

The Luna Light



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

Volume 2 Issue 42

November 4

Special Edition

Don’t operate on fear

By Donna Flores

LCC Vice-President of Finance

Operating in fear is not healthy neither is it productive. It may, however, be a catalyst to improvement in some areas of our life. The Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) is operating on facts and with a strategic plan in place. Last week I sent an e-mail to everyone asking for input and cost saving ideas. The FPC is combing through all the feedback, thank you! It was an impressive sign of your commitment to and concern for Luna Community College’s future.

The committee is categorizing the suggestions as follows:

1. Can implement immediately
2. Can phase that in
3. Long range goal but can start

process

One of the points was electricity use; that falls under No. 1 and in fiscal year 08-09, LCC paid over one quarter of a million dollars, \$259,517 in electric bills! That’s one area each of us can do something about, right now. Here’s how:

1. As you leave your office, turn the light off
2. If you’re last to leave the bathroom, turn the light off
3. Power down your computer every day.
4. If you’re the last one to leave the building, turn the hall lights off
5. Maintenance will turn off all timed exterior lights at 11 p.m.
6. Let you custodian know if you can do without some of the lights in

your office, two bulbs can be disconnected in each fixture.

These practices are not only good to address our budget situation, but behaviors beneficial for the environment as well.

Travel costs are also on the table, however, the accountability measures in place have already yielded a 50 percent reduction compared to last year at this time. That again is thanks to all of you who have been more conscientious about expending travel dollars.

There is much work to be done but the methodology employed is working and with everyone’s input and support LCC will survive the cuts and balance our budget. The FPC will keep you informed as we progress.

Luna Community College electrician Norman Sena disconnects lights at the president’s office on Tuesday in a cost-cutting measure. This will be used as a pilot project, and if proves successful may be implemented across campus. Sena disconnected nearly half of the lights in Dr. Campos’ office.



College students hit hard with economy

By Mary Medina

LCC Vice-President of Student Services

College students are not only struggling with the cost of college, but they are also experiencing the adverse effects of a slow economy. The current state of economy is affecting college students and how they spend their money. More and more, college students are looking at ways they can make and save money. Some students are maintaining one or more jobs while still in college; many students are not buying as much as they have in the past; and many students are choosing necessities over things they would like to have, but find they can do without. Debt management is something that can really help in these pressing times and can be a goal that is easier to reach than some may think.

Most of the following suggestions are things that can help keep our lives as balanced as possible:

- First and most important, set up and follow a household budget. Your budget should include all major expenses such as mortgage, rent, car payments, credit card payments, insurances, etc. It should also include things like groceries, gas, utilities, phone expenses, and cable television.
- For one week keep track of every penny you spend during the day. The majority of people don't have a clue as to how much money flows through their hands every month or how much control over their money they really have. The amount that people spend on a daily basis tends to be small and it's easy to lose track of how much everything costs. But to paraphrase Benjamin Franklin: "Small pennies add up to large pounds".
- Once you go over your budget, determine which of your non

-essential activities you can either cut down on or eliminate. These could include things like eating out, movies, facials, manicures, hairstyling, and club memberships. You might be shocked at how much you can save by changing the way you recreate.

- Use energy and resources more wisely. It is no longer about being green—now it's all about saving money. For example, you can take a huge bite of your electric bill by changing the way you do things at home. Install energy saving light bulbs where ever you use lamps the most. They not only will last longer but the cost / per kilowatt hour is significantly less.
- Now the biggie...you should do everything possible to eliminate credit card debt as fast as possible. The average American has way too much credit card debt and most people never fully realize how much it actually costs to use credit cards instead of paying cash.
- The thing our grandmothers clipped and used regularly to save money is making a big comeback. Coupons are here again and are used by more shoppers than you realize. How much you will save will depend on you. But, if it worked for our grandparents, there is no reason it won't work for us too.

