Lamar Community College welcomes Greg Cash as the new full-time faculty member and department chair for the Agriculture Department. Cash has spent his entire life around agriculture and has been an Ag teacher for 22 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Ag Science and Ag Education from Oklahoma State University. Greg served as the Springfield High School Vocational Ag Instructor for the past 18 years. During that time, he established a small school farm and ranch, built a greenhouse, and helped build a bus barn. Greg was also involved in the Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teacher Association in which he served as President in 2007-2008.

Lamar Community College Head Men’s Basketball Coach Sercan Fenerci, Head Women’s Basketball Coach Tom Sutherland, Men’s Assistant Basketball Jeffrey Dolan, current and former Runnin’ Lopes players held a three-day summer camp for first through twelfth grade students. It was an opportunity for area young people to have fun while working to improve basketball fundamentals and skills. The coaches were pleasantly surprised by the number of students participating this year, a total of 138 participants. Coach Serg enjoyed coaching the morning sessions with younger grades 1st-6th. Coach Tom led the afternoon sessions with students from 7th-12th grades. The evening sessions from 6-8:00 p.m., were more intense with 9th-12th grade students working on advanced skills. This was the largest basketball camp held at the Wellness Center.

18 high school boys’ basketball teams representing 16 high schools from New Mexico, Kansas, Denver and surrounding area schools participated in the LCC Team Camp. The two day camp was under the direction of Head Men’s Basketball Coach Sercan Fenerci, Men’s Assistant Basketball Coach Jeffrey Dolan and current Runnin’ Lopes players.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships

- The Lamar Community College campus was the host site for the 2015 Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (CVATA) Summer Conference. Over 70 agriculture educators from the state of Colorado attended the annual professional development conference. Individual teachers shared their expertise in classroom workshops covering topics like Fire Ecology, the Essential Features of an Inquiry Based Classroom, and Trailer Variance Training and Certification Workshop including both instruction and a certification test. The Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (CVATA) is a professional organization for agriculture science teachers and supporters of agriculture education. CVATA informs agriculture teachers about the latest agricultural education practices, encourages higher standards of teaching agriculture and provides agriculture education a unified voice in the state legislature.

Other News

- LCC alumnus Fred Ogden, a University of Wyoming professor, has made a significant discovery that answers a nearly 100-year-old question about water movement, with implications for agriculture, hydrology, climate science and other fields. After a decade of effort, Ogden and a team of collaborators published their findings in the journal Water Resources Research this spring. The paper, titled “A new general 1-D vadose zone flow solution method,” presents an equation to replace a difficult and unreliable formula that’s stymied hydrologic modelers since 1931. Fred anticipates this finding will greatly improve the reliability and functionality for hundreds of important water models used by everyone from irrigators and city planners to climate scientists and botanists around the country and the world, as well as trigger a new surge in data collection. Dr. Ogden was honored as LCC’s Outstanding Alum of the Year in 2001.
This is part one of a four-part interview

By David Frankel

D: Did you grow up around here?

J: No, I grew up in Arvada, in the Denver area—we moved there when I was three. It’s close to the foothills. My parents have also lived in Aurora. My mom was the first woman to have three babies in the Aurora Presbyterian Hospital. I was that third child.

D: You were triplets?

J: No, no, she had three consecutive children. But the hospital was pretty new, so we were in the paper when I was born. Anyway, we lived in Aurora, and after that my parents moved to Golden for about a year, and then they settled in Arvada. I went through high school there, and that was where my husband and I met. I married him and we had two children up in the Denver area.

Then we decided we wanted to raise our children in a smaller community. My husband used to come down here and work cattle for Jimmie Burnett, and he fell in love with Lamar. We decided we were going to move here before I had even seen it; I had committed to that. The first time we drove down together, it was kind of frightening: every tiny town from Denver to here, I’d be thinking, “Please tell me this isn’t it!” Those were too small for me. Then we got to Lamar, which I found a more comfortable size. But there’s still a cultural difference from Denver.

D: Does your husband still work with cattle?

