

Interviewee: Nancy McBride
Interviewer: Tara Fountain & Christina Gagliardi
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Transcriber: Tara Fountain & Christina Gagliardi



Abstract: Born on December 22, 1942 in Washington, Pennsylvania, Nancy McBride lived in several places throughout her life, eventually settling in the Worcester area in 1984. Drawn to Worcester by a job as the Director of Communications with the United Way, Nancy then moved on to work for Assumption College for 20 years as the Public Relations Director. Although she retired in 2007, Nancy continues to work at UMass Medical School as a Standardized Patient Instructor. In this interview, Nancy speaks of her experiences as a woman working in Worcester, raising her family, and being active in the community. Nancy speaks out about the difficulties of being a single, working mother, yet conveys all that she has learned throughout her struggle. Now that her children are grown, Nancy is better able to dedicate her time to her artwork and to the organizations that are closest to her heart, such as Heifer International in Rutland, Massachusetts, the United Way of Central Massachusetts, and teaching English as a Second Language. Nancy is grateful for all the opportunities Worcester has afforded to her over the years and plans to remain very active in the community.

Christina Gagliardi: As a part of the Worcester Women's Oral History Project...Do we have your permission, Nancy McBride, to record your oral history?

Nancy McBride: Yes.

CG: We are completing a citywide oral history of the lives of Worcester women, aiming to collect stories about a broad range of experiences based on the goals of the 1850 National Woman's Rights Convention, we are focusing on the areas of women's education, health, work, and politics/community involvement. We want to focus today on your experiences with work outside the home and community involvement. Thank you for your help with this important project!

Tara Fountain: What is your full name?

NM: Nancy Alison, with one L, McBride

TF: And where were you born?

NM: I was born in Washington, Pennsylvania

TF: Do you have children?

NM: I have two children. I have Amy who is married and lives in Seattle, Washington and has two children. And I have Iona, who is married and lives in Princeton, Massachusetts and has two children.

CG: So four grandchildren?

NM: Yeah...three girls and a boy.

CG: Can you tell us about your parents?

NM: My mom umm, is still living, she's 95 years old, and in good health.

CG: Oh wow!

NM: She lives in Florida. And, you know, she's getting creaky [laughs] but she has a great sense of humor and she's doing great. My, umm, Dad died in 87, no, no 97 at 87 years of age. He was an electrical engineer who invented the basic cable used in all buildings, with a white coating, it's now called Romex cable, an AC cable, he developed that and particularly the bend-ability of the plastic coating allows it to be bendable so it's an outside wire that can go anywhere. So that we, you know, could go as children to check out how the plastic was holding up under manure, [laughter] under waterfalls, whatever. We always just thought it was getting out with dad but we were checking on the plastic. But my mom was a housekeeper, and um, she started the local kindergarten in town and she was um, politically active. And we lived in a country town so it was kind of interesting because they were college educated and had a professional background, as did their parents so it was pretty interesting coming to a small cow town, which we *loved* growing up in and spending a lot of time in.

TF: Where else have you lived during your life?

NM: Um I went to college in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chatham College, and then I was married while in college and lived with my husband in Ohio for a year, as an internship for his work and then I moved back to Pittsburgh for a year, then Baltimore, Maryland for two years, then upstate New York for about four years, and then Buffalo, New York for two years, then I moved here as a single parent, with my two daughters, in 1984.

TF: So you've been all over!

NM: Yeah!

TF: What drew you to the area?

N: I needed a job. This is very much um, I had just job after job in Buffalo, I was trying to feed two children, and um, I had some friends of mine out there who were also leaving, everyone was. They said check out the Boston Globe and threw it at me, and I answered a blind ad and I got a job um, with the United Way of Central Massachusetts. I had been with a college for the last, I had been at two colleges [____?]

CG: So you say you live in Paxton now?

NM: Yes, I do.

CG: So your Worcester connection is through your work?

NM: Yes.

CG: Um, have you seen any changes in Worcester throughout you were working here?

