

The Pronghorn Pronk

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Moving forward by
leaps and bounds...



A Special Holiday Edition



How My Father Taught Me the Meaning of Christmas

This is a story I heard a number of years ago on the radio. A writer, Paul Auster, was overseeing a contest for National Public Radio called "The National Story Project," in which listeners could send in stories and hear a few of them read on the air. This one was sent in by an elderly woman whose name I am unfortunately unable to recall or locate. I will try to be as faithful to the original as I can be, although, since I am reproducing it from memory, it will not be word-for-word.

Retold by: David Frankel

This is the story of something that happened one Christmas day during my childhood.

My family was living down south. It was during the Great Depression, and times were hard, for us and for most people. On that particular Christmas morning, my sister and I opened our presents at home, and then the family piled into the car to go to my grandmother's house for the Christmas meal. It was raining, and hardly anybody was out on the roads.

As we drove, we saw some people standing at a bus stop. It looked like a family – a man, a woman, and two little girls. It looked like our family, the one in the car, except these people were more poorly dressed and were out in the weather. They had some luggage with them and looked as if they'd been on the road a long time. We knew the buses didn't run much on Christmas.

We drove past them, but then the car got slower and slower, until finally my father stopped it. "I can't," he said to my mother. "I can't just leave them out there in the rain. Not on Christmas." So we turned around and went back.

The man at the bus stop said they were trying to get to Birmingham, where he thought his brother might be able to get him a job. They looked as if they'd been traveling for quite a while, and as if they hadn't had a whole lot to eat while they'd been doing so. My father told them to get in the car. He said his mother always made too much food for Christmas anyway. So we all squeezed in.

We ate a big meal at my grandmother's, and we helped the family dry out their clothes. I think maybe my grandmother slipped them some clothes they hadn't come in with, but she did it quiet. Then, when the eating was done, my father asked those two little girls, "Has Santa found you to give you your presents?" The two girls shook their heads, and I can still see how their faces looked – the look of children who know that no matter how sad they get, it's important that they not complain. "Well, it's lucky we ran into each other. Santa told me he was worried that since you were traveling, he might not be able to find you, so he left your presents at my house."

We all got back in the car and drove to our house, where my sister's present and mine were still sitting out on the sofa. They weren't wrapped, but the two girls didn't seem to mind. One of them got my sister's new sweater, and the other got my new doll. I had been pretty taken with that doll, and I think it had put a dent in the family budget. But with one look at my father, I knew I shouldn't say anything. If these girls weren't going to complain, I shouldn't either. The other girl looked pretty taken with the doll too.

We waited until the rain died down, and everyone was in dry clothes, and then we drove the four of them back to the bus stop. As my father and the other man shook hands, my father made him take a ten-dollar bill, which was quite a bit of money back then. The man didn't want to take it, but my father made him. "Go ahead," he said. "I know what it's like to be broke and not be able to feed your family." When we drove away, I kept looking out through the back window at the two girls. One was wearing the new sweater, and the other was holding the new doll. We waved at each other until I couldn't see them anymore.

That was how my father taught me the meaning of Christmas.



LCC & CSU-Global Are Working Together to Increase Bachelor Degree Options

By Sharon Grasmick, Co-Pals Project Transfer Navigator

In an ongoing effort to bring quality continuing education options to Lamar and the surrounding area, Lamar Community College (LCC), in cooperation with the Colorado Community College System and CSU-Global, is excited to announce the on campus presence of a CO-Pals Navigator.

This position is designed to help any current high school student, or any current LCC student or community member who is working toward, or has successfully attained, an AA, AS, AAS or AGS to "navigate" the intricacies of the community college and CSU-Global systems, address personal barriers, provide awareness of the current and future job and career projections, and create a sustainable enduring plan for achieving personal, educational and professional goals.

While the options for continuing one's education through physical relocation are available, if a person prefers to remain in the area, Colorado State University-Global Campus can provide the ideal opportunity.

CSU-Global was created by the Colorado State University System Board of Governors in 2007 as the first independent 100 percent online state university in the United States. CSU-Global is focused on facilitating adult success in a global marketplace through career-relevant education including bachelor's degree completion and master's degree programs.

Embracing the land grant heritage as part of the CSU System, CSU-Global sets the standard for quality and innovation in higher education through its expert faculty training in working with adults in an online learning environment, and through its dedication to student retention, graduation, and workplace success.

With a vision to be the premier provider of innovative higher learning opportunities for nontraditional students in Colorado and beyond, CSU-Global is committed to advancing student success in a global society, investing in human capital, expanding the state economy, and enhancing the quality of life for citizens in the state of Colorado and beyond. By providing access to dynamic degree programs characterized by academic excellence, innovative delivery technologies, and strong stakeholder engagement we can achieve these goals.

Additionally, CSU-Global offers those who have completed 30 or more credit hours the ability to lock in the current tuition rate for the duration of their attendance, by simply signing a letter of intent. For more information about CO-Pals and CSU-Global contact Sharon Grasmick at 719-336-1521 or sharon.grasmick@lamarcc.edu.



GET TO KNOW

Science Faculty

Dr. Andrew Saueracker, M.D.

This is part two of a two-part interview.

By: Susan Frankel & Brooke Hyle

(This is a written transcript of the interview which does not comply with APA style formatting with bolded sentences representing the interviewer's questions followed by Dr. Saueracker's responses.)

What else did you get to do on the reservation?

I did a little bit of everything, including obstetrics, which I didn't care for. Some orthopedics, which I enjoyed. A lot of fractures and stuff. Plus a little bit of ER work – that was when I had to go on antibiotics.

What did you do after your residency?

I went to work and supported my family. I was in Idaho first, simply because that was the best offer. I liked northern Idaho, Moscow, which is where the University of Idaho is. Idaho has a bad reputation nationwide, because people think that's where the crazy people are, but it's not true, it's a beautiful state. But I missed Colorado, so I took the first opportunity to come back.

How long did that take?

1987-1992, so I was there five years. Then we moved to Fort Morgan, which was considerably smaller than Moscow. Throughout my life, my home towns have gotten progressively smaller. I started out around New York City and ended up in Lamar.

Did you move from Fort Morgan to Lamar because you got an offer?

No. It's a long story, and mostly business-related. The hospital in Fort Morgan got bought by a startup Tennessee hospital management company, and their business plan was to buy small hospitals and then fire everyone and put in their own people. One day the hospital was bought, and the next day most of the staff was handed pink slips. Everyone who was important to my group was fired, which was their way of saying you need to move on, because we are going to bring in our own people. We were pretty well forced out. You know, it's commonly said that 'The practice of medicine is an art,' and that's true. There are a lot of positives about the profession, but here is the negative: it's also a business, and sometimes business decisions mean you're out of here – "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." Those are the facts of life. Things go bad because of forces you can't control.

I worked in ERs in Denver trauma hospitals for a while, and then I found Lamar. I was looking at smaller towns because I'd remarried and had small stepchildren, and we didn't want to raise them in a big city. So I was driving through Lamar to an interview in Texas, and I stopped at McDonald's, and I happened to sit next to the CEO of the hospital here, a tremendous guy, and he said, "Why don't you take a look at this place?" It was serendipity, pure chance: I happened to sit at a particular table in McDonald's, and I've lived here ever since. Even after I retired, which was four years ago now, my granddaughters were here, so we wanted to stay close to them.

Did they follow you and your wife?

My step-daughter is the mother of these two girls, and she's still here. We'll be here as long as they're here.

Granddaughters are important.

I never would have dreamed I would end up making decisions based on where my granddaughters are. But I can't move away. For one thing, we kind of help Whitney raise these girls. For another – the first one, Kali, that's the name of the Hindu goddess of destruction, she and her mother moved in with us when Kali was about a year and a half old. I had only seen her once before. And she looked up at me and said "Papa," and boom! It's like that movie with Tom Cruise, *Jerry McGuire*, where Renee Zellweger says, "You

had me at 'hello.'" Kali had me at 'Papa.' Just like that: I was Papa, and I'm still Papa. It's strange how life twists and turns. I would never have predicted I would feel this way.

They have their charms.

It's kind of sad – when my sons were born, I was in Gallup, and I was working all the time, and I couldn't see them except for every other weekend when I got some time off. I see more of these granddaughters than I did of my own sons. Maybe it's my way of getting back that time I didn't have then.

