NEWS FROM THE DSC—Summer 2016

The DSC Offers Brown Bag Presentations and Writing Retreat for Summer

Summer 2016 is here and hotter than ever! After a very mild spring, summer has arrived with a vengeance, and things at the DSC are heating up as well!

First of all, you may have noticed an addition to our official title, which is now the Doctoral Support Center for Writing & Research Excellence. We expanded the title to better describe the role we play in the College of Education. However, we will still be using the familiar acronym, DSC, for short.

We are also officially launching our monthly Brown Bag Speaker Sessions, online presentations being offered by the DSC staff and guest speakers during the lunch hour. We will be covering an assortment of topics that may be of interest to you!

See inside for more details on those offerings!

In addition to the Brown Bag Sessions, we are offering an off-site writer’s retreat in early August: “Focus with Intensity” in beautiful Junction, TX, with DSC staff members as you work on your dissertation or scholarly article.

We are also excited to be meeting with and providing support for some of the cohorts on campus during their summer intensive coursework. We look forward to these interactions!

In an effort to constantly improve the quality of the services that we present to our students, members of the DSC staff will be attending the CWPA 2016 Conference in Raleigh, NC, July 14-17.

At the end of this newsletter, you can find instructions for contacting the DSC and for submitting your drafts to receive helpful feedback.

Remember that we are here to serve YOU!

Fountain in courtyard outside the College of Education building on the Texas Tech campus.

Important Dates and Deadlines

June 17: Brown Bag Speaker
Sonya Sherrod presents “Writing a Rock Solid Literature Review.” Contact the DSC for details.

June 27:
Last day to defend dissertations

July 1: Dissertation Template
Lesley Shelton offers the Dissertation Template Presentation again.

July 4: HOLIDAY
Campus closed.

July 8: Brown Bag Speaker
Amber Lancaster presents “Writing with Sources: Strategies for Synthesizing and Integrating Sources.”

July 11:
Last day for graduate degree candidates to submit to the Graduate School the final PDF of thesis/dissertation

Click here for more Summer 2016 Graduate School Deadlines.

August 4-7: Writer’s Retreat
Focus with Intensity! A Writer’s Retreat for dissertation or scholarly article writing in Junction, TX.

August 5: Brown Bag Speaker
Irene Clark is the DSC guest speaker and author of Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation. Contact the DSC for details.

August 13:
University Graduate Commencement
Introducing the Virtual Brown Bag Speaker Series

The DSC kicked off the Virtual Brown Bag Speaker Series at the All-Online May Writing Rally with three lunch talks delivered over Blackboard Collaborate. The goal of these brief talks and presentations is to deliver useful tips and information to a broad audience. Our topics will be focused on tasks and goals of doctoral student writing and research, although many topics may appeal to a wider audience.

The next Virtual Brown Bag event is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, June 17 at noon. Sonya Sherrod’s presentation is titled, “Writing a Rock Solid Literature Review.” This talk was inspired by a presentation at the recent SERA conference in New Orleans given by Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie and Rebecca Frels. Please email the DSC as soon as possible if you would like to participate in that event!

On July 8, Amber Lancaster will explore different strategies for using sources in academic writing in a talk titled, “Writing with Sources: Strategies for Synthesizing and Integrating Sources.” If you need help with successfully integrating source material into your writing, you will not want to miss it!

Presentations in this series are hosted by the DSC, but we will occasionally bring in guest speakers to share their expertise with our audience. On August 5, Irene Clark, author of *Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation* (Prentice Hall, 2007), will join us to share her strategies for writing a successful dissertation.

The three topics presented last May ranged from strategies for maintaining accuracy in your reference list and in-text citations to using Google Scholar to link to libraries and aid in online research to presenting data visually. If you have suggestions or requests for potential new topics, we would love to hear them!

The Virtual Brown Bag sessions are scheduled to take place monthly on Blackboard Collaborate. Attendees can log on remotely or call in by phone to participate in our numerous sessions. Lunch sessions will begin at 12:00 pm Central Time and end by 1:00 pm. Most sessions will offer a 30-minute presentation followed by a workshop, activity, or discussion.

An email with the Collaborate link and instructions for accessing the session will be sent to registered participants 24 hours prior to the session. You may log on and participate in the sessions remotely on your lunch hour!

Please check the DSC Events webpage for the latest information about the upcoming events. If you are interested in attending, please follow the instructions for registering or contact the DSC at dsc.educ@ttu.edu.

Space is limited, so don’t wait!

Schovanec Named Sole Finalist for Texas Tech University President

By: Dailey Fuller

Officials at the Texas Tech University System have named Lawrence Schovanec, Ph.D., sole finalist for the presidency of Texas Tech University.

