

Note:

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Some examples of the kinds of errors to be found in the transcripts are provided below.

Filename	PDF Version Page	Error
jmf_int_transcript_Williams_2_2_1976.pdf	20	“Parkalnd”
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AW
4-26-77

Art Garcia

?Tell me your name?

My name is Arthur Garcia.

?And you're a...?

I'm a medical student.

?Second year?

Second year, yeah.

?Ann was telling me something about how you came to medical school via Guadalajara etc.?

It was kinda strange really in that well, when I started school up at North Texas in '66, I was a Russian major and I all of a sudden discovered that North Texas only had one year of Russian, and so that sorta shot Russian. And I just... biology felt nice, and there were some thoughts about going into medicine, but then I saw my sister who I was living with at the time going through Southwestern, and I never saw her other than with her nose in a book. And so I said forget it. So okay, you're going to get a biology degree, what the hell are you going to do with it, and you aren't going to be a physician, and you aren't going to get a Ph. D., those who can't, teach, and I did enjoy teaching. I taught for a year at North ~~Texas~~ Dallas High.

?Taught biology?

Yes, I taught biology, chemistry and physical science, and I was ~~a~~ the tennis coach.

?In Dallas?

Yes, it was at North Dallas High School. It was a , well, North Dallas still is a predominately chicano school, and I opted for it. That's what I asked for, and that's what I got. And everything was fine, except that I was only taking

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home \$430 a month. And my brother-in-law asked me to help with his recruiting minorities for the Dallas Fire Department. And I helped, and then one day I decided well, if I can teach these guys how to take the city aptitude with the salary so blasted good, I'll go down there and take it and see how I do on it and just have a comparison. Well, I took it and I scored very high on it, and it just wound up where I became a fireman, and right after rookie school, I kind of opted for the EMT program, and it was mainly..

?What's EMT?

Emergency Medical Technician is the program that they had just before they started paramedics.

?And these are the people who go out..?

In the ambulances, right. And I guess the reason I opted for it , for two reasons: I felt like I could do a better job working on an ambulance and two, maybe the biggest reason was I was just scared silly of being burned. So I went to EMT school and I got kind of interested in it and then on Labor Day I forget which year it was, I delivered a set of twins, and they were the first set of twins in Dallas, and I felt, I felt just 10 feet tall, and that was ?On an emergency basis?

Yeah, and I just felt, you know, man, that's what I want to do. And I just got it into my head that I wanted to be a doctor. And I went ahead and applied and I took all my exams ~~and~~ for it, and I didn't think my chances were too good, and I applied to Guadalajara also, and then I got accepted, and then I got accepted at Guadalajara, and I didn't get

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accepted up here. Just about that time they..I was also still a fireman, and they sent me to paramedic school, and I said, "Hey, look, I'm going to be leaving. There's no sense in sending me."

"You're going." And all it did was cement what I wanted to do. I wanted to become a doctor. And ~~right~~ ^{right} after paramedic school. I graduated from paramedic school. And the day that I graduated was ~~may~~ ^{my} last day. They didn't get an ounce of work out of me. And I went down to Guadalajara and I'd retaken my MCAP, my medical college admissions test and went down to Guadalajara and just shot-gunned the United States as far as applications, just any place that went, that was asking for minority students, and shot-gunned Texas in particular. And I got an interview here, and I got an interview in San Antonio and then an interview in Denver at the University of Colorado, and then I went back to Guadalajara to just sit and wait. And it was really strange in that I was sitting there taking my study for my last final down there, an embryology final. I'm sitting there in my skivies with a pair of socks on with a book in my hand and all of a sudden the phone rings, and it's my brother-in-law here in Dallas, and he said, "Look, the ~~reason~~ ^{reason} that I called is that I've been trying to get ahold of you all day, and you haven't been home. I just called to tell you that I've got an acceptance letter for you here from Southwestern."

And my hands started to shake, and "Thank you, thank you, thank you." Dropped the phone ~~and~~, grabbed my embryology book, threw it across the room, got up and Guadalajara has to the point where if you score high enough, if you have

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an A on the course going into the final, you don't have to take the final. Well, my two roommates both had an A, and I had a B on the course, so I was going to have to take the final. Well, I woke them up screaming and hollering and then I went and woke up this other buddy of mine that lived about two miles away, and we went out all of us and got bombed on me. And showed up to take the exam, was led in by my friends and just signed my name on the paper and handed it in, and the professor asked me what the hell I was doing. And I said ~~w~~ell I've been accepted to medical school in the U. S. and I'm going to be in Dallas tomorrow, and I was. I mean I went home that, right ~~I~~ after I took the test, right after I signed my name at 9:00, went home, packed, and by 9:00 the next day I was in Dallas. And I just worked, worked at Methodist Hospital in the Cardio-pulmonary Lab, drawing blood gases and doing pulmonary function studies until I started here.

?What's it been like?

Here?

?Yeah?

It's..the first year is more mental trauma than anything, and the second year is physical trauma.

?Describe some of the features of the mental trauma?