How does teaching compare to medicine?

They're both arts. They say the practice of medicine is an art, and that's absolutely true. There's a lot of wisdom and experience, and it's not a cookbook like everyone wants it to be – you don't just plug in symptoms and come out with 'best practices.' Teaching is the same way: figuring out how to transmit information also turns out to be an art form. And I've been getting better at it. Boy, I sure appreciate teachers. There's a lot of teaching in being a physician: you have to teach your staff what you want them to do, and there's a lot of back and forth. But classroom teaching is very different, and I was not at all prepared for that, so I've kind of had to learn as I go along.

What made you come to LCC?

I retired four years ago, but I needed something to do. I had to get my brain working again, so I wandered over here and talked to the dean, and he said, "Yeah, I can give you something to do," and I became an adjunct. Then, after a full semester and a summer semester, I was hired full-time.

I enjoy trying to transmit to people what is important to know and what isn't – there's a lot to that. It helps to tell stories, and I think my past and my experiences give me an edge.

And you're liking it?

Oh yeah, I like teaching, I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't like it. I enjoy trying to transmit to people what is important to know and what isn't – there's a lot to that. It helps to tell stories, and I think my past and my experiences give me an edge. On the downside, I'm not a trained educator, and I've never taken an education course. One of my sons is a high school physics teacher; he has his master's degree and teaches physics and math in the high school. He's very familiar with teaching concepts that I know nothing about. We talk on the phone, but he's the father of Emma, the six-month-old, so when we talk, it's usually ends up being less about teaching and more about Emma.

Are you Skyping yet?

I like to say that my computer skills have improved from Paleolithic to Neolithic. My skills are now New Stone Age. Here's my phone – I don't have a smart phone, I have a flip phone. The point is, people who are trained to be educators, like my son, do all kinds of things on the computer I wouldn't dream of trying, and it saves them time. I spend a lot of time making up tests, while other people just punch something into a computer. So it's different. I have to do what I can do.

What do you find to be the biggest challenge in teaching?

I don't know if there's a single answer to that. Putting things in regular English and trying to not rely on words I've used for a long time – translating medical language into regular language. You have to do that in the medical world too, when you're talking to patients, so there's a similarity there, it's like being bilingual. It helps when you give them a memory device. It helps when you can show them, this is like that, this new thing is like something you already know.

There's a tremendous amount of material. That's the biggest challenge: getting all that material across in the time you have.

And having to choose what is most important to get across.

Yeah, that too – it kind of evolves a little bit, the order in which I do things. It changes according to what has seemed to work in the past. That all kind of comes with the territory.

And when you teach, you teach yourself as well.

Yeah, you learn the process. Plus you learn new material. This year I'm teaching a course I've never taught before, Microbiology, and man, is there a lot to learn.

How many classes are you teaching right now?

Five: two sections of Anatomy and Physiology I, one of Anatomy and Physiology II, and one of Microbiology. And then Biology 116, which is a fun class. It's diseases for regular people, for non-science majors.

Do you mention Ebola?

Oh, yeah, I already have. When you teach a course on diseases, and there's a disease going around, you have to mention it. I also teach diseases in Bio 216, Pathophysiology, which is 116 on steroids, as I like to put it. I teach 216 in the spring, and it's for nursing majors, so it has a lot more detail.

What have you found most rewarding about teaching?

It's a challenge, and you have to stay challenged. My brain was starting to shrink, so I had to juice it up again. Even when I stop being a full-timer, I'll still want to adjunct. That way I can teach for a semester and then take a semester off and travel. When it's cold, go where it's warm – that sort of thing.

Is traveling one of your hobbies?

You know, I don't really have hobbies. I had a hobby, I skied, and then I had to stop skiing because I went into residency and I had no time. I didn't read a book for five years, I didn't watch TV, I didn't even know who was running for president. You're really way out of life in that situation. When I had a little more time, I started to go back to things, and I found out I was too old. I taught my sons how to ski, and by the time they were twelve and fourteen years old, I had blown a rotator cuff, snapped a tendon in my thumb, and cracked a knee cap. So I thought, they're on their own now. I really don't have much time for hobbies. I never have.

