

news

Writing Center offers more services to students

ALAYNA ROSS
Reporter

The Ashland University Writing Center is expanding their services to become the Ashland Multiliteracy Center for Writing, Speaking and Digital Communication.

The transition from the Writing Center to the Ashland Multiliteracy Center for Writing, Speaking and Digital Communication has been in the works since September 2018, and was officially approved in October of 2019 with the opening scheduled for spring semester 2020.

This new service, called AMuLit for short, will now help with more than just writing. The coaches at The AMuLit Center can help with any form of written, visual, verbal, or digital forms of communication.

Megan Connor, director of the AMuLit Center, believes that this expansion provides the support students need to communicate effectively both in the classroom and in the workforce.

“It isn’t just the traditional written essays students are doing in the classes, but also to prepare them for the expectations once they enter the workforce,” Connor says. “We wanted to recognize that the

nature of communication is multifaceted and most people are going to have to write, but it might also include visuals.”

Marquell Gorsuch, senior, has been a writing coach for two years and sees the new center as an opportunity for students to strengthen their communication skills.

“I am excited about the change because it will allow us to help people in a larger variety of areas,” Gorsuch says. “Due to the increase in media use and accessibility, especially with social media, the ability to speak well has become an even more valued thing in the professional world.”

Students are welcome to bring their finished projects, but they are also encouraged to brainstorm with the coaches to help find the strategy that will be the most effective.

Sophomore Tyler Cook finds that the expansion into the AMuLit Center will benefit him in all of his courses.

“It seems like all of my classes require a different method of presentations, whether that be a visual presentation or a written assignment,” Cook says. “I think that the expansion will help me in all of my classes, regardless of the subject,



ALAYNA ROSS

Formally known as the Writing Center, AMuLit, is located on the first floor of Bixler. This new multi-literacy Center is now open.



Swanson

CONTINUED FROM A1

Swanson uses his talents from his professional life to teach students on the campus of AU more about music and the inner workings of music in the business world.

As part of the Honors Program interdisciplinary seminar, Swanson taught a four-week portion on film scoring, reaching out to students beyond the music department.

“He did a really good job of making his material easy to digest even if you weren’t a music major,” Maria Kern, a senior majoring in forensic biology and toxicology said. “I knew film existed before that class, but I hadn’t put much thought into it.”

Without being a part of the music program, Kern learned new skills and information that can be taken with her outside of the classroom and into the working world.

He was relatable as a professor, Kern said. “You could tell he was

really interested in what he was teaching.”

Swanson’s expertise in scoring was brought into the honors seminar and taught students going into different walks of life and professions what music can add to a film and what the process behind that might look like.

“The information was presented in a relatable way and can be appreciated, understood and applied after his class without being an expert in music and film,” Kern said.

Music classes at Ashland contribute to the education of music majors and teach them different aspects of what the music business could be like when they graduate.

When hired in 2018, Swanson said he was helping to start a music industry track for students that would include classes such as music technology and business as well as teach skills like communicating with collaborators.

“What we want is for people to get their hands dirty in a couple things,” Swanson said. “They should learn how to be great in-

