

Interviewee: Suzanne Rice Simoncini
Interviewers: Sydney Dickhaut and Kaitlin O'Brien
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Transcribers: Sydney Dickhaut and Kaitlin O'Brien



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Abstract: Suzanne Rice Simoncini was born in 1956 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Suzanne has resided in Worcester for the majority of her life. She grew up on Chandler Street in Worcester, and eventually moved to Park Avenue where she lived with her parents and siblings above the Rice Funeral Home which her father directed for many years. Suzanne graduated from Assumption College and began her career at UMass Medical Center. UMass opened many opportunities to Suzanne and led her to the career she presently enjoys. Suzanne currently manages contracts at Tegria Service Groups, specifically special projects. When Suzanne attended Assumption, she was in one of the first classes of undergraduate female students. In this interview she stresses the transition of women in education and states that she never felt, as a woman, that she had fewer opportunities than her male counterparts. Suzanne emphasizes the process of finding her passion, through her many opportunities here in Worcester. With this in mind, Suzanne describes the process of writing her thesis as she was automating a blood bank at UMass Medical Center. This position essentially allowed her to find her place in the medical environment. Furthermore, Suzanne highlights her definition of success, and how maintaining relationships while finding a balance with work leads to happiness and a successful life.

SD: Okay, so do we have your permission to record your oral history today?

SS: Yes, I give my permission

SD: Perfect.

SS: My name is Suzanne Rice Simoncini

SD: Beautiful, thank you. So just to start I know you just wrote some stuff on the biography sheet, but I'm just going to start with some general questions about your family and about Worcester. So, what is your full name including both maiden name and married name?

SS: Okay, so Suzanne Rice Simoncini. Rice is my maiden name, so I formally went as Suzanne C. Rice, and I was born in Worcester. I have attended school in Worcester, so I have not strayed too far from my birthplace [laughs]. Although, my husband and I are moving in a year to our retirement location, so...

SD: Oh really, where are you guys going?

SS: We are moving to the southeast portion of Massachusetts, but not on the Cape [Cape Cod], in Mattapoisett.

SD: Oh, nice.

SS: So, it's a coastal town, but not dealing with the bridge traffic over the Cape, and nearby where our current grandsons live, so.

SD: Oh awesome!

SS: And what was part two of that question?

SD: You got it, when were you born, but you said that, and you said you've been married, and you have children right, you said that?

SS: Yes, yes so, my husband and I, yeah we've been married 40 years as of May of 2021, so we are coming up on 41 years, and we were actually married in the chapel at Assumption [laughs].

SD: Oh really, oh my gosh!

SS: Yeah, and we have three children, and Daniel the eldest 36, and lives in western Massachusetts, he owns his own home. And our daughter Elena, who's 33 is married and has two sons, and lives in southeastern Massachusetts, and then our youngest, Laura, is 30, and she is married, was married in May of 2021, and is expecting her first child in August of this year.

SD: Oh, that's exciting!

SS: So, grandson number three is on his way, so!

SD: Oh, that's super exciting, awesome!

SS: Yes!

SD: So, moving on, what cultures or ethnicities do you identify with or your family background?

SS: Yeah, so my mom actually had done a real in- depth study of genealogy on the Rice side so, Rice is English or British name, and there were actually some of my ancestors that came over on the Mayflower. And Jonas Rice, who is a founder of Worcester, is a direct ancestor. However, all of the British men kept marrying French Canadian women so, in essence, I am almost all French Canadian at this point. And my mom's side, her parents were born and raised in Quebec [Canada]. And they immigrated to the U.S. [United States of America] to have their children, so I am you know composite, but I would say the majority of my ethnicity is Canadian.

SD: Okay, so I know you were just talking a bit about your mom. So, if we could hear a little bit more about your parents, maybe their education, jobs?

