

Interviewee: Amanda Beaver  
Interviewers: Hanna Leck and Alyssa Ruggieri  
Date of Interview: November 16, 2015  
Location: Worcester, Massachusetts



Overseen by: Profs. Leslie Choquette and Dona Kercher, Assumption College

**Abstract:** Amanda Beaver was born in 1981 and currently lives in Natick, Massachusetts with her family. She holds a bachelor of arts in German from Holy Cross and a MBA from the University of California Irvine. She now works at the College of Holy Cross as a Leadership Giving Officer and for the Holy Cross Fund, which is their annual fund. Amanda also addresses the issue of priorities in work and life, her volunteer activities, singing, and running the Boston Marathon.

**Transcript:**

**AR:** What is your full name including both your maiden name and you married name?

**AB:** I was born Amanda Catherine Corbett, and I am now Amanda Corbett-Beaver.

**AR:** Where, when were you born?

**AB:** I was born in 1981, in Boston.

**AR:** Have you ever been married?

**AB:** Yes, I am currently married.

**AR:** What is the name of your husband?

**AB:** Matthew Grant Beaver.

**AR:** Okay, do you have any children?

**AB:** Yes, I have two children.

**AR:** And what are their names?

**AB:** I have Lucas Grant Beaver and Lydia Catherine Beaver.

**AR:** What cultures or ethnicities do you identify with your family background?

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**AB:** Sure, I am Irish and German and, as my mother likes to say, a fingernail French. Which apparently there was a French person involved somewhere back, but I think pretty far back [laughs].

**AR:** Tell me about your parents. What do they do, what does their education consist of?

**AB:** Sure, so my mother is a, she was born Amy Catherine Lynd, she was born in Wellesley, Massachusetts and then, she is now aged, she will be 67 soon, she went to Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts, she then went to get her master's in English at the University of Maine and then she went onto to earn her Juris Doctorate, her law degree from Suffolk University. She's worked her entire career with the Federal Aviation Administration. She was an attorney with them for many years and now for the past, almost 15 years she's been the head of the FAA, Federal Aviation Administration, she's a great role model. My father William Thaddeus Corbett was born—he is, let's see, actually he will be 70 in May, and he was born in Scituate, Rosendale, near Boston and raised on the South Shore of Massachusetts. He also has a lot of degrees, so his undergraduate was at Providence College, he then earned his—I feel like I'm going to miss one—he earned his MBA at Boston College. He then went to do his law degree also at Suffolk University and then he earned his LLM, so his masters in tax, at Boston University and he has been employed by Suffolk University for the past, over 40 years now and he's been a law professor and he has been, he's been the dean of the university at times, he has been both administration and teacher.

**AR:** Where have you lived during your life?

**AB:** Okay, I have lived, I grew up the majority of my life, I grew up in Winchester Massachusetts just north of Boston. The first time I really lived away was here in Worcester when I was a student at Holy Cross. I have lived in Vienna, Austria. I have lived in Salzburg, Austria and I have lived in Irvine, a few different places in California, should I talk about those places?

**AR:** If you want too.

**AB:** At least the names. So, I lived in Laguna Hills, California, it was nice, but it sounds maybe a little fancier [laughs]. I lived in Orange, California and then finally Irvine, California. And then we moved to Natick and that's where we are now, in Natick, Massachusetts.

**AR:** What was the neighborhood like generally that you grew up in?

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**AB:** Yeah, I grew up in two different neighborhoods within Winchester. The first one, is a small community, when I lived there and grew up there was maybe around 20,000 people and the town has grown a bit more like 26 to 27 thousand. It was a fantastic neighborhood to grow up in, it was really I think the type where you could open the doors, kids were running around, everyone I guess which neighbor was closer was sort of the parent kind of keeping an eye on, but mostly we ran just wild and free and had a great time. But I'd say a really nice, collaborative neighborhood like everyone seemed to get along, the kids certainly got along. The neighborhood we moved to when my brothers and I were just a little bit older was still a nice neighborhood, but it was a quarter of a mile from the downtown so everything had a real downtown focus and Winchester does have a really nice town center, so I would say that we spent and we were older as well so we were more or less going to our friends' neighborhoods and they were coming to us, it wasn't as much about individual neighbors. That being said, it was still nice, again everyone getting along, it's really low crime it just, yeah. To be honest, I don't know if I'm talking too much, but I reached a point where I thought, "Oh my gosh, does anything happen in Winchester?" You kind of think, "Oh my gosh, this is so boring." And now as an adult I look back and I think like wow I was so glad it was like that. It was a safe place and even though we all laugh at there was nothing to do, when I did finally discover how easy it was to get on the commuter rail and go into Boston we had a lot of fun doing that.

