

An Interview with
Candice Agnew

at *The* Historical Society of Missouri St. Louis
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interviewed by William Fischetti
transcribed by Valerie Leri and edited by
Josephine Sporleder



Oral History Program

The State Historical Society of Missouri

Collection S1207 Women as Change Agents DVD 3

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PREFACE

The interview was taped on a placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets []. Any use of parentheses () indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks [""] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [(??)] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Josephine Sporleder.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

WOMEN AS CHANGE AGENTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

MAY 9, 2014

CHRISTINE BELDEN INTERVIEWED BY WILLIAM FISCHETTI

Candice Agnew: Hi, my name is Candy—really it’s Candice—Agnew, and I’m the executive assistant to the chancellor here at UMSL.

William Fischetti: Okay. I’d like to start out by: where were you born?

Candice Agnew: I was born in Washington, D.C., which the only time you can actually tell it is if you ask me how to say the word “aunt” [IPA: /ant/] and I am probably the only person in Missouri that says “aunt” [IPA: /ant/] rather than “aunt” [IPA: /ænt/], and that’s the only thing that gives me away. And we lived there until I was 14 or 15, something like that.

William Fischetti: So tell me about going to school there.

Candice Agnew: We lived in a typical middle-class neighborhood. My parents both worked for the government because I think when you lived in Washington, D.C., that’s the only job you really could do. And we walked to school. That’s what I remember more than anything, was the neighborhood schools, Lasalle Elementary; we walked there; we walked home. It was your typical neighborhood. If you did something at school, your mother knew before you got home, because all the ladies on the walk home knew your kid was throwing rocks so you get subsequently in trouble. And then I went to Bertie Backus Junior High—that’s when they called them junior highs—and that was a serious walk. And now, kids take a bus if it’s more than a mile. And I know we walked at least two miles to junior high school. Yes, I sound like my parents. It was uphill all the way and there was always snow. But no, it really wasn’t, but we walked because all the kids in this neighborhood went to the same school, so we were always walking with somebody. So it wasn’t like you’re by yourself.

- William Fischetti: So when you were 14, did you move to St. Louis then?
- Candice Agnew: Yeah, my father decided to leave the government because his family was here in St. Louis. My mother's family was from Virginia, so when they met, they met in Washington, D.C., when he got out of the service, and so I guess he figured it was time to live the other half of her life here in St. Louis, Missouri, so we moved to St. Louis. And that was a change.
- William Fischetti: So then you went to high school here?
- Candice Agnew: I went to University City High, yep.
- William Fischetti: So that's where you went, University City?
- Candice Agnew: Mm-hmm, we moved to University City, right. And it was, like, around the corner from the high school. But I had just graduated from junior high so I had come out of the 9th grade. So I think when my parents said, "Okay, we're going to move," at least—and I was the oldest—at least I would be starting a new school. I'd just be starting a new school in St. Louis versus a new school in Washington, D.C., and that's when I came here.
- William Fischetti: Were there any teachers that you had in school that really inspired you?
- Candice Agnew: Oh, yes. Clearly I can talk. So I was always getting in trouble for talking, but as long as I was asking appropriate questions, I think I didn't get in as much trouble. I remember in 6th grade, I had a Mrs. Goodwin; I remember in English, Mrs. Wiley, and I can't remember all of them, but generally, I really gravitated towards teachers that nobody else liked. And I got the most from those teachers, because it was clear to me that they wanted you to learn, and if you wanted an easy A, then you probably hated those teachers, but if you didn't mind working towards it—and I didn't mind working towards it—then those were teachers that I got the most out of, that I learned the most, and actually came to enjoy, and would go back, after I graduated, go back and say hello, that sort of thing. So, yes, they were very good.
- William Fischetti: So you enjoyed school?

Candice Agnew: I loved school. It beat being at home having to clean. So that was all right [laughter]. You know, I was born in '57. The girls did all the cleaning. We washed all the dishes. So if you were home, then my dad and my mother expected you... "Oh, you can mop the kitchen floor." No, I'd rather be at school, so I enjoyed that.

William Fischetti: So, tell me about your siblings.

Candice Agnew: I have two sisters—one's deceased now—but two sisters and a brother. It was four of us, and that, at that time, was considered a small family. I'm best friends with a girl who came from a family of, I think, seven.

William Fischetti: Well, having siblings is different than being an only child.