You're busy working.

Yeah, and even now, teaching is time-consuming. I don't do yard work like I should, as my wife will tell you. I think it's important to keep engaged, keep your brain stimulated, but I do look forward to being less active.

Sounds like your hobby now is, "I want to play with the grandkids."

Yeah. I want to teach them to ski; I think I can do that, although we'll see. I used to climb mountains – my sons and I went up Long's Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. It's a great climb, and it gets you on top of Colorado and gives you a view you'll never get otherwise. Those were my hobbies back when I had time.

One year, the pope was in Colorado for World Youth Day. This was quite a while ago, in the '80s. There were youth visiting from all over the world, and they all happened to pick the same day to go up Long's Peak. Very seldom do you see many people walking up and back, but on that day there was a single-file line from top to bottom, with people speaking thirty different languages. You could hear French, Italian, German – all these healthy people going up the same mountain you were. That was one of my favorite days. ■



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VIAERO WIRELESS (1202 E Olive)

OQUIST FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC (109 Lee Ave.)

BREW UNTO OTHERS (119 S MAIN)

LCC's Runnin' Lopes Women's Basketball



Early Season Update

By: Tom Sutherland, Head Coach

Two weeks into the 2014-15 season, and the women's basketball team sits at 3-4, having played only one home game so far. Began the season up in Casper, and have also played in Garden City and Colby. Putting the miles on the van!

While the team struggled to score up in Casper, it has scored points in bunches the last five games, averaging 100+ points/game. The girls are playing very fast, very hard, and with a stronger sense of purpose as it relates to our style of play.

In our only home game to date, 11/4 against Dodge City, the team overcame a 17-point half-time deficit to pull out a very nice win, final score 103-98. While very disappointed at half-time, the team played the second half with great resolve and determination, and simply refused to lose their home opener. Khadijah Vigil came back from an in-game knee injury to score 32 points, and Gabriela Jimenez had 20 points, to help lead the way. Ariel Rosa was ALL over the floor the entire game, and had 8 steals. The entire team was very appreciative of the home crowd and their support.

Overall, the team remains a work in progress, as it is very early in the season. While the team has struggled to rebound the ball, and has fouled at an alarming rate, the girls are working hard to improve the level of play. The sophomores are playing with a sense of urgency, as they realize this will be their final season of competition at LCC. The freshmen are trying to find their way in a unique style of play, and will become more comfortable with the system with continued game experience.

For those unaware of how we play the game, or our style of play, we play at an extreme pace/tempo, with the goal of wearing down the opponent in the second half. Our style demands that our girls play with supreme effort and conditioning, as we press the entire game. With that scheme in mind, the players play all-out for roughly 45 seconds, then the next 5-player unit/shift comes into the game. We play every girl in every game, so we do get full participation, which is rather unusual at the college level. As a result, we believe we play a very exciting brand of basketball, and highly entertaining. Community support last season was excellent, and we hope for that support this season, as well.

Every season for every sport is a journey into the unknown. While that involves apprehension, it also creates a strong sense of excitement. With that in mind, the women's basketball program is looking forward to the journey ahead, and are proud to represent LCC



LCC Events Calendar December

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: Basketball

LCC Events: Online classes begin, Dorms close for winter break

Local High School Sports and Activities at LCC

2nd—LCC Advisory Council Noon—1:30 West Betz Conference Room

Week of 8th—13th—Final exams

13th—7am ACT Testing

17th-24th—Hanukkah

25th—Christmas Day

26th—Kwanzaa begins and Boxing Day

WINTER BREAK—CAMPUS CLOSED 25TH—REOPENS JANUARY 2ND

Preview for January 2015

1st— New Year's Day!!!

9th—Spring Orientation

LCC Women's Basketball 2014-2015 Roster

Bree Torres	Fatou Keita
Miroslava Rangel	Celina Quayle
Ariel Rosa	Kimi Roth
Taryn Frazier	Sheridan Rushton
Kelsey Grimaldo	Dewynn Lapp
Vanessa Maestas	Kristina Robertson
Gabriela Jimenez	Khadijah Vigil
Kirby Vanderpool	

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela