

# The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”  
Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 3 Issue 15

March 29-April 11

## Luna Community College students sweep collision repair competition *Gary Gamertsfelder qualifies for national event*

Gary Gamertsfelder had his game on this past weekend during the New Mexico SkillsUSA competition in Albuquerque. Gamertsfelder along with fellow Luna Community College students Adolfo Bachicha and Ricardo Baca swept the collision repair category. Gamertsfelder will represent Luna Community College at the national competition in June in Kansas City.

“I’d rather be on stage with my classmates than anyone else,” said Gamertsfelder. “We get to help each other out. This shows we have a good program here at Luna. It was a great learning experience for me.”

Bachicha also said it was great to compete at this level. “It was a life-changing experience,” said Bachicha. “Your out in the field; I’m impressed with this competition.”

Continued on page 3



**Gary Gamertsfelder, middle, along with Ricardo Baca (left) and Adolfo Bachicha raise their hands in the air during an awards ceremony in Albuquerque on Saturday. Gamertsfelder took first in the collision repair category. Bachicha and Baca took second and third, respectively.**



**Angie Manafy’s biology for non-majors, general biology I, general biology II and environmental science classes took a field trip to the water treatment plant and explored where drinking water originates, how it is treated and distributed, and how the resource is protected.**

# Denise Fox says her strength is her sense of humor and her willingness to work hard

**Name:** Denise Fox

**Position:** Dental Hygiene Clinical Coordinator and TEAS Prep Instructor

**How many years at LCC (what year did you start)?** 2007.

**Favorite food and why?** Northeastern New Mexican food because I really like green chili and chili rellenos.

**Favorite hobby and why?** I have several hobbies. One of the many is making art: photographing people, watercolor painting, and sewing. I also love to dance—merengue, salsa, C&W, but swing dancing is my favorite. Reading fiction is also something I can't live without.

**Favorite TV show and why?** *House* because I love the neurotic main character's verbal wit. You never know what he's going to say.

**Where would you like to see yourself five years from now?** Educating future dental hygienists and teaching grammar. By then I hope to have attained a master's degree. Still living in New Mexico and taking art classes.

**What do you like best about LCC?** I really enjoy the people I work with and the students. Education can take us places we would never have dreamed of going, and I am glad to have a part in the education of LCC's students.

**What do you like least about LCC and what would you offer as a solution?** Lack of communication and a sense of disconnect between other departments. Having empathy for others and taking the first step go a long way toward better communication.

**What is your greatest strength?** A sense of humor and willingness to work hard.



Denise Fox says she enjoys the people and students she works with. She says she is happy to have a part in the education of Luna Community College students.

## The Guessing Game

**Can you guess which LCC employee's picture this is? The first person to give the right answer will get a free meal from the LCC Rough Rider Grill. You may enter the contest by e-mailing your answer to [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu) or calling extension 1200. One winner per month.**



## Quote of the Week

“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”— Maria Robinson.

*Notice: There will not be a Luna Light publication next week.*

# LCC:

“The People’s College”

# LCC students sweep...



LCC instructor Tom Nitzcnski and Jonathan Urioste

Continued from page 1

Everyone represented Luna well.”

Baca echoed his classmates.

“I learned a lot. I know I need to focus a lot more, but overall it was a great experience,” said Baca.

LCC instructor Gilbert Martinez wasn’t surprised with the success of his students.

“I knew they were ready and I figured they would do well,” said Martinez.

This is the fourth year that LCC students won a state championship in this category.

Jonathan Urioste placed third in the prepared speech category.

“I know I could have done better, but I’m satisfied that I placed at all,” said Urioste.

LCC also received a SkillsUSA Chapter Award for participation.

“I feel proud of our students,” said LCC SkillsUSA Advisor Anthony Baca. “They go the extra mile and take on the responsibility of being a Skills member. This shows that good things can come out of this program.

## Putting tools to manage water

Every community has to control its water destiny. They also need to be opened-minded about the surrounding communities who are water thirsty. This is not an issue to be put on a shelf; just because it’s raising or we have an above average snow pack in our water shed. This is an issue that requires everyone in the region to come to the table and be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

We all need to tear down the territorial walls and respect everyone’s opinion and be innovative of exploring ideas that people bring to the table. We can not continue to be territorial thinkers in

regards to just protecting what you feel is yours, knowing that your neighbors are struggling and is losing ground because of a lack of water.

