

# *Speckman* Tutoring & Learning Center

Fall 2016



## TLC EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION



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# TLC Earns National Accreditation

*By Samantha Crandall*

The Speckman Tutoring & Learning Center's (TLC) tutoring program has recently earned the distinction of being one of only 19 colleges in the country to be accredited by the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE). On March 28, 2016, Samantha Crandall and Jacob Lewellen accepted the Accreditation award on behalf of the TLC at NADE's annual conference.

In the NADE Accreditation approval letter, reviewers noted: "The application and additional materials provided by the Tutoring Services Program provide evidence of a program engaged in reflective practice based on continuous and systematic assessment and evaluation. Your application provides specific examples of how the Tutoring Services Program operates, meets goals, and sets action plans for continuous improvement. The exemplary self-study is both the result and beneficiary of this growth mindset. Reviewers also noted your solid tutor training process that can only continue to improve as a result of your ongoing plan to evaluate it and actively engage tutors in the process. Undertaking these efforts can only add positive momentum to your hopes to expand the Tutoring Services Program to ensure success for all college students – a most commendable undertaking."

The NADE Accreditation process requires applicants to demonstrate application of theory,



*Samantha Crandall and Jacob Lewellen accepting the NADE Accreditation Award in March 2016 in Anaheim, California.*

use of quality practices as defined by professional research and literature of the field, and analysis of baseline and comparative evaluation data to demonstrate the use of continuous and systematic assessment and evaluation. To achieve accreditation, the TLC collected & analyzed two years

of baseline data (2010-2012), conducted a comprehensive self-study, implemented over 20 action plans, and collected & analyzed two years of comparative data (2012-2014).

The NADE Self-Study Team was organized and initiated on March 21st, 2011. Team-members <https://academics.otc.edu/tutoring/>

were: Dr. Carolyn Brockman – TLC Full-Time Instructor; Samantha Crandall – TLC Full-Time Instructor (became Assistant Director in FA12); Martha Crise – TLC Part-Time Instructor (became Full-Time in FA11); Charles Dillman – TLC Part-Time Tutor; Gynette Hubach – TLC Secretary; Rima Freeman – former TLC Full-Time Instructor, now Math; Tara Lacio – TLC Full-Time Tutor (began FA11); Jacob Lewellen – TLC Director; Lisa Marks – TLC Full-Time Instructor; Dr. Katherine Perkins – Former Dean of Academic Services, OTC; Ashley

Rowan – TLC Part-Time Instructor (began SP 12); Dr. Jayna Spindler – TLC Full-Time Instructor; Marcia Wheeler – Director of Institutional Effectiveness, OTC

The team was led by Samantha Crandall, who received her Certificate of Participation in NADE Certification Training Institute in February 2011, in Washington, D.C. The self-study process was conducted in two phases: the self-study phase and the action plan phase. It was completed in its entirety in May 2012.

The completed application,

written by Samantha Crandall, was submitted in December 2014. The application narrative consisted of five parts: (1) Program Component Information, (2) Summary of Self-Study of the Program Component, (3) Summary of Action Plan/Changes in the Program Component Design or Elements, (4) Baseline Data, and (5).Comparative Data.

NADE Accreditation is valid for 10 years with an interim report required during year five. The TLC's Accreditation will be effective through March 16, 2026.



*By Shelby Gannott, Assistant Director and TLC 295 Lead Instructor*

Wouldn't it be nice to have a support system in place to help guide you through your next math course... one that includes dedicated instructors, helpful study strategies specific to math, and your very own math mentor? Then you might be interested in taking TLC 295: Mathematics Study Strategies!

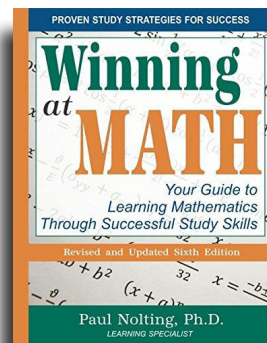
This one-credit-hour course is the complete package. It's designed to be paired with any math course at OTC. Take it during the same semester that you're taking a math course, and you will receive weekly instruction on topics like: time management, organization, motivation, homework strategies,

reading your textbook, listening & notetaking, math anxiety, test preparation, test anxiety, memory, and much more! In addition to weekly lessons, students are paired with a math mentor from the TLC. These mentors are well-trained math tutors who have experience with OTC math courses and what it takes to be successful in math. Mentors meet with students once per week to provide guidance on math homework and can assist in awareness and improvement of study skills.