J: No, he was friends with Jimmie’s nephew; the two of them went to high school together, and he would come down to work over spring or summer break. He’s definitely not a rancher—he’d just come because they needed help. The first time we drove down together, it was kind of frightening: every tiny town from Denver to here, I’d be thinking, “Please tell me this isn’t it!” Those were too small for me. Then we got to Lamar, which I found a more comfortable size. But there’s still a cultural difference from Denver.

D: Is he still doing that?

J: He’s doing IT [Information Technology] now. He enjoys it. Law enforcement can be wearing.

D: Who does he do IT for?

J: He works for Southeast Networks. Kevin Rink and Ryan Sneller own that company, and they contract out to different places. He works for them, but he’s based full-time out of High Plains Community Health Center.

D: Where you worked for a long time. Was that part of how you ended up working for them?

J: No, it was more the other way around. I was there for twelve years, and he’s only been there since March.

D: So you ended up in Lamar because he fell in love with the town.

J: He loved small town life—he thought it was great. My dad was born and raised in small towns, and so was my mom, and they hated the city and always complained about it. They still live in the city, but they really like small town life. So we thought, we’re going to raise our kids in a small town. Get out of this rat race. And we love it, but I’m glad it’s not smaller.

D: And teaching the kids about nature. Did you do that with your own kids?

J: I didn’t actually teach the nature classes; I did a lot of the first aid stuff. And since I’d worked with handicapped and deaf populations, I’d go up with anybody who needed an interpreter or had special needs. That was why I was able to go up more than my share. I loved being in the mountains. That’s the one thing I miss in Lamar: I really miss my mountains.

When I was up there I usually taught archery, but I didn’t lead too many of the hikes, because I was afraid I’d lose someone. It was generally the full-time staff who handled the hikes, because you really didn’t want to lose a kid. Not all the kids took full advantage of the opportunity, but you’d get some really good kids up there who would enjoy it. If their parents didn’t take them camping, the outdoor lab was their chance to have that experience.

D: Did some of the kids just want to stay in the cabin with their iPads?

J: I appreciate your thinking I’m that young. That’s not what it was like when I was growing up. You still went to the library to look up things and write your papers. That was another thing I didn’t understand when we moved here—you come to a small town, and there’s only one library. But by then we had the Internet, so you don’t really need a library to write a research paper. I remember spending Saturdays going from library to library to library to do research. I’m giving away my age when I tell you that. When I was in high school, you had to do all of your research from books, and there was no copy-and-paste, you actually had to type things.

D: I had to write my college papers on a typewriter.

J: I’m not that old.

D: You said you had experience working with the handicapped?

And since I’d worked with handicapped and deaf populations, I’d go up with anybody who needed an interpreter or had special needs. But they also had deer, and the deer didn’t care that we were around—you could feed them apples out of your hand. But for that to happen, you had to have a rather quiet, reverent sixth-grade class.

I went when I was in sixth grade, and then in high school I went up as a counselor several times. The high school would only allow you a certain amount of time per year to be a counselor, and of course I’d exceed my allotment. I loved it. It was so much fun to be up there and out in nature.

D: Getting to Know LCC’s Academic Services Coordinator

Jessica Medina

LCC’s Academic Services Coordinator

Jessica Medina

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Getting to Know

LCC’s Academic Services Coordinator

Jessica Medina

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August 2015
J: In our church, when I was really young, a couple moved in who were deaf, and we had no interpreters for them. So the church decided to hold classes and teach people how to interpret. At that point my mom had four small kids at home, and she decided it would be good for her to get out of the house and learn something. They taught her sign language and how to interpret, and she became the person who interpreted at all the church meetings. Then she taught other people how. So I just grew up with that.

D: I wouldn’t imagine it being an easy thing to learn.

J: I grew up with it, so it just makes sense to me. My dad, though, refused to learn it. Then my parents went on a mission a couple of years back, and they got called to serve in an ASL [American Sign Language] ward. So finally my dad had to learn sign language, and he did quite well. Even in your adult life, it makes sense.

D: Where was this mission?

