NEWS FROM THE DSC—Spring 2017

New Semester, New Year

Whew! The fall was a whirlwind of activity, and spring seems to be bringing more of the same!

Dr. Sonya Sherrod of the DSC has been working since the fall with students who submitted proposals for the 40th Annual SERA Meeting. Later this month in San Antonio, Dr. Sherrod will attend the conference and continue to be available to provide guidance, feedback, and support to students making presentations. You may want to schedule a one-on-one consultation with Dr. Sherrod at the conference prior to or after your presentation. She is also available to attend your presentation to offer you support and immediate feedback. Please see page 2 for more information about this great opportunity.

In the fall, the DSC Brown Bag Speaker Series hosted guest speakers, Dr. Kamau Oginga Siwatu and Dr. Patriann Smith, who provided very helpful information to assist students in professional endeavors, such as preparing and delivering effective presentations and developing a research agenda. The DSC continues to offer Brown Bag presentations this spring on a variety of topics. We are also excited to be hosting a special event, a Grant Writing Roundtable. Expert grant writers will be available to answer your questions on writing effective grants that get funded! Please see page 3 for more details.

In December, the DSC participated in International Write-In Week by hosting our first Write-In and pot luck dinner for doctoral students. You can read more about this event on page 2.

Earlier this spring, we held the 3X3X2 Writing Rally. You can read more about this event as well as get a sneak peek at our writing event for the summer, an on-campus writer’s retreat in June, on page 3.

Last but not least, read all about the DSC’s visit to the International Writing Center Association’s annual conference in Denver last October. This article appears on page 2.

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!

Important Dates and Deadlines

February 10: Last day to file Application to Graduate

February 10: DSC Brown Bag Lesley Shelton presents, “Using Styles and the DSC Dissertation Template to Expedite Formatting”

February 15–17: SERA Conference in San Antonio

February 22: Last day to submit Defense Notification form

March 10: DSC Brown Bag Dr. Marcelo Schmidt presents, “Visualizing Data.”

March 13-17: SPRING BREAK

March 17: CAMPUS HOLIDAY

March 31: Last day to defend dissertations

April 7: DSC Brown Bag Roundtable Event “Grant Writing Roundtable: A Gathering of Experts”

April 7: Last day to submit final dissertations for formatting review

Click here for more Spring 2017 Graduate School Deadlines.

May 12: DSC Brown Bag Speaker and Topic TBA

May 19: University Graduate Commencement

Save the Date for Summer:

June 12-16: DSC Summer Writer’s Retreat

The Dairy Barn and the English / Philosophy building on the Texas Tech
Students to Receive Support & Feedback at SERA

By Sonya Sherrod, PhD

The 40th Annual Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) Meeting is fast approaching! This year’s conference will be held in sunny San Antonio, the Alamo City, February 15–17 at the historical Menger Hotel. All doctoral students are encouraged to attend as this conference is an ideal venue to learn from exceptional educational research scholars from the Southwest.

If you will be presenting your research at the conference, the coaches of the Doctoral Support Center would be delighted to offer you helpful feedback on your paper and presentation. Please submit your work in progress on the DSC Blackboard site for your program as a Professional Project.

Additionally, one of the DSC coaches, Sonya Sherrod, will be at the conference to assist you in a variety of ways:

- Share last minute tips
- Offer moral support
- Snap photos of your presentation
- Provide you with feedback

Contact Sonya Sherrod to learn more about the support she has to offer and schedule an on-site consultation. We hope to see you all there!

Students to Receive Support & Feedback at SERA

DSC Hosts Its First Write-In!

By Amber Lancaster, PhD, ELS

The DSC participated in the International Write-in Week, a collaborative effort of writing centers across the U.S. and other countries orchestrated by Swarthmore College.

The International Write-In week celebrates writing across the globe in a local, community setting. The DSC hosted our event on Wednesday, December 7th. The purpose of the event was to provide a designated time and place for graduate students (and others) to come together and write.

Students brought their laptops and joined the DSC and College of Education faculty for a 3-hour write-in. Attendees took writing breaks to enjoy food and fellowship at the DSC hosted potluck!

The DSC Goes to IWCA

By Amber Lancaster, PhD, ELS

Associate Dean of the Office of Graduate Education & Research Mellinee Lesley along with DSC coaches Amber Lancaster and Lesley Shelton attended the International Writing Centers Association conference in Denver, CO this past October. Our visit was insightful to say the least!

