Student Success Goal: The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a high skilled work force.

- The Lamar Community College Booster Club is sponsoring a competition showcasing some of the top area high school girl and boy basketball players to test their shooting skills in a Free's and Three's Basketball Competition. Each participant will shoot 15 free throws and the three-point competition will use three racks with five basketballs each. There will also be a bonus basketball. The girls will compete during halftime of the LCC women's basketball game and the boys will compete during the LCC men's halftime. The teams competing are comprised of four girls and two boys from each of the area high school teams; Granada, Holly, Lamar, McClave, Walsh, and Wiley. The players will wear their school's uniform during the competition.

- Lamar Community College hosted an animal behaviorist guest lecturer as part of the BIO 105 class. A lecture by animal behavior college certified dog trainer/behaviorist L. Lea Treat, owner of Rosetta Bone Canine Coaching, was an informative presentation titled “Learn the Language Your Dog Understands.” Treat’s dog was present during the lecture. Topics discussed during the presentation were: changes in training techniques; two things your dog needs most—behaviorally; two things your dog does best; positive/negative energy (pit bull stereotype); things we inadvertently teach our dogs; and, small dog syndrome.

- The Lamar Community College Large Lecture Hall was filled to capacity with area farmers attending a Crop Production Workshop sponsored by Pioneer DuPont and the Colorado State University Extension office on Thursday January 8. The topics discussed were: best management practices for irrigated corn, nitrogen management, resistant weed control, as well as precision technologies. The program was approved for Certified Crop Adviser and Colorado Commercial Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Units.

- Lamar Community College in 2001. In 2008 she was time student status and a cumulative 3.0 grade point average. When combined with other state, federal, and private aid, families can often cover the entire cost of a two-year degree. Applicants are required to interview and recipients perform ten hours of community service per semester. Each year the Foundation awards approximately 75% of the scholarships to service area graduates and 25% to at-large Colorado residents.

Cheryl Sanchez – Administrator of the Year

Cheryl Sanchez earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from University of Phoenix. She joined Lamar Community College in 2000 as the Small Business Development Center Director and was promoted to full-time Business Instructor in 2001. In 2008 she was appointed Vice President of Administrative Services. Currently Sanchez is Vice President of Academic and Student Services. Prior to joining the college, Sanchez owned and operated a small business, which added an element of “real world” to the college’s business curriculum. During her tenure as business faculty, she served as Faculty Senate President and Vice-Chair of the State Faculty Advisory Committee. As Vice President of Administrative Services, she managed the fiscal, technology, and facility operations. She has been actively engaged in numerous college and community committees, councils and task forces. Cheryl has received awards and recognition for his teaching and professional work, including the 2003 and 2007 Faculty of the Year and 2010 Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Andrew Saueracker – Faculty of the Year

Andrew Saueracker, MD, completed his undergraduate work at the College of William & Mary and got his MD from the University of Medicine of New Jersey. He did his surgical training at the University of Colorado and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. After retiring in 2010, he began teaching biology at Lamar Community College in 2011. His primary role at LCC is teaching human anatomy & physiology and pathophysiology. He is married, has four grown children, and four grandchildren. A former skier and mountain climber, he now entertains grandchildren in his spare time.

Jason Dittburner – Classified Employee of the Year

Jason Dittburner has been with Lamar Community College for just over two years as a member of the custodial team. He enjoys doing his job and getting things done. He takes pride in his work and hopes that others can learn from his example. Prior to starting with LCC, he worked for Hostess for 12 years. In his spare time, he enjoys officiating basketball, baseball, football and softball. When he isn’t working or officiating, he is spending time with his kids.

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This is part two of a two-part interview
by: Susan Frankel
Where did you go to college?
Colorado State in Fort Collins.
What did you study?
I studied lots of things. I changed my major a whole bunch of times. I started with psychology; then went to art; then to international studies; then to interior design; then history; then back to international studies, and that’s what I ended with.

That’s a broad range of interests.
When I first switched to art, I did it so that I could take art classes as my electives, because you couldn’t take art classes unless you were a major. They didn’t offer an art minor. They had so many people taking art for an easy A that the actual majors couldn’t get into the classes.