J: San Jose, California.

D: And what denomination?

J: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. That’s our church. You can serve your mission as a girl at age nineteen, or a guy at age eighteen, or as a senior couple if you’re retired and have the money. My parents served a couple of missions and they enjoyed that. Right now they’re helping with the website where people go to research their ancestry. They help on the help desk. It’s funny, because my dad was always so anti-technology: he used to swear he’d never get a cell phone. But he has a smartphone now. We pulled him in. And he’s ready to communicate in different ways. He was always so anti-cell phones: they are just good people who want to help others.

D: You were in the medical field. That had to be a HAM radio person, so they did a lot of work up in San Jose getting people HAM-certified and ready to communicate in different ways. That was something he really embraced.

D: Did you go to San Jose, or was it just your parents?

J: Just them. Once they were empty-nesters, they could take off and do whatever they wanted. My mom’s sister is now in Louisiana serving on a mission with her husband. And now my oldest daughter is serving her mission in Provo, Utah. I’m very excited for her.

D: Has she just started, or has she been there for a while?

J: She’s been there for a week. It’s an adjustment. Today is the day she’s supposed to write, and if she’s a day late, we’ll be like, ‘WHAT?!’

D: Has it messed with your sleep?

J: No.

D: Well, you have the other three to worry about.

J: I do have the other three to worry about. I think it’s been harder on my husband than on me. She’s always been Daddy’s little girl.

D: Girls don’t hold the same mystique for you.

J: No, they really don’t. All these teenaged girls in one household—you’d think he’d be happy to get rid of one. I think boys would have been easier.

D: What’s the hardest part about girls?

J: The hormones. The moods, the hormones—you get all that going in one household with four or five of us, it’s just not pretty. The boys should run for the hills, right?

D: We tend to feel that we never know what’s going on.

J: I understand that boys can be moody—all teens can—but it’s different.

D: Boys isolate. They go off by themselves and don’t want to talk to anyone.

J: (in a boy voice) “Leave me alone. I’ll be fine.”

D: I knew a prison guard once—he was a middle school math teacher who had been a prison guard, which turned out to be good preparation. Anyway, at one point they offered him two choices: he could work with the sex offenders, or he could work with the women. He said he chose the sex offenders, and never regretted it.

J: Possibly one of my favorite jobs was working in a plastics injection-molding company. The only two women were me and another secretary: we did the books and the office stuff, and the rest were all guys. There was no drama: the women ran it, and the guys knew that, and that was all there was to know.

D: Were you their mom?

J: I was a mom, but not their mom—I was pregnant with my son while I was working there. He was born in February, so I was quite pregnant at the company Christmas dinner. That was when I got to meet the wives. It was kind of a small company, and it was out in Aurora, and they lived all over the place. One of the things about Denver: you work in one place, and everyone lives all over, and you never see them except at work. Whereas here, you run into everybody every day. If you have children, and your children are in activities, you intermingle and mingle.

Anyway, at the Christmas party, the wives complained about how much weight their husbands had put on during my pregnancy, while I hadn’t: I’d had a really tough first trimester and I was still underweight. I told them, “Well, it’s because they eat all my food. I have plenty, and they’re constantly helping themselves.”

D: Were those guys nice to you when you were pregnant?

J: They were very, very protective. I was surprised: I grew up with four brothers, and they were more likely to pound you than protect you. It’s an interesting dynamic when you have girls versus boys as coworkers.

D: My wife has talked about that. She’s said that working with all women can be a nightmare. And places which are all guys have their problems, too. People tend to be on better behavior when the other gender is around.

J: There’s a certain mix that’s probably just about perfect. There are strengths and weaknesses to both. Women tend to hold grudges a little more, while guys will get over it and move on. But that’s not always the case. Working here has been nice because you don’t find that kind of behavior. I think it’s because the campus is spread out enough—you have smaller groups, and everybody has their own thing to do, so you’re not juggling all over each other with that territorial thing. It’s so nice to come to work here.

D: I’ve noticed a striking absence of politics around here.