**AR:** So, when you arrived in Worcester, when you were a student here at Holy Cross, (pause), so you live in Natick now, do you like living in Natick now?

**AB:** I do like living in Natick. It's nice for us, we live in between where my husband goes to work in Cambridge and I come to work out here in Worcester so it's a really nice spot in between. We also live in a neighborhood that I feel is similar to what I grew up in where you can really—there is a ton of kids, we have a lot of fun together now as adults, but yeah I am very happy living there.

**AR:** Do you have other family members that live in the same area in Natick.

**AB:** No, no direct family members in Natick. Very good friends and family who's around, but no, no one else is in Natick.

**AR:** So, what would you consider your Worcester connection?

**AB:** Yeah, for sure [College of the] Holy Cross is, when I think of my connection to Worcester, it really is all surrounded by, I should say its grounded by Holy Cross, that's where I actually, I don't know if I (laughs) I was thinking of my first impression of Worcester, and tell me if I'm leading into –

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**AR:** No, no it's fine

**AB:** It actually would be I was probably around age four or five. I was young and I remember thinking Worcester had hills and what it was is my dad's brother was a student, a medical student at UMass [Medical School] and I have a cousin and so his daughter and I are only about three months apart, so we grew up really the best of friends. While he was in school there, they lived in Worcester and what I can remember and what I need to go back and find out is which one of the hills did they live on because all I can remember is thinking that wherever they lived was so up high and we could look out and see Worcester. And I thought that was really cool and we also did things like going to the circus and I think it was the Worcester Center then at the time, but [Phone rings. Pause to shut phone off]

**HL:** I have a question to follow up.

**AB:** Oh yeah!

**HL:** So, you remembering the hills, does from your childhood and your cousin's house, does that, does being at Holy Cross remind you of that, like looking over the city?

**AB:** Yes, very much so. And I can distinctly remember driving in downtown Worcester because I know it was right near the circus and when I came to school here many years later, the hill that is right at the top of campus. Also the students love to complain about or talk about I should say how many hills there are and how well defined your calves are based on what year of a student you are here. Yes, it's the same thing that you can look around and not only do you see Worcester out in front of you, you see the other hills that everyone else gets to experience and I feel like very much there is not looking down, but looking out, then I feel very comforted by being able to be so close to Worcester and by having that childhood memories. It's a good memory.

**HL:** So that's a fond memory and a good connection?

**AB:** It is, yes, definitely.

**HL:** Cool.

**AR:** What changes have you seen in Worcester over the years?

**AB:** That's another great question. When I think about, maybe what I knew about Worcester and what I have heard about Worcester not necessarily what I remember, but I think I grew up thinking Worcester was a rougher town—it's a city, it's not a town. I keep saying town, but it's

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a city. I don't think it was as developed, so I think about, I guess actually ever since I've been in college, then when I came back to work here, I think about Shrewsbury Street, that has great restaurants, I mean really great restaurants some nice variety. So I see that, I see more beautiful developments in terms of better and more parks and like that, oh gosh, Crompton Collective, which is so nice and how they took a cool, old mill building and made it into something. And the ice skating park, I don't know or the arena that is out by city hall. I don't know if that's been around forever, how long that's been, but that's something I don't remember and I love seeing now. When I was here there was the Worcester, what was it called, the shopping outlets, those are completely bulldozed

**HL:** The old mall

**AB:** The old mall!

**HL:** It's a parking garage

**AB:** A parking garage right. So, I also think again it's maybe where I am in life, but the awareness that UMass Memorial [Hospital] seems to have really upped its—kind of being able to compete with the Boston hospitals that always got all of the attention. That seems to have really improved. And again it may have always been great, but as a kid I didn't have to know about hospitals as much and now I'd feel very comfortable going to UMass as opposed to having to drive for example.

**AR:** Did that idea prevent you from getting a job at Holy Cross do you think? Like when you were younger, thinking of Worcester being a city, do you have any second thoughts about Holy Cross?

**AB:** No, I really didn't, I think what it, what I always knew was that Holy Cross seemed to want to be involved with Worcester. It's part of it and I think there have been struggles off and on over the years to make sure that the Holy Cross students are behaving well in the city, are getting involved or helping with community service, but not that there's ever this idea that we're better than the folks, I think that's a really important thing. But no, I felt, I was really excited to be in Worcester because one thing I did think of was, not to put down any other school, but we're not in the middle of nowhere here. You have resources and you have cool things. The Worcester Art Museum, I mean that was something I had never seen as a kid, but as a student sure, but when your teacher, your professor wanted to take you over, it's a ten-minute bus ride. You can see things right there. So, no it never felt—any place can essentially be dangerous I think we know that now more than ever given everything that has been going on in our world, so I always thought I will try to be vigilant and yeah doesn't scare me.

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**AR:** What do you think women's experiences in Worcester have been generally?

