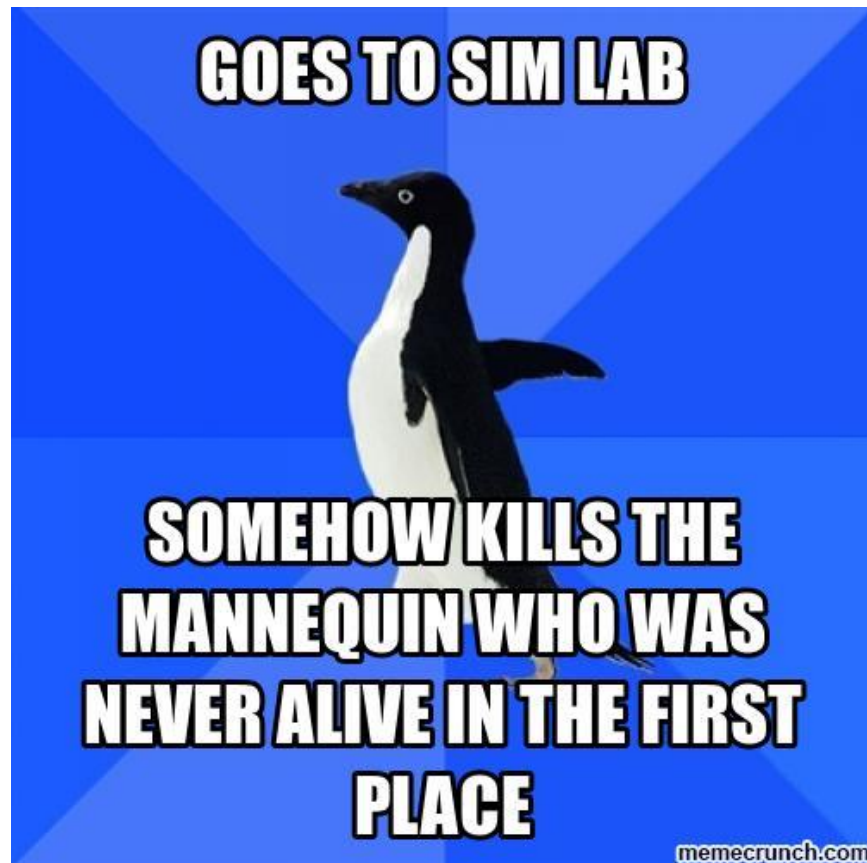


**COMMITTED
TO NOT COMMIT
IS STILL COMMITTED.**



PME 811.

Jason Lane.

My Life as History text Introduction.

The day that I watched Discovery Channel Eco-Challenge.



It was early on in high-school when I happened to turn on the TV and watched the Discovery Channel Eco-Challenge. First image top left (Sleepmonsters.com).

I was bitten and infected immediately. I said to myself “One day I want to do that stuff.” The following year I watched it again, and my statement changed to “I’m doing that stuff.” And so it began, a life-long pursuit of adventure racing, which began close to home and ultimately took me about the world to some extraordinary locations. It took me on my first plane ride as a first year university student to meet my team in Whitehorse, YT, and then I found myself racing through jungles in Chile, over volcanoes in Argentina, trekking to the tip of South America, paddling gale force weather around Trinidad, becoming violently ill in a mountain village in Turkey, and countless other amazing adventures. But it was that first fateful year I watched the Eco-Challenge that proved to be, and continues to be, a driving force in my life every single day.

Growing up in Huntsville. Ontario that is – there’s a slightly bigger one in Alabama.



Image: <http://www.huntsville.ca/en/index.asp>

Growing up in Huntsville was a fantastic thing. I know of no other town where on a daily basis getting to school for myself and my intrepid early team of adventure racers could mean choosing to paddle 2-3 hrs, mountain bike, road bike, or trail run. It was next door to Algonquin Park, which provided endless days of exploration by canoe, and also by foot and bike on the intricate network of secret logging roads. It taught me a comfort of being outside, and built my appreciation for outdoor recreation and tourism.

Then there was the schooling part...

Laurentian canoe trip on the Missinabie River.

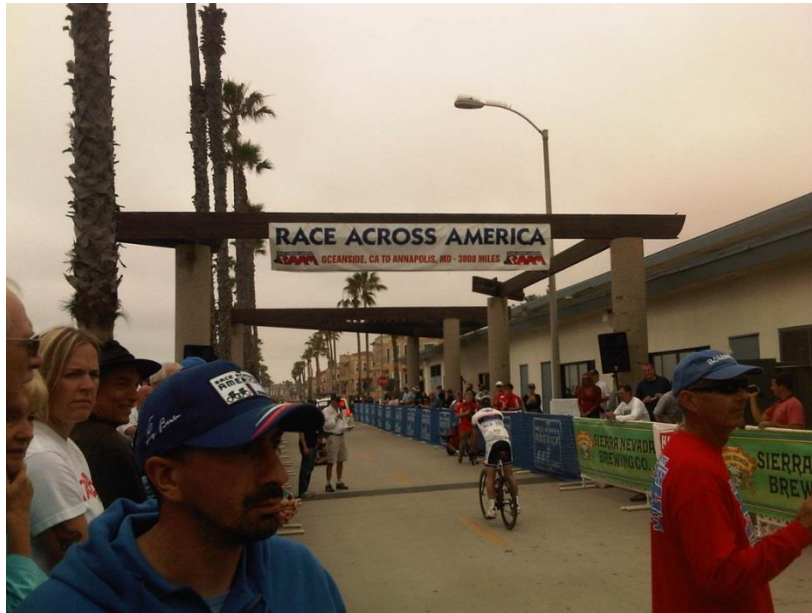


Learning how to be a paramedic.