Candice Agnew: Correct.

William Fischetti: What did your father do when you came to U. City?

Candice Agnew: My father decided...his father, his family, had a business, and it was called Regal Sports, and it promoted shows, concerts and that sort of thing, and so my dad decided—I always kind of joke and say he was about 40, and he probably had a mid-life crisis, decided he didn't want to work for the government anymore—and so when my grandfather, his father, said, "Well, if you want to come to St. Louis, you can join the business," and that's what he did. So we all moved out here. My mother went to work at the government center on Page and my dad did the business with my grandfather as well as, for a while he sold insurance. And he was really good at that. My dad had a love for history, so he really enjoyed it as far as these concerts were concerned, because he could—it was just making history. My grandfather, believe it or not—and Steve Schankman would verify this—my grandfather was the promoter that brought the Beatles to St. Louis.

William Fischetti: All right.

Candice Agnew: Because they didn't know that he was African American, but mostly they brought Afr—I remember when I was a child, we met the Jackson Five, and that was so cool. Yeah, that's what my dad did.

William Fischetti: That's cool!

Candice Agnew: [laughter]

William Fischetti: So did you get to go to a lot of concerts?

Candice Agnew: Yes! You know, we were quite popular in school once we came here. I wonder why! It was like, when there was a concert, amazingly, we had more friends than we normally did. Yes.

William Fischetti: What did you do after high school?

Candice Agnew: When I graduated from high school in '75, I went to Hampton—it was Institute at the time, it was Hampton University—and my parents sent me, and in today's—if I said the amount, it would seem like, "Oh, my God, that was a pittance"—but my parents couldn't afford to send me the second semester, so then I came back to St. Louis, not very happy because I thought, "Well, you know, I kind of showed you by my grades that I was pretty smart, but..." So they couldn't afford to send me back the second semester, and so then I went to the community college. And then I started working at UMSL, and I continued to go to the community college and then go here. So I was your typical part-time learner.

William Fischetti: What was your first job on the campus?

Candice Agnew: My first job—and it's really funny—my first job was the receptionist in the chancellor's office, and Arnold Grobman was chancellor at the time, and I was very shy. Believe it or not, I am a very shy person. So I was afraid to talk, and he couldn't hear, so we really got along very well, okay? But that was my first job, and I was 20 years old and the Secretary to the Chancellor—because that was the title back then—her name was Annette Doyle. And she hired me. She hired me. I think I was probably the only person that wore a dress during the interview. Honestly, that was '77. I stayed in that job for a year. And then I'm...

William Fischetti: You've been around here for a while.

Candice Agnew: Yeah, but I never left the office suite [laughter]. I've always stayed in the same suite of offices. I don't know if my car wouldn't know

how to park in any other place but Woods Hall. That's where I've been, almost 37 years.

William Fischetti: That's a long time.

Candice Agnew: Yes, it is, but it's okay.

William Fischetti: And so you've got to see some changes around [here?].

Candice Agnew: Yes. You know, and some days, I always—when I came, I think they had already torn down the clubhouse, or they were getting ready to tear down. The clubhouse wasn't here, but I do remember the swimming pool, and every once in a while, I'll think, "Okay, what used to be the Millennium Student Center"—that used to be garages that they would always jokingly say were temporary garages, but were there for, like, 20-some years—and how you used to be able to get to General Services Building, which now is where the Touhill is, and that used to be a garage. And every once in a while, if you're just new to the campus, you don't really realize how much has really changed. I think we had just bought Marillac Campus when I started, either in '76 or in '77. Yeah, it has changed.

William Fischetti: So when the chancellor changed, you stayed on?

Candice Agnew: Mm-hmm. Like I said, I only worked one year as a receptionist in the chancellor's office, and then I transferred to Academic Affairs, and that's where I met Dr. Touhill. She was the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and faculty personnel was under her purview. And back in the dark ages, they used to have—every faculty member was on a contract, and they were called 116's and 117's; now they're PAF's—and I processed those. That's what I did. That was my little job, and it was really interesting, because you got to see names, and, you know, it was interesting. It was. And I did that for a few years until her secretary left, and then I got a promotion to be Dr. Touhill's secretary.

William Fischetti: She wasn't Chancellor yet?

