

# The Pronghorn Pronk

Volume 5 Issue 1

August 2015



## Moving forward by leaps and bounds...

### PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

PRESIDENT JOHN MARRIN

June and July 2015

#### Transform the student experience

- 92 students along with their parents attended the first of two summer orientation sessions Monday, July 13. Orientation is a one-day program that introduces new students to the college setting at LCC. In the morning, students enjoyed a variety of organized sessions including a financial literacy seminar, technology training, faculty panel discussion, tour of campus, along with presentations about campus safety and student life. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded through a drawing that applies to spring semester. The afternoon session gave students the opportunity to register for fall classes with their academic advisors. Students left orientation ready for the fall semester with their schedule and student ID.
- 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.

#### Transform our own workforce experience

- 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. *(additional information on page 4)*

#### 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. *(additional information on page 4)*

#### 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. ■

Come and Join the FUN!!!

Brew Unto Others & LCC are planning a Back-to-School Community Block Party!

When: Saturday, August 22

Time: 5-7 PM

Where: "downtown Lamar"

*(see page 5 - "ADOPT-AN-ATHLETE PROGRAM ENTERING FOURTH YEAR" article)*



## Getting to Know LCC's Academic Services Coordinator Jessica Medina

*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. He was actually in law enforcement for several years down here. That was what brought us here: a job with the Lamar Police Department.

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.

**And since I'd worked with handicapped and deaf populations, I'd go up with anybody who needed an interpreter or had special needs.**

D: What was the Denver area like for you?

J: I loved downtown Denver; it was a fun place to go and visit. And I liked the opportunities you could get. In Arvada, for our government credit in high school, we did something called Youth and Government. You had to create a bill you wanted, and then, with kids from the other area high schools, we'd go to downtown Denver and take over the state capitol for a mock Senate and a mock House. They'd clear out the building and assign you a role, and you'd sit in that legislator's seat. Sometimes you'd be proposing your bill, sometimes you'd be negotiating, sometimes voting—we'd figure out what bills we would pass and how to word them and such. It was a great opportunity.

Another thing I really enjoyed was the outdoor lab. When you were in sixth grade, you went up into the mountains with your sixth grade class, and you stayed for an entire week. One of the sites had cabins; with the others it was more like Quonset huts. You'd go up there and learn how to shoot bows, or all about johnnycake—you'd learn how to be outdoors. You'd go on hikes and sign up for classes. A majority of the classes were taught by high school students. They'd get trained, then go up and be with you for the week.

You'd learn the different bugs and plants, how to identify them, what you can eat. You had to

watch out for bears and mountain lions. 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: 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 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?

*(continued on page 3)*

(Jessica Medina Interview -continued from page 2)

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 a HAM radio person, so they did a lot of work up in San Jose getting people HAM-certified

**They are just good people who want to do a good job.**

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 for her dad and me.

D: She's your first to leave the nest?

J: Yep. My first one gone. My son will be a senior in high school this year, and my daughter will be a sophomore, and my youngest daughter will be a fourth-grader.

D: I don't know what the rules are for people on a mission. Do you get to speak to her a lot?

J: She gets to call home on Mother's Day and Christmas. Otherwise, you can email all you want, or send letters the old-fashioned way. You can Skype on Mother's Day and Christmas if you have it available to you. In some countries Skyping is hard, while in others it's easier than making a telephone call.

It's quite 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 ejection-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 intermix 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?

**Never a boring day; never two days the same.  
It was always different and always challenging.**

J: Oh, yeah, they were like papa bears. 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 jumping 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 Elks 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.

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**Won't be long now  
'til we hear the pitter-patter  
of little feet in the dorms ...**

## 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 (AGP 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 [Gregory.cash@lamarcc.edu](mailto:Gregory.cash@lamarcc.edu). For any other information about LCC, please visit [www.lamarcc.edu](http://www.lamarcc.edu).

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(Jessica Medina Interview -continued from page 3)

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: I think they've had some of that at the college as well.

J: Sometimes we're doing really well, and life is flourishing, while other times—you'll see it at the college, but not as much as you'll see it in the medical community, because of the three-year contracts. It's federal money, so it doesn't cost the clinic or the hospital anything, and it benefits both the community and that individual. But it's not great for continuity of care.

D: How did you get into the healthcare field?

J: High Plains Community Health Center decided they were going to re-design their medical model, and instead of having nurses, they'd have lay people who they would hire for attitude and train for skill. I came in to work in medical

records, and I just worked and learned my way up from there. I worked there for twelve years.

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.

(to be continued in the September 2015 edition)

## ADOPT-AN-ATHLETE PROGRAM ENTERING FOURTH YEAR

By: Kristin Lubbers, Director of Marketing

who might fit well with their family.

Sanchez has been a sup-

(Lamar, Colorado; July 30, 2015) Lamar Community College's Booster Club is kicking off its fourth year of the Adopt an Athlete Program this fall. The organization would like to invite the community at large and anyone interested in participating in the program to attend the Community Block Party on August 22 from 5-7pm in downtown Lamar. The Back-to-School Community Block Party will serve as an informal meet and greet for all prospective adopters and the LCC athletes.

"The Block Party will be a great chance for anyone who has an interest in the Adopt-an-Athlete program," said Booster Club spokesperson Cheryl Sanchez. "There will be free food, activities, and entertainment, so it will be a very relaxed and fun way to meet the athletes."

Families and individuals can adopt specific athletes or request that players be assigned to them. Because of this, events like the Block Party help potential adopters to find students

porter 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

**"One day while Gandhi was boarding a train, one of his sandals fell from his foot and landed near the railroad track. But there was no time to retrieve the sandal as the train began to pull out of the station.**

**Just then, Gandhi took off the other sandal and cast it out so that it landed near the first sandal. When a stunned fellow passenger asked why he would do such a thing, Gandhi replied, "Now the poor man who finds it will have a pair he can use."**

**—Author Unknown**

#### DOL Disclaimer

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites, and including, but not limited to accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership.