

The Luna Light

"The People's College"

Mission Statement: "Creating Opportunities for You!"

Vision Statement: "New Mexico's Premier Community College: Preparing Students for Success"

Visit us at
www.luna.edu
1-800-588-7232

Volume 7 Issue 7

March 3-March 9, 2014



Erin Gilland teaches human anatomy and physiology at Luna Community College.

One-on-one with LCC's Erin Gilland

The following is an interview with Luna Community College instructor Erin Gilland.

Tell us about your professional experience and educational background.

B.S. in zoology, minors in French and zoology, *summa cum laude*, University of Oklahoma ; M.A.T. (Master of Arts in Teaching), University of Alaska Southeast; second author of the article "Microhabitat Preferences and Spatial Distribution of the Vesper Rat, *Nyctomys sumichrasti*, in Colima, Mexico," published in the journal *Mammalian Biology*, June 2010; certified teacher of science, math, and performing arts, grades 6-12, by the N.M. PED.

Third year teaching human anatomy and physiology I and II at LCC; one year teaching integrated science, geography, and drama at Goldenview Middle School for Anchorage School District as a State of Alaska certified instructor; one year teaching biology and chemistry at West Anchorage High School as a student-teacher; one year substitute teaching for Anchorage School District.

Continued on page 2



Luna Community College faculty, staff and administrators meet with evaluators from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) early Monday morning.

Erin Gilland...

Continued from page 1

Describe your teaching style or teaching philosophy.

I believe in setting the bar very high as regards academic standards, and I believe that empowering students to assertively and professionally self-advocate and seek out support is a necessary part of helping them to meet such high standards.

I believe our expectations of students at LCC should be as great as expectations are at any other college in the country, because our students have as much potential as students anywhere else in the country do. In addition, because I know that not all students come to us with the academic habits and educational background necessary to reach such high expectations, I believe in the necessity of not only *offering* students high quality guidance and support but *insisting* that they develop sufficient self-knowledge, confidence, and discipline to *seek out* and *request* such sup-

port in constructive ways whenever necessary.

What is your favorite aspect of your current job and why is it ?

My favorite part of my current job, without a doubt, is getting to know students and being part of their growth as confident

Because of my background and experiences, I pressure students to be confident, responsible, intellectually curious, and exceedingly rigorous in their approach to learning new information and concepts, and I never disrespect my students by expecting less from them than I know they are capable of.

and capable students, self-advocates, and professionals.

What are one or two of your proudest professional accomplishments?

My proudest professional accomplishment

has been preparing students well for the nursing program at LCC. I take that back; nothing, apparently, can completely prepare someone for the nursing program at LCC. But I *have* heard that my students are as well prepared as possible in terms of their anatomy and physiology backgrounds.

How does your background and experiences strengthen academics at LCC?

My background and experiences strengthen academics at LCC because they have convinced me of the importance of strong positive pressure and high expectations. Because of my background and experiences, I pressure students to be confident, responsible, intellectually curious, and exceedingly rigorous in their approach to learning

new information and concepts, and I never disrespect my students by expecting less from them than I know they are capable of.