Candice Agnew: Oh, no. Oh, no. She was just a worker bee. We had three offices: there was a Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Associate Vice

Chancellor, and then there was an Assistant Vice Chancellor. And Dr. Touhill was in the office in the middle, and she was the hardest-working—well, everybody worked hard, but she clearly worked very hard, and she was really very close to the faculty, and she did a lot of research in part-time faculty, the trends in teaching, and that sort of thing, and because I did the—and believe me, this was all by hand; we didn't have computers then—so she would come to me every once in a while, and she'd say, "Now, how many part-time faculty do we have in the evening college?"—most of them were part-time—or, "How many part-time faculty—full and part-time are in the College of Business?" And we had these drawers, and you'd have to sit there and count. I mean, thank God, I could count, but you'd have to count, because nothing was computerized. There was no Institution of Research. You didn't just call somebody and they could run a query and do [up?], no. She liked me because I really found it interesting, and because Dr. Touhill was an educator, if she asked you for something, and you'd say, "Okay, you need so-and-so, such-and-such," and then she would say, "And that's because...blah, blah, blah." That was always fascinating to me. She never asked you for anything without telling you why, and the why was always fascinating. Then we became...

William Fischetti:

When she made chancellor...

Candice Agnew:

She made vice chancellor first, and I got a promotion. My new title was Executive Staff Assistant, when she was made vice chancellor. And then that's when Dr. Barnett promoted her to vice chancellor. And Chancellor Barnett was here, and then when she left, Dr. Touhill was the interim, and then she subsequently got the chancellorship, and then when she moved to the chancellor side, I had just had my daughter—that's how I can remember how long I've been in the chancellor's office—and I had just had Jessica, and I was out on maternity leave, and when I came back, she asked me if I wanted to come over to the chancellor's office, because I was happy for her, but I could have expected if she wanted me to stay on the other side, I would have. But I was glad she brought me over. We had so much fun. It was a lot of work, but it was a lot of fun.

- William Fischetti: I think Blanche is really good at...
- Candice Agnew: ...making it fun? [laughter]
- William Fischetti: Well, bringing people along, too.
- Candice Agnew: Yes, but she saw something in me, and for that, I will always be eternally grateful. She saw something in me that on paper you would not have necessarily seen. This was a person—I didn't have a Bachelor's degree, I had common sense, and I liked people and people liked me, and I found that if I had a question, I always knew who to go to. I didn't always have the answer, but I always knew who probably did have an answer, and she groomed me along. But on paper, somebody would have said, "This child is a receptionist. That's all she'll probably ever be able to do. Maybe she'll grow up to be a file clerk." But she saw something in me, and, you know, for that I've just been incredibly fortunate, blessed, blessed.
- William Fischetti: That was quite a few years, she was chancellor.
- Candice Agnew: Mm-hmm, till '02.
- William Fischetti: And when she left the job, how did you feel about that? [laughter]
- Candice Agnew: Well, you know, I told somebody it was truly the meaning of "bittersweet." I was happy for her. She had earned the right to retire. She had done amazing things. She had put us on the map. She had built on what Chancellor Barnett had done. She had moved us to the next level. She had fought the fight for equity, something that every chancellor had been fighting, but pretty much most of them never succeeded. She had fought that fight, and she had earned the right to just go the next stage in her life. But I, personally, was upset. I will be honest. I really was. I will tell you a funny story, because this was the best story ever. This is the best story. She announced her retirement at Founders Dinner that September—and they still do it now. If you've had 25 years of service, you get invited to the Funders Dinner, and so it coincided with my 25 years of service, so I was at the Founders Dinner. I think she had told me a couple weeks before that she was getting ready to retire, which was probably a good thing, because I think I

would have just been like a sad sack, and everybody would've known, so it was best that I didn't know for very long. But anyway—and I'd always jokingly say that when I walked across to get my little watch at 25, then my chancellor decided to retire, so I haven't been back to Founders Dinner because I thought it was really my fault, you know, no more Founders Dinners for me because they always retire afterwards. But anyway—so after it was all over with—and my daughter came, Jessica—and after she announced her retirement, and everybody gave her a standing ovation, everybody was surprised. Those who knew, knew. And at the end of it, everyone's congratulating her, and Jessica, who at the time had to be 10 maybe—9 or 10, I'm not sure—so we went up to give her a hug or whatever, and my daughter said to Dr. Touhill, "Well, now that you're retiring, do you think they'll make my mom Chancellor?" Now, she's 7 or 10 or whatever, how old she is. She has no clue how these things go, and instead of Dr. Touhill laughing like that or like going, "Oh, you poor little child, you really know nothing," she said, "You know, Jessica, your mom could be Chancellor, but she probably won't be named it, but she could be a chancellor." And I will go the rest of my life remembering that story, because she could have made Jessica feel like that was a dumb question to ask. She didn't. She gave her the truth, but she also made me look to my daughter that I had some skills, I had something, you know.