This issue is not going away and it will probably get worse before it gets better. In my opinion, the cost of water in the future will be astronomical. Who would have thought that this day would come, but it’s here.

I look forward to someday in participating in a regional water summit where people from the region come together with their sleeves rolled up ready to help each other address this water crisis.

We are at the crossroads and it is up to us to

create solutions and establish a well-defined map so that everyone and anyone that is willing to provide solutions will know what direction we should all be headed in.

This will enable everyone to be part of the solution in which to control our water destiny,—  
**Richard Trujillo, Community Liaison for State Engineer Office.**

*Everyone is invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Story Headgate Project sponsored by the office of the state engineer at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31 at the LCC Board Room.*

## LCC surpasses Pennies for Patients goal

### Pennies for Patients

Grand Total is \$766.82

(LCC set a goal of \$500)

#### Nursing and Dental

\$246.86

#### Human Resources/IT/Dual Credit

\$196.09

#### Board of Trustees

\$75.00

#### Humanities

\$60.44

#### Student Services Building

\$42.43

#### SMET

\$37.05

### School of Business

\$24.19

#### Bookstore/AHEC/Small Business

\$21.40

#### Financial Aid/Business/President’s Office

\$16.99

#### Culinary Arts/Cafeteria

\$16.95

#### Vocational

\$15.20

#### Library

\$8.17

#### Wellness Center

\$6.05

*\*The boxes from automobiles and cosmetology still need to be collected. This will be added to the grand total, but will not be counted towards the contest as the deadline was Friday.*

**Luna Community College joined over 25,000 other schools in a nationwide fundraising effort to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Pennies for Patients Program.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rough Rider Basketball Tournament

**City of Las Vegas Recreation Center**

**Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Five on Five Basketball Tournament,  
Sponsored By: Luna Community College  
Student Government.**

**This is an eighteen and older basketball  
tournament.**

**Entry Fee per Team: \$120.00**

**Late Entries must add \$20.00**

**Entry Fee Deadline: March 31, 2010**

**Late Fee Deadline: April 2, 2010**

**50/50 raffle will be drawn during the  
Championship game.**

50% of the total proceeds will be put in the LCC Student Government Fund and the other 50% will be given to the lucky ticket holder.

**To Pick up Entry Forms or for More  
Information Call**

Danyelle Romero 505-426-7687  
Naomi Ortiz 505-429-1767

We are looking at organizing a woman's tournament in the near future. If any interest please contact either Danyelle Romero or Naomi Ortiz.

New Mexico  
Workforce Connection



---

# 7th Annual Regional Transition Fair

In collaboration with

## Luna Community College's Transfer/Career Fair

Tuesday, April 20, 2010  
Rough Rider Grill  
8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Meet with.....

College Representatives   Employers   Armed Services  
Service Providers   Outreach Programs  
Entrepreneurs

Take part in this great opportunity and enjoy  
Free Hotdogs, door prizes, activities, snacks, and music



NEW MEXICO  
DIVISION OF  
VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION  
Public Education Department



Luna  
community  
college

# Students—your lives are remarkable

By Dr. Pete Campos

Helen Keller (American author, political activist and lecturer) said, “It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks, to go forward with a great desire forever beating at the door of our hearts as we travel toward our distant goal.” I find this quote most appropriate as I look forward to the many opportunities that will surface throughout your lifetime. In addition, you’ll experience love, disappointments, accolades, bismirching, comfort and uneasiness. Your feelings, on any given day, will be jerked, soothed and kneaded. You’ll experience pleasure, pain and emotions you never imagined or are not able to readily identify. *Your youthful smile, like a sculpted masterpiece, will become so unique and recognizable; the whole world will know it belongs to you.*