How did you like the Fort Collins area?
Loved it!
What did you love?
It’s just a bigger place, so you have those bigger city amenities: the shopping, restaurants, activities. It doesn’t feel big, though, it feels like a smaller town—even on campus, there’s so many students, but I knew a ton of people. I was really involved in several organizations and constantly seeing people I knew, so it didn’t have that big school feeling for me, because I never felt like I was lost in the crowd. For me, the honors program and the scholarship I had were communities in and of themselves. It was nice to have those groups of like-minded people to get together with periodically. Fort Collins is great—I love it there.

Do you go back for visits now?
Not as much as I used to, because a lot of my friends have graduated and moved, so it’s not as easy to visit: I have to plan it out, find a place to stay and that sort of thing. I used to just call and say hope you’re there this weekend, I’m coming to crash on your couch.

Have you lived anywhere else?
Nope. That’s it. Lamar and Fort Collins. Unless you count Peru, but I don’t—that was just a couple of months.

I think I would count Peru. You were there immersed in the culture; you were immersed in the language…
We actually did two languages. We did quechua classes as well—that’s the indigenous language. It’s really hard. Really guttural.

Are there a lot of tonal differences?
No, otherwise the spoken language is not far off from English and Spanish. The hardest part is getting those guttural sounds into your everyday speech. It’s like clearing your throat.

What other work have you done?
That’s been pretty varied as well—I have a hard time focusing in on things because I’ve got so many different interests. In college, I worked for a non-profit, the Community Foundation for Northern Colorado. I did all kinds of things, from helping with event planning to putting out different publications. I did a little graphic design, cards, invitations, those sorts of things. Quite a bit of social media.

It sounds a lot like your job here.
Yep, but with less responsibility: I would show up, and they would tell me exactly what they needed accomplished. Here I have to figure out the big picture things. That’s the major switch.
When I moved back home, I worked for Colorado East, and then the Public Library.
What did you do at the library?
I was their Mobile Computer Center Coordinator and Interlibrary Loan Librarian, so I split my time between computers, and ordering books from other libraries. With the computers, the majority of my time was spent doing one-on-one tutoring. Whatever technology people needed help with, whether it was their e-reader, iPad or what have you, they would come in and I would try and figure it out for them.

That sounds interesting.
Some days. Sometimes, I went over the same exact thing every day for months. But for the majority of the people who came in, it was, “Here’s the issue I’m having,” and we would resolve the issue, and I wouldn’t see them again for a couple of months until something else came up. It was interesting that way—someone would get a new iPad and I would help them set it up. It was fine, but computers are not what I want to do with my life. Use them, great! But other than that…

How much family do you have here?
A lot. With the exception of one brother, all of Dad’s side of the family is here. He’s not that far away; he’s in Amarillo. They all stay fairly close: my grandparents, uncles, cousins—a whole bunch of cousins… My siblings aren’t here anymore; they’re in Texas. Mom’s family isn’t in this part of the state—they’re just kind of stretched all over.
How many siblings do you have?
Two: a brother and a sister, both older.

Outside of work and family, what do you like to do?
Well, right now, work takes up most my time. I’m doing both this and teaching, so I don’t have a lot of free time anymore. I go out of town to visit friends and to get away from everything. I’m planning vacations now, but running when I can. It seems like my free time lately has been eaten up by different projects I’ve got going or by different events. One of my friends is getting married in June, so I’m helping her with wedding stuff. But basically, free time—what’s that?

Tell us about your teaching here.
Last spring was my first class, and I taught Art History: Renaissance through the 1900s. It was my first time teaching that course. I had taken a whole bunch of art history courses in college, both as a major and as electives for other programs—I also graduated with a Spanish minor and a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean studies, so I could use Latin American art history classes as qualifying classes towards those.

Is this your first teaching experience?
Yes and no. In pretty much every job I’ve done, there was some element of teaching. When I was at the bank, we went around to the various schools and talked to the kids about basic financial information and the importance of saving. At the library, I was doing one-on-one tutoring, and we had a few larger general classes on topics like Skype or how to use Overdrive so you can check out ebooks from the library. I substitute-taught at Wiley for a while. So it’s not my first teaching experience, but it’s the first time I’ve really been in control of what I was teaching. That’s the biggest change: it was all me. Instead of being given the material, I assembled it.

Do you like having more control?
Yes, plus I’m much more interested in this topic than in finances or technology. Neither of those is really my forte. I’m not a math and science kind of person.

What are you teaching now?
I just finished Art Appreciation, which was interesting. There are just so many ways you can take it, because we talk about the various materials they’ve used throughout history and how artistic technology has advanced. There’s so much you can hit on because you’re not restricted to a historical timeline. If you’re talking about modern-day artists, there are a lot of people to choose from. It was hard initially to narrow everything down to make it a manageable amount of information and yet still have a nice variety of things to show the students.