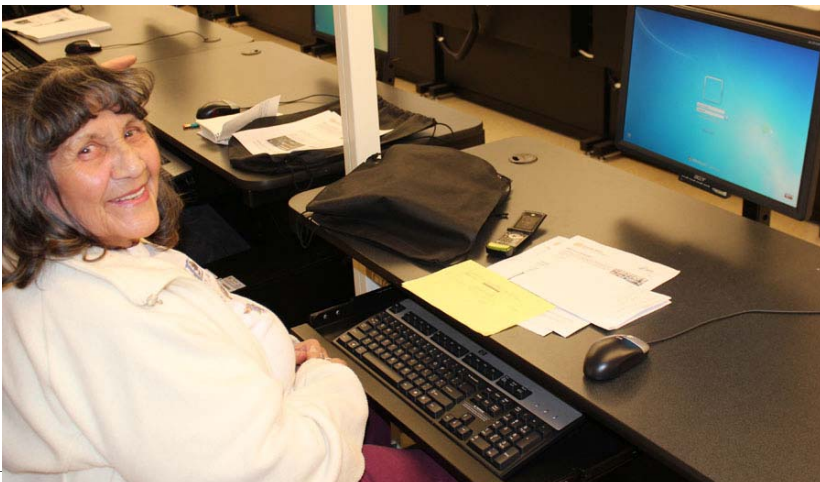


Luna Community Business Instructor Meta Levister shares some helpful hints with her computer basics class. Senior Citizens from Las Vegas, El Valle, Mora and Wagon Mound took advantage of the opportunity to learn about and enhance their computer skills. The class is part of LCC's Community Education Programs.

L
C
C

“The People’s College”

Depicted here is Angie Manafy's environmental science class presenting their research about environmental damage caused by humans. Featured here is Lorenza Marcais' presentation on the damaging carbon footprint that humans inflict on the earth because of modern living habits. Others that presented were Amanda Lucero, who talked on poverty. Kevin Arviso presented on energy, and Michael Christensen presented on population explosion. Manafy wants to extend a special thanks to Stormi Miller and Terri Stafford for preparing and catering the wonderful salads and pies as well as members of staff and students who came out and participated in the presentations.



Priscilla Martinez is all smiles as she prepares to start her computer basics class last week.

Anyone interested in sending a column, article, photo or information that they would like to see included in *The Luna Light*, please e-mail jgallegos@luna.edu or call him at 505/454-2510.

17 Mora High students qualify for nationals

Submitted by Pauline Laumbach, BPA Sponsor

Last week 26 students from Mora High School participated in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) state competition that was held in Albuquerque. Out of the 26 students who competed, 24 of them brought home at least one award and many brought home two or more.

They competed in the following events: Fundamental Accounting, Payroll Accounting, Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications, Banking and Finance, Financial Math, Fundamental Word Processing Skills, Advanced Word Processing Skills, Desktop Publishing, Basic Office Systems and Procedures, Administrative Support Team, Administrative Support Concepts, Information Tech Concepts, Computer Programming Concepts, Prepared Speech, Presentation Management/Individual, Presentation Management Team Management/Marketing/Human Resource, Parliamentary Procedure Concepts, Business Meeting Management, and Project Management Concepts.

At least one Mora student placed in all these events and in some cases, we had up to five students place within the top 10. Seventeen of the students qualified to compete at the BPA National Conference

which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Several students have also taken and passed the Certiport Exam which is a national certification in Microsoft Word.

BPA is an organization that has been part of the Mora Schools for many years. Mrs. Pauline Laumbach took over the organization in 2006. Her students have placed at the state competition every year and she has taken several students to the National Competitions held in different cities. She has had at least eight students place top ten in national competitions.

In order to be a member of BPA, the student must be registered in a business class and keep a 3.0 GPA. Every year Mora High School offers Computer Fundamentals, Business Computer Technology, Accounting, Computerized Accounting, and Banking and Finance. The Computer Fundamentals class is not a concurrent enrollment class with Luna Community College due to the fact that this course is usually taken by freshmen and sophomores who are too young to register for dual credit, though the class does use the same book (publisher) that the Luna Computer Fundamental course uses.

Weekly calendar

Monday, March 3, 2014

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. LCC Faculty Senate Meeting (Culinary Arts Classroom)

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. LAT Meeting (Student Services 102)

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. NMDOT Training (IPC Dining Hall)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (VoAg)

Thursday, March 6, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. GrowRaton Strategic Planning Workshop (Springer)

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mora County Sherriff's Office OHV Training (Mora)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (VoAg)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Den Meeting (IPC Dining Hall)

Friday, March 7, 2014

12:00 p.m. LCC Baseball v. Odessa College (Odessa, TX)

12:00 p.m., 2:00p.m. LCC Softball v. Western Texas College (HOME)

Saturday, March 8, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Defensive Driving (General Studies 102B)

12:00 p.m. LCC Baseball v. Odessa College (Odessa, TX)

12:00 p.m., 2:00p.m. LCC Softball v. Western Texas College (HOME)

Tip of the week:

Try to find the goodness in people

Jesse's quick hits

Remember to smile a few times a day. I hope this helps—Jesse

*Knock knock
Who's there?*

*Roach.
Roach who?
Roach you a valentine card.*

*Knock knock.
Who's there?*

*Police
Police who?
Police give me a candy bar.*



Title V Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2014

"Creating a Pathway to Success in High-Demand Programs"

Title V Gets Safety Training

Safety Coordinator Andrew Duran gave a presentation to the Title V staff regarding safety and the precautions needed when on campus. Andrew stated: "a good phrase to keep in mind is, run, hide & fight. Run for safety, or hide and barricade yourself in a safe place."



He also informed us of the Rave Mobile messaging system that is in place for Luna Community College students, faculty and staff for safety alerts.



Finally, Andrew presented us with a "Luna Safety Plan" binder to keep in the office for informational purposes.

Thank you Andrew!

Welcome Wilson & Company Architects

A meeting was held on February 13, 2014 with Wilson and Company Architect firm to go over the Auto Collision construction plans for Year 2 construction initiatives. Ron Gonzales, Gary Martinez, Rick Jaramillo, Miguel Martinez, Tiffany Young, Lorraine Martinez and three staff members from Wilson & Company Architect design attended the meeting. Blueprints were reviewed, timelines discussed, and a walk through site visit to the new Auto Collision building was conducted.

John Montoya, Larry McDonald & Brandon Hensley all contributed to the needed discussions regarding the start of the construction on the Auto Collision building. It was noted by Lorraine Martinez the time frame urgency needed to begin the construction for Title V project. President Campos has requested to be kept informed of discussions and time allotments for the start of the project as well.

Another meeting is scheduled the week of February 24, 2014.



Trades & Title V Plan for the Future

Gary Martinez and his Auto Collision staff attended a meeting to discuss upcoming faculty online delivery trainings and to talk about supplies and equipment ordered for student use.

their assigned tool tags to assure accountability.

Anthony Baca, Gilbert Martinez, Gene Sandoval and Gary Martinez gave Title V the input needed to move forward with the auto collision product orders. The "Student Acknowledgement Form" was finalized and an "Electronic Instructor Inventory Log" is being designed. Tool security procedures were agreed upon. The welding department will be designing and constructing a metal shadow board for tool display. Tool carts have been ordered for easy accessibility. Students will go through a tool check-out procedure with

Together we are working hard and the future looks extremely bright. We've only just begun!



Pictured above: Anthony Baca, Gilbert Martinez, Erin Lopez, Gary Martinez, Tiffany Young, Veronica Serna, Andrew Duran, Larry Paiz, Lorraine Martinez and Gene Sandoval

Title V Staff

Lorraine Martinez, Director • Veronica Serna, Activity Director • Tiffany Young, Office Manager
Susan Olson-Smith, SimLab Supervisor • Larry Paiz, Instructional Designer

Pecos School District requesting change to SFCC

The Pecos School District has requested that their high school students begin taking dual credit classes at Santa Fe Community College beginning next school year.

According to a letter received by Luna Community College Vice-President for Instruction Dr. Vidal Martinez from the New Mexico Higher Education Department, the Pecos School District wants to “switch their GAR district for dual credit purposes from Luna and Highlands to Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). The reason given by Pecos is that their students will only have a drive of 25 miles to SFCC and, therefore, the change enhances the safety of the students.”

“We significantly improved course offerings and support services in 2008 to ensure successful retention and completion for all students participating in our dual credit/concurrent enrollment program,” said LCC President Dr. Pete Campos. “We have received much

testimony from students and parents as a result of these students participating in our dual credit/concurrent enrollment program. Students have been able to go on and work toward their degrees and careers of their choosing. Our efforts are first and foremost focused on student success.”

According to LCC records, the college began serving Pecos High in post-secondary education in the fall of 2005. During this span, many Pecos High students earned college credits including several students receiving a high school and college degree in the same year.

“We are glad to be a part of Pecos High students receiving their dual-credit courses here at our college,” said LCC Public Information Coordinator Jesse Gallegos. “Luna Community College is committed to our dual-credit/concurrent enrollment program.”

What is STEM?

By Vidal Martinez/LCC Vice-President of Instruction

STEM stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**. According to STEMJOBS.COM, approximately 67 percent of jobs require STEM skills, and STEM skills pay 30 percent more than non-STEM skills. In addition, 43 percent of STEM professionals will eventually advance to leadership positions.

With these statistics, why is it that we continue to have low enrollment in STEM degree programs? There are many reasons. The first problem is the STEM stereotype: “Science and math is too difficult,” “It’s for geeks,” or “It will take me forever to finish.” The second problem is lack of encouragement: “You don’t have the academic skills to succeed in STEM,” or “You’re better off in another program.” The third problem is awareness: “What kind of job can I get with a STEM degree?” or “What technological programs are out there?”

As STEM programs become increasingly in demand, the Luna Community College STEM department is moving forward with a new strategic initiative. First, the department is re-evaluating its mission by promoting a STEM culture that inspires degree and course completion. Second, it is the vision of the department to become the premier STEM program in Northeastern New Mexico. With the guidance of the faculty, the LCC STEM department will set the foundation for

post-secondary education in mathematics, science, engineering and technology.

Through associate degrees in **Pre-Engineering, General Science and Computer Science**, the department is developing specific educational objectives. These objectives describe what graduates are expected to attain within a few years of graduation. The following are examples.

- Our graduates will continue their education by obtaining a four-year degree at a university or other professional education.
- Our graduates will demonstrate a commitment to teamwork, communicate effectively, and demonstrate leadership qualities.
- Our graduates will become productive citizens who are responsible and professional, while promoting the value of diversity.
- Our graduates in Computer Science will have workforce development opportunities.

In addition, the STEM department has aligned its curriculum and programs to the ABET criteria. ABET is an international non-governmental organization that accredits STEM schools, which is a voluntary process through peer review. ABET will add value and proof that LCC has met certain standards and assurance of a solid educational foundation. To review programs of study in STEM, visit LCC’s web site at <http://www.luna.edu/all-academics/>

Position Announcements

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANT JOB POSITIONS:

- Instructor-Family Nursing (closes 5-30-14)

FOR JOB DESCRIPTION(S) AND/OR CLOSING DATES, CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AT (505) 454-2503 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.LUNA.EDU

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. ALL POSITION POSTING FOLLOW THE LCC AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN.

Las Vegas native Jennifer Sanchez gets job as policy analyst in Washington D.C.

Jennifer Sanchez is a policy analyst in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She previously served as the Executive Officer for the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. She joined NASA in October, 2012 as a Schedule C appointee of the President's administration.

As a policy analyst, Jennifer researches complex issues, crafts possible solutions, and recommends policy actions, accordingly.

After completing her degree, Jennifer served as an Assistant District Attorney for the First Judicial District



in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sanchez is a veteran of the United States Military. She served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle and received several medals including the National Defense Service Medal.

In 2003, Sanchez received a bachelor degree from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas. She then went on to receive her (doctorate degree in law) Juris Doctor (J.D.) from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas.

Sanchez was born and raised in Las Vegas, N.M.

SkillsUSA to conduct community clean-up

Luna Community College SkillsUSA will be having a community clean-up at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19 at Storrie Lake.

Storrie Lake has been needing help to clean up the park and the shoreline, according to LCC SkillsUSA Reporter Amberlynn Sena.