Here's what one of our students, Heather, had to say about TLC 295: "When I made the decision to start college, I knew that I was going to need to take the basic level classes so that I would be able to succeed in school. Taking the study skills classes was

the best decision that I could have ever made. My TLC class allowed me to not only get help with my math classes but all of my other classes, too. The class helped me with organizing myself, test anxiety, and finding what works for me when it comes to studying. Having someone to show me how to really read a math book was such a big help. I felt more confident with what I was learning. One thing that I liked the best about the TLC study skills class was that I had a mentor that helped me with my math class. Knowing that I had a one-on-one person that was there to help when I was completely lost made it less stressful. I would recommend any of the TLC classes that OTC has available."

Take advantage of this excellent resource the TLC has to offer and sign up for TLC 295 the next time you need to take a math course!



## Course Spotlight: TLC 295 Mathematics Study Strategies





## TLC's New Entrance

Commons East building, second floor, in ICE 212.

**Is your tutoring still free? YES!** We offer FREE tutoring for OTC students in math, computers, science, languages, study skills, and more subjects.



*By Alexandra Cutler*

The *Speckman* Tutoring & Learning Center has a new entrance.

**Have you moved rooms?** No, we are still located in the Information

**So, what is different?** We are a little easier to find because our entrance is no longer hidden around a corner. Come up the stairs

in the ICE entrance across from NKM and keep walking straight back, or take the elevator, and we are right there.



## How Do You Approach an Instructor for Help?

*By Snow Popis, PT Supervisor*

The best kept secret resource for every class is your instructor. Of course, your instructor is available during class time, the typical 50-75 minutes 2 or 3 times a week; however, it doesn't have to stop there. Your instructor is the most beneficial guide you have for a course.

The instructors are there for you, and they are happy to meet during office hours. Some will even schedule meetings at other times that work for you. The time is set aside for you; and, as a student, you are in charge of the conversation at these meetings. Like walking into the doctor's office, you can't expect

to be cured until you tell them your symptoms. Likewise, an instructor needs to understand where you're having trouble in order to help you work through it.

Here are some steps to preparing for a productive meeting:

1. Be sure you have actively read the textbook as assigned. Take notes on what you've read, highlight key concepts, and jot down any questions you have.
2. Check your class notes, lecture PowerPoints or handouts from the instructor, and look for concept connections.
3. Complete as much of the homework assignments as you can, giving them your best effort. Coming to the meeting with any work you've done, such as math problems you've attempted, discussion questions you've answered, or an outline/rough draft of a paper, will help your instructor to better gauge your understanding. Also, have a checklist ready of

problems/concepts you want to discuss and be prepared to tell your instructor where you need help. For example, "I'm not sure what is question is asking," or "I set up the problem, but I don't know why I'm not coming up with the same answer as the book."

4. Although office hours are dedicated time for students, it's a good idea to e-mail or call to confirm a time to meet with your instructor in case of a schedule conflict or meeting with another student. If you have an appointment you need to cancel, let your instructor know in advance, if possible.

Meeting one-on-one with your instructors is a great opportunity for learning. By speaking with you personally, they can often explain things in a different way than they did in class, and they get to know you better. Building this connection is a wonderful part of the college experience.

# TLC Staff Highlight: Eli Dickerson

*By Dr. Carolyn Brockman*

Eli Dickerson is a TLC computer tutor and honor student known for his abundant patience and content knowledge. Eli hails from the small town of Dadeville, Missouri, located just north of Springfield. When he is not studying or at one of his two jobs, he likes to read and sing. About his life, he said he has no regrets and has purposefully learned from each lesson.

A self-driven person, Eli enrolled in college after being out of high school for over a decade. He understands the struggles students go through who are just coming back to school. He has watched the emergence of “social media zombies” and computers going from “something in a 300 square

foot warehouse to something that fits in your pocket.” He uses his observations to help him understand and communicate with students better.