William Fischetti: [16:50] Well, I'm sure you did.

Candice Agnew: Well, you know what I'm saying.

William Fischetti: I'm sure you were very important.

Candice Agnew: She could have just said, "Oh, you little..."...

William Fischetti: So you stayed on board?

Candice Agnew: I did, I did.

William Fischetti: Is that unusual?

Candice Agnew: Yes, it is [laughter]. It's a miracle. When she announced that she was going to retire, it seemed like every phone call I had,

someone would call and say, “Well, what are you going to do?” and I was about 45 at the time, and I said, “I’m going to sit in this chair and pray they keep me.” I didn’t have any options. I wasn’t old enough to retire, and so I said, “I’m just going to sit here,” and that’s what I did. And when the chancellor came, when Dr. George was announced, I knew he was new to Missouri and he was new to, of course, the campus and all that; I thought, “Well, he’ll need somebody who at least knows stuff,” at least, “There’s a Walgreens on Florissant Road,” that much. And I just kind of hoped I’d stick on, and I did. I think it helped that a lot of people knew me, and a lot of people knew that when—because Dr. Touhill was always going places and appointments and that sort of thing—that people knew that if they called and asked, “Well, I need you to get this message to Dr. Touhill,” that they could trust me to do that, and they could trust me to bring them back the answer, because Dr. Touhill, she wasn’t really keen on e-mail, and e-mail wasn’t as commonly accepted then as it is now—I mean, pretty much, Dr. George and I e-mail each other and we’re around the corner from—but sometimes it’s just easier that way—but at the time, people really relied on me getting messages to her, me being able to explain to her what they needed and then being able to give them back the answer that she gave. So I was hoping he would keep me, and, because of that, a lot of faculty knew me, and that helped.

William Fischetti: Definitely a smart move on his part.

Candice Agnew: Well, I’m glad you say so. I appreciate that.

William Fischetti: Well, having someone who knows the ropes around has got to be...

Candice Agnew: Well, you know, but I’ve now come to learn that sometimes people don’t like that. Sometimes they—as that saying goes, “a new broom sweeps clean,” and sometimes you just don’t know.

William Fischetti: That’s why I thought it was unusual...

Candice Agnew: It was.

William Fischetti: ...because I would think normally he’d bring somebody with him.

Candice Agnew: That's exactly right. That is exactly right. Pretty much I can tell you all the chancellors' secretaries before me and pretty much once they changed, they usually left. They didn't usually make it. You know, I thought, well, maybe—like I said, I was 45. I just thought I'd just hang on until they maybe told me to leave and fortunately they just haven't told me to leave so I'll just hang on.

William Fischetti: So, is it the same job?

Candice Agnew: It is much different now. Dr. George continues a research program, and he does a lot of research papers with his collaborators throughout the world, actually. I will honestly tell you that when he has asked me to revise papers, I have no idea what I am typing. I just type it the way—I could not tell you what I'm reading. I have no [idea]. Now, when Dr. Touhill—she also maintained a research program. Hers was in history, and I like history so I at least understood [laughter]. I have no idea. Honestly, I have no idea what I'm typing. So it is different. His outreach is more—the role of a chancellor has changed. It's no longer really as close to the faculty as it used to be. It used to be the chancellor was not only the head of the campus, he was really sort of the head of the faculty. His interactions with the faculty aren't as much, so therefore his appointments that we have are not as many with faculty members as we probably used to, and that's good and bad. It's just how you think about it. Their styles are different. Dr. George never sleeps. Dr. Touhill did sleep. Dr. George never takes vacations. Dr. Touhill, we could always count on one month a year she would be gone, so you could catch up and clean up or whatever and get ready for when she got back. He's kind of kinetic energy. She's slower and was more deliberate, and truthfully, although he does research, Dr. Touhill, in my mind as far as an educator, was a better educator than he is, only because I think what he does on that level of physics, it's hard to explain to anybody else. I could ask him, but it would probably take him too long in the world, and I would probably not understand it anyway. So when Dr. Touhill was doing something, and it didn't make sense, and I asked her a question, she would use that as an opportunity to teach me something, and I would

learn something. I don't have those—that doesn't happen as often, but I still learn. You have to.