**AB:** Now that's, see this is where I get a little apprehensive because I don't know much about, truth be told, I don't know much about the government in Worcester, I don't know much about, I know the names of folk. What I can tell you is that I was, when I was just recently this year involved with the Worcester Business Journal's 40 under 40, the women that I did meet did hold interesting jobs with non-profit, they did hold interesting jobs in leadership positions in a variety of areas and they were also philanthropists. I loved that we met a few key women who with their lives they have been blessed with good financial fortune and were giving that back to the community. It's not a strong answer, but it's kind of what I can think of.

**AR:** Can you explain more about the 40 under 40 you mentioned?

**AB:** Yes, so the Worcester Business Journal, they, every year, I believe this is their 15<sup>th</sup> year, I think in the year 2000, they started honoring or acknowledging by nomination forty people under the age of forty and in the Worcester and Central Massachusetts area, who they see as up and coming business leaders and I was really pleased and surprised and excited to be one of this year's for 2015 as a recipient.

**AR:** Congratulations!

**AB:** Thank you, yeah it's really cool.

**HL:** Now did you mention that this was exclusively women or women and men?

**AB:** Exactly, right it could be women and men and this year they told us was the first year it was twenty women and twenty men.

**HL:** Oh wow!

**AB:** They actually divided right down the middle.

**HL:** Yup, that's great [to Alyssa] So, are you finished?

**AR:** Yup, I am.

**HL:** Okay I have some questions about education and then just a few and then about your work experiences and career.

**AB:** Absolutely

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**HL:** So, you said you attended undergraduate school here at Holy Cross and then did you go anywhere else later on and what kind of degree did you get from here and/or elsewhere?

**AB:** So, from Holy Cross I graduated with a bachelor of arts as a German major. So when I mentioned that I had studied or lived in Vienna, Austria, I have had my junior year abroad I studied there, but as a German major, and going to a country that spoke German, it worked out really well and I certainly had to plan that nicely. So I graduated here with a bachelor of arts, when, a few years later, I went to teach German at a high school down in the South Shore in Weymouth, Massachusetts and they said we have four classes that you can teach as a German teacher and we have one class we need you to teach in Spanish. And, well that's an entirely different language right? So, I said okay, let me see how this is going to go, but I had taken a little Spanish here and they said, "Okay it will be a lower level, introductory, don't worry about it." They ended up giving me a level two. We had some students in the class that were native speakers and I am, don't worry I'm getting to the point.

**HL:** That's perfectly fine

**AB:** I had some native speakers that were in the class and I said you can help me with the speaking part, I can certainly help you learn how to read and write your native language. It worked really well, but I did feel my own inadequacy of the language so what happened was I ended up going to Middlebury College, up in Vermont, Middlebury, Vermont or a summer. This doesn't lead to an actual degree, but it's considered like a portion of a master's and I studied Spanish there for 10 weeks. And what you do is you really sign your life away your English speaking life away. I wore a little pin that had the letters "SP" so that I can tell anyone who saw me that I was here to learn Spanish, so I can converse with only the other students who were there for Spanish. There were a bunch of other languages that were offered and I can tell you I left those 10 weeks and I could consider myself fluent in Spanish, it was really intensive and really effective. My husband and I, although he wasn't my husband at the time we moved up to California, he was getting a degree at the University of California Irvine it was a PhD and was going to take five or six years, so I moved out there to Southern California. It's not a bad place to be. I moved out there and I worked in a mutual funds company by day and by night I really wanted to further my education so I ended up with a MBA from the University of California Irvine and I think those are the only degrees I have.

**HL:** So, did you find any challenges in your education either with your undergraduate or like you said, with your intensive Spanish study, like how did you find that?

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**AB:** Yeah, I always been competitive with myself, so I did always, I wanted to get good grades, I also learned that I was a really big procrastinator, so that when a professor would assign something in college, we could have a month to do it and I knew that the night before is the time I would be doing it and I have a brother who would do it the day it was assigned and I don't know how we're so different, but as a college student I, I don't know I could just wrestle with the fact that I—it was just ridiculous. I could sit there thinking, “Amanda you should do this right now, start working on it,” but yet in my mind I knew it would be until the end that I would actually do it. So, in that sense I learned that about myself and I have to say I gotten much better. I can now especially with my work here I can get to it right away, but it was funny, so that was one thing. I also always excelled at languages. Languages have been a strength for me.

**AR:** It's a good strength

**AB:** It's a good strength, that being said, when it came time for my science requirements, for example, I did not excel there. I could get it done, but it took a lot of extra energy and a lot of extra time to make sure I got those grades. And by the time I got to business school, I was really—I loved—I think coming to Holy Cross, you really learn how to think well and think differently and I loved that in business school I could stand out because somehow and sometimes I had that out of box thinking. But where I didn't excel, where again really had to work hard with things like statistics. I didn't take an entire math course while I was at Holy Cross and I didn't go to business school until five full years after I have graduated Holy Cross so the last time I had seen a real math problem I had to tackle it had been probably 8 to 10 years. So, there were areas where I really struggled there. Is that answering your --

**HL:** Yeah, yeah, so the math and science were more challenging than language and --

**AB:** Writing, I loved writing, loved reading, I would, I remember this as a question, someone asking me over the years would you rather take a test or would you rather give a presentation or write a paper. I could present till the cows came home. I loved presenting, but the tests I would actually really experience test anxiety.

**HL:** The speaking and the writing as a form of communication

**AB:** Much, much stronger.

**HL:** You covered a lot with that. We don't have to follow the list at all.

**AB:** Okay

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**HL:** We are encouraged to ad lib and also just answer the basics. We just want to hear as much about your life as you want to share with your adult life and education and such. So, when you finished your formal education, you mentioned that you had the Spanish and German teaching jobs in New Hampshire or –

**AB:** It was in Massachusetts

**HL:** -- in between and then you went on to study Spanish in New Hampshire then went out to California. When you finished your formal education or most of it, what did you see as your options, what was your goal as a career?

**AB:** That's a really good question, and actually one year that I forgot which was one of the biggest years of my life and probably one of the ones I am most proud of was the year after I graduated Holy Cross and before I started teaching German and Spanish I earned a Fulbright scholarship to go back to Austria and I could teach English for one year there and teach Austrian students how to—their English was actually really good, but then again how do I work with them with their writing, reading and of course spoken English as well. What I started to learn there was that I felt very comfortable in front of other people and also kind of that coaching aspect that comes with teaching or at least comes with the type of teaching I was doing. I think I started to get a glimpse that teaching could be a neat profession and that's why I was so fortunate when I came back and was able to do that full time. When I went out to California, I spent my days working for a mutual funds company and I guess I felt I was, the first part of it was I was on the phone answering incoming calls from financial advisors or shareholders who had mutual funds with this company and I learned a ton of information, I could learn it really fast and it was great, but I felt like and this is, another expression, I felt like wasted talent I thought you can offer more than this. I could tell it wasn't the right fit

**HL:** So you didn't think that your comfort with the communication skills really translated well, doing that sort of, over the phone and doing that specific work with that company.

**AB:** What I was really doing was kind of spitting back learned information.

**HL:** Right.

**AB:** There was no creativity, that's where I started, I also started to realize I tend to be out of the box. This was a—you were regulated by the SEC- the Securities Exchange Commission. There were certain regulations from the company, it all is there for the right reasons. It just wasn't me. When I realized, I was going for my MBA at night, I really took a marketing focus. And that's where I could, again, where I could really shine. Talking about a product, and kind of bringing

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that product to life for my classmates and professors. And I love doing surveys, like do you prefer Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts, and let's dig into why. And what does that tell about the consumer? I just found that to be far more fascinating. And I guess it just kind of went with my personality a little bit more.

When I came back to Boston, after being out in California for about five years, I—oh, I should mention one other piece. When I was still at the mutual funds company I was in that customer service role for a couple, I think it was about two years. Don't get me wrong I learned a ton. I don't think I knew what an IRA was, a retirement account, I learned a lot about things that are now in my life, helpful and I'm glad I have that and it gave me a little bit of a glimpse of the financial world. About two years into the position I ended up getting moved in the company to this role that was territory support and what it did was anyone who called in who had a really escalated issue, so something had actually gone wrong with their account. Often times I was getting yelled at by someone, a stranger.

**HL & AR:** Wow!

**AB:** And that's my reaction. I like things easy. I'm low drama. I'm sensitive. I like to be liked there's a lot of that. So I didn't like someone yelling at me. However I grew a bit of a back bone and that was good. And I could come back with usually, hopefully, a resolution ultimately. But I also learned to stand up for myself. I, of course was representing the company but I would not be spoken to a certain way. And I thought that that was a really, that was a good experience, but what was best about it was I didn't like that. I also knew I didn't like that environment. I didn't want to be in a super high pressure job where I'm being talked down to or yelled at. Some people thrive in that and I don't.

**HL:** So you learned a lot about yourself through it.

**AB:** I learned a lot about myself.

**HL:** That's great.

**AB:** That's why I always feel like those four years while it wasn't my favorite job I've ever had, you have to have a job that you didn't like because you do learn something from it, right? And that was mine. Yeah.

**HL:** So do you think that that lead into how you came to doing this work? And to elaborate on that, what specifically do you do now here at Holy Cross?

**AB & AR & HL:** (laughs)

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**HL:** Going off of your other jobs that you've told us about.