These are just the beginning of things you can start doing to help cope in our changing world. In the end, you will be rewarded by all your hard work and sacrifice by a lower debt to income ratio. It will also be a huge weight off your shoulders. It may not be easy, but it is something that more and more people are finding is worth the struggle.

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 or calling extension 1200.



Doing more with less

By Lawrence Quintana

LCC Human Resource Director

I would like to present to the readers of **The Luna Light** a closing statement to the article "What is a Leader," printed in the Oct. 26, 2009 **Luna Light** edition. I received some positive input from several readers and would like to express the following statement. Leaders must constantly make an effort to maintain the standard or set the example every minute, every hour, of each and every day. Leaders must lead people, and as part of their daily routine follow through with self affirmations. If leaders conduct themselves in this fashion they will see others around them reflect similar actions.

With that said, I want to take this opportunity to talk about another leadership dilemma that LCC employees are facing during this recession. As we are all aware, the recession has impacted the state of New Mexico's budget, and leaders have been challenged to do more with less. Based on the pressures exerted by the budget-making officials, other than the LCC Board of Trustees, LCC is being asked to reduce the budget. All LCC employees have been asked to provide input on budget reduction into the budget planning process. The challenge being asked of each and every

Continued on page 3



Luna Community College Vice-President for Finance Donna Flores says that the LCC Fiscal Planning Committee will continue to keep everyone informed as they progress.

Doing more...

Continued from page 2

LCC employee is not simple but is doable—do more with less. Each employee will be asked to improve the student educational services throughout the LCC service area with fewer resources. Each employee will be asked to keep all recommendations fair and consistent; the ultimate goal being to maintain and improve student services and education without sacrificing jobs. Each LCC employee will be asked to support the decisions made by leadership. Remember in order to be a good leader we must first learn to follow.

Quote of the Week

“We have done business the same way for many decades, it is *now* time for us to step up to home plate and *provide the most efficient way to serve students*, otherwise, what do you think will happen? —Dr. Pete Campos, LCC President.

Dr. Martinez: LCC will stay the course

By Dr. Vidal Martinez
LCC Vice President for Academics

The other day, I had the opportunity to read the book, *The Hero's Choice: Living from the Inside Out* by Roger K. Allen. As I reflect, I realize Allen's message has a lot to do with our perspective on the current fiscal issues at Luna Community College. Throughout the book, Allen makes key points, and in particular, he believes that most people live through perspectives.

In summary, Allen's first perspective is *survival*. We look at life as a battleground, reacting to situations and protecting our self-interest. We make excuses, blame others and sometimes escape through addictive behaviors. We don't accept responsibility! The second perspective is *security*, trying to avoid losing than about winning. We create our comfort zones in an

attempt to avoid failure, rejection and discomfort. The third perspective is *success*. We create a false image, telling the world we have it together and are in control. We don't show weakness and life is good

In addressing our fiscal issues, I have witnessed many perspectives, but I am pleased to witness perspectives of *serenity* through several academic directors.

only when we perform well. The fourth and final perspective is living life through *serenity* which has a lot to do with how we choose.

In addressing our fiscal issues, I have witnessed many perspectives, but I am pleased to witness perspectives of *serenity* through several academic directors. This is evident with their pursuit of academic excellence, constant program improvements, adapting to a changing environment, and the attitude for a better tomorrow. As we move forward, we will stay the course and embrace *serenity*

as we continue to provide the best educational experience for our students.

Stepping up to home plate

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

When is this rainy weather going to end? Mother Nature keeps dropping hints that it is not timely to play baseball so late into autumn, but the baseball leaders fail to listen. On Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009 the start of the World Series game was delayed by one hour and 20 minutes, and the rain and drizzle hardly let up at all, contrary to the weather forecasts. The decision was made to keep playing. Fortunately no one was injured from slipping on the wet grass. Think about it! Was the game about player safety, play at any cost or because this is the World Series, regardless of the consequences, the games must go on?

