

Back to School Issue No. 2 with Athens County's Favorite Newspaper Since 1977

OU students, while you were away this summer...

You missed a flood of news

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Thieves' heyday

City Police respond to big wave of burglary calls this summer in Athens. See page 3



Move-in toil & play

Both work and play much in evidence as students return to campus. See page 8



Dog swim

More than 100 local pooches participate in annual fund-raising dog swim. See page 15

Photos are from various events and news stories covered in our Summer in Review piece starting on page 23. Clockwise from top left: 1) Controversy concerning a major OU donor; 2) Flash flooding turns Richland Avenue into a river; 3) Students and community members protest a pipeline; and 4) International Space University spends most of the summer in Athens. (Photos, respectively, by Terry Smith, Jennifer Halliday, Conor Morris and Dennis E. Powell.)

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In OU School of Media, Arts & Studies summer program...

High-school students from all over get media immersion

This year marked the second annual High School Media Workshop, which took place at Ohio University from July 8-11 and welcomed students from eight states and an international student from Vietnam.

The workshop introduced students to the latest techniques and equipment in audio, video, games and animation, and storytelling/producing, according to a news release.

"It was wonderful to see so many students completely engaged over the three days," High School Media Workshop Director Karen Riggs said in the release. "Now in our second year, we grew from 55 to 62 students and have even gone international. A key asset for us was our MDIA student ambassadors. Workshop participants said they benefited greatly from one-on-one time with our college students."

During the workshop, students spent most of their time in core sessions that focused on each of the four media groups: audio, video, games and animation, and storytelling/producing. In these focused classes, taught by School of Media Arts & Studies professors, students received hands-on experience using the tools and equipment in the media labs.

In the news release about the program, Keaton Kreps of Athens said he heard about the workshop from a peer last year, which led him to register. He said that even though a lot of students were Athenians, he enjoyed meeting students from states as far away as North Carolina, Minnesota, New Jersey and Illinois. Kreps said he found all of the workshop sessions interesting, but enjoyed working on audio and sound editing the most.

"We had a lot of long three-hour class sessions during the workshop; my favorite one was where we did music and editing," said Kreps. "One of the coolest class sessions we had we did sounds for a short film. We learned



The School of Media Arts & Studies High School Media Workshop Class of 2015 had students from eight states and Vietnam. Photo by Kyle Snyder.

how to do sounds while watching a video and editing. One of my favorite parts was creating a song with everyone in the group."

Student Hang Le Thi Minh from Ha Noi, Vietnam, had been eagerly waiting to attend the workshop since she had first heard about it, but was unable to until she was old enough, the release said. This trip was her first away from her country.

"The High School Media Workshop had a profound impact on the way I see my passion and future career," she said in the release. "The

experience I had here was definitely worth my 22-hour flight."

Students who came for the workshop had a look at college life at Ohio University, then wrapped up the week with a farewell banquet and a screening of their projects.

"An incredible aspect of the High School Media Workshop is that students attend not only to experience what the School of Media Arts & Studies has to offer within its curriculum but also for that first college experience, including one-on-one mentoring to help focus

their passion and future career goals," High School Media Workshop Associate Director Kyle Snyder said in the release. "After several days experiencing a variety of required and elective workshops, it's gratifying to hear students tell us we've opened their eyes to new possibilities and that they now know what they'll be majoring in upon acceptance to the Scripps College of Communication."

For more information, including pictures, on the 2015 High School Media Workshop, visit <http://mediaschool.ohio.edu/hsmw-news>.

Media Deserts project at OU unveils national map

A new interdisciplinary initiative at Ohio University has released the first of several geographic information system maps of the United States that identifies which areas of the country are underserved by fresh local news and information, according to a news release.

The Media Deserts Project – a collaboration of the Scripps College of Communication and the Department of Geography that launched last spring – uses state and national-level maps to visualize the number and circulation of daily and weekly newspapers,

the coverage areas of hyper-local online news sites, and the reach of other emerging media to identify communities that may lack local news.

Since 2008, more than 120 U.S. newspapers have gone out of business, while cutbacks at others have reduced the kinds of civically worthy, labor-intensive journalism residents depend on to stay informed about their communities. A July 2011 report by the Federal Communication Commission summarized losses in the local media space, and estimated it would take between \$265 million and \$1.6 billion in additional dollars to fill the current

gaps in local reporting, the release said.

There is currently no national map of the effects of newspaper cutbacks on local access to information.

The Media Deserts Project engages community stakeholders to imagine new solutions for fresh, local news and information, according to the release.

"Through the visualizations and other methods, we're identifying communities in need, looking at local assets, or helping to grow capacities for news and information," Michelle Ferrier, principal investigator for the

project and associate dean for Innovation at the Scripps College of Communication, said in the release.

Ferrier has championed solutions such as government/private partnerships and a media service corps concept being touted in a new report release last week at the Engage Local journalism conference sponsored by the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University.

For more information, contact Michelle Ferrier at (740) 593-9860 or ferrierm@ohio.edu.