**AB:** Absolutely. After earning the MBA, or graduating with an MBA. I thought okay whatever is next in my career, it has to, it has to click more than that mutual funds job did. And I thought marketing, I thought okay I really like that aspect. But truth be told we moved back to Boston and I couldn't really get my foot in the door. I didn't have much luck with that. A lot of people, I think the tough part was I was not just coming out of my undergraduate. I was twenty-eight years old, I had six years in the workforce or seven years in the work force. And people couldn't just have—I couldn't take a real entry level job, or they felt uncomfortable. So it just wasn't really going to work. But I kept thinking my mom, who I've mentioned has been an awesome role model my whole life, her passion has always been aviation, so the fact that she could have her job at the federal aviation administration and what she was doing was she's not out flying planes, but she's able to talk about the regulations and that excites her. Well I kept think well what excites me and it just keeps coming back to Holy Cross. I do, I did a lot of volunteer work for Holy Cross. We have a very strong success rate in, or should I say in alumni giving, participation rate. We have over fifty percent of our entire alumni body makes a gift, any size, but makes some gift to the college. So I would work with my class of 2003 and try to make sure everyone makes just a gift, five dollars whatever you can, to the college. I was doing that on a voluntary basis and I noticed a job opening here at Holy Cross. And mind you I had been almost a year unemployed. I had done some kind of odd jobs in between, but I felt strongly about trying to figure out what I was going to do next. Right before I even interviewed here, I had an almost job offer with a company for a marketing role. I kind of forgot this piece. And I had let them know that I was expecting a baby and they said "Oh that's fine, we don't care. thanks for letting us know. We'll be offering you a job at such and such a date". I think it was, you know, a week later. And in my gut I was like I don't think I should be working here. I don't think I'll be happy, it was a really small company. I think I was maybe the only female. I don't know there was something that—and the day that I was supposed to get an offer I got a one line email, "We realized our finances can't afford your position right now." Now I could have easily I'm sure opened a can of worms saying that there's discrimination against my pregnancy, I was not going to go that route. What was in the back of my mind was thank god now I can now apply to Holy Cross. It went swimmingly. I started my position here in 2011 working with the Holy Cross Fund, which is our annual fund. We are tasked with raising nine million dollars a year, that we count on to come in. I would work with classes from Holy Cross that are in their reunions, celebrating reunions. And work with class leadership to insure that let's say, as an example, the first year I work with the class of 1972 to make sure that they raised a certain amount of money. I think it was 300,000 dollars and I would work to make sure that that happened. So I thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed doing that work. I did it for three years. And a little bit before I left that

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position for the position I'm in now, what I started to realize that I loved the most about that position was when I worked one on one with our donors and the class leadership. And what happens is, well you'll come to know when you graduate, [laughs] is when you have these reunions you have it for one year and then you don't have one for four years. So I would have these wonderful relationships with people and then they would go away and we didn't really work together. And so this position I'm in now which is I'm called a leadership giving officer, I work more one on one with our alumni, our parents, and our friends, they are all over the country. And I work primarily with them and their philanthropy and giving back to Holy Cross. And fortunately we've had some really generous and successful alumni who make significant gifts to the college in areas of financial aid, giving back to athletics, giving back to the chemistry department, giving back to really whatever matters most. So my work now is visiting with them.

**HL:** That's great! I think, you touched on how a lot of the alumni give back, like, and do you feel like you taking a position here after being an undergraduate here is your way of giving back to Holy Cross? And it seems like you're very passionate about this college and just everything that it stands for, it seems very important in your life so do you feel like that's your way of giving back?

**AB:** Absolutely! I think that's a really good perception there. I met my husband here, so whenever I think—I had a wonderful, wonderful experience but I always think probably the love of my life, I mean that's really cool. If anything, if nothing else that part was amazing. So it's very easy for me to talk about Holy Cross and work with people, understanding their passion and directing that towards a gift. Yes, I mean one thing I think about is I am not on a—you know, my salary is not something that is over the top, but what I'm able to do is work with people to bring in gifts that are going to go on and educate the kind of thoughtful students that this world hungers for. So, yes I think it is one way. I will say philanthropically, my husband and I both going here, Holy Cross is our charity, is a charity at the greatest level.

**HL:** Great! I think you've answered so many of the questions that pertain to both this project and you've touched on a lot of the topics that we discuss in our women's studies class,...

**AB:** Okay!

**HL:** ...which is fantastic and I think, I feel like I'm adlibbing more than I'm going off of this sheet at this point. (aside) Do you want to start with your next section?

**AR:** Yeah, this is about like politics and community involvement.

**AB:** Okay.

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**AR:** Do you consider yourself active politically?