SS: Yeah, my parents were probably in a small minority of folks in that generation that actually

attended college. My mom went to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston [Massachusetts] and was an accomplished pianist. She taught piano for many years. She is still alive. She is 94, does require full time care. She's got some memory issues and so forth, but my dad was born in Worcester as well. But my dad, Arthur Rice, died in 2001 but he was born and raised in Worcester as well, and his father started a funeral home business when my dad was young. So, it was 1940, I believe, that the business started, so my dad actually took over for his father and worked with his father while his father was alive, as a funeral director. So that funeral home still exists in Worcester, and my sister now is the owner and funeral director of that business. So, both had, because of their French-Canadian heritage, both were bilingual so spoke English and French, and my mom was very active in the French-Canadian... In fact, Claire Quintal was Dr. Quintal, who recently passed away, was one of my mom's... My mom thought she was so inspiring and was part of the French Institute, the French Institute that Dr. Quintal was running at one point in time.

SD: So, the next question, where have you lived in your life? You grew up all in Worcester, your whole family is from Worcester, so what neighborhood did you guys grow up in? Have you guys stayed in the same area?

SS: Somewhat. In the early days of my parents' marriage, we lived in a three decker, right. It was on Chandler Street, right near where the Foley Stadium currently is, or I think now it's called Commerce Stadium, so in that section of Chandler Street near the, Coolidge Road, and so forth, actually not far from here. And, then when my parents--- when my father took over, and when my grandparents died, and my father needed to be the sole funeral director, we actually moved into the funeral home at Park Ave. So, the business was on the first floor, and we lived on the second, and on the third floor. So, that's where most of my growing up years were.

SD: And now, where do you live in the city now?

SS: So, now my husband and I are in the Burncoat Street area, off of --- it's Barnard Road off of lower Burncoat. We've been there since the late '80s.

SD: Oh awesome, so do any of your other family members live around this area?

SS: My siblings are all in Massachusetts, but kind of all over Massachusetts. So, there's a couple in Central Mass., but, and two in Westborough, sorry Southborough and Marlborough, and then one in the North Shore and then one in Somerset. [coughs] Excuse me.

SD: No, you're fine! [laughs]

SS: Sorry, I'm just going to take a lozenge.

SD: No, it's okay!

SS: I haven't talked much since my cold, and now I'm finding that my voice is failing me here.

SD: That's what mine is like too right now, so I get what you're saying.

SS: Yeah, you have a little bit of hoarseness.

SD: Yeah, a little hoarse voice, yeah. [laughs]

SS: Okay.

SD: All right, so now we've talked a lot about Worcester, so personally like what challenges do you think that this city still faces?

SS: Yeah, I mean the city has had a resurgence of activity and growth in the last few years. It's really exciting, I guess the challenges will be to not outpace folks, you know, like Boston where it's hard to find affordable housing. We would hope ---- I would hope that Worcester still is able to maintain a living environment for a diverse group, and not outpace folks that may not be able to afford high rent.

SD: Yeah, what changes have you seen in Worcester over your time living here?

SS: Oh gosh, lots! You know, mostly good changes. You know there's been...My parents were parishioners at Notre Dame [Church] down in downtown Worcester, and, as you know, there was a movement to try and save that church because it was so beautiful and had such history, but unfortunately it did get taken down. So, I guess the hope would be that new growth will occur, but a respect and a sort of reverence for historical stuff still remains, like those kinds of structures. But, yes, there has been a lot of positive change, certainly with the inaugural season at Polar Park last year there seems to be a new vitalization.

SD: Oh yeah, it's so nice there, we went.

SS: Yeah, have you been?

SD: Yeah, I went, it's beautiful, it's so nice. So, moving on from that, what distinct characteristics make Worcester the place that it is, or the place that it is to you?

SS: Worcester is, despite its size, still feels like a town where there's, I wouldn't say a small town, but where there's a lot of connections. So, there's a lot of diversity within the city, and I think that, it's certainly rich in educational opportunities with all the colleges that are here. So, I think that it's a real melting pot of various groups that have come together. I think that it's encouraging to see that it's been revitalized because I think there's a lot of opportunities here.