William Fischetti:

So, I want to talk to you a little bit about the women's revolution.

Candice Agnew:

Oh, I can help you on that. Okay, let me back up: Years ago—I can't remember the author—I read a book, and the whole premise of the book was: are you an African American first or a woman first? If you had to pick a camp, which camp are you in? It sounds weird—I know probably people might be offended—I always saw myself as a woman first because I kind of figured that that was a bigger club, because you could have African American and Asian women and that was a bigger club than being in a subset as an African American woman. So, that being said, I remember when I was looking for colleges in the '70s—like I said, I graduated in '75—at the University of Virginia, women couldn't major in certain degrees. Women couldn't be in engineering, and in their catalogue, it would say "physics" or "engineering" or whatever, and it would say "men only." And I was always like—first of all, it was not something I was going to do, but I couldn't believe that someone would say a woman couldn't be an engineer. I also remember, when I was much younger, living in Washington, D.C., a friend of mine, [little?] neighborhood guy, he had a paper route, and I said, "Well, you know what? He was making—" I don't know, he probably made ten cents a week, good Lord, but I thought, "Well, you know, I could do that. I could be a paper girl." They wouldn't let you be a paper girl. Only boys could deliver—you know, that's when the kids walked around and threw the paper on the—and I thought, "That's retarded." And I remember when I went to high school, we got into a conversation about men and women and women and men, and I just was always a little bit probably more outspoken. I just could not—I couldn't imagine that there was anything that if I had the brains or the physical ability, that I couldn't do, and that just by being able to bear children or whatever meant that I was excluded. That just didn't make any sense to me whatsoever.

William Fischetti:

So did you get involved in any way in the women's movement?

Candice Agnew:

Well, yeah, not really. It was very small. Again, I was always outspoken. I didn't understand. You really had to make me understand something for me to accept that that was the way it was supposed to be. When I was in junior high school, girls could not wear pants. You could only wear dresses, and they had to be a particular length or whatever, and this was public. This was not Catholic or parochial school. This was a public school, and I remember I was on the student council or something like that, and I said, "Well, you know, this just doesn't make sense," and we petitioned, and they eventually allowed us to be able to wear pants. Girls could then wear slacks to school. You couldn't wear shorts, but you could wear slacks, and we did it, but I think we had a fashion show or something and showed the parents and showed that we weren't trying to wear—dungarees, I guess is what you call—I mean, I don't know, but the girls could wear slacks, yeah. I was always kind of into that. Like I said, if I don't understand it, then I couldn't accept it, so I couldn't understand. Let me think, anything else? Because my mother worked, I had a hard time understanding that there were limits to how far she could go, because I knew she worked, and I knew she worked on—she was a secretary—must be a family trait, I guess. But anyway, it didn't occur to me that she could never really be promoted. Like when Dr. Touhill said to Jessica, "No, your mom can't be chancellor, but she could be," that it never occurred to me that there was only so far a woman could go. I just thought you just could. That was very naïve of me. Let's see, when I came here, did we have Women's Studies then? I'm not sure. A lot of that had happened before I came here in '77. A lot of those were established [things?], so that was me.

William Fischetti:

So you haven't felt any kind of inability to be promoted because you're a woman here, have you?

Candice Agnew:

I think it helped that I was mentored by a woman. I think had I not been mentored by a woman, yes, I think it would've been different. I think Dr. Touhill engendered respect. I believe that people watched her work her way through what was a pretty sexist institution when she came, and she told me a story once about how, when she was hired as a faculty member, it was—I

don't want to [unintelligible 27:53] somebody's legacy, but I thought she said that it was a chancellor who said that a woman would never get tenure at UMSL. And she wasn't the first, but she did get tenure, and in the History Department, she became a full professor—a department that had seen its share of women who were able and capable leaving because they didn't get a promotion. So, I think it helped that I had her. I think it helped that she was my mentor and she was respected. You know, she never told you you couldn't do it.

William Fischetti: Well, that's inspiring.

Candice Agnew: Oh, yes, it is.

William Fischetti: How did the other people around you—I know the chancellor was good for you, but how did the other people around you treat you, for instance, the men that were vice chancellors or...