NM: When I first came here, sort of the first impression was...yes, because I was working in Denholm Building downtown, was the number of mental ill people that where around. It was just the, it just seemed like everyone was suffering from mental illness. And so that was the time, I discovered, when all of the state mental institutions changed their policies and put people into other situations like group homes and stuff like that. Um, and many were out in the community so the town was adjusting and people were adjusting. So that was an improvement. (____?)Um, also at the time there weren't many of mixes of people from different ethnic cultures and I really missed that from living in Buffalo. So there has been a bit more of that. And the kind of things people get when they experience people, So that was important to me. Early on I got involved with WPI and being a foster parent to foreign students and they are in their forties now but they are still family. Um, changes that I've seen, a lot of really good things have happened. The arts have pulled together, the cultural commitment. I take courses at the art museum and I take courses at the Craft Center, and they are all great, I look forward to my time there. So I think in the art community there are a lot of people that really work hard at doing that. I think that the hospitals, certainly, have grown and the bio-tech has taken over from the factories, the factories were kind of key at one point in the history, and it's interesting because my work in public relations, I was very involved with a lot of aspects of the community. And, you know, the venders, and the treatment homes, and the agencies that were serving people in the community. And um, that was the time that the "old boys" were running Worcester. And, so to gradually to see that shift and then having people trying to figure out where they fit because the politics of a long time settling and then that was gone. And so it's interesting for me to see how they kind of [____?] And I care a lot about the Canal District and seeing that come to life. And it intrigues me to see the [____?] And my aunt was a famous, um, person that had to do with city living and, um, wrote a lot of books about it. So that influenced me greatly. People around the town wanted to take in an innovative direction, and it takes a lot of courage and it takes a lot of leadership, and it takes a lot of know-how. And I know people who have struggled greatly and worked very hard. To have it all come together, [____?]. I think its [____?](Inaudible until the end of the question)

TF: Is there anything in particular you really love about Worcester or the Worcester area?

NM: Um, well, I think, I think that it's a really good family-centered city. It's really a great place to raise children, the schools are good, and umm, my kids were going to public schools rather than private schools, which I think is very possible here. There's a lot of work in the charter schools (_____??). As for family friendly, entertainment-wise with the new Hancock...Um, Hanover Theater, that's going to be opening, and I think it'll take off, um, and be really family friendly. My understanding is that when you get a grant to build a university or get a grant to build a baseball field they don't come as part of a plan, it's like a puzzle to be filed in. It's like when you get the grant, you use it. So that doesn't mean it's just one thing or another, or like there's this master plan to build it.

CG: Um, We are going talk a little bit about your education now, if that's okay, um, were did you attend school again?

NM: I went to Chatham College, it used to be Pennsylvania College for Women and I started there in 1960 and graduated in '64. It was originally a women's college and um, found it had its advantages and disadvantages. I found the advantage was that I wasn't distracted by the boys in the classroom and in that era um, women weren't so assertive. So it gave me a chance to see who I was at that time and so I felt like I got a good education although I don't know if I would have preferred to wait for school because I was only seventeen, away from home for the first time. I went on probation my first semester [laughs]. But it is what it is and I thought it was a good environment for me. And then I went to Duquesne University for my graduate work.

TF: And what did you major in?

NM: At Duquesne? Oh...um, at Chatham?

TF: Yes.

N: I was a Fine Arts Major and Psychology minor

TF: And what about at Duquesne?

N: At Duquesne I studied um, Elementary education.

CG: And did you start working immediately after school or did you take some time off?

N: Um, I was married to a clergyman and so we moved around a lot because he took internships at different places because... But when we moved to Baltimore I started to teach there. I substituted for someone who...um...well she died so...I filled in after, you don't substitute for a

dead person [laughter]. So then, then me and my husband had children. So I didn't start to really work full-time as a provider until after my husband left in Buffalo and that was in 1974. I was only married 11 years.

TF: Did you find it, um, challenging balancing work and family life?

NM: I did, because I didn't have a role model for that in those days. And I also had not developed a career. And even though I had a teaching certificate in Pennsylvania, I had lived in two other states since, so it wasn't valid and they didn't want teachers in Buffalo anyway because the economy is slipping and the people were moving away. And the schools were not hiring so a lot of my friends who were teachers began leaving the state. So I, um, as you can see from my resume, had a lot of interesting jobs. I worked, I had a radio talk show for a couple years, and from that I met people who hired me at the aquarium at Niagara Falls. And then I went to...(___?) corporation. And I learned from every one of these jobs. I worked work for a theater as a retail sales, then I started public speaking. And then I started working for colleges. The first college I worked for they wanted a PR director and an alumni director, and they had never had either. And so they asked me what I would do ... so I made it up! [laughter] Just like I made up how to be a radio talk show host. Like, 'If I were a radio talk show host what would I do?' And that was a very creative experience and I basically pushed my way in and I said 'oh that sounds good' so that's how I learned my craft was to get the job then find out how to do it [laughter]. By calling, you know, going to the top, of whether it was the newspaper, the printing business or the paper business or a photographer, you know just going to the best and asking for help.

TF: It seems like it takes a lot of courage to just go out and...

NM: You know you don't know anything about yourself until, you say 'how did you raise two children and work through that environment' you know there was a lot of poverty and learning how to deal with poverty, and that is a really a good thing because then if you're ever poor again, it's no big deal [laughter]. It's not so traumatizing. But um, you just put your feet down and get up and do it. So I've learned something from every job, and sometimes it's just that I had a wit, maybe an acerbic wit, to survive that particularly. So I think that was all fun and learned a lot along the way, but I don't think I ever considered I had a choice and I had nobody to bail me out, what do I move home to a little town in Connecticut, then what? You know, so that's why I didn't do it. I think what panned for a long time was going to the career at the colleges and then I went back to the career in public relations thing rather than (___??).

TF: Um, how about after the United Way, where did you work after that?

NM: [points to desk] Assumption College. I was hired here and began here January of '87 and I have been here for 20 years and I retired.

TF: Are you enjoying retired life?

NM: WOOO HOOO! [laughter] I am. I am finding I had to be careful not to be too involved at first. I think to allow things to open up for me and I trained last fall as a standardized patient at UMass Medical School. I've just come from there right now, so I work there on a schedule not on weekends though. So what I do is play the role of a sick patient for a specific medical student who is trying their skills for interviewing and um, messing up all over the place. [laughter] And not knowing how to handle me when they tell me right off the bat that I have cancer and it's here and there, well they've learned all this medical stuff, and that's all very nice, but I'm in shock. And my voice disappears and then they don't know what to do, and they say time out, now what do I do with her, she's blocking me, I can't tell her what I'm supposed to tell her... and that's there to provide wonderful conversations and to teach students to become good doctors and the people skills to balance it out. There's one thing, and the other thing is that I have done some side work on the side for the Religious of the Assumption order um, two of the students here are (______??)and um, they had just hired (______??) I don't come from the Catholic backgrounds, so it has been a very interesting ride especially working here for 20 years as PR director. And I had to (______??) January and had to go to Paris (______??) And they were saying oh we run an ESL program near there (______??) and my mouth says what can I do? She said can you take my class? [laughter] So I've been teaching twice a week, no pay, English as a second language to students who have some ability with English but no depth, and I provide the depth in the class and the cultural connection for that. I'm loving it. I've been taking them on day trips. Tthey are from Turkey, Vietnam, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, um...

CG: wow, Diverse

NM: Yeah. There is no, you know, they can't speak their language to each other. It's so important (______??) so that (______??). It's also given me time to go hang out with my mom and hanging out with my daughters on the West coast and help her out. And help out here with my other grandchildren and plan trips to England not just for vacation but to hang out some friends, and I got a free ticket.

TF and CG: Nice!

NM: No flies on me! If I have a passport, I'm going.[laughter]

CG: You mentioned before your mother was politically active, do you have any ties to politics?

NM: Well, I um...this particular election is very interesting. In my town, I am involved with the Affordable Housing Project and also the Community Planning Board, Which I'm sort of half on right now because I'm spending more time with the housing project. But as far as this election goes, it's fascinating, in the old days we weren't allowed talk about sex or politics or any of those kinds of things. Well that's gone, because everyone talks and everyone has ideas and I think it's very, very healthy. Um, because people are involved and thinking for a change, and they are voting for a change, and I think that we are really ready for um, some new person to be

put into power. I find it really exciting just to see, well, I think that it is getting a little sloppy right now but it will tighten up, and I love the enthusiasm. I could tell you, I think about this a lot. And I vote for my grandchildren. Unfortunately, we have a four-year voting system on most things, and I think on a longer term than that, for what kind of world it will be for my grandchildren. It's just not this short-term thing. I think the electoral college is a problem, I think a lot of that is too complicated, particularly having so many other cultures here that have never had democracy before. If we could just simplify it and have just one vote and so ... for instance, in my class, there is a woman new to the United States, when she left Vietnam, she went to Norway, then she made it here, so these stories that people have that have escaped to America, let alone some of the professional people in my class, like the last group there were people from WPI or here for a year. You know they are really mixed up from real ghetto people to real(_____??). So I'm finding that we talk about politics all the time. And there's no judgment. And then they say, 'What religion are you?' and that, so we talk. And all it does is just bring people together. We got Muslims in the class, Church of Latter Day Saints, you know, long list.

TF: I think that is part of what this project is about, kind of bring people who have very different backgrounds together, who all have Worcester in common.

NM: Yes.

TF: Are you involved in the community in any other way?

NM: Oh, yes. [laughs] I'm involved in the Heifer Project pretty heavily, up in Rutland. And I have not allowed them to box me in, because I'm not in a boxing era [laughter]. But I'm a cashier for the pancake breakfast on Saturday and I do group tours and I'll do heavier training for orientations. I'm also on the list as a host so that if the person who is live as the host has a problem I can go in and help out. And I feel very strongly about that...In fact, one of my students who is going to bring the project back to France as a volunteer, so (___??) there. So Heifer project has been very important to me. I would say that I am careful not to over extend myself, and over the years I have learned how to say no. And the world won't collapse. And I'd rather use the time I have here to spend with family and friends, although community is very important to me. So I don't over extend myself, but I love what I do. One of the projects that I'm involved in...I'm on call for the Red Cross um, they asked me to help them out there periodically, and um, I haven't got the thing in front of me now but, as far as activities right now...

CG: How did you come about these organizations? You said you were selective about them so what drew you to them?

NM: The Heifer Project, I don't know how I first heard about it, but it's been quite a long time. And I was raised in a farming community and some of the farmers there, were involved with the Heifer Project. At the time, a lot of cow herders actually sent animals abroad so we had neighbors who sent heifer cows over, now a days it's more education of people from those

countries, or sending funds over to buy things like anti-bodies that they'll use on the cows, it's a little more sophisticated now. So I think that's how, you know, I was not a farmer but we had a pig for a while and we had chickens and that sort of thing. So the idea of being back in that environment was a very gratifying thing. And I also bring my grandchildren there and I help out giving tours once and a while. So it's really, it's roots for me. So what they do with the sustainable living and paying it forward is really bottom line for me.

TF: You also mentioned you have a creative side and it's very important to you and you were an art major in college...

NM: Yes I was, but I've never been one to learn from somebody saying 'well this is how you do this' but um, I am very fortunate right now, when I do take courses, with this one particular teacher, he just loves that I come to the class and that I step out of the boundaries, because he's very bounded he tells me, and he encourages me and he reenforces that I step out of my box. And I'm doing my art, and loving it, and people like it. Well, I don't care if they like it or not, but I'm happy with it. But I'm finding out a lot about how I learn and I don't learn by 'today, we're going to do this' I learn by getting in a big mess and saying 'what's next'. And I've always been that way. When I was working here, when I got my first computer back in the 80's, they sent over a new system, and um, there was a student to teach you how to use a Macintosh, they said 'today, we are going to turn on the machine and create a file'. And I said 'no, no, don't go there, just, I'm in a mess. Help me work my way out of it myself' so that's what they did. I'm doing a lot of drawing, and lot of working on the computer with design. Had a couple shows.

TF: Do you have more time to do it now that you are retired.

NM: I don't really! [laughter] I haven't painted since November, I've been busy. You need to stop everything and go for it right now I'm into...I've got a list of all kind of things, right now I'm making my granddaughter a darn dress. [laughter] I don't know why I said I'd make her a dress because didn't she pick out the most complicated, and I'm avoiding it, I know I can do it but...

CG: It seems like you've had a lot of experiences with work and community involvement. Is there anything especially important to you by means of work?

NM: I think working with, learning processes that can identify with any working place and really learning good listening skills is bottom line for anything. But anybody that would bring me a project, has to trust me because there are times when you have to kind of have to do it your self but they have to release a little control to let me take it, to let me take it to level that the audience is going to find interesting. And so for them to think not about themselves but really listen to what their audience wants and for them to let go of their personal thoughts about it, it just seems like a logical thing to help people get where they need to be. Um, to look at different aspects make sure people know what they want, where they're going, and whether (____??). I always played the fence sitter and as the audience 'would I want this?', are you trying to send me a

brochure when I'm blind?' You know, that kind of thing that a lot of people don't think about when they are making a brochure. What I loved was working with individual people and I think a lot of time they were thrilled to know someone cares about them and made a wonderful environment.

CG: Um, backtracking a little bit, do you want to talk more about the United Way and what you did there?

