NEWS FROM THE DSC—Summer 2017

Things Are Heating Up for Summer!

Summer is sizzling and already kicking into high gear on campus. Many cohorts will be visiting and some have already been on campus this summer! The DSC has already held its primary event for the summer, the 2017 Summer Writer’s Retreat. But there is so much more yet to come!

First of all, I want to encourage students to continue their academic focus over the summer and keep that momentum strong! One way to reinvigorate your academic writing momentum is to write a proposal and to present at an academic conference!

This newsletter is chock full of great advice on how and why to submit a proposal to the SERA 2018 Annual Conference on February 14-16 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Begin planning your proposal now, as the deadline for submission will come up fast at the start of the fall semester.

Dr. Sonya Sherrod has written an excellent piece about the SERA conference and the kinds of support you may request from the DSC! Doctoral student Tala Karkar has also written a great piece on the SERA Conference from a student’s perspective! Tala received an award at last year’s conference that included a cash prize!

Dr. Aaron Zimmerman will be giving a DSC Brown Bag talk about your SERA proposal on August 25, just in time to put the finishing touches on your proposal and submit by September 24. Lesley Shelton will also be giving a DSC Brown Bag presentation on July 14 covering “APA Style Basics.” The DSC Brown Bag events are available both online and face-to-face on campus. We encourage you to attend these useful and informative sessions.

As always, you can find a list of important dates for the current semester in your newsletter. 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

June 6: SUM1 First Class Day
June 9: Last day to file Intent to Graduate and Defense Notification forms

June 12-16: DSC Summer Writer’s Retreat 2017 in Lubbock, TX

June 26: Last day to Defend Dissertations

July 4: Independence Day Holiday

July 8: SUM1 Semester ends

July 10: Last day to submit final dissertations for formatting review
Click here for more Summer 2017 Graduate School Deadlines.

July 11: SUM2 First Class Day

July 14: Last day to pay dissertation fee

July 14: DSC Brown Bag
Lesley Shelton, MA

August 11: SUM2 Semester ends

August 11: 1:00PM Hooding Ceremony

August 12:: 9:00AM University Graduate Commencement

August 25: DSC Brown Bag
Aaron Zimmerman, PhD

The Dairy Barn and the English / Philosophy building on the Texas Tech
"...doctoral students are encouraged to attend as this conference..."
**Notes from the Desk of Pam Smith**

**Welcome Back, Students!**

As we enter the summer semester I wanted to make you aware of some upcoming dates and deadlines:

- June 9: Last day to submit your Intent to Graduate for summer and deadline to submit Dissertation Notifications form
- June 26: Last day to defend Dissertations for summer
- July 10: 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 was June 8. If you were 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.

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

Pam Smith

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**DSC Brown Bag Speaker Series Events for the Summer**

By Lesley Shelton, MA

There will be two DSC Brown Bag Speaker events during the summer semester. To accommodate both distance and local students, these events are hybrid, offering an online component via Blackboard Collaborate along with a face-to-face component in a conference room in the College of Education. These presentations may be open to other graduate students across the TTU campus. Local students may attend in person, subject to seating availability. The sessions will take place on Friday, July 14 and August 25, from noon to 1:00 pm.

On July 14, Lesley Shelton of the Doctoral Support Center for Writing and Research Excellence will give a presentation about “APA Style Basics.” Be sure to register by July 7 to receive materials for this presentation.

On August 25, Dr. Aaron Zimmerman, Assistant Professor in Curriculum and Instruction, will give a presentation on “Submitting a Proposal for SERA.”

We are already working on our slate of events for the fall, which includes a presentation about ethics in human research. You won’t want to miss it!

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.

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**Why and How to Present at the SERA Conference: A Student Perspective**

By Tala Karkar Esperat, PhD Student

Presenting at the SERA conference is a great opportunity for graduate students to present their proposals and share their research. The conference is a welcoming environment that encourages students to practice their presentation skills, and network with both novice and professional researchers in variety of fields. SERA 2016 was my first time to attend this conference, and I had a wonderful experience.

The Texas Tech University College of Education Doctoral Support Center (DSC) encouraged graduate students to apply by offering their support to review our papers. This was a huge relief for me, knowing that I was getting professional help. I found the DSC staff to be friendly, cooperative, and supportive. They provided detailed feedback on my paper, which was a valuable learning experience.

What helped me the most was the individualized attention I received from the DSC that focused on my specific areas of need. One can simply ask the DSC staff to focus on grammar, content, format. With the DSC’s help, Charity Embley and myself attended SERA 2016, and our study was awarded the “Dean’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Research.” The SERA Conference offers students the opportunity to learn and grow as researchers, and the DSC is a valuable resource that can help attendees make the most of their conference experience.

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“The [SERA] conference is a welcoming environment that encourages students . . .”

~Tala Karkar
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.