**AB:** No [laughs]

**AR:** No? Not at all?

**AB:** Not really, no. I pay attention, I'll be honest there. I pay attention and I vote. When I think of that, I am a registered Independent. I really try to listen to both sides. Being a mom, and this many sound a little bit selfish, I focus so much on what is happening in our little bubble and in our little world with the kids being so little, that I don't have, I don't feel like I don't have a lot of time to pay attention to the other things, and I sort of put my trust in those who have been elected and say I hope they can really help solve the local problems.

**AR:** That makes sense.

**HL:** I have a leading off question. Do you think that because you are focused on your children and your family, do you make political choices based off of that, do you kind of pay attention to people who go along with what you want?

**AB:** Yes!

**AR:** For your kids?

**AB:** Yes definitely. So in Natick there's a really strong like, Natick moms' group, even on Facebook. And to me I think oh my gosh that's great I can just go to Facebook...

**AR:** Yeah.

**AB:** To kind of get, and I listen, I will listen. But for example there was a big school committee decision and there was one mom who was like, "We've got to get down there and we've got to stand there with our signs." And I'm not able to do that right now. I work, you know, working full time. But I again feel like, okay I'm going to trust from the discussions I've had, from what I've read. I'm going to trust that, you know, they're doing the right thing. That being said if I ever saw something that I felt, really against or thought was really wrong. I would, I'm sure step up. And the other piece to mention while I think about that was my kids aren't yet in the schools. They're little, they're four and they're one. They're not yet in the school system. I can imagine that when we do get there I will to pay attention more. Well my son is only about two years away from being in that. So it is important, that is his future. That's not to be neglectful, it's just, you know, when I'm thinking of...

**AR:** Priorities right now.

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**AB:** ...priorities. There's actually a quote that I love and I never get it quite right, but it's something along the lines of, "Life is the constant act of juggling balls. You just have to know which ones are glass." I think that is so beautifully said because my family is always that one I can't drop. But the other ones, sometimes it might be that I don't get to pay attention to the Republican debate or I don't get to go listen to this. It doesn't mean that it's not important, but it just, it didn't rise to the top quickly enough.

**AR:** Yeah.

**AB:** Have you ever been involved with volunteer or community work here in Worcester? Or anywhere?

**AB:** Yes, what I did, when I was a student I was heavily involved with what we call our on service, on campus, excuse me, service projects. So I was president of what—it's still around—is called the Purple Key Society. So what we did a lot of was the service that helped out with things that were going on, on campus. I also was at the time involved in Habitat for Humanity and did a lot of work with the church on campus. In my later life I did do some volunteer work out in California. A lot of it was organized through our company, the mutual funds company. But more recently, I felt there is a gap there. I think when you mentioned about giving back, one way, when I know that I'm not necessarily doing the best volunteer work myself, I may send a small check to help out someplace or, you know, to do some things that way. But this past year I felt that I really got involved, but again not in so much at the local level. This is much more on the national level and I really got involved with the leukemia and lymphoma society. And I did that through fulfilling a lifelong dream and checking a big item off the bucket list and I ran the Boston Marathon.

**AR:** Wow!

**AB:** And I raised I think just shy of, or I think it was just over 12,000 dollars for them.

**HL:** Congratulations!

**AB:** Which was awesome! And I don't think I'll ever do it again, but I absolutely loved it. But that feeling of really working with an organization, raising money. I got a lot of jokes like, "Amanda, is all you did is raise money or ask people for money?"

**AR:** (laughs)

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**AB:** But it's another way, to add, you know, these groups they need funds. So that was something that made me feel good, but also kind of got me back into the idea of I do need to be thinking about how we can be involved in community service. I love that. I want my children to grow up that being a part of their lives. And one thing I'll say, again, about in the Worcester Business Journal's 40 Under 40. All forty people you had to really talk about, or it was in our bios, what community service do you do. And I know there were places that I probably shined brighter than others, but I will tell you I did not shine bright when it came to community service. And when I look at what other people in the community are doing I thought, "Amanda you've got to step this up." And again it kind of comes back to finding the time, but I know that it's a priority for me. I will say that Holy Cross educates, and when you're here as a student, service is—well okay, it's not choice, no one acts like it's a choice. Everyone is involved in some sort of service. We learn it really well here. But it's something that I will work on. [laughs]

**AR:** Do you have a connection to leukemia? Lymphoma? You said you raised money for.

**AB:** Personally, a little bit. I have a connection to cancer, I'll say that. So, cancer, I mean I don't know who doesn't have some sort of. My father did survive but he had pretty serious colon cancer that had spread. So I know that it affects, seeing countless families affected by it. My dear high school friend, thank God, also survived. He did have lymphoma. So how I really got involved with them was a girlfriend of mine had run for the leukemia/ lymphoma society probably six or seven years ago and I made a donation. And I stayed on their mailing list and I—it's funny, I get things from charities all over but I really enjoyed, I like what I was reading, I liked their marketing, and I like their literature, and I liked the stories that I was reading about. And it seemed like there were more stories with happier endings and I thought I'm really watching these gifts go to work.