As for hobbies, Eli likes to help students as well as others. He is the president/leader of OTC Equality, a group which currently meets biweekly. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. His mentors include his grandpa, Obie, and his parents, John and Sheila. They raised him to be independent, which he believes “is a life quality that most people need.”

Goals are no stranger to Eli. He joked, “I want to find out what I want to be when I grow up.” He writes and sings baritone through multi genres including punk, Broadway, and country, among



others. He enjoys karaoke where his voice has been likened to Garth Brooks. Ultimately, he wants to complete a doctorate in educational administration. He is interested in teaching primary, secondary, and post-secondary history and music.

Eli is a fascinating and welcoming person who goes out of his way to help students and friends achieve their goals. When you see him, find out what he is up to. He no doubt leaves an imprint on the lives of those around him.

## Where are They Now? Chelsea Cozort

*By Jacob Lewellen and Chelsea Cozort*

**How long did you work at the TLC?** I started in October of 2007 and had to leave because of new policies when I started adjunct teaching in 2013.

**How long has it been since you worked in the TLC?** I still volunteer a few hours a week there, so I never really quit working in the TLC.

**What was the best part of working in the TLC?** I have met some really amazing people through working in the TLC. It's always nice to see familiar faces around campus.

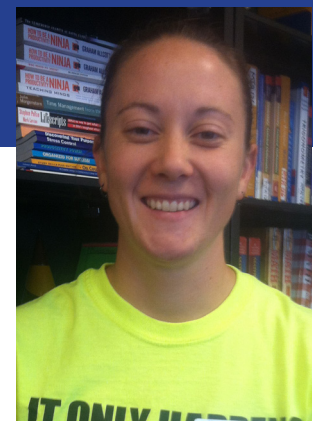
**What is your profession?** I am now teaching math.

**Where do you work?** OTC

**In what city and state do you live?** Springfield, MO

**Name 3 significant things that have changed since you worked in the TLC.** 1. I now have a master's degree in mathematics. 2. I recently got a full-time position in the math department, which started this semester. 3. I got my first dog, and of course got to name her something math related: Delta. She's the coolest.

**How did working in the TLC help you to get where you are today?** I think that tutoring



students for 5 years before I became an instructor gave me a bit of an advantage because I was able to see where students were having the most difficulties on a more personal level, and I had a lot of practice explaining things in many different ways to accommodate different learning styles. I feel like those things have made me a better instructor.



## TLC Events



By Tara Lacio

The TLC kicked off the 2016-17 school year by hosting the first annual Celebration of Teaching in August. Over 100 full-time and adjunct faculty gathered to share ideas in teaching techniques, grading, classroom management, group work, critical thinking, soft skills, collaborative learning, class discussions, lessons in Canvas, creating assignments, and leadership. Originally offered as the Celebration of Developmental Education, the TLC hosts this professional development opportunity every August. For more information or if you are

interested in presenting a session, contact Jacob Lewellen at [lewellej@otc.edu](mailto:lewellej@otc.edu).

The TLC believes it is important to give back to the community. That is why we will be putting together a team on October 1 to volunteer at the Meals-a-Million Pack-a-Thon organized by the local non-profit Friends Against Hunger. The annual event assembles over one million meals in three days with the help of volunteers. Last year the TLC team packaged 3,456 meals and hopes to beat that total this year. In addition to Meals-a-Million, the TLC will again be adopting an OTC family for the holidays through Crosslines. Faculty, staff, and tutors of the TLC will collect food items, money, and gifts for the family and will deliver them at the end of the semester.

On March 9, 2009, Congress declared March 14 as National Pi Day ( $\pi \approx 3.14$ ). Due to a conflict with Spring Break, the TLC decided students and staff should not have

to miss the joy of celebrating pi so came “Leftover Pi Day.” On March 22, the TLC will be handing out over 300 slices of free pie and hosting math games, a math contest, and a giant pi-oem (a poem matching the digits of pi) on which students will collaborate. Join the TLC for Leftover Pi Day on March 22, 2017 in the Information Commons East Breezeway. For more information, contact Tara Lacio at [laciott@otc.edu](mailto:laciott@otc.edu).