Schovanec is currently the provost and senior vice president at Texas Tech University and has served the university for more than three decades in multiple roles.

"It is truly an honor to be selected as the sole finalist for the president position at Texas Tech University," Schovanec said. "I came to Texas Tech more than 30 years ago and have witnessed this university grow tremendously over the years thanks to the achievements and continued dedication of our students, faculty, staff and supporters. We have much to be proud of and an even greater future ahead. I am truly humbled and thank Chancellor Duncan and the Board of Regents for this opportunity."

The Board of Regents and Chancellor Robert Duncan announced Schovanec for the position today.
The Doctoral Support Center is hosting the August 2016 Writer’s Retreat in Junction, Texas (at the TTU Center at Junction campus).

This four-day retreat is designed to help students pull away from their daily distractions at home or at work and carve out a place and time to focus on writing. The event will include a few semi-structured group events, but will provide ample individual writing time in a group-supported environment.

Past attendees at the DSC Writer’s Retreat praised the event for giving them the focused time to write, produce, and make significant progress!

Who: Any CoE doctoral student working on a dissertation or scholarly manuscript for publication or presentation at a conference is welcome to attend.

When: Thursday, August 4th at 6 PM to Sunday, August 7th at 11 AM.

Where: TTU Center at Junction Campus (attendees must provide their own transportation)

Cost: $247.00 per person (Cost includes double occupancy lodging at the Tech House (shared with one other retreat participant), linens, all daily meals, and access to facility recreation (canoeing & tubing on the South Llano River, access to an outdoor pool, hiking on nature trails, and bird watching).

Payment is due by June 30th. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 16 STUDENTS - so don’t wait to register!

Students are welcome to request a room with another student (if planning to attend together). However, please do not plan to bring family or friends who are not retreat participants.

To register for the August 2016 Writer’s Retreat, complete the registration form today!

TTU Library Offers Classes

The library staff is offering summer workshops that you may find useful. The first one is coming up this week! No need to register; you may just show up to the Library Instruction Lab Room 150.

See the Library Instruction, Workshops and Tutorials webpage for more information.

How to Do a Literature Review
Friday, June 17
2:00PM-4:00PM

Government and Legal Information: Official and Authoritative Sources for Research
Monday, June 20
2:00PM-4:00PM

Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics: Finding Relevant Statistics for Your Research
Tuesday, June 21
10:30AM—NOON

Need Help Formatting your Dissertation?

It was so popular the first time around that I’m offering it again!

Wouldn’t it be great if there was some way that you could wave a magic wand and—POOF—just like that your dissertation was formatted correctly? Well, it’s not quite magic, but the DSC has tools to help you deal with all the tasks of formatting your document.

From headings and tables of contents, to captions and lists of tables, to paragraphs and block quotations, to bulleted lists and page numbering, the DSC Dissertation Template is one tool you can use to properly format your document to meet the requirements of the Graduate School.

Whether you are just beginning to write your proposal or you are about to defend and submit your completed dissertation, the DSC can help you apply the proper formatting to your document by using an MSWord template expressly designed for dissertation documents.

Lesley Shelton, Senior Editor of the DSC, will present an overview of the DSC Dissertation Template on Friday, June 24, at noon-12:45 on Blackboard Collaborate. Please email Ms. Shelton to receive the login information before June 24 (lesley.shelton@ttu.edu).

“the DSC Dissertation Template is one tool you can use to properly format your document”
The Doctoral Support Center for Writing & Research Excellence (DSC) was created in the fall of 2014 as an innovative solution to address the burgeoning demands of academic writing support for doctoral students in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. This support is offered online and face-to-face to meet the needs of all CoE doctoral students. The DSC offers comprehensive support with academic writing tasks leading up to the dissertation that include assignments for coursework, human subjects protection proposals, dissertations proposals, and dissertations. The DSC also provides motivational support for students through activities such as writing workshops and rallies. Essentially, the DSC provides “wrap-around” support for students from start to finish. The primary goal of the DSC is to assist students in the successful completion of their doctoral programs.

How to Submit Drafts to Blackboard for Review and Feedback

Log in to Blackboard and select the course designated as the DSC from your dashboard.

Follow the instructions to submit your draft. Be sure to specify your concerns using the comments.

The DSC team will review and comment on the draft and send you feedback through the “Track Changes” and “Comments” review features in Microsoft Word, as well as the Comments box in Blackboard. You may also receive an attached document with general comments or notes.

You will revise the draft, incorporating feedback as you see fit. Ultimately, YOU make the final writing decisions, in consultation with your chair and committee.

Be sure to give us plenty of time to address your concerns. Papers are generally assigned to staff members on a first-in-first-out basis. Expect turnarounds of five or more days, depending on number and type of submissions.