This scenario got me to think of the way we should always treat our students, staff and community. Yes, day to day operations must continue, but we should also consider the effects of the day, how we treat each other and how can we make it through another day without shortchanging those we are entrusted and obligated to serve?

When we float an idea, what happens?

People react; some say, hum, that's a good idea - while others may say, that won't work. The bottom line is, ideas are either accepted or rejected by the populace and those who propose the sometimes bold and courageous gestures must always listen to those who respond.

The same is with our current statewide fiscal uncertainty. Ideas; how to resolve the current budget crisis are floating rampant because people are searching for quick fixes and traditional and not so traditional ways to settle our budget woes. The staff members at Luna Community College are no different. A whole bunch of ideas are being floated to test the waters and get a sense of what would work, where are the sacred cows and how we can best come together with a plan that will keep people employed, provide essential student services and most importantly, keep the academic, athletic and extra-curricular program doors open so students will best be served.

We can survive, refurbish and thrive, but we cannot do it without all of us agreeing to a plan and an unselfish (genuinely unified) way to successfully reach our goal and satisfy our



Luna Community College Physical Plant employee Juan Macias works on renovation project outside the administration building. Doing more work from within and not outsourcing as much is part of LCC's cost-cutting measures.

mindset. That means we must forgive those who we perceive are against us or have hurt us, make a full-fledged effort to work together and do not expect extra compensation because we are asked to pick-up the slack, adjust our regular work responsibilities and maintain a positive attitude as we deliver student services and meet the expectations students have of us.

Paul Harvey originally hosted a radio program that was called *The Rest of the Story*. Beginning as a part of his newscasts during the Second World War and then premiering as its own series on the ABS Radio Networks on May 10, 1976, *The Rest of the Story* started with factual stories on a variety of subjects with a "surprise twist" saved until the end. The broadcasts always concluded with the tag line "and now you know...the rest of the story." Paul Harvey, Jr. used to produce the broadcasts. After Mr. Harvey's death on February 28, 2009, Doug Limerick was chosen as the show's new host. *The Rest of the Story* was

canceled after three weeks with Limerick as host. The Huckabee Report replaced the feature. You may say, what does this have to do with our budget woes? This is another piece to think about! What worked for a thirty-three year period was cancelled within three weeks of a new host's debut.

In other words, we have done business the same way for many decades, it is *now* time for us to step up to home plate and *provide the most efficient way to serve students*, otherwise, what do you think will happen? The World Series will be won by the team that is most hungry! Luna Community College students may go elsewhere because we did not step up to the plate - *to represent them* - and bring in the runs that would make the difference in the World Series. *We are poised and qualified to ensure every student is provided a world championship education. I believe it. We must now focus on the pitch and drive it as if our lives or the world series depended on it!*

LCC Board of Trustees, personnel on the right path: focusing on student success

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

This article is written after I returned from the Luna Community College Board of Trustees work session. I was deeply touched by the attendance of the Vice-Presidents, Directors and numerous other personnel. I was especially moved by the highly professional presentations. Because of the due diligence by our staff; we are moving forward, preparing to meet the budget and educational challenges that are ahead and most importantly, investing in the framework that supports student success.

Ms. Shirley Marlow, my gratitude goes out to you for seeking more funding, maintaining meticulous program records and being thorough in your objectives to serve students; thank you Ms. Mary Medina, Ms. Lorraine Martinez and the entire Title V team for your poignant presentation and wholehearted devotion to educate students; Ms. Connie Reichert you always present so thoroughly, with great enthusiasm and pure wisdom; Mr. Ron Gonzales and Mr. Miguel Martinez your high expectations for detail, procurement code compliance and proper coordination of the roles different entities play when we intersect cooperation, functioning components and overall efficiencies to make collaborative truly work are commendable; Dr. Vidal Martinez, your ability to tie together the fine intricacies, articulation and tenacity to reach bold educational heights on behalf of all students are sincerely

noted and genuinely appreciated; and, Ms. Maria Paiz, your fair treatment of others, genuine interest in moving our college forward and “to the letter” follow-up on all issues that ingratiate student success and employee moral will never be forgotten.

not be cut. 4] Will there be employee furloughs like an unpaid Friday once a month? No. Again, we are all asked to give our best at work to provide the necessary services to students. 5] Are heating systems going to be fixed and operated efficiently? Yes. Strategies are being put



Several dozen people attended Tuesday night's Luna Community College Board of Trustees Work Session. LCC Title V Director Lorraine Martinez is shown here giving a presentation to the board.