The STEM field (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) is growing, and classes in this field are becoming more necessary at the college level. The TLC is helping gain students’ interest in these classes by getting them excited early on. The annual event “Keeping Your Career Options Open” invites 6th graders from rural schools to spend a day learning how STEM is important in many careers. On April 29, at the Richwood Valley Campus, the Allied Health, Science, Computer, and Math Departments all gave hands-on demonstrations to 127 kids from 7 different schools. The students left enthusiastic about math and science as well as a future education at OTC. The TLC will be holding the event again on April 28, 2017. If you are interested in presenting a session at the event, please contact Tara Lacio at [laciott@otc.edu](mailto:laciott@otc.edu).

Please join the TLC for an Open House on Wednesday, September 14, and Wednesday, February 8. There will be popcorn, prizes, and tours of the TLC. Bring a friend and receive an extra entry in the drawing!



*Meals a Million Pack-a-Thon 2014*



## Garlic & Brown Sugar Chicken

This recipe is so simple to throw together . . . it is kind of sweet, but you can spice up the adult servings with red pepper flakes, which add the perfect amount of heat. Serve it over rice and with some steamed vegetables and you have a quick and easy (and delicious!) dinner!

### Ingredients:

4-6 chicken breasts (or thighs would work great too!)  
 1 cup packed brown sugar  
 2/3 cup vinegar  
 1/4 cup lemon-lime soda  
 2-3 Tablespoons minced garlic  
 2 Tablespoons soy sauce  
 1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper  
 2 Tablespoons corn starch  
 2 Tablespoons water  
 Rice or noodles, cooked  
 Red pepper flakes (optional)

### Directions:

Spray slow cooker with non-stick cooking spray. Place chicken (I used frozen chicken, thawed chicken works great, too) inside slow cooker. Mix together brown sugar, vinegar, soda, garlic, soy sauce, and pepper together. Pour over chicken. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 4 hours. Take chicken pieces out of slow cooker (mine basically fell apart) and pour remaining sauce into saucepan. Place saucepan over high heat. Mix together corn starch and water, pour into saucepan, and mix well. Let sauce come to a boil and boil for 2-3 minutes, or until it starts to thicken and turns into a glaze. Remove from heat and let sit for a minute or two (it will continue to thicken as it cools down).

Serve chicken over rice or noodles and top with glaze. Sprinkle red pepper flakes on top if desired.

Recipe adapted from Slow and Simple

## Easy Pumpkin Dip

This is a great recipe for fall. Serve with sliced apples or gingersnaps.

### Ingredients:

3/4 cup low-fat cream cheese  
 1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
 1/2 cup canned pumpkin  
 2 teaspoons maple syrup  
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions:

Beat cream cheese, brown sugar, and canned pumpkin together with an electric mixer on medium speed in a bowl until light and creamy, 3 to 5 minutes. Add maple syrup and cinnamon and beat until smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.



The TLC is located in the Information Common East, Room 212, OTC's Springfield Campus  
 Fall and Spring hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am - 9 pm, Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm  
 Summer hours: Monday - Thursday 8 am - 6 pm, Saturday 10am - 2 pm  
 tlc@otc.edu (417) 447-8164



# TLC's Movers and Shakers

*By Lisa Marks*

With the start of the 2016-17 academic year, we welcome several TLC staff to new roles.



Shelby Gannott (formerly Vicat) is the new Assistant Director of the TLC—responsible for all things tutoring and mentoring—hiring, training, and evaluating—and maintaining NADE and CRLA Certifications, among many other duties. Shelby began her career as a math Tutor, then full-time math Instructor in the TLC before earning her spot as Assistant Director.



Ren Adams made the move from part-time Secretary to full-time, working hard to keep the TLC supplied, organized, and orchestrated—not an easy task! He got his start in the TLC as a math Tutor and was promoted to part-time Supervisor, so he is well-versed in how the TLC operates. Ren replaces Gynette Hubach, who is now enjoying her retirement.



Ren became a proud new grandpa, aka Poppi, to Esme in September!

Snow Popis joins the team as a part-time Supervisor after many years as a chemistry and biology Tutor in the TLC. Ask Snow about her current graduate research projects if you want to be in on the cutting edge of science!



Former Assistant Director Samantha Crandall has relocated with her family to the Phoenix, Arizona, area where she is full-time mathematics faculty member at Mesa Community College. Sam made many contributions to the TLC, and we wish her well in her new adventure.

