

# The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”*

*Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 3 Issue 27

June 28-July 4

## Early success at Luna CC

*Students give testimony on  
advantages of taking  
dual-credit courses*

Jolene Quintana and Alma Sanchez got straight to the point last Thursday as they gave their presentations at a College Success Seminar sponsored by Luna Community College’s Concurrent Enrollment and Dual Credit Office.

The two pointed out that they wouldn’t be as far along in their educational careers if they had not taken dual-credit courses at LCC. They told this to about 80 people, the majority high school and college students.

“I’m only 20-years-old and I am a graduate of the University of New Mexico,” said Quintana. “People ask me how I did it. And I explain to them it was because of the dual-credit program here at Luna Community College.”

In May, Quintana earned a bachelor or arts degree in criminology with a minor in psychology with honors. She plans on applying for law school at UNM.

“I have a younger sister and a younger cousin that are enrolled in the dual credit program at Luna Community College,” said Quintana.

Quintana enrolled at UNM with 56 hours of college credit, which she earned at LCC.

“It took a lot of hard work and discipline. You have to know what is important and what is not,” she said.

She advised the students in attendance the importance of taking advantage of the dual-credit program available at LCC.

Sanchez graduated a year earlier than her peers at West Las Vegas, because of the courses she took at LCC while attending high school.

“I’m 15 classes away from getting my associates degree in life science,” says Sanchez who plans to attend UNM and earn a degree in pharmacology. “You get a quality education and quality advisement at Luna Community College.”

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**Luna Community College student Todd Regensberg, a liberal arts student from Mora, grimaces as he attempts to climb down face first from a New Mexico National Guard rock wall last week. The rock wall was part of an LCC sponsored activity. Everyone is invited to attend an Independence Day activity from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday at the IPC Patio.**

## Gamertsfelder places 8th at SkillsUSA

Luna Community College student Gary Garmertsfelder placed 8th at the SkillsUSA competition this past week in Kansas City. He competed in the automotive refinishing category.

It is the highest finish in school history in this category.

“I feel absolutely wonderful about my performance. I showed I had the ability to do it. I did my absolutely best,” said Gamertsfelder. “Before I went to Kansas my goal was to finish in the top 10. It was awesome to represent Luna Community College. I’m proud of where I come from.”

# Shirley Griego: I like the multitude of people I get to work with

**Name:** Shirley Griego

**Position:** Tutor – part-time

**How many years at LCC (what year did you start)?** I have worked as a tutor for 3 ½ years now. I began in January, 2007.

**Favorite food and why?** My favorite food—tacos—the flavor is hard to beat, plus they are so simple to make.

**Favorite hobby and why?** My favorite hobby would have to be fishing because of its relaxing nature.

**Favorite TV show and why?** Flash Forward is my favorite show at this time.

**House MD** is also one of my favorites. I enjoy how the diagnostics team problem-solve to figure difficult diagnoses. Dr. House's character also makes me laugh.

**Where would you like to see yourself five years from now?** In five years, I would like to have finished off my education here at Luna. I'm still in progress of changing careers. I worked at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute-Community Based Services as a social worker/case manager and a social worker supervisor for 14 years and would like to finish off my retirement there in another field or better yet, stay here be-

cause I really enjoy working at Luna. Working at the state can be rough and stressful with all its bureaucracy.

**What do you like best about LCC?** The thing I like best about LCC is the multitude of people I get to work with both staff and students. I get to meet new and interesting people and also meet up with old friends and acquaintances.

**What do you like least about LCC and what would you offer as a solution?** Many have said this already but I would have to agree that it is the lack of communication about changes and new approaches. At this point, I am not in the position to offer any solutions.

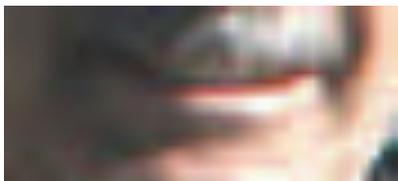
**What is your greatest strength?** I think my greatest strength is that I am able to get along with an array of people and capable of being a team player.