Now for some questions and answers: 1] Will the Rough Rider Grill close because of budget cuts? The answer is no. But it is important that we support Paul Sandoval and the entire crew at the Grill. They are providing great food products. 2] How are budget cuts going to occur? Every employee is asked to offer suggestions on ways to provide for operational efficiencies. The ideas should be constructive, keeping in mind that we can save money if we all cooperate with adopted concepts and respect the jobs we have. 3] Will budget cuts affect students academically? No, because highly qualified personnel will continue to educate students and essential services will

in place to repair heating systems, monitor them regularly and implement other energy saving initiatives. 6] Will sports programs be eliminated? No. We have valuable student athletes and our athletic programs will continue. We ask that our student athletes stick with their commitments to academic and athletic excellence. It is for their sake. 7] Will instructors have to double-up on their teaching load? Not necessarily double-up, but efforts will be made in collaboration with instructors to provide solid instruction to the most students

possible while still maintaining a good student to instructor ratio. 8] How drastic will budget cuts get? That will depend on us. If we secure grant dollars, cut unnecessary spending and fully cooperate, the cuts could be minimal.

Currently, vice-presidents and directors are meeting on a regular basis to review suggestions that will minimize the financial effect on Luna Community College. Although the budget adjustment process is arduous and means that we must all sacrifice, if we all cooperate, give more to support our mission and do not give up, we will weather this perfect storm.

Meet your Rough Riders



Mamie Varela

Name: Mamie Varela
Nickname: Mameerz
Position: Left field, center field
Major: Dental hygiene
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Roswell
High School: Goddard High

Previous college or high school: Goddard High

Parents and family: Rebecca Lapidus, mother; Thomas Varela, father; Myles Lapidus, brother; Mandie Varela, sister and Michael Varela, brother.

What are your interests? Softball, dancing and hanging out.

College or high school honors: All-district softball.

Plans after graduation? Starting a career as a dental hygienist and beginning a beautiful family.

Favorite pro athlete? My little brothers and sister; they're pros in my heart.

Whom do you admire the most and why? My family, because they continue to stand by me in everything I do.



Michael Ormseth

Name: Michael Ormseth
Nickname: Mikey
Position: Pitcher
Major: Business administration
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Las Cruces

High School: Mayfield High

Previous college or high school: Mayfield High

Parents and family: Cindy Ormseth, mother; Mickey Ormseth, father; Chelsie and Amanda, sisters.

What are your interests? Playing baseball and the outdoors.

College or high school honors: First-team all-district pitcher and outfielder and north-south all-star pitcher.

Plans after graduation? Attend a four-year university.

Favorite pro athlete? Roy Halladay.

Whom do you admire the most and why? My parents, because they pushed me to succeed academically and in baseball.



Martin Morales

Name: Martin Morales
Position: First base
Major: Criminal justice
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: El Paso
High School: Ruidoso High
Previous college or high school: Ruidoso High

Parents and family: Martin Morales Sr., father; Claudia Morales, mother and Claudia Morales, sister.

What are your interests? School, baseball, hanging out with friends and working out.

College or high school honors: All-district punter 2007 and 2008; all-state tight end, 2007-2008; all-district first-baseman, 2008-2009 and all-state first baseman in 2009.

Plans after graduation? Go to a four-year college and attain my master's and play baseball.

Favorite pro athlete? Alex Rodriguez

Whom do you admire the most and why? My parents, because they made me the way I am and show me how to keep going.

LCC:

“The People’s College”