SD: Definitely, yeah. So, are there any major events that happened here in Worcester while you've lived here that you can recall?

SS: Well certainly the storm, the winter blizzard of 1978. I was a senior here and I actually lived

on campus even though I lived in Worcester for my last year at Assumption, I lived in (____???) House which now I think is administrative offices.

SD: Oh okay.

SS: It's not housing anymore, but I'm not sure what the name of the building is now. But that was pretty, from a weather perspective, [laughs] pretty impressive. And, let's see, other events, gosh there have been so many. There's been great musicians that have come to play here. I didn't attend the Rolling Stones concert down at Sir Morgan's Cove, but that's got a lot of attraction for a historical event that happened in Worcester.

SD: Okay, and so what do you think women's experiences in Worcester have been like generally?

SS: Women's experiences?

SD: Or your own experience as a woman here?

SS: Yeah, yeah. I mean I think there's been certainly lots of ---my career started at UMass Medical Center, and now I think UMass Medical Center is the largest employer in the Worcester area. So, there were a lot of opportunities there. You know, I think that when you think about Assumption, I graduated in '78, but I believe the class of '73 was the first graduating class of women.

SD: Oh, okay.

SS: So, it wasn't coed for very long when I attended. In fact, the big joke in my family is that I was on the women's tennis team. But when I say how I got to be on the women's tennis team because Title IX had just started, so they had to have a women's tennis team. So, the coach said that anybody who wants to be on the tennis team, just show up at the court with your racket. And, basically, that is how I got to be on the women's tennis team, just showed up, because now I'm sure that the tennis team has far improved then when I was here. [laughs] But, so you think about the transition of women in education as well as what opportunities had been afforded, there's certainly been, a lot of change in that area. But I never felt that as a woman I had less opportunities, certainly.

SD: Mhm. So, how was that experience at Assumption, being within those first couple years after it being just male? Was that different, like how was that experience for you?

SS: Yeah, you know, it felt like it had --- it wasn't --- it didn't feel like it had only been coed for a few years. There was... I think the numbers were pretty equal, as far as the numbers of men and women. There may have been less women at that point in time, but my major at Assumption was one that had less women to begin with. So, I was in Natural Sciences, which was, you know, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, sort of combined, sort of a pre-med, pre-whatever dental. There were a number of students in my class that went on to postgraduate degrees in either

Dentistry or Medicine. So, there were less women in my area than there were in others. I had a lot of friends that were in social rehab [Social Rehabilitative Services] or Psychology, those were more populated by women than my major.

SD: Awesome, so now that we've been talking about your education, where did you attend school growing up in Worcester?

SS: So, as an elementary school, I went to a parochial school, Holy Name of Jesus on Illinois Street in Worcester. And, they no longer exist actually, and then the high school opened up on Granite Street, so I attended Holy Name High School, which is Central Catholic High School, and that site at Granite Street still exists although, now it's merged with Saint Peter Marion, now called Saint Paul's.

SD: Yeah, that's where I did my internship last semester actually, for school counseling. I was working there yeah.

SS: Excellent, okay at the school?

SD: Yeah, at Saint Paul's, yep!

SS: And you were working with high school?

SD: Yeah, junior-senior 7th-12th.

SS: Oh, that's wonderful!

SD: Yeah, it was really cool, and I kind of got to see their transition from merging the two schools together, so it was interesting to see that dynamic.

SS: How did that transition seem to you?

SD: It was a lot, there was a lot of, it was definitely like a lot going on when I first came because there were boxes in places, and just cleaning up everything, and kind of just going through with the kids, like having the kids merge together was a big thing. And I guess they talked a lot about the parents as well. That was an even bigger issue, was the parents realizing that they had to work together now.

