo.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/MAD/pages/42606821394/)
- Provided guidance to Plant Ops and Space Planning to improve campus data so that it could be hosted in ArcGIS Online and used as the base map for the campus map. We are also working with IST’s Departmental and Campus Applications team to support their efforts in implementing a plan regarding on-going maintenance of the map.
- Will be assisting staff and faculty in migrating all working files from their N: drive to Microsoft OneDrive. This is expected to happen during the spring term.

**Infrastructure Upgrades, Lab and Workshop changes:**

- There were no infrastructure or lab upgrades during the 2020/21 fiscal year however, we have purchased 34 new Dell desktops for the Geddes Teaching Lab. A few of the new and current machines will flow over to the Galileo Lab and the General Use Labs to replace many of the aging machines in these spaces.
• MAD endured the **seven** challenging infrastructure YAPOs (Yet Another Power Outage). And we hear there are still more to come this summer!

• Dan worked hard to get the MAD workshop operational after almost 2 years of closure. During this time, he supported Integ 320/321 (KI museum course) and managed a coop student. With the assistance of co-op student Dmitrii, many upgrades have been made to the space including the following new upgrades: wiring upgrade to the table saw, project storage racks, drill press, laser cutter computer/venting/control software, project material storage, garbage bins, and much more!

• Before Dan’s role changed in the early part of 2022, he continued working with the Dept. Chairs and Office of Research to review and approve lab/fieldwork/human participant research requests, domestic/international travel requests, course fieldtrip requests, and event requests. Dan also continued to be instrumental adapting to changes in COVID-19 safety measures and protocols in ENV buildings.

**Course Support:**

- The Geospatial team provided course support for Geog 181, 187, 310, 271, 371, 471, Plan 105, Geog/Plan 281, 381, 387, 481, 487 and Avia 474.
- The Ecology Lab provided course support for Geog 294, Geog 403, Geog 205, ERS 100, ERS 234, Geog 391) plus online support offered throughout the year (ENVS 200, ENVS 300, ENVS 469, Geog 407).
- The Workshop provided in-person support for the double cohort of the Integ 320/321 museum course and exhibit production.
- Geog 310 survey course was taught twice last year, and Mike Lackner provided the in-person survey field work support. Spring 2021 was a smaller course to get some students their graduation requirement and fall 2021 one was a larger class. We are in the process of getting an agreement with Civil ENG to collaborate on equipment sharing etc.

**Ecology Lab updates:**

- Offered Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) certification course for grad students and ERS 340, live virtual, only offering in Ontario.
- Created over 300 YouTube tutorial videos to provide equipment and technique instruction, to analysis (soil & water) to plant, fungi, and invertebrate identification. As well, hidden videos for instructors to provide assessments.
- Created virtual field trips using ArcGIS story maps, locations include spongy property, forested hills protected woodlot in Waterloo, campus tour introducing ecological concepts across campus, ENV naturalized gardens tour, tour of Laurel creek watershed.
- Provided delivery of equipment to students to conduct field work, e.g. Geog 391 Field Research.

**Community engagement/outreach:**

  - Created environment-themed social media posts to keep students engaged, e.g. fall fungi bioblitz and winter bioblitz in iNaturalist.
  - Live virtual weekly chats that anyone from ENV community could join
  - Created kits for holiday crafts (curbside pickup) with how-to videos
Seed paper making workshop for the green residence ambassadors.
Contributed to ENVigorate festival and ran Native plant container workshop
U@uwaterloo activity with focus on aquatic invertebrates.

**Landscape:**
- European Buckthorn (invasive shrub) removal participation with Society for Ecological Restoration student group in the UW urban forest.
- Helped with student-led creek restoration/cleanup efforts.
- Helped to coordinate tree planting with Society for Ecological Restoration student group of over 120 trees in UW urban forest.
- Continued with research activities – UWUF buckthorn census, monitoring of trees planted at North campus, laurel creek dataloggers

**Resume Research and Safety Inspections:**
- Throughout the past year Dan, along with Neil Carnegie has been working with the Office of Research to review and approve research restart requests within the faculty including on-campus lab research, field research and research with human participants (on-campus/off-campus).

**Committees:**
MAD staff continues their efforts to collaborate with IT and non-IT groups campus wide. Some updates on our committee work are:

**Green IT:** To support the University’s plan to be carbon neutral by 2050, UWaterloo (with the support of the Sustainability Office and IST) is restarting a Green IT committee to examine how we can improve the environmental impact of our IT processes on campus. James McCarthy (a chair of the previous iteration of this committee) will be Environment’s representative.

**FAST:** MAD continues to be an active participant in FAST (Faculty & Academic Support Software Team). In addition to general knowledge sharing and professional development, James McCarthy has worked with other FAST members to enable sharing of tools such as Math’s Jupyter Notebook server for use in courses and to deploy and support Outline for all course outlines in the Faculty of Environment.

FACCUS (Faculty Computing User Support Group); WNAG (Windows Network Advisory Group); CTSC (Computing Technology & Services Committee); Macintosh Users Group; Google Analytics Working Group; IA Working Group; Campus Map and Open Data Working Group; WAC (Web Advisory Committee), Faculty Health & Safety, Resume Research Team, Faculty Council, PDAG (Professional Development Advisory Group), IT Sustainability Group, Env & Energy Climate Project, Mass Email Management Committee, Environment Dean’s Search Committee.

MAD
April 26, 2022