J: I’m so thankful. It’s been a big plus. They are just good people who want to do a good job. They are also generally happy people, and what a difference that makes.

D: This is the second community college I’ve worked at, and the other one was like that too, more so than at the four-year colleges where I’ve taught. At four-year colleges there’s more ego. At a community college, there’s no particular glory to be had, so people don’t compete for it.

J: Especially a community college in a small town. The downside is getting good people to stay.

D: You were in the medical field. That had to be huge.

(continued on page 5)
CVATA Attracts 70+ Colorado Ag Educators

By: Kristin Lubbers, Director of Marketing

(Lamar, Colorado; July 10, 2015) The Lamar Community College campus was abuzz on June 29 through July 1 as teachers from all over the state convened for the 2015 Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (CVATA) Summer Conference. Over 70 agriculture educators attended the annual professional development conference, organized by the District 7 and 8 advisors as well as the CVATA leadership team.

The conference provided a wide variety of opportunities for professional development through hands-on activities, trainings, and roundtable workshops. Individual teachers shared their expertise in classroom workshops covering topics like Fire Ecology, the Essential Features of an Inquiry Based Classroom, and even Trailer Variance Training and Certification Workshop including both instruction and a certification test.

In addition to professional development, conference attendees had the opportunity to tour Lamar and the surrounding area to explore career opportunities in the area related to the agriculture industry. Tours included a variety of local businesses such as the wind farm, Colorado Beef, Dragon Enterprise, Cargill Beef, and CF Maier Composites.

Lance Jagers, agriculture teacher at McClave High School, was one of the individuals instrumental in bringing the conference to southeast Colorado.

“It is important that we have our professional development, but also that we are able to see all areas of the state and what each has to offer,” said Jagers. “It’s great that these educators were able to visit southeast Colorado and see what all we have going on. That’s the fun part about all this.”

The teachers also had a chance to kick back and have some fun. On Tuesday night they attended the Colorado Young Farmers Pork Chop Dinner hosted by Lawrence and Tressa Brase at their home and co-sponsored by Riverside Farms. Then, on Wednesday, the Lamar Elk’s Lodge hosted a Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry sponsored by DJ’s Fundraising.

The event organizers would like to express their gratitude to all area individuals and organizations that helped make the CVATA Summer Conference a success.

“We really appreciate LCC and their willingness to open their doors to us. The facility made a great central location and having access to the Horse Barns and classrooms really worked well for the conference,” Jagers commented. “And thank you to Cheryl Sanchez, Tori States, and Del Chase – they did a lot to help. We are super thankful.”

About CVATA

The Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (CVATA) is a professional organization for agriculture science teachers and supporters of agriculture education. CVATA informs agriculture teachers about the latest agricultural education practices, encourages higher standards of teaching agriculture and provides agriculture education a unified voice in the state legislature.

LCC Welcomes Greg Cash as Ag Faculty

By: Kristin Lubbers, Director of Marketing

(Lamar, Colorado; July 10, 2015) After an extensive search, Lamar Community College welcomes Greg Cash as the new full-time faculty member and department chair for the Agriculture Department. Cash has spent his entire life around agriculture and has been an Ag teacher for 22 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Ag Science and Ag Education from Oklahoma State University.

Cash comes to LCC from Springfield High School, where he has served as the Vocational Ag Instructor for the past 18 years. During his time at SHS, he established a small school farm and ranch, built a greenhouse, and helped build a bus barn. He has been proactive in building the program and expanding the ways in which his students learn about agriculture. During this time he was also involved in the Vocational Agriculture Teacher Association in which he served as President in 2007-2008.

“His experience in teaching, Perkins Grant administration, program development, and vocational education knowledge will serve him well at LCC. We are very fortunate to have Greg on campus,” said Cheryl Sanchez, Vice President of Academic and Student Services.

Cash will be teaching at least three courses each semester as part of his duties. This fall he will be teaching World Interdependence/Population/Food (AGR 260), Animal Health (APG 215), Animal Sciences (ASC 100), Freshmen Ag Orientation (AGR 100), and a Livestock Practicum course (ASC 288).