So to this point in the story, I basically lived outside training for adventure racing, but knew I wanted an education. Enter Laurentian University and an Honors degree in Physical Education, specializing in Outdoor Adventure Leadership. During this time I continued to flood my student money into gallivanting around the world adventure racing, and it was a great time. I cross-country skied on a National Championship team, and eventually graduated with no real job prospect. What do university grads from the phys-ed realm do when they don't go to teacher's college? They go to college to find a career! I rolled straight into Paramedic, graduated the two year program, and finally had some income to fund my passions of travel and racing!

Ultra-Cycling, it was a knee thing.



No fault to any of my previous pursuits, but some genetically floppy tendons, I eventually found out that I required bilateral knee reconstruction. With some pieces taken out, some new ones put in, some surgical breaks here and there and a few bolts to put it all back together again, eight months of recovery, and presto new knees! Say a fond farewell to running, but hello to a new endurance sport: ultra-cycling.

I'm now the Canadian record holder of 9.5 days in the 3,000-mile non-stop cycling race "Race Across America", which is held each year (first picture). I've done that race twice, the first time I was run over by a car in Arizona but had no major injuries and continued on, the second time was the record setting year.

I also set a Canadian record in an unsupported cycling race across the US, which is 4,300 miles long (right). I'll be doing this one again next summer to take on the overall record.

These races are unique in that they both build and reveal character, and allow a very rare focus in today's society on the present. Immersed in these races there is no room for other concerns or stresses, email and work and mortgages disappear. It's adventure in the moment.



What I do when I'm not riding bikes...



I've been a Paramedic for nearly eleven years now. During that time I became a flight medic and worked on both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, and I've worked in just about every town from Cornwall across Ontario to Upsala. I went back to school again about four years ago to do the yearlong full-time Advanced Care Paramedic program, and now continue to work as an Advanced Care medic in Sudbury, ON. During this eleven year career I've been known for my commitment to not commit. I never did accept a full-time position, albeit many were offered. Being full-time meant I couldn't leave for a month or two or three to pursue a race. It was this lifestyle though that allowed me to begin teaching within the Paramedic program at Cambrian College, as being part-time allowed me the flexibility to make my own availability and thus be at the college in an ever more increasing role. I began with one course, and this quickly became full-time hours but on a part-time contract...perfect!

And then I committed...



Two years ago I was successful in gaining a full-time professor and clinical coordinator position in the Paramedic Programs at Cambrian College. My first full-time job! I guess I'm growing up, but it certainly was an attractive position that even I couldn't turn down. That and I still get the summer off to ride bikes.

Unfortunately, I didn't have access to any pictures of myself teaching upon finishing this up, but I have provided four students who decided for Halloween they would dress up as their four main teachers, and if I could show the similarities, you would see how fitting it is to be using this; they did an amazing job! I'm second from the left, as I do enjoy a nice sweater over a collared shirt and don't go anywhere without my water bottle.

As a professional now finding myself in a full-time teaching role, I may be considered a content expert, however I obviously recognize that I lack formal education in teaching. I'm lucky to have a stellar faculty group that I work with and draw from, along with my past part-time work, however I wanted more. Paramedicine is also beginning to explore becoming a university curriculum, so with both these driving forces in mind I elected to pursue this PME degree.

The Eighth Page: Authorial Biography

As I think about this page, I think I may have accidentally wrote this biography using my selected milestones in a linear path to my current location, so I won't go to great length here reiterating the above.

A bit more about my current professional role as a teacher may be in order. As I said I taught part-time though with a huge amount of hours, for five years, and am now in my second year as a full-time college instructor. I teach Paramedicine, and specifically upper year theory, lab, and pathophysiology courses, as well as coordinate the clinical activities. I work closely with the other two full-time faculty and nine part-time staff. We're constantly working forward as a group to improve and modify our program, where we have recently completely overhauled evaluation, and may even be progressing from a two to a three year program.

My goal of the PME program is to broaden my appreciation of education, develop a foundation on which to build this new career, and foster connections and resources to carry forward as I do this.

On a non-professional standpoint, I have the support of a wonderful girlfriend, the friendship of two cats and soon to be Newfoundland pup, and continue to travel and bike race. I love the variety of this continent, and road-trip yearly to the desert, mountains, and everywhere in-between. Next summer I hope to race a bike cross-country again.

Committed to not commit? For many years I was badgered by many who could not fathom my chosen path. Why won't you take a full-time job!? I have explained this above, but it was an ongoing theme I faced. I like to keep doors open, or at least keep a key for later, you never know what's going to happen!

And the penguin? I utilize a high-fidelity simulation lab for much of my lab instruction, and this has always been a favourite picture of mine, and with limited pictures on my work laptop, I decided to share!

Some final thoughts, which echo what an old outdoor professor used to always say, "At the end of the day, we're each just the sum of our experiences, some of which we chose, some of which we likely didn't." It's fascinating that so many different paths can lead to the same point, and I think that's the strength in this program and online community.

Thanks for reading and sharing!

Jason.