Luna Graduation 2016

By Sherry Goodyear

On Saturday morning, May 16, 2016, Luna staff, faculty, board members and families proudly watched as over 200 students graduated from LCC.

This was the first graduation ceremony for new registrar, Bernadette Rael, who admitted to being nervous. She fluidly lead the program with the introduction of the New Mexico State Police who posted the colors after Deacon C. Elroy Roybal said the invocation, and Nursing graduate, Anita Montano Lopez sang the National Anthem. (Cont. on pg. 3)
April 4—May 31  
Registration for Summer Semester.

April 18 - August 26  
Registration for Fall Semester

Monday May 30  
Memorial Day—Luna closed

Monday, June 06  
Summer Classes begin

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Guest speaker Ane Romero, a Mental Health Policy Advocate, followed, praising the students for their hard work and success saying, “Education makes everything possible.” She went on to discuss the necessity and inevitability of failure, but encouraged the graduates with the knowledge that each time they fail, they are one step closer to succeeding. She told the students that the family and friends standing behind them were there to pick them up when they fall, and that the teachers and mentors in front of them were there to remind them to move forward. Then she read this Vince Lombardi quote:

“I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious.”

She ended with these encouraging words, “Stay strong, never give up, and never ever be afraid to fail.”
Following Romero’s speech, Phi Theta Kappa advisors, Cindy Armijo and Twila Quintana recognized the achievements of Angela Martinez.

At that point, Dr. Vidal Martinez, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and President Leroy Sanchez, presented the Class of 2016 and each Luna graduate took a turn reveling in the glow of his/her accomplishments as he/she walked across the stage and received his/her much deserved moment in the sun.

As board member David Gutierrez said after graduation, “It was another success.”
LCC End of the Semester Bar-B-Que—Las Vegas Campus

Photo by Louie Montano

Photos by Amanda Nelson
Getting Ready for the Big Day!

Photos on this page by Travis La Vigne.

LCC—The People’s College!
Look What They Made in the Springer Woodshop !!!

Patricia Kuhlman’s woodshop students have been busy. Here are a few of their finished projects. (Going clockwise from upper left): Matt Rivera—Night Stand; Mike Hammit—China Cabinet; Victor Romero—Small table; Dennis Sanchez—Bench/Coat Rack; Darlene Wiggens—Lavatory Cabinet, Zelda Wiggins—Jewelry Armoire.
LCC Springer End-of-the-Semester Bar-B-Que
Cindy Branch gives a presentation to girls at Don Ceclio Martinez Elementary as part of the “Girls Can” program, which LCC has been involved with in the past. Branch explained what LCC can offer women and how a community college is different then a four-year institution.

Go Girls!
West Las Vegas baseball players listen to a recent presentation and pep talk from Luna Community College.
Robertson baseball players listen to a recent presentation and pep talk from Luna Community College’s Athletic Director, Art Abreu (Top Picture) and Coach Antonio Siqueiros (Bottom Picture).
North Eastern New Mexico restaurant provides a rolling kitchen and catering experience

LAS VEGAS, NM - New Mexico Small Business Development Center (NMSBDC) at Luna Community College (LCC) announced May 5, the recipient of its Star Client Award: The Skillet, a rolling kitchen and catering restaurant owned and operated by Isaac C. Sandoval. The Star Client Award recognizes a client of NMSBDC that has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the success of its business, as well as its community.

Sandoval opened The Skillet in late 2014 after he envisioned the idea of a mobile restaurant kitchen. The Skillet began with two part-time employees, and after steady growth, a year later, Sandoval added seven full-time employees. The restaurant’s menu is comprised of contemporary Mexican American food and a fast, casual dining experience.

Sandoval approached SBDC at Luna Community College in early 2014. There, he received guidance for developing a business plan to determine if the business proposal was feasible. Sandoval requested a loan for the mobile kitchen idea and successfully obtained one in July 2014.

“The expertise of the SBDC at LCC was instrumental in helping get organized and create a business plan,” said Sandoval, “I quickly learned that I could not do this alone, and it was great to have the assistance of the SBDC at LCC.”

Since its opening, The Skillet has outgrown its location. Sandoval is in the process of expanding the business to a nearby building to accommodate the growth of the business.

For more information about Small Business Programs Contact:
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Anyone who has watched the news anytime since the beginning of 2016 knows there is much alarm about the Zika virus. In February of this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” The disease is spreading rapidly, and WHO predicts that as many as 4 million people could be affected by the end of 2016. It is very likely that the Zika Virus will continue to spread to new areas. What is this virus, though? Zika is spread through mosquito bites, and recently, has been found to be contracted via sexual intercourse with an infected person, and through blood transfusions. The main concern with Zika is its cause of a birth defect in children called microcephaly. Microcephaly is a rare condition in which infants are born with abnormally small heads and damaged brains.

As of April 13, 2016, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that there are 358 travel-associated cases of Zika in the United States. This means that the disease was contracted from a mosquito while the person was traveling in an area outside of the United States. Twenty-one of these cases are in pregnant women, and seven cases have been transmitted through sexual intercourse (Zika virus can be spread by a man infected with Zika to his sex partners). There are no locally acquired cases, meaning the disease has not been contracted from a mosquito in the United States. The only states that have not seen a single case of the Zika virus are New Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and South Carolina.

As there are no cases in New Mexico, it may seem as though we should not worry, but we should all take precautions. The CDC recommends wearing long sleeve shirts, using EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) registered insect repellents, reapplying repellent as directed, and if wearing sunscreen applying the sunscreen before applying insect repellent, covering children’s bed and strollers with mosquito netting, using condoms during all forms of sexual intercourse and during any sexual contact (wearing the condom from start to finish), staying inside when possible (the type of mosquito that transmits the Zika virus is most active during the day), and visiting the CDC Traveler’s Health site for updates about the virus, and staying informed about which areas have confirmed cases, especially when planning to travel outside the United States. People should also avoid traveling to countries with Zika outbreaks whenever possible. The CDC does NOT recommend applying repellent on babies younger than 2 months, using products containing oils of lemon, eucalyptus, or para-methane-diol on children younger than three years old.

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red swollen eyes). The CDC website states, “Anyone showing Zika symptoms should see their physician immediately.” Luckily most people who contract this virus will usually show minimal signs of illness, and the Zika virus is not fatal (though there have been cases of paralysis in some patients). There is no vaccine for the Zika virus. “To treat symptoms, a person needs to get a lot of rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take acetaminophen NOT aspirin,” according to the Center for Disease Control. Yes, the Zika virus is becoming an epidemic, but thankfully New Mexico seems to be in the clear. Let’s all take precautions and stay safe!
Online Teaching Presents a Wide Array of Challenges
By Sherry Goodyear

On Tuesday, May 17, Mimi Overhulser and I presented information on the challenges of on-line learning. In this Faculty Senate sponsored event, we spent an hour discussing the problems we face and some of the solutions we have implemented. The nice thing about this presentation was that members of the audience who have online teaching experience shared their own struggles and methods of dealing with these issues. Some areas that were addressed include: lack of nonverbal cues from students, computer-related issues, distracted students, difficulty in keeping connected with online students, and lack of self-motivation in students.

Dolores Gutierrez from the Business Dept. shared with us that she uses assignment links to take role. She creates an assignment for each class period, and students go into the link and give themselves points for attendance. Dolores then subtracts points if the students are tardy (which is easy to keep track of because assignments have a time stamp), and she subtracts points if the students do not respond during class discussion. Her strategy is a great way to free up time wasted on taking role.

Erin Gilland tried something new this past semester in her Anatomy and Physiology class. She recorded lectures which she had students watch prior to class. Then, in class, they discussed what they learned in her recorded classes and did other assignments. The effect was the highest overall scores Erin has ever had in an online Anatomy class.

Mimi Overhulser shared with us that to keep the lines of communication flowing, her students’ first assignment is to text her their names, the class they are in, and the time, that way, she always has a phone number she can use to reach them if necessary.

Other ideas presented included asynchronous times, YouTube recordings of lectures, group projects and so on. Larry Paiz brought up the idea of synchronous classes taught like they are asynchronous which means those who can’t attend at the set time can still watch recorded versions of the class and earn attendance points by doing a discussion, quiz, or some other activity.

Overall, a lot of quality ideas were shared, and I for one have several new ideas to take to my online classroom.
Sequoia Romero Inspires the Next Generation of Scientists at Springer Elementary Science Night

Springer Elementary School held Science Night, Tuesday, April 26, 2016, and Sequoia Romero of the STEM Dept. represented Luna. Romero’s table never lacked a steady supply of children interested in all of the gizmos and gadgets he brought to show them. They were especially intrigued by his ray-gun and Tesla coil. All in all it was a fun and inspirational night for Springer Elementary students.