SS: Interesting, well and I know from an alumni perspective, it's been a little bit tough for people to know that their alma mater no longer exists, as it was but yeah. Well, do you think it's positively moving in a good direction?

SD: I do, I do, I really liked that school, I really loved having my internship there. It was awesome, and everybody there was amazing.

SS: Excellent! Good, good to hear. Okay.

SD: So, you said you went to Holy Name...

SS: And then I attended Assumption for four years and then, when I left Assumption, I was kind of a little bit, trying to figure out what I wanted to do. Like you, I had originally started at Assumption thinking I wanted to go to be a physician, and I think Physical Chemistry kind of quashed that desire a little bit. [laughs] I don't know. It was a few courses that probably quashed that desire and I had done a couple of volunteer jobs at UMass and so forth and wondered if really, if that's what I wanted. So, I kind of--- was a little bit lost graduating from Assumption and what I wanted to do. The job market was tough at that point when I graduated. So, I ended up going back to school, and I got my Medical Lab Technician degree. Anna Maria [Anna Maria College] had a program for Med Tech that was two years, but because I had my degree at Assumption in Natural Science, I was able to get that education in sort of a year's time. So then, I worked at UMass in the laboratory for a year, but in the meantime, I realized that's probably not going to be something that will be a satisfying career for the long-term. So, I ended up going to Worcester State [Worcester State College] and got my master's in what was called at the time Human Service Management. Which was almost like an MBA, for nonprofits. It was less business oriented and more nonprofit organization oriented, but it allowed me an opportunity to... My thesis--- I did the automating of a blood bank. So, I worked in the blood bank at UMass at the time, and you know, the whole hospital information system arena was still in the early stages, and so we had utilized software from a company called Meditech. And they didn't have any automation yet for blood banks, so we actually at UMass were on the cutting edge, working with Meditech to create... We were sort of a beta site for them to create software for automating that blood bank. So, my thesis really aligned with that, and it allowed me an opportunity to use that to get a job within UMass in the information systems department. So, that's --- it's funny when you say, Kaitie, that you're not sure what you want to do. I feel like the process is such a circuitous path, but it's your experience along the way that kind of helps you decide, and many times it helps you decide what you don't want to do. That kind of guides you in the direction that you do want to go in. So, it's always an interesting journey, but once I got into IT [Information Technology] or IS, at the time we called it, information systems I realized that was kind of my passion, like supporting the software systems for the medical environment became something that I really got immersed in and enjoyed. I was in that role as managing the clinical systems at UMass for quite some time.

SD: Wow, that's so interesting! So throughout that whole journey of finding out what you wanted to do, what were your support networks and mentoring and how has that been important to you?

SS: Yeah, good question. So, the director of the lab at the blood bank at the time was probably a good mentor for allowing me opportunities, could see that I had an interest in other areas. So he let me become sort of the superuser with the software vendor company to allow me to grow, and it meant that I was going to leave the blood bank, but at the same time it afforded me such a great opportunity. So, I really am grateful to him for that opportunity. And then once I got into information services, there were people at UMass that were certainly such mentors. The woman who was the director of the department at the time was really very knowledgeable, and very open to having women be on a career path within the departments, so. But that was about the time I started also having children, so the complexities of managing all of those things certainly added a new dimension. I was able to continue after I had my first. Daniel was born in '85, so I had

various daycares before we found the right fit, and it was a challenging process to say the least, and then when two other children came into the picture. But I was able to cut back my hours after Elena was born, the second child was born, to 32 hours four days a week which really helped make a difference.

SD: Oh, I bet, yeah.

SS: I continued that until Laura, the youngest one was about two-years-old, then I went back to full time. So, throughout that whole time juggling family and career certainly had its challenges.

SD: Awesome, thank you! So, Kaitie, do you want to move on to your section?

KO: So now we're going to jump into your work history, so what was your first job?