Well, it's just..everything is..you start realizing how much you need to know, and then when they have physicians that are clinicians and give lectures in a course like biochemistry..you kinda feel..you know all this stuff is so irrelevant. It's just ridiculous. We're never going to use

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it, and all of a sudden somebody like Dr. Seldin comes in and off the top of his head lectures to you for two hours on biochemistry, you know, ~~the~~ clinical applications of biochem. And all of a sudden you realize, good gosh! you've got to know this stuff, and it's hard. I mean, from 1. not going^g to school for awhile ^{as} ~~and being~~ a fireman and being down in Guadalajara and the studies were different. Down there I studied ^a straight out of American textbooks, and I didn't study for their courses down there^e. I studied^e to pass National Boards, to try to get back into the U.S. And I didn't worry about passing tests or anything, and so when you start studying for tests here, and you know a lot of the courses were tough. I took a summer course in biochemistry at North Texas my senior year and my final in that course was our first exam after three weeks here, and it was ~~m~~amazing. You start doubting yourself, and it was psychologically traumatic, and you're into the second year, and it becomes old hat. I mean you know you're going to be raked over the coals. You feel like you're walking into a test, and you're going to have it shoved down your throat. You feel like you're going to do poorly, but I guess after the first year you get used to it, and then it's just the load, the volume of material that gets to you.

?You're in your second year?

Yes.

?What kind of rapport with your fellow students?

Rapport?

?You^r slightly different background?

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Yeah, ~~and having~~..and I don't..well, of course, there are 200 people in my class, and I'm acquainted with a lot of them, and I know and am very close with three or four of them. It's..everybody is busy studying, it's hard to get really close to some of them, but you know the ones that I really enjoy I spend most of my time with.

?Is that typical?

Oh, yeah. yeah. There are a lot of people. It's just like college really that with a large class, you tend to migrate to people that you feel comfortable with that have a similar background. Some of the people that I hang around with, just, medical school is not their entire life. They really enjoy other things.

?Your rapport with faculty?

Oh, the faculty here, I enjoy the majority of them. I talk to most of them. A lot of the professors that I had last year, especially in gross anatomy and physiology. We're all on a first-name basis because I've spent a lot of time talking to them about their courses and what I need to know and getting together to play bridge or shoot pool.

?Administration, much contact with Dean Williams?

An awful lot of contact in that I'm involved in a loose-knit chicano student group here. It's not a formal organization, it's just a bunch of people that have gotten together for a common goal. And we worked for the past year on trying to raise the number of Mexican-Americans in each class, and as for my class there are 13, or 12. In the freshman class there are 13 or 12. And we got tired of it really, of having, say,

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San Antonio pull a lion's share, and we just decided to get out there and actually do something with it, and we spent a lot of Saturdays up here talking to the chicano applicants and because of this I wound up having a lot of dealings with Dr. Williams. It was just..I just took the ball and ran with it for awhile, and a bunch of us just got together and made a plan of attack of what we needed to do. And then one day Dr. Williams asked me how I would like to go to El Paso and talk to the, to the _____ office, the national chicano health organization and the students there in El Paso. And I spent three days in El Paso talking to them, and it worked out beautifully. We've got 21 chicanos enrolled, or accepted, for next year's freshman class. San Antonio, I believe, got eight, and we're all just ecstatic with it.

?How about in routine..Dr. Williams has a reputation?

Dr. Williams is a..is Godfather, in both senses of the word that he is one in both the , oh, whatever his name is, the actor, Marlon Brando-style, of someone you can go talk to and you might be able to get things done, or you ~~might~~ have a grievance, but he's also a Dutch uncle, and he's a father figure, and he's a good friend to all of us. He's outstanding, he's , of all the administrators that I've had any dealings with, that man, as far as I'm concerned and a lot of the other students, makes this medical school. I've never, never heard of him doing anything that I considered wrong, absolutely nothing.

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?You're chicano. Were you born in Dallas?

No, I was born in El Paso.

?And your parents are....?

Both of them are fullblooded.

?Fullblooded?

Yeah, in fact, I'm first..my sisters and I are first generation americans. Both Mom and Dad were born in the state of Chihuahua.

?When did they move here?

I guess they were, oh, before they were twelve years old. They ^{moved,} ~~were~~ both families moved to El Paso.

?Do they live in Dallas now?

Dad lives in El Paso, and Mom just moved to San Antonio to be with one of my sisters.

?Is your father a doctor?

No, my father is a retired mechanic. Mom is a retired cashier for the El Paso Water Utilities.

?Did you talk to your sister much about going to medical school?

She both encouraged me and discouraged me. She said you had to be crazy to go to medical school. You had to really want it, and she's right. Nobody in their right mind would put up with this if they didn't really want it.

?She was satisfied with here experience here?

Oh, yeah, she, she enjoyed it. She truly loved her clinical years, her last two years, and now she's practicing anesthesia as an anesthesiologist over at Baylor. She loves her work, pure and simple. It's, I mean, it's provided her

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with a good life. She's able to do a lot of things she's always wanted to do, both from the monetary aspect and from the humanitarian aspect, too. She's very happy with it.

?You look forward to that kind of satisfaction?

All I can really look forward to right now is becoming a third-year medical student. But, yeah, eventually I can see myself as a real live, as a real doc. And I guess I'll enjoy it, but I don't know, you know.

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