**Shirley Griego says she would like to see more communication when it comes to changes or approaches the college is doing.**



## 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

"Leaders who make it a practice to draw out the thoughts and ideas of their subordinates and who are receptive even to bad news will be properly informed. Communicate downward to subordinates with at least the same care and attention as you communicate upward to superiors,"— L. B. Belker

# LCC:

## "The People's College"

# Congratulations to the 2009-10 GED grads

By Geraldine Romero/ABE Director

The ABE program proudly announces the GED graduates for the fiscal year 2009-2010. A total of 47 students can now claim LCC as their alma mater in reaching their goal of a high school diploma. Many of our students arrive at our program for a variety of reasons but mostly to acquire their diploma that had been an elusive aspiration until now. For many of our students, determination, commitment, and hard work allowed them to reach their objective.

One of our students began his journey with the ABE program in 1999. Talk about persistence. He achieved his target this year. The ABE program gives adult learners (16 years of age and older) who have not completed a 12th grade education many opportunities to succeed. Our program is free to the public, so this program can open doors to a brighter future without the burden of cost. Fifty percent (5 percent) of our graduates are already attending or plan to attend a two-year or four-year post-secondary institution.

This achievement for many of our students is an amazing accomplishment because of the barriers and struggles these students have had to overcome. We are so proud of you.

*Congratulations to our 2010 graduates!*

## LCC Campus

Markus Baca      Sharlene Koehn      Andriana Quintana

Max Bustamante  
Jason Byrer  
Albert Evans  
Nathaniel Fiala  
Gary Fresquez  
Tammy Garcia  
Kenneth Hatfield  
Adrianna Herrera  
Benjamin Knutson  
Holly Koehn

## Santa Rosa Site

Eric Aragon  
Michael Freese  
Joshua Serrano

## Mora Site

Joseph Gauna  
Leslie Torres

**Raton Site**      John Smith

**Springer Site**      Joseph Depari

**Wagon Mound Site**      Katherine Allen

Michelle Leon  
Raphael Lobato  
Brittney Lucero  
Michelle Maestas  
Adrian Marcais  
Sinai Marquez  
Nicole Martinez  
Andres Medina  
Angelo Montoya  
Vincent Nava

Sara Ratzlaff  
Feliciano Salazar  
Amalia Diaz Santos  
Julie Solis  
Chloe Stockman  
Esmeralda Tarango  
Julian Torres  
Melissa Trujillo  
Roxie Tullos  
Jenay Zamora

Thomas Peaster      Ruby Tenorio  
Elizabeth Robles      Brittany Gauna

Adelita Lopez      Darryl Padilla



**Luna Community College's Gateway Director Michael Adams (center) shows East Las Vegas officials Gateway Lab 3-D and distant learning capabilities. Pictured with Adams are (l-r): MESA Instructors Martha Peña and Donna Ortiz, Las Vegas City Schools Board Member Elaine Luna and Las Vegas City Schools Superintendent Richard Romero.**



**Luna Community College President Dr. Pete Campos (center) talks with Springer Mayor Danny Cruz (left) and LCC Board of Trustees Member David Gutierrez during a meeting in Springer on Friday. The trio talked about education and economic development in the area. The next LCC Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21 in Springer. The public is invited to attend. See a letter below written by Gutierrez.**

## An open invitation to LCC meeting in Springer

### Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Luna Community College and the town of Springer extend an invitation to attend our July 21, 2010 meeting in Springer, New Mexico at 6 p.m. here at the Springer Satellite.

The purpose of this meeting is to gather input from the public and schools pertaining to the health, educational and economic needs of our communities. All information gathered will assist our college here and on the main campus in advancing the educational



**The next LCC Board of Trustees meeting will be held 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21 at the LCC Springer Satellite.**

curriculum and balancing the transition of entering a four year institute.

Your input and opinions are valued and play an important role for the future of our students and citizens.

As a trustee I urge you to attend and be a voice.

**Respectfully yours,  
David Gutierrez  
LCC Trustee Precinct 6**

“Democracy is the government of the people , by the people, for the people”

Abraham Lincoln

# Independence Day



at  
LCC

Thursday, July 1, 2010

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

IPC Patio

**FREE FOOD!!!!**

BBQ sandwiches

potato salad,

red, white and blue popsicles

Sponsored by ACCESS Center and SAAI Program



**Luna**  
Community  
College

# Early success at Luna CC...



Students, faculty and staff listen to Jolene Quintana and Alma Sanchez.