SS: First ever? Well first ever was I worked at the Worcester Girls Club when I was in high school and college, well not sure college but I guess high school, teaching various classes at the Girls Club. My sisters and I always attended there, and it is a great organization, the Worcester Girls Club. So that was my first job and then I did other jobs: waitressing, CVS [Consumer Value Store], and so forth. My first post-college career was at UMass.

KO: What exactly do you do now for a job?

SS: Good question. As I mentioned, my recent change ---so I was managing--- the company I work for does IT, so I'm still in the IT healthcare business but this company does IT healthcare consulting. So, the folks within our company, the consultants, work for hospitals to help them implement their hospital information systems. I don't do that. I am at the back office support where we manage contracts, contracts with the customer, contracts with the resources and so forth, and then in August of 2020 our company which was called Navin Associates a small company, a small private company that got bought out by a larger organization and now we are quite a large company, which is called Tegria Service Group and we are wholly owned by Providence Health Systems, which is a huge healthcare in the northeast, So, I'm getting sidetracked here. So, contracts manager role was really through October 2021, so it's only been a recent change. So, starting in November, I came back on a part time basis, and I am kind of a special projects person. As you probably know, with merging, it is not just merging our company with a company, this company acquired about 12 companies. So, it's the collaboration now of and the assimilation of 12 different companies coming together with different cultures, different overlapping kinds of 12 HR [Human Resources] organizations, 12 contract organizations coming together as one. And it's a little bit of a transition that is not always easy. So, my role has been to assist in that consolidation from an IT perspective, like what systems need to come together with what systems. First of all, what systems are we all using and how do we get from this point to a fully blended family, using all one system. So that's not really a short answer, but I guess special projects kind of covers it all.

KO: Yeah, no that definitely seems really interesting. And what has this work meant to you?

SS: Yeah, well I mean ultimately you know the goal is quality patient care. Right, even though I'm a step removed from direct patient care certainly. When you have good hospital information systems, it allows the caregiver to do their job to the best of their ability and allows patients to go from one organization to another if the electronic health record is just that, electronic and digital. Then ideally you won't have to be doing redundant intake for medical history. And it's so annoying as a patient when you go to a hospital, and in the course of your treatment even at the same organization, you're answering the same questions 20 times in the course of your patient stay. So, ultimately it is to improve patient care and to improve the patient's experience and to make sure that the data remains private for each patient but is accessible by each of the caretakers or caregivers that are involved in the care of that patient.

KO: I know you mentioned earlier about your children going to daycare and cutting down on hours but what would you say your primary responsibilities in terms of housework and childcare were?

SS: Yeah, well luckily, I have a husband that was very much an equal partner. And I feel like that makes a huge difference. And my husband and I, when I look at our career paths, the two of us...He became general manager at the point when I pulled back a little bit and I really went part time. And in 1999 I left UMass and changed to a different company, so I feel like that if it hadn't been a partnership, that it would have been more difficult. So, he shared in all things house stuff, meals, meal prep, cleaning, it was a true partnership. We both have strong Christian faiths, and I think having that as sort of our foundation, helped to give us kind of strength and guidance along the way but yeah it's a journey and it's one that I can't imagine what single moms and single dads are dealing with, with having to do that on your own, I don't know how they do it.

KO: Yeah, and how would you say you balanced different responsibilities, priorities, roles and interests in your life?

SS: Yeah, now or throughout my career?

KO: Probably through your career I would say.