How magical and wonderful that you are evolving into a one-of-a-kind person with traits all your own! Aristotle (Greek philosopher, scientist and physician) said, “For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.” If you think back, do you remember those shocking moments or rare occasions that helped shape your personality, attitude and outlook on life? I am confident you can recall those branding and mind shaping episodes that happened as you were growing up. They were the times you learned to ride a bike, bake a cake and drive a car. Whatever surfaces in your mind, weren’t there also people at your side while you learned by doing? They may have been your parents, siblings, relatives, friends or even complete strangers. Regardless, what you have experienced in life happened with others around you and because your heart, mind and curiosity led you to try something that intrigued you. Those traits, ambitions, hopes and dreams are not going to stop! While you may approach new plateaus with more wisdom, experience and caution, you’ll still journey towards your ultimate goal. What that

will be - only you’ll recognize it - as you pass the markers along the way to reach your destination.

Throughout time, many people experienced what you are now encountering in some form or fashion. For example: Albert Einstein (Swiss-American theoretical physicist, philosopher and author) considered a genius, worked countless hours to thoroughly understand and prove his theories. Although many thought he wanted to be highly recognized for his works, he believed and said, “Strive not to be a success, but rather of value.” So, it wasn’t what others thought of him, rather it was what he truly thought he could contribute in life that really mattered.

Your trek through life is guided, not by a compass, but by your values. Who you are influences how you make decisions and respond to circumstances in your life. Your values are instilled or along life’s journey will be adopted. While values can change, the important thing to know is that when you have strong and positive values, they will be integral to you achieving what you want in life. The sky may be the limit for your aspirations, but an unknown author said it best, “The least of things with a meaning is worth more in life than the greatest of things without it.”

As you make your way through your classes with an open mind, humility, a thirst for learning and trust in us to help you face the unknown, you’ll construct the foundation to go forward in life with a formal education and then build a magnificent structure with your values and meaning for life. Abraham Lincoln (16<sup>th</sup> U.S. President) said: “And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” We’ll do our best so that your life will be filled with value and meaning. *One day, down the road, I am confident you’ll see your life as irreplaceable and priceless.*

## Celebrity Look-Alike Contest

**We are asking individuals to vote on which Luna Community College employee looks more like their celebrity look-alike. Please e-mail your vote to [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu) or by calling extension 1200. Votes will be taken until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 29. Remember this is all in fun.**



Gene Sandoval

and



Jesse James

or



Marcella Cannone

and



Barbara Walters

## Personnel approaches

By Lawrence Quintana  
Human Resource Director

“By general law *life* and *limb* must be protected; yet often a limb must be amputated to save a life; but a life is never wisely given to save a limb,”—James M. McPherson, *TRIED BY WAR*, (New York, Penquin Press, 2008) 30.

This quote reminds me of the situation Luna Community College is faced with regarding the 3.5 percent budget reduction just passed through the New Mexico State Legislature. For months the Luna Community College leadership advisory team has been working with department directors to determine what cuts their specific departments can make and what overall cuts the institution needs to take. Discussion has also included employee salary cuts, reduction in force, and program deletion or reduction. The bottom line cuts will be made while preserving the overall delivery of education. So what have we accomplished and what are we proposing?

The departments were able to make cuts in areas of travel, training, professional development, supplies, and the reduction in professional services. In addition, the college has enacted in a reduction in force through attrition and realignment of duties. How will the realignment of work be conducted? If the tasks that are realigned and assigned to an employee and the tasks are lateral to the job description there would be no compensation for the employee. If the realignment of tasks is upward there would be some realignment through a process utilizing the range schedule that is in place. The *realignment* also would require the employee be suited for the task. If the realignment of duties is downward there would be no compensation. Usually upward and downward tasking would be assigned to an exempt employee and would cause that employee to work beyond the 40 hour work week. Working on the above stated premise the college can realize substantial savings without impacting employee salaries or cause the institution to implement a forced reduction in force. Other considerations will include freezing the hiring of full-time faculty, utilizing adjunct instructors. The LCC adjunct pool has a diverse and credentialed adjunct instructor resource. This approach would be done for one year and reconsidered prior to next budget year. Overall this approach contains the least impact on employees while changing the schools' culture and meeting the “do more with less philosophy.”