Alma Sanchez



Jolene Quintana

Continued from page 1

LCC Dual Credit Director Patricia Romero said that Luna Community College credits have been transferred to such schools as Duke University, Stanford University and the Art Institute in Seattle.

“You can get a quality education here at Luna Community College and transfer to other colleges,” said Romero. “I’ve talked to many officials from other colleges and they say that the best prepared students

are those who participate in Luna Community College’s Dual Credit Program.”

For more information on LCC Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit Program, call 505/454-5377 or 505/454-5374.

## Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the great showing of support and participation during Gov. Richardson’s visit on June 14 to announce the award of \$150,000 to the LCC Mass Media Communications Program. The support made me very proud to be a member of the Luna family. Now, stay tuned, and I will do my best to keep you informed on the development and growth of our media and film programs.

**Rand Kennedy**

**Mass Media Communications Program Director**

## Weekly Activities

Monday, June 28, 2010

■ 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. DWI Class

(General Studies/Room 102-B)

Thursday, July 1, 2010

■ 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Independence Day at LCC “Student Activity” (IPC/Café)



This rose bush, one of five around campus, is an indication of the up-keep of the college. Many visitors have complimented the LCC family for its appearance.

# Q & A with LCC Springer Satellite Director Louise Fernandez-Portillos

*The following is an interview with Luna Community College Springer Satellite Director Louise Fernandez-Portillos.*

## **How many communities does the LCC Springer Satellite serve?**

Cimarron, Maxwell, Springer, and Raton (onsite courses will be offered starting in the fall), however, we do have students from Wagon Mound who take courses at the Springer Satellite.

## **How many years has the Springer Satellite been in existence?**

32 years

## **How do you measure the importance of the Springer Satellite?**

I feel it is important to provide students in the rural areas educational opportunities and helping them reach their goals whether it is by obtaining a certificate and/or degree or by taking a class for professional and personal enrichment. Students have always been able to go away to college but for so many that is not possible because of financial and family constraints. Having the Springer Satellite in the middle of northeastern New Mexico means students in the rural area can attain an education without experiencing such a heavy financial burden--a burden that would most likely keep them from attending school at all.

## **What is at the top of your wish list for your satellite college?**

I am hopeful that more individuals in the surrounding communities will take advantage of the facility to expand their educational goals. Additionally, make the facilities state of the art with new equipment and program offerings to attract more students.

## **How closely do you work with the main campus?**

We work very close with all departments and academic directors.

## **What new and exciting things are happening at the Springer Satellite?**

We will be providing online classes to a new "Career Pathways" program that will allow high school students to receive dual-credit courses to prepare them for careers in the medical field. The goal is to recruit and retain individuals in the healthcare field in Colfax County. Luna Community College will be partnering with the Raton Public Schools, Miners' Colfax Medical Center, and New Mexico Highlands University to work on this two-year program initiative. Luna Community College will deliver the online curriculum beginning with medical terminology in the fall and introduction to psychology in the spring. MCMC will provide the clinical aspect of the two-year program where students will receive hands-on experience and it will allow students to work side-by-side with a mentoring healthcare team.

We will be providing the following courses to the residents of Raton in the fall: basic residential electricity, computer fundamentals, general biology I, introduction to psychology, and two welding courses (oxyacetylene cutting and welding and shielded metal arc welding).

We will work very close in collaboration with the local high schools (Cimarron, Maxwell, and Springer) to get commitments from

them to utilize our vocational facilities at the LCC- Springer Satellite. This will assist the public schools in savings in their budgets, such as, operational costs and faculty salaries. The plan is to provide ITV (distance learning) courses during the fall semester. We will transmit beginning Spanish I and freshman composition I to Cimarron and Maxwell schools. We will also be offering vocational education courses such as automotive technology, welding, building trades, and furniture cabinet making. The goal is to have the high schools transport their students to the Springer Satellite to attend these courses. Additionally, we will offer introduction to psychology via ITV to the students and the community of Cimarron on Monday nights at the Cimarron High School.