SS: Yeah, okay well obviously that juggling act can be complicated at times because you need to make family priority certainly, but there are times when there are priorities in your job, too. So, it is a balancing act. Many times, I would go pick up the kids at daycare, get them fed, in bed, and go back to work. And that was the days before remote working, so we didn't have the luxury of working from home. I had the complexity of logging into the system. It was only much later the v.p.n. [virtual private network] was such that I could get up some software at my home device. But that took a while to evolve technically, so it was certainly a balancing act, but family was obviously a priority. But many times, my husband and I would tag team. He would say, "I can pick up today," if something turned up at work that I had to deal with. And I often carried a pager when I was directing the clinical systems. You know, if there was a system down in the middle of the night, I would get a call, or it was a beeper, old technology. But the pager would go off, and

then I would have to call and see what's going on and why is this system not available for the staff, the nursing staff, or the whatever. So, there is not a really great one- line answer for that, but absolutely family was priority. It was just a constant juggling act, and my husband and I would call it the house of cards sometimes. We had these systems in place, but if the weather was bad or someone got sick, that house of cards would come tumbling down very quickly, and then you had to look at your backup plans. And luckily my parents and my husbands' parents were local, so oftentimes they helped us out. And someone would come to our house to help with taking care of the children or something so it was, yeah it was juggling act.

KO: And kind of going off of that, what do you think are the pros and cons to the path you've chosen in life?

SS: Yeah, so you know I don't have regrets. It's interesting what my kids took away from that because I wonder sometimes did they miss anything in that process in doing that juggling act, and I don't think so. I think they still have some strong relationships, believe it or not, with the family daycare provider that provided them care for quite some time. And we still have a connection to her even though it's been years since they've seen her, but we still communicate with her. So, both my daughter Elena, the one in the middle, has had this career trajectory that is pretty amazing, and I think that she had some examples of how it could be done. And not to say it's any easier for her, but I think that it provided them good exposure to being able to have it, to balance it. And that I don't really believe you can have it all. You do make sacrifices, but at the same time, I was very much fulfilled by the work I did as well as by my family life. So, I think the combination was who, what made up myself my husband and our family. So, I think it was a good thing. It was challenging but rewarding at the same time.

KO: Yeah, right. Do you consider yourself active politically or?

SS: Yeah. I mean I follow politics actively, but I wouldn't say... I'm very much a moderate, so I tend to stay less at the extremes and more in the middle, but I certainly am very much interested in what's happening in the world around us and what things are being done to make our world a better place. And I'm also very concerned about our role as stewards of the earth and hoping that we start to do a better job at taking care of our environment.

KO: Have you ever done volunteer or community work?

SS: I have, so I did when I was in college. I was working at UMass on the patient floor, basically helping, what they called at the time the unit clerk, which was like the administrator of the nursing station kind of thing. So, I did that at UMass for several years and then I worked for or did volunteer work, trying to remember the name of it now. It was a radio station that read news reports for the blind, anyway. It was at Seven Hills Plaza that I went there and it was on a local radio station where they named different news kinds of things. It was either news, or stories and I did that for a couple years. I did actually enroll in hospice to be a hospice volunteer because my dad was in hospice when he died, and I was very much moved by how the people that worked for hospice were so incredible. And so, I signed up. I had gone through the interview process. I went through UMass hospice. Well, then they ended up getting bought by the VNA [Visiting Nurse

Association]. So, they kind of changed course and so did my...At that point I got a full- time job again, so I didn't end up doing that. But that was something that meant a lot to me, that organization I think that the men and women that work for hospice are pretty impressive.

KO: I agree. So, I know you said that you do have a strong Christian faith. So, have you always been religious or did something draw you to religion?

SS: Well, my parents always went to church, so the history is strong. You know, my parents were very active in their parishes when we were children, and we were strongly encouraged to go to church with them every Sunday. So, I think however, that--- I think it was always there but I probably wasn't very...My relationship with God and Jesus was probably less personal when I was in college and when I was in high school, but it's only really been in the last 15 years that I would say I had a resurgence of my faith. And it is less about the connection with the Roman Catholic Church and with the whole Christian element. And I've been involved in some Bible study groups that I have developed quite a fellowship with this group, so I think that has really helped to strengthen. So, I would say this sort of path wasn't always as strong, but that my background and my history has always been at the element of it. You know I just think my personal relationship has strengthened in the last 15 years.

KO: So, what would you say are your personal experiences in assessing quality affordable healthcare?