NM: I was only there for three years, so compared to twenty it was a drop in the bucket. But I just feel that the kind of work there involved with whether it's education or providing services for people in need, it's bottom line whether you are working globally or personally, if you have the strength to go outside of yourself, it only makes the work better. And in the United Way, there's so many possibilities and it's hard to get people to give of themselves financially. But I found it a real gift to come into a new community and learn the community so well that no matter what I did after I knew my way around, I know all the players, and to this day, can help the community through the friendships, and if I need something done, I know who to call. And I feel really fortunate that I was introduced and kind of slammed into it.

CG: This might be overstepping boundaries, so if you aren't comfortable talking about it I understand, do you think it was harder for you to adjust or more difficult to manage after your divorce and how did that work with your work and your family?

NM: Back in those days, you have to look at the time frame, it was the early 70's and I was married to a professional man. So I had gone through my back-to-the-land phase, you know my hippie era, [laughter] you know done all kinds of things. So the adjustment was hard because I had no provision. In the situation I was in, he was gone. He'd been in trouble for a while with a brain disorder and bi-polar and so he wasn't able to function afterwards as far as providing, so he left. And so I had never had child support or alimony, nothing, so that was huge. And that's what drove us into poverty quickly and no matter what little jobs I could put together they hardly competed. But it was at the time when my mortgage was low, so I could pay for that with a few of my jobs, we couldn't get food stamps because we owned a car, and you had to sell your car and your house then you could get food stamps. And it was so humiliating having to go and ask for that kind of thing. College students used to tell me how they got food stamps even though their parents paid their way and they didn't need them, and I couldn't do that. So there were a lot of adjustments to the culture and no one in those days got support. So it was really just a lot of adjustment. And I know that it was traumatic financially as well as emotionally. But I did make, through my radio program, one friend who introduced me to a group of single people, with whom I became good friends, people who were going through the same kind of thing as I was. But we did talk as women a lot in those days because we didn't know what was going on. There was a lot of support, and laughter, and potluck suppers [laughter]. So the friendships, to this day, are those people who are still in my life. But yes it was hard, I was still a single mother, but I couldn't look at it as a problem, I had to look at it, 'okay, what am I going to do next?' So I don't think I processed a lot of the trauma, from one job to another, to my husband leaving, I

didn't have time to process it. So nowadays they put you through psychological post-traumatic stress synopsis, we didn't have anything, nobody know about that kind of stuff then. You just had to pick up your wits, and I don't think I'm any worse for it, I really don't, I think sometimes they over analyze things now. So does that kind of answer your question?

CG: Yeah, I think so. Well, now that we got your history do you have anything you would want to include for future generations or any other women who may be listening?

NM: Well, mediocrity is really an amazing thing when you think about it, because so many of us have unrealistic dreams and unreasonable um, I've done a lot of amazing travels around the world and meet fabulous people, I've certainly lived an interesting life so far, but it's not what it's all about. The bottom line is the present and enjoying this conversation with you and being happy and not thinking about what I have to do next and just appreciating the present and appreciate everyday and enjoying going home and cooking supper and things like that. You know, those kind of things um, I don't have these grandiose things. I just want to go and hang out with friends, but I think I've got a comfort zone here um, but I don't think I fought for it, I don't think I just learned to appreciate what I had for what it is. And that's a really good place to be in your life. There have been times in my life where I can't help but think, have thought 'if I die now, it'd be okay.' I had a couple big jolts. I was struck by lightning, as a child, through the telephone and had a near death experience as a result of that, and um, I was off a cliff in a car you know hanging over the edge, I was swept away in a flood, a few other things like that in my teenage years so that I don't really remember trivial problems. [laughter] But I think a lot of those kind of gave me an opportunity, not to lower my expectations of life, but to simplify them so that I can enjoy it and dig deep and not take for granted what people tell me. Some of the great things that we experience together in the ESL is the idea of how if something diverse for five minutes how that can change our life if it had happened five minutes later. And the stories that come out of these people and the little things that they do for each other, it is miraculous, one woman gave me flowers but I still had some that my cousin had brought for me a few days earlier so I said "no...I still have some" so she gave them to the Haitian man. And he said "I can't carry flowers" and I said, " you can either take them or you can refuse them, it's a choice" choices, we make choices every minute, we don't have much control over life, but you have control over that. So he played it like a game and [grabs them] and now he's known ans man with flowers in downtown Worcester [laughter] and people talk to him all the time (_____??).

