

# the New Leaf

## Summer Days Are (Almost) Here!

Summer classes start Monday, June 4. Tutors will be available in the Learning Center June 4, too!

English tutors (writing tutors for any subject), math tutors, and the Online Writing Center will be accessible most days during the summer session. Brush up on the metric system or trigonometry, or learn how to use your new calculator. We also have tutors in subjects you might not expect: philosophy, religion, history, political science, A&P, and much more!

Summer session is intense and goes by very quickly; let us help you. We have study rooms available, white boards to look at the big picture, 45 computers, ear-phones, calculators, a skeletal model, a heart model, two torso models, and more.

Call (636) 584-6688 or drop by to ask questions (BH 175) or make an appointment. Follow us on Twitter or ECC's home page under Resources, then Learning Center, for updates on workshops and reviews being offered.

## Please Judge Us

The Learning Center and Testing Center are sending out the Satisfaction Survey. Please take a few minutes and complete it. Give us constructive feedback that we can use to better our services and your learning experience. We will randomly pick a few survey completers and buy them a pizza.

Thanks in advance for your time and responses!

## Surviving Finals Week

One of the rites of passage of college is getting through the stress of finals week. Some students meticulously prepare, schedule, and prioritize. Others procrastinate and find themselves completely unprepared as the date of the final exam approaches. Below are some tips for surviving finals week.

- (1) Organize your finals. Write down the dates of each of the final exams along with the time and place of the final. The college publishes a schedule of the times for all finals; ask your instructor where the final exam will be administered.**
- (2) Stay healthy. This includes getting enough sleep, eating properly, and exercising. Although you may be tempted to pull an "all-nighter," your lack of sleep may make you less alert when you take your final. Be sure to eat a healthy, balanced diet, with lots of fruits and vegetables. And get out and exercise when you have the opportunity.**
- (3) Turn off distractions. When preparing for finals, do not spend an excessive amount of time on your cell phone, computer, or other electronic devices. Knowing how easily time can slip away when one is playing games, checking up on social media, or surfing the web should serve as a deterrent from spending too much time on them.**
- (4) Take some time off. Although finals week may appear to be a time of studying and test-taking during all the waking hours of the day, it is beneficial to take a little time off to do something that you enjoy doing. You could go to a movie, spend time with friends and family, or just relax for an hour or two.**

## Workshops about Everything

Did you know the Learning Center offers more than just tutoring? Looking for ideas on how to study more effectively or overcome your procrastination? Want to learn how to use a calculator or review conversions? Want to learn about MLA format or writing a paper? We have the workshop for you! Follow us on Twitter or watch the event calendar in Moodle to find out when the sessions are held. Can't come to the actual event? Ask for an electronic version of our workshop. See you soon!

## Be in the Know: News from the Testing Center

The Testing Center has more to offer than ever before! Starting this summer, the Testing Center will offer DSST exams alongside of the CLEP offerings. This means you have more opportunities to test out of courses. Both CLEP and DSST tests cost \$85 for each exam, with CLEP increasing to \$87 on July 1, 2018. East Central College currently accepts both CLEP and DSST exam credit. For more information about exam and course equivalencies, look at the Registrar's webpage or contact them at 636-584-6553.

## Be Ready to Test!

Finals week might be your first time ever using the Testing Center. Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, here are some helpful tips to make your test session successful:

- **Have a photo ID ready when you arrive**
- **Know your professor's name and the name of your class**
- **Arrive early! No tests are given out in the hour before closing time**
- **Keep your hat, cell phone, and other personal items in one of our lockers**

If you have questions about the Testing Center, please ask our staff for help. Your success is our priority!

## Have a Question? Can't Make It to Campus?

The Learning Center now offers online tutoring for math and science classes! All tutoring occurs during normal Learning Center hours and uses Zoom conferencing platform. No downloads are required, just make an appointment and we'll send you a link! Follow us on Twitter to get the latest information on online tutoring!



## Sweet Additions to the TLC's Scholarship Fund

February 14th is to the Learning Center's Valentine's Bake Sale as apple pie is to America: a tradition worth continuing. It's also one of the sweetest ways to raise funds for the Learning Center Scholarship. This year's Valentine's Day efforts raised a record \$361.28. Much of this effort came from the staff and student tutors of The Learning Center who provided delicious treats. We sold beautifully decorated cupcakes in addition to bags of popcorn, chocolate covered strawberries, bundles of cookies, heart-shaped Rice-Krispy treats, mugs of s'more brownie mix, brownies, and more. As a bonus, these treats were prepared as ready-made gifts with personalized messages and delivery services offered to bring a personal touch to the bake sale.

The Learning Center conducts two major fundraising events each year, one on Valentine's Day and one around Christmas time. The 2017 Christmas holiday fundraiser consisted of a wrapping relief, campus-wide Christmas decorating contest, and holiday treat sale, which raised \$500. So make sure to do your part and participate in these sweet events!