SS: Well as a person that's been pretty much employed her whole life, I haven't had an issue with healthcare being unaffordable. Because I have had healthcare coverage through my places of employment, and having said that, I do see like when my daughter, Laura, was working even...She had this huge deductible that she had to pay before---- which in essence to me it is like self -pay. I mean if you are a healthy young person, you're not going to utilize your deductible in the course of a year. So, any medical work you need to have done, you're paying out of pocket. That needs to change, that is a problem. So now that I am in the lovely age of being over 65, I'm now covered by Medicare and a Medicare Supplement, so in a different place. But I think, yeah, we need to make some better strides with healthcare, just the cost of healthcare in general is just consistently going up and like college costs there's got to be some point where it's got to change, right?

KO: Yeah, definitely I agree. So how do you say that you get through tough times and what kind of thoughts keep you going?

SS: Yeah, well again I rely on prayer, and I rely on my support team around me which includes my friends, family, my husband, and my kids, certainly, strong support staff. I have friends that I have maintained for a very long time, not only from college, but from high school that I still am very close, so having that support really helps too.

KO: How do you define success in your life and has the definition changed over time for you?

SS: Good question, yeah I think the definition of success has definitely evolved me. How do I

define it? I guess success would be maintaining your relationships in a loving way not only with your immediate family but those you come into contact with, those you're close to. You know it's...As I get older, relationships become very important and it's always been important, but I would say that it's becoming more important. Certainly, success isn't measured by how much money you acquire or make in your job, but feeling fulfilled and feeling like you're contributing in your work. That certainly would be a good sign of success that you've been able to add to the, make someone's life better by what you do. And yeah, making an impact, a positive impact on those around you as well as the world would certainly be a good definition of a successful person.

KO: And based on your life experience what advice would you give to women of today and the future generations?

SS: Good question too, yeah, what advice. Yeah, sometimes I think we, as women, worry about...Especially in you guys, you're at a point where there is pressure to find the right job, find the right career path. And I think sometimes taking a step back from that and taking that pressure off yourself because it is definitely an evolutionary process, the path doesn't have to be a straight line and any growth experience you have along the way is going to change you someday. And I think that there is so much opportunity for growth and you know finding the right fit may not happen, you may not get your dream job day one. But it will be something that if you keep your mind open, you will definitely follow a path to finding success and happiness and kind of keeping in mind that you can have a balanced life. And you may not be able to have it all so it sort of ...Compromises and some sacrifice that have to be made in order to have that diversity of family, career, and all of those things but, but, certainly that balance is achievable as long as you keep in mind that you need to take care of yourself as well.

KO: So, we are working to tell a fuller story of the history of the women than has been recorded in the past. So, do you think there is anything that we should be sure to include or?

SS: Well, I have read the books that Maureen and Charlene, or read the first one and anyway and just powerful stuff. I mean just hearing women's stories and just hearing what some women have early on in their career paths many years ago had to deal with if they were getting into the field of medicine or whatever. Just the kind of challenges they face that women of today don't have to face. So, what would I hope to be included? I mean just telling people's story is so important because no matter what that story is, something is going to resonate with someone that may read that story. And if it helps a person to learn something or pick a path that they may not have thought about, it's a good story so yeah. I can't think of anything specific other than that.

KO: Yeah, so that was pretty much all the questions we had but is there anything else you would like to talk about or bring up or anything like that?

SS: No, I think what you are doing is wonderful. I think you are probably forcing people to think about things. When you go through your day-to-day activities, you are not always mindful about the path you're on or that you've taken. So, I think that the fact you're recording this and I'm sure you're learning a lot in the process, too, so no it is great. I am appreciative of

the work you are doing.

KO and SD: Yes, thank you so much this was really awesome thank you for going through your history and for us to learn all about you.

SS: Yes well, you're welcome. Thank you for taking the time and hopefully there won't be technical issues with the recording this time. [laughs]