As Luna Community College leaders focus on the methods to be used to make decisions and develop processes to achieve the decisions that provide the best outcomes for the delivery of education to students. Luna Community College must continue to move forward in a positive direction.

When Abraham Lincoln was trying to save the nation with the least amount of money, personnel, and support, he sacrificed the limb to save the life of the nation. With present day recession, school leaders must determine the areas that schools will need to cut in order to preserve the main objective of the school: EDUCATION.

## Improving student learning by developing a culture of assessment

By Dr. Vidal Martinez  
Vice President of Instruction

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to review the 2004 LCC Self-Study Report. In the report, I realized the only way LCC can improve student learning is by creating a culture of assessment. In its basic definition, a “culture of assessment” has to do with the attitudes and behaviors of the faculty and staff toward assessment. Do they support assessment? If the faculty and staff do not support assessment or have negative attitudes or behaviors toward assessment, then LCC does not have a culture of assessment. This is evident when we create certain documents. Eventually, implementation is delayed and the documents end up on someone's shelf or in a storage closet.

Before LCC can claim that it has a “culture of assessment,” the word assessment must be defined. According to Bordon and Zak (2001) the word assessment is to describe a process of determining the quality of student learning in order to make improvements. Furthermore, The Higher Learning Commission uses the word “assessment” to explain a process to improve student learning. Whatever the case, it is imperative that all faculty and staff at LCC, not only define assessment but understand its relevancy toward improving student learning. Once assessment is understood and accepted by faculty and staff, the next step is to implement a process to improve student learning.

In the article: *What is Assessment? Cutting Through the Jargon and Confusion* (2007), Marie Baehr and Jennifer J. Fager define a four step process to improve student learning. The first step (1) is to determine what you want your students to learn. For example, a course syllabus can explain what students are expected to learn. This can be demonstrated in terms of learning outcomes, goals or objectives. Once you determine what you want students to learn, the next step (2) is to align the curriculum. Deciding the curriculum should be based on what you want students to learn. The third step (3) is to determine if your students are learning what they were expected to learn. Most faculty will use “assessment tools” to determine if their students learned what they were expected to learn. The final step (4) is to make needed improvements based on assessment results. We must ask ourselves what did we learn from the results of the assessment process and, how are we going to use the result to make improvements?

The only way Luna Community College can improve student learning is by creating a culture of assessment. Evidence of a culture of assessment can be observed by the attitudes and behaviors of Luna faculty and staff toward assessment. Moreover, assessment must be defined and understood by all employees! Finally, a four step process to improve student learning must be implemented across the board, in all disciplines, programs and course offerings. If LCC can achieve a culture of assessment, student learning will be at the forefront and our documents and/or reports will not just be pretty books on a shelf.



- Former New Mexico Governor Dave Cargo is flanked by several local residents during his book signing ceremony at The Plaza Hotel last week. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Pete Campos, Jesus Lopez, Joseph Baca, Loretta Baca, Neita Fran Ward and Editha Bartley. Cargo's book is titled "Lonesome Dave." LCC's Site in Mora is named after him.

# 2010 Hair Show

Thursday,  
April 15, 2010

Luna CC's  
Nursing Auditorium  
1st show Noon-1 p.m.  
2nd show 5:30 p.m.-  
7:30 p.m.

*Both shows are free and  
open to the public*



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!



THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE **ROADRUNNER AND HORIZON SCHOLARSHIPS** FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR.

STOP BY THE LCC OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AN APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS  
**JUNE 1, 2010**



# First Annual V-Martinez Short Story Competition

Writers of short stories (fiction) are encouraged to enter the 2010 *First Annual V-Martinez Short Story Competition*. The purpose of the competition is to promote, encourage and support the talent of short story writers at Luna Community College.

### Prize and Publication

The first-place winner will receive \$150 cash prize and publication of winning story in **The Luna Light**. The second-place winner will receive \$50 cash prize and publication of winning story in **The Luna Light**. The third and fourth place winners will receive honorable mentions in **The Luna Light**.

### Eligibility Requirements

Short stories must be original unpublished fiction, typed and double-spaced, and may not exceed 3,000 words in length. There are no theme restrictions.

### Who may submit?

The competition is open only to Luna Community College Students whose fiction has not appeared in any publications.