Did I hear that you had them do hands-on projects?
Yep. They had weekly projects, and each time we would switch chapters to a different medium, they would try it. I had them draw something, paint, try printmaking, photography, sculpture and craft. It’s one thing to hear about how hard something is, but trying it yourself gives you a different appreciation. I mean, if you think about Michelangelo painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel: that was done in true fresco, so he was painting onto wet plaster—he had to work fast, he couldn’t really go back and change the details; plus he was way up in the air, painting above himself. You think about how hard that would be, and then you look at how amazing the product was. We were working with much easier materials, like watercolors, where you have time to manipulate the image—it’s not literally set in stone once you’re done; if you want to, you can just get a new piece of paper and start all over again. And you find that painting with watercolors is still hard. It gives you a much better appreciation of what artists have accomplished.

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The Colorado Helps Advanced Manufacturing Program (CHAMP) grant renovation at the Construction Trades Shop on LCC’s campus is almost complete. In February the fiber optics connections will be tested, the classroom and office space will be trimmed and painted; bathroom walls finished; and plumbing installed, trimmed and painted. Upon completion, the Construction Trades Shop will have a state-of-the-art welding facility and much needed open shop work space.

Welding has received assistance from multiple area partners. The Huddleston-Butler Memorial Trust has donated funds for welding equipment, including an IronWorker and a guided bend test machine, while Dragon Enterprise has donated three loads of steel and aluminum for student use. Semco, Inc. and Oliver Manufacturing (Rocky Ford, CO) have also provided expert industry-related advice and feedback in relation to workplace readiness skills and assuring graduate employability as well as help with locating an additional adjunct instructor. LCC’s Welding Advisory Committee will be invaluable as it continues to guide the program in the future.
Somewhere along the line, somebody had to create the process.

That was a question we asked all the time: “How did they think of this stuff?” Tempera paint is made from pigment, water, and egg yolk—that was traditional tempera paint when they first started using it. How would you think to mix those things together? It was food: why would you think to paint with it? We weren’t there. We don’t know what they were thinking, and it was all trial and error. How is anything discovered?

I think many people have issues with not knowing exactly where things come from. A lot of what we now know about art and technology is the result of mistakes. White-Out was a mistake: they weren’t trying to figure out something to cover up typos, but they found it, and then they kept using it. The same with Sticky-Notes. It’s hard for people to deal with the unknown—everybody wants to have firm answers. What’s important to us now is not necessarily what was important to them. Scholars can examine ledger notes—the things people took on and off of ships, the clerks made detailed inventories—but they don’t always tell you where the goods came from or why they were popular. And that’s what we want to know, at least in art. “Why were you bringing those things here?”

So it’s interesting. I’m either getting new information or getting a glimpse inside a different kind of process. I’m constantly being educated.

What do you find most challenging about your new job?

Balancing everything! I’ve always had a very, very full plate; I always take on a lot of different things because I like to have variety and be busy, but that’s still the hardest thing so far: being a department of one and having to cover so much ground.

Just trying to arrange this interview took what, four attempts? [laughter]

But it gets easier as you do it every day.

It will get easier. Some of what I do takes more time just because I’m out of practice, like writing—I haven’t had to write much of anything for quite a while. It’s not that I’m incapable of doing it, it’s just that I’m picky about how it turns out, and I’m not as practiced as I used to be, so it doesn’t happen as quickly. And once I know what is supposed to happen when, I won’t constantly feel like I’m behind.

For now, those are my issues.

What do you find most rewarding about your new job?

You know, it rarely fails: anytime I get something done here, people are very appreciative. When people notice something they like, they tell you. I made a couple of small changes to the website, and people called to say, “I think that’s great, I’m so glad you added that,” or “That makes my life easier.” Even when all I do is keep track of small changes to the website, and people called to say, “I think that’s great, I’m so glad you added that,” or “That makes my life easier.”

For now, those are my issues.

I’m happy to be here. It’s a nice mix of things to do: it’s not all writing, or all artis- tic, or all web—you get a mix of everything. Plus we have all these different departments, so I’m constantly learning about nursing, or the new things we’re doing in Ag, or some other program I was never involved with before. So it’s interesting.

I’m either getting new information or getting a glimpse inside a different kind of process. I’m constantly being educated.