

Building Success through Writing!



The Writing Center

Newsletter

Matches and Stolen Kidneys and June Bugs, Oh My!

By Kat Padilla
Writing Center Staff

So where can these seemingly incompatible items combine? Well, when opened with a hefty dose of Wonderland, the Athens State Writing Center, of course.

The Athens State Writing Center was the location of the *athena's web* Reading Series fall kick-off fiction & poetry reading on September 12, 2013. The Reading Series takes place as an “open mic” forum – sans mic due to the library setting. The *athena's web* Editor Emeritas Travis Sharp and Athens State Writing Center Director and Weekly Writer’s Group Founder Dr. Tony Ricks, temporarily rearranged the Writing Center into a bistro-style setting to showcase the nine writers who chose to share their work Thursday evening.

Travis Sharp stated that the event has been in the works for months. The series had its projected start date planned for last spring, but due to the time demand of publishing the inaugural issue of the College of Arts and Sciences Literary Journal, the event kept getting put on hold. In addition, in the spring of 2013, a new group was being formed, the Athens Weekly Writer’s Group – a brainchild of Dr. Ricks. This group meets every Thursday night in the Athens State Library Commons to share a love of writing, offering comments and criticism to each other about their original pieces.

The efforts by both of these groups were highlighted Thursday evening as nine writers took center stage. Kristi Coughlin kicked off the evening with “Alice,” using metaphors from Lewis Carroll’s masterpiece. Kristi was kind enough to offer her impressions of the evening, praising the “intimate setting” and the wide “variety of genres” that were presented. The other readings included original poetry by Jonathan Tyler, Kelton Riley, Debbi Pannell, and Trista Irvin. Kelton Riley, Travis Sharp, and Rachel Clifton recited their works of short fiction. Pam Hartman kept the

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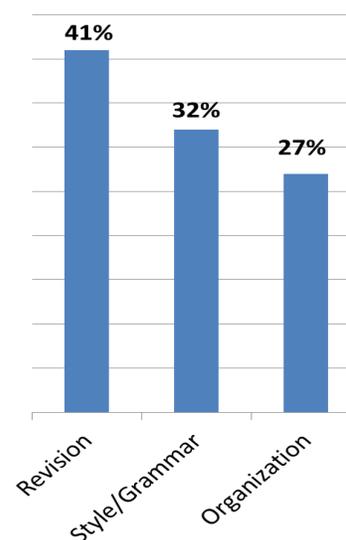
Writing Center Hours

Monday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

And new this semester:
Saturday: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Schedule an appointment at
www.athens.edu/writing

The Three Most Popular Help Requests



Writing Center Quote of the Month

“No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader.”

— Robert Frost

Student Spotlight: Michelle McCarthy

By NaTaya Hastings
Writing Center Staff

This month's 'Student Spotlight' is shining on Michelle McCarthy, a junior here at Athens State, who is majoring in criminal justice. Michelle has recently been visiting the writing center for help on her paper "Cruel and Unusual" – a paper discussing capital punishment and all the controversy surrounding the issue. Michelle said she was concerned about the paper because her professor "has very strict guidelines, and I wanted to make a good grade."

"I get a topic, brainstorm, write my thesis, research to support my thesis, finish writing, and then I put [the paper] in order by either taking something out or putting something in," Michelle said of her normal writing process. "Then," she continued, "I take it to the writing center!" As Michelle is quite a good writer, she already had a really promising start on her paper by the time she came in to visit the writing center. Despite the good start, however, the writing center tutors were still able to help her out with some of her problems, and Michelle was fortunate to learn some things about writing that will help her in her future endeavors.



"I still need to work on my sentence structure, and I'm glad that I learned that," Michelle said. She went on to say that the writing center tutors had pointed out some of her issues and taught her how to recognize and correct the errors in the future. She was pleased because she knew learning these things would help her to become a better writer.

Michelle, who attended Calhoun Community College prior to enrolling at Athens State, is a big supporter of the writing center. "I was in the Calhoun writing lab once a week," she said. "And I will do the same here at Athens." Michelle had only good things to say about the Athens State writing center. She was pleased with the number of tutors and available hours in the Athens writing center. She was also very complimentary of the Athens State writing center tutors.

"I would recommend everyone who has to write a paper to get help at the writing center. [The tutors] are all professional, patient, and experts on what they do. I am used to Calhoun's writing lab, so I wasn't sure what to expect at Athens, but my expectations were all met, and all the writing lab tutors are the best at what they do," Michelle concluded.

Well, Michelle, speaking on behalf of the writing center tutors, we'd all just like to say 'Thank you!' for all of your kind words, and we can't wait to see you again in the future!

audience laughing with her autobiographical "F.O.A.F.," **Continued from page 1** and Harriet Rost had us yearning for more as she read a chapter from her not-yet-published book.

There were snacks, camaraderie, and plenty of laughter to be shared amongst the readers and the twenty-two individuals who made up the audience, but ultimately all were there to share the beautiful words recited by students of Athens State University and members of the Athens community. Some of the works can be accessed in the Spring 2013 edition of *athena's web*, but many of the works were made public for the first – and possibly only – time at the Reading Series.

The next Reading Series will be held during this month. It is open to any and all who would like to attend, but reading time slots are limited, and you may reserve yours by contacting athenas.web@athens.edu.

Athens State Study Shows Writing Center Visits Can Improve Grades

By Ben Montgomery
Writing Center Staff

Students who use the writing center consistently score five points more on their papers than students who don't use it.

That's the finding of a year-long study by Writing Center Director Tony Ricks and business professor Kim Roberts.

During the study, some Operations Management students were required to visit the Writing Center three times for their case study papers. Each of the three visits was at least a week apart and corresponded with a writing phase—planning, revising or editing.



"Multiple visits may help students think of writing as a process rather than a single-attempt assignment," Roberts said. "The downtime between visits likely allowed students the opportunity to reflect upon and incorporate feedback, thus improving their writing."

One comment left by a student on a survey praised the staff's consistency in their suggestions, saying "I was glad I wasn't getting opinions that clashed with one another." Another comment said a student wasn't even aware the Writing Center existed before taking Operations Management, and would have come sooner if he or she had known.

Roberts said writing is an important skill to business professionals because they are expected to be able to communicate thoughts and ideas in a logical, coherent and concise way.

"Strong writing skills could be what differentiates one candidate from another in job applications and promotion opportunities," Roberts said. "I am so glad the Writing Center is a free and easily accessible resource to help our students become success stories!"