We were so honored to have the opportunity to share with other writer centers and academic support centers the valuable work the DSC does. But we are most excited about some new and innovative technologies and practices we’ve learned about during our visit.

We’ve learned about some resources and programs that we hope to try out at the DSC to further develop the support we provide the College of Education doctoral students.

One such innovative practice is screencast writing tutorials for distance students. These screencasts offer distance student a recorded “live” video of a coach reviewing a draft and may complement existing asynchronous feedback approaches by adding a more “human element” to the ways we interact with distance students.
**Spring and Summer Writing Events: 3X3X2 Rally and Summer Writer's Retreat**
By Lesley Shelton, MA

The Doctoral Support Center for Writing & Research Excellence kicked off the spring semester with an early writing event: the 3X3X2 Writing Rally. Participants were encouraged to submit up to 3 pages 3 times a week for 2 weeks and receive same-day feedback.

Students took advantage of this event to receive targeted and in-the-moment feedback on their writing. Most students focused on a particular writing goal and submitted writing related to accomplishing that goal.

If you missed it, don’t worry! The DSC has another big event in the planning stages: a Summer Writer’s Retreat! This retreat will take place on the Lubbock campus of Texas Tech University. Go ahead and save the dates now: June 12-16.

The Summer Writer’s Retreat will give students an opportunity to escape from the distractions and responsibilities of their daily lives and focus for five uninterrupted days on their dissertation writing.

Enjoy our beautiful campus, which ranked as the 9th most beautiful campus in the United States last year, according to PLEXUSS.com. Take advantage of the University Library and other on-campus resources. Registration will open soon and spaces are limited! Watch your email for more details.

**Notes from the Desk of Pam Smith**

Welcome Back, Students!
As we enter the spring semester I wanted to make you aware of some upcoming dates and deadlines:

- February 10: Last day to submit your intent to graduate for spring.
- February 22: Deadline to submit Dissertation Notifications
- March 31: Last day to defend Dissertations
- April 7: Last day to submit a final, committee approved copy of your dissertation for review by the Graduate School.

As listed above the last day to file your intent to graduate is February 10. If you are unable to submit your intent, please contact Taylor Rindlisbacher, taylor.rindlisbacher@ttu.edu. Failure to meet the deadline will result in being unable to graduate this semester.

Students who must postpone their graduation will be required to be enrolled in one credit hour the following semester and file an intent to graduate for that semester.

We hope you have a wonderful semester. If you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Pam Smith

**DSC Brown Bag Speaker Series and Roundtable for the Spring**
By Lesley Shelton, MA

The DSC will host five events in the spring. To accommodate both distance and local students, these talks are offered via Blackboard Collaborate with a new face-to-face component. Local students may attend in person, subject to seating availability. The sessions take place in room 253 on a Friday, from noon to 1:00 pm.

On January 20, Dr. Amber Lancaster gave an online only presentation about “The Writing Process: Drafting, Revising, and Editing in Iterations.”

On February 10, Lesley Shelton will present “Using Styles and the DSC Dissertation Template to Expedite Formatting.” Be sure to register by February 8 to receive materials for this presentation.

On March 10, Dr. Marcelo Schmidt will give a presentation on “Visualizing Data.”

In April, we will host a special event, the “Grant Writing Roundtable: A Gathering of Experts.” Our guest speakers are Nora Griffin-Shirley, PhD; Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz, PhD; Jerry Dwyer, PhD; and Tena Gonzales, MBA. You will not want to miss it!

Our May event is TBA.

If you have an idea for a topic, please email us at dsc.educ@ttu.edu. Registration instructions can be found on our Brown Bag Series webpage.

“In April, we will host a special event, the ‘Grant Writing Roundtable: A Gathering of Experts.’”
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 (COE) 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 for academic writing and research tasks encountered in a doctoral program, including assignments for coursework, human subjects protection proposals, dissertation proposals, and dissertations. The DSC also provides support for students through enrichment activities such as workshops and rallies. Essentially, the DSC provides “wrap-around” support for students from start to finish in order to assist them in the successful attainment of their doctoral degrees.

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. Questions about submissions can be directed to the Writing Coach. General questions should be directed to dsc.educ@ttu.edu.