**AR:** Yeah.

**AB:** So when I was able to get involved in that way, again selfishly check off a little bucket list item and work toward, you know, making a lot more brighter days for others. It was a, it seemed like a good thing to do.

**AR:** That's great. What role has religion played in your life?

**AB:** Religion is a big part of my life. I am Catholic, I was raised Catholic, I married a Catholic. [laughs]. We're raising our children Catholic. And choosing a school like Holy Cross where it's founded by the Jesuits, Catholics. It's always been a part of my life.

**AR:** So this section is about heath.

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**AB:** Okay, sure.

**AR:** How have health issues, if you have any in your life, impacted your life or those in your family.

**AB:** Yeah. Fortunately, you know, I've had little things here and there but nothing's been, you now, I've survived every little thing that I've gone through. As I mentioned, with my dad, he—I was crushed, I was a freshman in college when he was diagnosed and my parents I think tried to kind of down play it because I had these little brother and I had a feel they just didn't want us to know what was really going on. I would say for him and for all of us our faith was strengthened in those years. Especially my dad's. My dad actually went on to become a secular Franciscan. He just was able during his treatments to really connect with this Franciscan who would visit the hospital and he's now gone on the make that part of his life's work as well he has his professional job but he leads a simpler life and very strong faith. So, yes, fortunately I think we've been blessed. I have two healthy children. One thing I will say is when something bugs me or doesn't feel quite right I will go and get it checked because before I was just like, "Oh it's probably..."

**AR:** Yeah.

**AB:** ... nothing," but for me having kids changed all that.

**AR:** So who's health are you responsible for beside your own? Obviously your kids

**AB:** Yeah, and of course I try to get my husband. He's not as good. [laughs] But it's really my own and my children.

**AR:** Yeah.

**HL:** (aside) So you had highlighted a couple questions?

**AR:** Yeah.

**HL:** (aside) If you want me to take over your list.

**AR:** This is the interview conclusion questions.

**AB:** Sure!

**HL:** And we can always go back to anything afterwards.

**AB:** Alright, yeah.

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**HL:** So, one of these questions is how do you get through tougher times? And what kind of thoughts keep you going?

**AB:** Yeah...

**HL:** Through, anything.

**AB:** That's a great question and I cry really easily [laughs]. I might just tear up just talking about it. So, I run. [laughs] And that's been a more recent thing. After my daughter was born, so she was second, I started a new job and was...

**AR:** If you need a tissue...

**AB:** Oh no! I'm fine, I'm like very emotional and it shows. I can't hide it too.

**HL:** I do too.

**AR:** Same. (laughs)

**AB:** So, I'm fine. [laughs]

**AB:** I had her at home for about three months. We had this like wonderful time together. Coming back to work, I love working here, but it was just all at once. And it was the thing as a woman too, I didn't fit into my pre-pregnancy clothes and I was like I don't want to buy—it was all this silly stuff. But it mattered at the moment right?

**AR:** Yeah

**AB:** I will tell you one other sad part. We're absolutely all fine, but we were, my son and I while I was expecting my daughter, we were hit head on in a car accident. A driver lost control, it was an awful winter storm and I think I almost like never processed it. And so, you know, again a few months after having her I started really experiencing anxiety which I hadn't really experienced before. I tend to be a little anxious but, you know, usually it seemed like it was nothing. And I went to talk to someone about it, I went to talk to, I went to first my primary doctor. I said, "I just don't feel like myself I think." She said, "Why don't you go talk to a psychologist," and I said, "Okay." You have these kind of ideas and this stigma. But I thought why the heck not, why not. And I had just been accepted to the marathon team and I'm thinking can I really take this on, but it was the healthiest thing in the world. So I run, I go to church, and I love that at Holy Cross I can just go over to mass at noon if I need to. I drink tea [laughs]. I mean these are all small things, but I'm very aware. I will talk to myself, I hug my kids. It's just

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theses little things that I think really can calm you down. Again all the things I learned to help get through the tougher moments. And I tear up... [laughs]

**HL:** That's fine. The simple therapeutic things in life.

**AB:** Yeah. [laughs]

**HL:** So, how do you define success in your life? And, you know, has this definition changed over time or based on what you are doing at the time?

**AB:** I find that success for myself... [pauses] when I'm not thinking about where I am or am I doing this enough, I think I'm in a good spot. That's a good question and I'm thinking of the best way to answer it or how I can answer it. I guess I honestly think a lot about my mom and how I think of her success, and it's not just because she's at the top of her organization. She treats people kindly and she's approachable. I'm talking about success in the work place right now. What I realize I should talk about, I should talk about where I feel I am most successful is with my family. That matters the most.