## Up and Up We Go: CLRA Training

In continuing efforts to effectively meet student need, the Learning Center requires tutors and Specialists to participate in training programs to help them remain current in best practices and strategies. The Learning Center is currently certified by the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) at all three levels of training. As such, Specialists are currently attending training to become Master Tutors, which means they engage in creating programming and mentoring tutors. Meanwhile, tutors are working through Level 2 training this semester. Stop by the Learning Center to work with our certified staff members today.

## Struggling with Scholarship Essays?

As our graduating or transferring students head to new schools, we'd like to offer a few tips for writing scholarship essays:

- **Read directions carefully, and follow them completely**
- **Let them get to know you**
- **Be specific**
- **Show how you will contribute to the school**
- **Address any problems in your record directly**
- **Proofread**
- **Stop by the Learning Center. We can help!**

## Thank You to Our Departing Staff

by: *Erin Anglin, Director of The Learning Center*

Spring marks a time for new beginnings, regrowth, warmth (maybe not in MO), matriculation, and goodbyes. In the 14 years I have been in the Learning Center, this time of year gets harder and harder the longer I do my job. I have to say goodbye. Saying goodbye to my TLC Tutors is always bittersweet. I have an excellent group of students who are intelligent, kind, compassionate, funny, and helpful getting ready to graduate, transfer or move on into the workforce. And while I am going to miss them all, I am incredibly proud of each of them for what they have accomplished and what they have contributed to the ECC community.

**Cameron Hackmann** is transferring to Missouri S&T, pursuing an Architectural Engineering degree.

*One thing I love about tutoring: The "light bulb" or "Aha" moment because it tells that I helped.*

*One thing I am going to miss: Seeing familiar faces and everyone saying "hello" or "how are you?"*

*One valuable piece of advice for ECC students that I would give, is put yourself out there. Join a club, go to a sports game, make a study group; whatever it may be, do it! College is supposed to be the place where you meet your lifelong friends, and even though this isn't a big university, friends can still be made that will last a lifetime. Also, joining something looks great on future college and job applications.*

**Evan Searcy** is transferring to Missouri S&T, degree in Mechanical Engineering, working in robotics or aerospace.

*"I love how tutoring allows me to improve my understanding, as well as someone else's understanding."*

*What Evan will miss: The people. I had some really good instructors and a great advisor. I learned and*

*laughed a lot.*

*One valuable piece of advice for ECC students: Take things one day at a time. The work can get overwhelming but taking one step at a time makes it easier.*

**Grace Goedde** is transferring to UMSL to continue education and play volleyball. She was accepted into the Pierre Laclède Honors College! Grace wants to be a mathematician when she grows up.

*One thing I love about tutoring: Tutoring helped to strengthen my critical thinking skills.*

*One thing I will miss about ECC is the small class sizes. I got to know my professors and peers very well.*

*One valuable piece of advice for ECC students is get involved on campus, it has awesome benefits!*

**Jensen Crenshaw** will be attending the University of St. Francis in Illinois to play softball and pursue an education in Elementary ESL teaching.

*One thing I love about tutoring is the look on the student's face when they now understand how to do a problem.*

*I will miss are two things: my friends and softball.*

*One valuable piece of advice for ECC students is do your best in everything you do!*

**Jessica Nugent** is so busy studying and preparing for the end of the semester, we didn't get to talk much. But Jessica is taking a little break after graduation, getting married next year, traveling, then heading back to school.

**John Bueke** is continuing his education at Missouri S&T, becoming a part of Engineers Without Borders, and pursuing a career in Electrical Engineering.

*One thing I love about tutoring is seeing the satisfaction on a student's face when they achieve their goals.*

*One thing I will miss about ECC is the atmosphere I have been around. I have been here for two years and*

*this college has become my home.*

*One piece of advice that I have learned over my two years at this campus is that your time management is the key to your success. If you do not budget your time correctly you will be undertaken by homework that has caught up with you, and believe me it is a lot easier to do an assignment before a due date than after.*

**McKenzie Struckhoff** is transferring to Missouri Valley College to play volleyball. While there she will be studying Psychology to eventually pursue her Master's in Occupational Therapy.

*One thing I love about tutoring: Being able to help fellow peers in the classes that I enjoyed.*

*One thing I will miss about ECC are all of the friends I have made here.*

*One valuable piece of advice for ECC students is to get involved in the activities that the school offers. Staying involved is a good way to have fun!*

**Samantha White** wants to attend university to pursue both a bachelor's and master's degree in Nursing.

*The thing I love most about tutoring is seeing that ah-ha moment on someone's face when everything finally clicks.*

*The things I will miss most about ECC are softball and my coworkers. I was blessed to have made some pretty great friends while here!*

*If I could give one piece of advice to future students it would be to find something you love and excel in it; be passionate!*

Thank you Cameron, Evan, Grace, Jensen, Jessica, John, McKenzie, and Samantha for all you have done for us and our students! I wish you nothing but the best of luck and many successes in your future endeavors!

**If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please stop by The Learning Center for further details!**