"We, being a community organization, volunteered our time to give back to our beautiful Las Vegas, N.M.," said Sena.

This event will also include the LCC Student Government.

"Especially now that spring and summer is right around the corner what better time than to help clean up one of the most visited family vacation spots here in our town," said Sena. "We appreciate the community's help and just want to give something back to our supporters."

Several LCC students will be competing at the New Mexico SkillsUSA event in early April. Winners there compete at the national SkillsUSA event in Kansas City.



Luna Community College student Antonio Pacheco became YouthBuild's 10th program participant to receive his GED. Pictured alongside Antonio are (at left) Roderick Luján, Case Manager/Transition Coordinator; and (at right), Brendaleigh Lobato, GED Instructor. Also pictured (at top) is YouthBuild Director Eddie King.

LCC: "The People's College"

Benefits big for Luna CC students

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

Luna Community College is known for its small class sizes, quality and accredited courses and programs, credentialed and caring faculty, and student preparation for the job market. Despite the odds like: poverty, single-parent families, food insecurity, being uninsured, high teen birth rates, limited and lack of affordable housing and other factors; students who attend LCC manage their education, tight finances and family situations, earn degrees and become competitive when they graduate and begin or continue work. Epicurus, ancient Greek philosopher, said, "Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you have now was once among the things you only hoped for."

A major contributing factor to the success of our students is centered on student persistence (strong survival skills). Our students know what it is to sacrifice, suffer and overcome adversity. They are resilient. Whether it is the student who has had a hard life by being a care giver for his grandparents and mother and studying to make good grades or the student who is caring for her children, having trouble with her car and accepting the responsibility to be in class on time and being one of the last students to leave at the end of the day, LCC students don't give up! They want to learn, understand their environment, contribute to society and be game changers. Michelle Obama, United States First Lady, said, "You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and

hope can take on a life of its own."

LCC students have the skills to navigate success! Some observations I have made include: students gathering around the tables in The Rough Rider Grill and helping each other with homework; students wanting to make up or extend the hours in shop to finish their auto, welding or wood projects; students practicing their future profession by giving haircuts or sculpting/painting nails; and, students deciding to stay home and study for a test instead of going out with their friends. Again, the real life struggles are balanced (oftentimes with a lot of stress) by students because they believe in what we have laid out for them to continue with their academic, athletic and extra-curricular pathways that eventually lead them to receive certificates or degrees. Elbert Hubbard, American writer, said, "A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success."

Our programs of study are set up in indoor and outdoor classroom environments to provide students the opportunity to learn, ask questions and not feel embarrassed, seek tutorial help when wanted or needed, practice to hone their career picks and look into career opportunities, and prepare their résumés and interview delivery skills to apply for jobs. We definitely provide a competitive edge to students who take their role seriously at LCC. Two years goes by quickly. Before you know it, that walk across the stage at graduation happens and a bright, enthusiastic and hopeful chapter begins in the lives of young and adult learners who have completed a phase of their education along life's journey.

Lady Rough Riders beat Trinidad State; Rough Riders split with El Paso CC



LCC's Raulier Martinez turns for home base in Friday's first game against El Paso Community College at Rodriguez Park. Martinez scored on the play.

The Luna Community College softball team got back to their winning ways on Saturday after beating Trinidad State 9-4. The game was played in Trinidad.

The win puts the Lady Rough Riders at 4-7 on the year. They will begin their conference season at home this Friday and Saturday as they take on Western Texas College. Two doubleheaders are scheduled for each day beginning at noon.

The LCC baseball team picked up two wins over the weekend beating El Paso Community College on Friday 5-4 and 6-4 before losing two games on Saturday 7-2 and 16-0. It was the conference opener for LCC.

Currently the Rough Riders are 6-13 overall and 2-2 in conference play.

They continue their conference trek as they take on Odessa College on the road on Friday and Saturday.