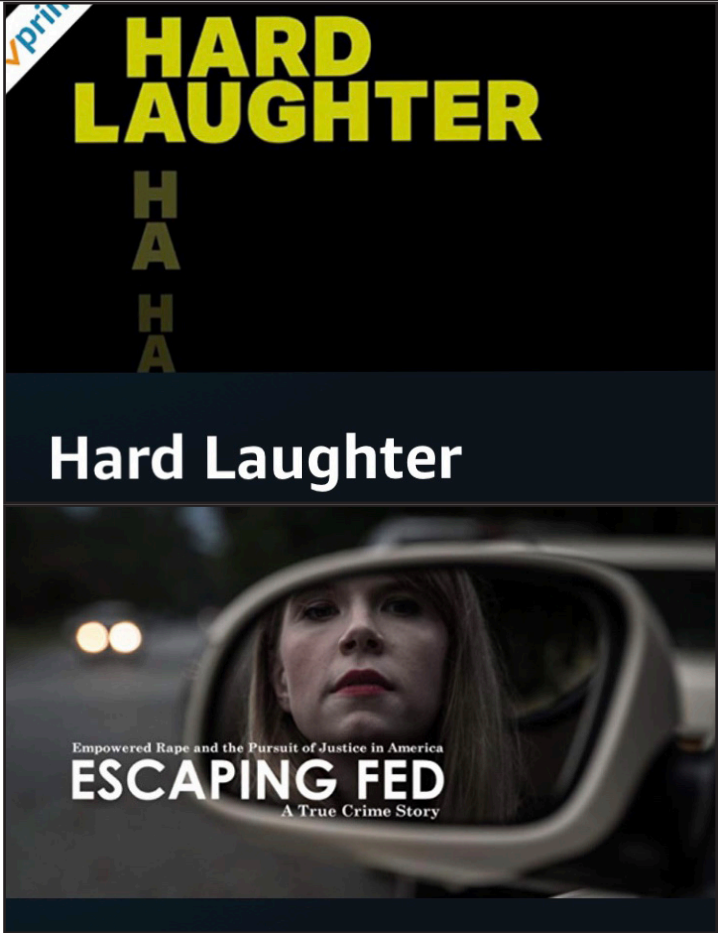
strumentalists. They should learn how to be conductors. They could learn how to create music and learn about the technology.”

As Swanson helps students on campus learn their way in the musical field, he continues to pursue his film scoring career, adding to accomplishments like his recent scoring of film for amazon.

When scoring, it is always about working on a current project and looking for the next one in order to stay ahead, Swanson said.

As far as his most recent accomplishment, Swanson said it means a lot to see something he has worked on become available through Amazon. His work has also appeared in films such as Gun Hill Road which was released in 2011, a new film called Premature that is releasing in theaters soon, and many others that have been released on HBO and Cinemax

“I hope to continue what I’m doing,” Swanson said. “I have several projects coming up.”



CHRISTINE JENKINSON

These movies were composed by Dr. Steven Swanson, professor of music at AU.

AU partners with new CCP program to train teachers

CHANTE RUTHERFORD
Reporter

Many students take advantage of college credit plus programs offered at their high schools. Those who take part will have their classes turned into college credit so their time and money in college will be less than an average student.

Ashland University is one of many Ohio colleges that allows students to take their CCP classes on campus. To better the advancement of the students, AU took steps to make the learning much easier.

Towards the end of 2019, AU began its partnership with the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio to not only allow students to gain extra credit, but to train and certify high school teachers so that they can teach more students in the comfort of their classrooms.

A \$3 million grant was given by The Ohio Department of Education and The Ohio Department of Higher Education to begin this new program.

“Ashland has been working with college credit plus students for a long time. Back then it was called

dual enrollment but was originally called post-secondary education,” James Powell, the executive director for the professional development services at Ashland said.

The ability to have students take these college classes will not only go towards their degree. Students have the chance to see if they want to continue the path to their degree and to understand the work that goes into the rigorous courses compared to their other high school classes. Students as young as seventh-graders begin classes similar to a college freshman.

To make sure the students are being given the right information, teachers must be certified in teaching that course. With this new program, educators will have the chance to teach more advanced topics in their field of study.

“To be qualified, a teacher must have 18 hours of graduate credit in their field of study while also having their master’s degree,” Powell said. “For example, if I want to teach a math class at the college level and I only have my master’s, I will need to take those 18 hours of math.”

18 hours of math at AU correlates to nine classes. Once completed, they will apply to the college and become an adjunct to the university. They are assigned a mentor to guide them and assist them in their first few courses.

Along with AU, colleges such as the University of Findlay, Tiffin University, the University of Akron and Terra State Community College are working with ESC to certify high school teachers across northern Ohio.

“With the students having this access to CCP, this will not only help them but their families too as college is a big decision and will cut down on the costs too,” Powell said.

Since CCP students are enrolled in AU, they are considered a student. They have similar privileges as any other student will. Experiencing college at a young age gives them a chance to learn not from others, but themselves.

Certified CCP educators can also get involved with other groups to teach such as correctional education.

“Since they have already experienced Ashland, once they graduate [high school], they can come here and be ready to go,” Powell said.

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