My grandchild, he's four, and he'll say, "well that was a coincidence!" Well, It was. And that allows for little miracles like that.

TF: I think that's a great outlook on life.

NM: Well it's evolved. And I'm so aware of it, so that doesn't mean my life won't go down some more dark paths, and it certainly has, but I think it's the light at the end of the tunnel and the promise that you can get there.

CG: Well you seem very optimistic, do you have any more specific hopes for the future or anything else you want to get involved in?

NM: What's really important to me, for when I retired and took on a new job, and it wasn't to let people tell me where I needed to be, it was to be very conscious about my health. I had a bad couple of years that kind of knocked me out and took that as my job to get my health really in the best care it could be, and be a little more active, take a little more weight off that kind of thing. And it's been huge for me but that was I wanted to take care of myself so I could live a long healthy life and, you know, be around to help.

CG: Do you think that affected you taking that position at UMass in any way?

NM: I've always known people who've done that job and I had always hoped that when I retired that they would hire me. So I felt so excited when they did, they don't hire everybody, so that made me feel really good. Because I do think it makes a real difference with how patients are treated. And, you know, my doctors all know I'm doing this and it made a difference to them when they were in medical school. And I was talking with a friend last night who is having some real knee problems, and his doctor came back after the x-ray and said 'boy this is...you don't want to see this' and that was the first thing he said to him. And he didn't know whether my friend's daughter might have had a bad day or his wife might have left him or he had a stomach ache. He didn't, he just went in like your best friends would say 'boy you look ugly' and it's just really threw him that the doctor dealt with it that way when actually the swelling had gone down, and that MRI was taken three days before, it just wasn't the best way. So that's what we do at UMass is to help people to relay that. So yeah, I would say that I, bottom line, how the doctors treat other people is a problem. If you are not feeling good, if you're not healthy, if you psychologically upset, you have deal with that person who has responsibility for them so then can help other people, you can't do that on their own.

TF: Sound like you are doing a lot to help other people. Is there anyone who you have ever helped that has ever made a big impact on your life?

NM: You know, the kids that I have raised, other than my own, over the years of being a foster parent for runaways and that kind of thing for a while. I would say the boys from WPI, they stayed in our life and are really members of our family. I've taken in others over the years I'm going to be seeing their families on my trip, and meeting their grandmothers. It's those families, we're people of the world, and so those kind of connections, they are our rivals because you know, it's one to one. It helps us bridge culturally gap. So I would say that maybe I helped them by being a mom, but they are right there as my boys and it's just what families do. And I have not have anything really negative experience from anyone I've taken in...just once was...but that was the exception [laughs]. I would say that just being open to life has its good points, people care about you and you don't even realize it. And probably that's feminine and probably that nurturing and probably that's, I think those are all good things, that you know women can do it all, but not in every case [laughter] I'm not a big Hillary fan at all.[laughter]

CG: I was going to ask Hillary or Obama?

NM: I like Obama.

CG: You're an Obama-Mama?

NM: Yes, I'm an Obama-Mama [laughter] But we'll see what happens, I don't know, but whoever of those two gets the office are going to have their hands full. Whoever. Because you get right back into all of the grid of how things really work in a four year policy and the partisanship. And give it a break [laughter] It's not about your egos, get in there and make things better, you know? [laughter] That was my little statement for history. [laughter]

CG: Alright. Let's wrap things up, I guess. Do you have anything you would like to share in your experience as a woman or as Worcester quasi-resident? (laughter)

NM: This is not a place to meet a husband. [laughter]

CG: Alright.

NM: As a woman, you know as a single person coming here, that was not my intent, of course, but then, you know the social life around stinks. Um, What was the question again?

CG: Do you have any final statements about being a woman in Worcester or just a woman in general?

NM: I just think that the opportunities that Worcester gave me from day one, I'm so appreciative of that part. I really have become the person I was meant to be here. I was acknowledged for it and I won awards for it and that reinforced why I'm here. And people understood how I worked and they liked it. And that's reinforced the way I was going, the way I worked. And I was always open to change. Given that it's small enough to give you the reinforcement to know who you are and I'm involved in a number of organizations that really empower women. So there are a lot of little subtleties, you know, it's been a constant battle, I don't mean battle, I just think the more you appreciate what your mind brings as well as your heart it will be beneficial everywhere. Every time you meet someone you can reinforce a piece of yourself to the world.

TF: Well thank you for your time.

NM: You're welcome, It's nice final meet you after all the emails.