**AR:** However you define it.

**AB:** Yeah. I just realized I'm thinking, I'm sitting at work so I'm talking about work, but you know, success to me is in a lot of ways happiness and that feeling of pride. There's this book, I think it's the "Five Love Languages." I don't know if you have ever heard of it. It's a really cool book. But basically it's how do people most feel loved and for me it's I like hearing things. Like other people might want to have a hug or have a gift...

**AR:** Yeah

**AB:** I like to hear. So when I hear from others as well that does go a long way with me.

**HL:** (aside) Are there any other questions that you think are the most important right now. Just since...

**AR:** There's, do you have any, any other hobbies or regular leisure activities that you take outside of the home other than running?

**AB:** Yeah! I used to play soccer. So that's something that I used to do that I swear at one point I'll get back to so. Soccer. I don't know how much I'll get back into that, but maybe in the role of a coach for the kids.

**HL:** I was going to say with your kids someday.

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**AB:** Absolutely! Travel, again a lot of things have just been tailored back because of the kids being so little now. But traveling is certainly something I enjoy doing and I was able to do so much of it when I was able to live abroad for a few years. I still try to speak German and watch German movies and you know keep up with that. I sing. So I'm actually, I sang a capella all through high school and college. And I sing mostly at weddings and funerals...

**HL:** That's cool.

**AB:** I like the weddings obviously a lot more than the funerals. That's kind of how I keep up with that, but in my dream future I will get back into, to singing [laughs] with a group someday.

**HL:** That's all we have. That's great. (aside) Lets see, did you have another one that...?

**AR:** Is there anyone that you would suggest that we talk to or...?

**AB:** I actually really did have a few names of people who have really great, probably stronger Worcester connections than I do. One of them is right on the other side of this wall, her name is Trish Halin. And I can write the names down for you. There's another woman who works here. What I love. Oh I didn't really say this before but what I love about Worcester is it's a city of, what is it 200,000? Its, its big...

**AR:** I don't know.

**AB:** But everyone knows each other! And that is not typical of a city that size.

**AR:** Yeah.

**AB:** And I, that another thing that I love about this place. People know each other.

**HL:** Especially being the second largest city in New England.

**AB:** Exactly! It's really fascinating. I thought of a woman, its Anna Shary, Anna Moriarty Shary. She's fascinating she's actually just gone back to the work force after seven or eight years at home with her three kids. And she's a professor at Quinsigamond Community College. I will, I can, I am happy to write down a few names for people I think would be good...

**AR:** Sure! That'd be great for the project.

**AB:** Yes, absolutely, I definitely have some strong Worcester women in mind. [laughs]

**HL:** And, I guess just to wrap it up. Was there anything else that you were dying to tell us? Or like I think you've covered so much that pertains to this interview...

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**AR:** You've said a lot.

**AB:** Oh good! Okay!

**HL:** ... and women's studies, history and just experiences. So...

**AB:** Oh, I'm glad!

**HL:** I know we took a few minutes break in the middle...

**AR:** Oh gosh, I'm sorry. (laughs)

**HL:** We have some time. A few minutes.

**AB:** I don't know, I just think that I'm so proud of where Worcester has—I think that the changes that I've seen are all for the better. I selfishly, I feel like I've used that word so much, I must be a really selfish person. [laughs] No it's funny. When I think about my kids and if they ever come here, and I say selfishly because they would come tuition free which I would love, if I'm still working here. Yeah exactly. I would be so happy for them to come here. I love that we live in Natick and you could so easily go on a date night to Boston, which sometimes we do, but we just as often come to Worcester...

**HL:** Right.

**AB:** ...and go out to the restaurants, Shrewsbury, again we love Shrewsbury Street. I'm trying to think, in terms of, I think I've covered a lot of the big things about my life.

**AR:** You have, yeah. A lot of interesting things.

**AB:** Oh good, okay.

**HL:** I think that, you know, when you use the word selfish you say a lot of things that are like very positive about everyone else. So, I, I wouldn't look at it that way.

**AB:** Its not really, no! [laughs] It's just the way that you...

**HL:** It's just the way that you feel, its makes you happy

**AB:** Yup, yeah. [laughs]

**AR:** Great.

**HL:** I think, I think we need to say the date so, ...and our names.

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**AR:** November 16, 2015. And I'm Alyssa Ruggieri.

**HL:** I'm Hanna Leck.

**AB:** And I'm Amanda Beaver.

**AR:** Thank you so much for this interview, we really appreciate it!

**HL:** Thank you!

**AB:** Oh yeah! How wonderful to meet you both, yeah. Keep me posted if there's anything else you need.

**AR:** Thank you.

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