## **What do you offer at the Springer Satellite?**

We offer a variety of courses that lead to a certificate or degree such as courses in: automotive technology, building trades, criminal justice, furniture cabinet making, early childhood education, general education, liberal arts, nursing, and welding. The majority of our academic courses are offered in the form of onsite and distance learning (online and ITV). This gives students the option of taking these courses where they do not have to leave home or they can take it in the classroom and receive that "one-on-one" instruction that is helpful to so many.



**Louise Fernandez-Portillos**

**Continued on page 8**

# Q & A with LCC Springer Satellite Director...

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**Are students bussed to your campus? If so how many and what schools are represented?**

At this point, Springer High School is the only school district that busses their students to the Springer Satellite. However, we are hopeful that the Cimarron and Maxwell school districts will begin bussing their students in the fall.

**Approximately how many students have graduated from your campus since its inception?**

Many students have graduated from the LCC-Springer Satellite. The graduates have obtained certificates and/or degrees in automotive technology, business administration, furniture cabinet making, early childhood education, general education, liberal arts, teacher education, and welding.

**What do you expect from staff and faculty at the main campus?**

I expect everyone to put student's needs first, and I feel that we do so by being available at the students' convenience and by offering a wide variety of course offerings for them to take advantage of, and by assisting them with anything from financial assistance to offering classes at night when more students can attend.

**How effective are ITV and online classes?**

Distance learning is very effective for the students who register at the Springer Satellite. The entire purpose for distance learning courses is to provide students in the rural areas the opportunity to obtain an education without having to travel or with minimal travel. By offering ITV courses at the Springer Satellite, students do not have to travel to the Las Vegas main campus. By offering a variety of online and ITV courses we are meeting the needs of the students. In fact, during the 2009-10 school year (fall and spring) our enrollment was 143 without online courses. When we added the online courses our enrollment rose to 374 which is a difference of 231

students. The majority of our students that take advantage of distance learning are registered in the following programs: business administration, early childhood education, general education, liberal arts, nursing, and teacher education. Additionally, students who are registered in the Nursing program are able to take all of the pre-requisites at the Springer Satellite through ITV or online with the exception of anatomy and physiology I & II and the CNA courses. Students have to go to the Las Vegas main campus for those courses. We have had a number of students who have taken advantage of registering and completing the nursing pre-requisites at the Springer Satellite and have continued on to the Las Vegas main campus to complete the remaining program requirements where they have graduated with a Nursing degree.

Additionally, Title V implemented a new computer lab in December, 2009. Students who are taking online courses with LCC have taken advantage of utilizing the new computer lab especially those who do not have access to a computer at home or elsewhere. This lab has strengthened the technology service for distance learning.

**What is your long-term goal for the Springer Satellite?**

To increase the number of students and market the value of the educational opportunities we are providing at the Springer Satellite.

**Any final comment?**

The Springer Satellite provides a valuable educational need in rural Northeastern New Mexico. Students who might not attend college at all feel comfortable attending here because of our friendly staff and faculty, and our wide array of course offerings. Though we are located in a rural area where people are scattered, the students who take advantage of our services go on to better themselves and ultimately our community – our wonderful little satellite allows that to happen.

## Speaking out on communication issues at LCC

The following are suggestions were placed as of noon on Friday, June 24 at the "Communication Suggestion Box" set up at the information specialist's booth in the administration building (Marcella Cannone). Students, faculty and staff at Luna Community College are encouraged to drop off suggestions on how the college can improve its communication approach.

Updates on the suggestions will appear in upcoming editions of *The Luna Light*.

**"Communication is essential in business, as well as in family, etc...What is said and not said are equally important. I personally don't like the word "hey," "your losing it," or "crazy," addressed by phone or in person. First impressions says a lot."**

**"What communication?"**

**"During the summer, I think the school should close on Fri-**

**days. If not all day, at least for half a day. We observed the lack of students during the summer and also to help conserve energy. On Fridays, the campus is dead except for the few."**

**"I think the executive administration who primarily sign LCC documents should meet once a week and sign all documents needing their signature. There could be a deadline for submitting documents weekly; if they miss the deadline the document(s) can go into next week's folder. The documents can be submitted to a stationary place such as one of the executive assistant's office."**

**"We should have Friday's off during the summer session or at least have half days. We can service our students from 8 a.m. to noon. This would be a great incentive for employees. At least give it some thought."**