When asked what his vision was for the Ag program’s future, Cash said he hoped to return the program to and beyond its former state.

“Ag is my passion; it’s what drives me,” said Cash. “I’m excited to get in, evaluate where we are as a school, and then build from there. I look forward to working with the students and rebuilding the program.”

“Greg brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. His work in the industry has made him well-known in the state in both secondary and post-secondary education,” commented LCC President John Marrin. “We are truly excited to have Greg on board and part of the LCC family.”

Cash is originally from Wynnewood, Oklahoma, where he grew up on a ranch. He currently lives in Springfield, Colorado, with his wife Darcie. He has two children in college. When he isn’t spending time with his family or working on the farm, he enjoys camping and fishing.

For more information regarding LCC’s Agriculture program, contact Greg Cash by phone at 719.336.1628 or email at Gregc-cash@lamarcc.edu. For any other information about LCC, please visit www.lamarcc.edu.

# # #
J: It’s hard to keep good doctors sometimes. Plus in the medical field, there’s another aspect: there are federal grants and opportunities where, if you’ll give us a three-year contract in an under-served area, we’ll pay off your student loans. So after three years we lose a lot of people. In some other professions, we can be a stepping-stone. You want to be a police officer, and you need some experience, so where are you going to get that experience? Do you want to go to the big city and be a big cop? Hit the small towns first, and build up a résumé. So you get some excellent people who are using Lamar as a stepping-stone. We want them to do what makes them happy, but it’s tough to watch them go.

D: What were the best parts?

J: The patients. The patients were great, and some of the staff members were just so incredible. As I said, many doctors and providers come and go, and you see some great ones who really care about the patients and are really there for the patients, and you see the difference that can make in the patients’ lives. It’s very rewarding. Plus there’s always something to learn in the medical field. Never a boring day; never two days the same. It was always different and always challenging.

About LCC’s Adopt-an-Athlete Program please contact Cheryl Sanchez if you would like more information about the LCC student athletes or find students who might fit well with your family. Sanchez has been a supporter of Adopt-an-Athlete since its inception. “You make a close connection with your students,” she commented. “I’ve seen some really great connections between students and their hosts; these athletes can truly become a part of your family. When you take the time to make these students feel welcome, to give them a place to get away to, it can change their experience in Lamar for the better. Some students can be very homesick and having this support system through Adopt-an-Athlete can make all the difference.”

If you are unable to make the meet and greet or if you would like more information about the Adopt-an-Athlete program please contact Cheryl Sanchez at 719.336.1516.

About LCC’s Adopt-an-Athlete Program

Adopt-an-Athlete was created by the LCC Booster Club as a way for community members to become more involved in Runnin’ Lopes athletics and to support LCC athletes. LCC student athletes come from all parts of the U.S. and the world. Many of them are away from home for the first time, and having a host family in the Lamar area makes their years in Lamar more welcoming and helps them make a successful transition to college. This program has yielded lasting friendships between host families and athletes.

The LCC Booster Club asks that host families adopt two or more athletes and follow a few simple guidelines:

- Show support of these athletes by attending their home games, matches, or rodeos, as having familiar faces in the stands helps increase their confidence and pride.
- Interact with the athletes on a regular basis (once or twice per month is recommended), which may include inviting them to the host home or taking them out to dinner or other family activities.
- Keep the Booster Club informed of your activities, so that the club can evaluate the program’s effectiveness.

LCC Events Calendar — August 2015

The wealth of activities and events are too numerous to share in this space.

Please view our full calendar of events at http://www.lamarcc.edu/calendar/

LCC Sports:

20th & 21st and Lady Lopes Volleyball Tournament  
Golf

20th — 12 PM — Residence Halls and Cafeteria Open

21st — 8 AM Fall Orientation

24th — First Day of Classes

September Preview

Sports activities:

Volleyball, Golf, Baseball, Rodeo, and Basketball

7th — Labor Day — Offices Closed/No Classes

“...”

—Author Unknown