### Submission Requirements

Submissions must be sent to Dr. Vidal Martinez. Writers can submit no more than two entries.

The author's name should not appear on the short story. Stories will be judged anonymously by a panel of judges. Each story must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet with the writer's name, mailing address, phone number, title of story, and the word count. Short stories will not be returned.

### Deadline for Entry

Friday, April 16, 2010. Entries after April 16th will not be accepted.

### Announcement of Winners and Honorable Mentions

Winners and honorable mentions will be announced during the month of May, 2010. For more information, please contact Dr. Vidal Martinez at 505-454-5378

## Weekly activities

### Monday, March 29, 2010

■ 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. D.W.I. Class (General Studies/Room 102-B)

### Tuesday, March 30, 2010

■ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mora, San Miguel, & Guadalupe Group Orientation (Spons: AHEC (Student Services/Conf. Room))

■ 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. LCC's Noches de Familia Event (IPC/Cafeteria)

■ 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Study Hall-LCC Softball (General Studies/Room 112)

### Wednesday, March 31, 2010

■ 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Office of State Engineer "Ribbon Cutting Event" (Student Services/Conf. Rm)

■ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. U.S. Senator Tom Udall's Office Hours (Mora Site/Library)

■ 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. LCC Foundation Meeting (Student Services/Conf. Room)

■ 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Special SLOA Committee Meeting (LRC/Lecture Hall)

■ 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Student Government Meeting (IPC/Game Room)

### Thursday, April 1, 2010

■ 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. LCC's Noches de Familia Event (IPC/Cafeteria)

■ 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Line Dance Class (IPC/Cafeteria)

### Friday, April 2, 2010

■ No Activities Scheduled

### Saturday, April 3, 2010

■ No Activities Scheduled

### Sunday, April 4, 2010

■ No Activities Scheduled



Luna Community College Foundation Trustee Phil Wolff was recognized for his years of commitment and service to the Luna Community College Foundation. Wolff has been involved with the foundation for many years. Pictured with Wolff are Foundation Members Katherine Marquez, Matt Martinez, Dante Vigil, Foundation Liaison Sarah Flores and LCC President Dr. Pete Campos.

## LCC going through transformation

By Jesse Gallegos

Luna Community College is going through a transformation and the journey is resulting in student success.

Over the course of the last year, our college has instituted several new academic programs and continues to concentrate on its academic rigor.

I have learned that through transformation comes growing pains—but through all of its changes we must continue to support each other. As our college aspires to become the premier rural community college in America, we can never forget this essential element to our success. We must all remember that there is a purpose for all of us and our college and that is to focus on the student.

As in most things in life, the human element sneaks in and sometimes makes things more difficult than what it actually has to be. Our college would be a lot smoother if we learn to understand one another better and support each other in our endeavors.

The college has also instituted a chain of command, something that other institutions of higher education has proven to be effective. Again, this is part of our transformation and within time, this type of management style will be widely accepted.

I look back at each edition of **The Luna Light** and I am amazed of how many academic and social events we have in our small college.

One of the things that I hear over and over again is communication. We are all part of communication. I will be the first to admit that I have to do a better job in this. But we all have to admit that steps have been and will continue to be taken to improve in this arena. Aside from regular departmental meetings and cross department meetings we have our weekly newsletter and two radio shows. KNMX and KFUN have been gracious enough to give LCC free air time which equals to over \$40,000 a year.

I am proud to be an employee here at LCC primarily because of our students, staff and faculty. Together we can accomplish a lot.

## RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES (and other events) — WEEK OF

March 29 thru April 3

*Monday, March 29 – no activities planned*

*Tuesday, March 30 – KFUN Radio, 8 a.m., promoting SAAI Summer Program, Tech Prep, Community Education classes, LCC Transition/Transfer Fair*

*Wednesday, March 31 – Campus Tour, Mesa Vista HS, 11 a.m.*

*Thursday, April 1 – KNMX Radio, LCC Show, 1pm; promoting SAAI Summer program; promoting LCC Transition/Transfer Fair*

*Friday, April 2 – Holiday, (campus closed) Good Friday Observance*