Candice Agnew: Well, when she became chancellor, of course, people saw me differently. The fact that I'm—even as an adult—still go by the name "Candy," which sounds like it should be a nickname for somebody—I think that probably didn't help, but by that point in my life, I've always gone by "Candy." No one's ever really called me "Candice" unless I'm in trouble—which would be my mother—and I think, on first blush, people would think, "Well, she must be just dumb." Again, when she became chancellor, people saw me—truthfully, when she became chancellor—I had worked for Dr. Touhill for years—there were people who introduced themselves to me as if I had never seen them before, and I'm thinking, "Two weeks ago I was in Academic Affairs. I knew you then." [laughter] You don't have to introduce yourself like I've just become a new person. No, I just changed desks. So people were—The guys: you know, I don't recall anything overt, I really don't. Then again, I don't necessarily look for that sort of thing. No, no, they were pretty—by that point, people were pretty progressive, either that or if they had preconceived notions, they didn't say it out loud, so therefore you didn't necessarily know.

William Fischetti: [30:33] Well, that is one of the advantages of being in an academic setting.

- Candice Agnew: Exactly.
- William Fischetti: People tend to be civil to each other.
- Candice Agnew: They do. Now, they may go behind the door and do whatever, but out front, you don't really see it that much.
- William Fischetti: Well, this is a big one from Dr. Touhill: If you had been born 50 years earlier...
- Candice Agnew: Okay, in '07.
- William Fischetti: ...what do you think your opportunities would have been?
- Candice Agnew: Well, let's face it, it would've been 1907. Assuming I was born in Washington, D.C. at the same time, I would think that my opportunities would have been living in Northern Virginia, probably working on a farm, maybe going to a segregated public school. I think my opportunities might have been—my parents—that's assuming they didn't do much more than maybe—my mother was from Northern Virginia, again, and she lived in the "country"—assuming that that's where they ended up, I'd have probably—I don't even know that I would've been a secretary. I mean, I would've gotten through—just because I wasn't my parents—we would've gotten through high school, but I don't know that there would have been any chance for any advance education. No, that would've been—it would've been sad. There would've been no voting, you know? That would've been really bad, and even though the East Coast was supposedly more progressive, I don't know that it would've been that much more progressive, because I don't even think the—was the government even integrated until, what, the '40s?
- William Fischetti: Well, certainly wasn't in 1907.
- Candice Agnew: I don't think they got jobs.
- William Fischetti: You had a very limited opportunity...
- Candice Agnew: Yeah, maybe, and I don't like to clean that much. I don't even think I would've been a good maid [laughter].

William Fischetti: Is there anything else you'd like to talk about, about your life? I mean, are there...

Candice Agnew: I just have been really fortunate, I really have.

William Fischetti: Tell me about your daughter.

Candice Agnew: Oh, she's—Jessica, Lee Jessica. My husband and I didn't have children until I was 35, so I always think that Jessica benefited from the fact that we were both not young, and so she's a lot more mature than I knew I was at 23. She's much more mature. Because my friends were my age, so when she was around all of us, she was around more adult people, and she kind of likes it. She likes to learn, too. She loves to read. Fortunately, when she watches something on television, and if it interests her, if she watches, like, Marie Antoinette, a movie or whatever, she'll go to the computer, and she'll look it up, and then that helps her to—she really just enjoys it. She's always been—she reads very—she read early. She reads a lot, and I appreciate that now. As far as in math and science, she did not do very well in that, and I always jokingly say, "My daughter may never know what a 20% off sale at Macy's means," but she's smart, and she's smart in other ways. She's a good kid. She's a good kid. I did want to mention one thing in high school. I do remember this: I took a chemistry class, and it was boys and girls, and we weren't in designated seats so it wasn't like all the boys were on one side and all the girls were on the other, but there was more boys than there were girls. And when the teacher would explain something or whatever, he'd say, "Any questions? Any questions?" If a boy raised their hand, he'd stop and explain it. If a girl raised [her] hand, "Okay, let's go on," and he would never answer our questions, never. So, needless to say, I didn't excel in chemistry.

William Fischetti: At least you got to see things change. I'm sure it wasn't the same for your daughter.

Candice Agnew: And I don't think Jessica will ever understand that. She will never understand that, you know? I don't think she'll ever understand what it was like, to go through what my parents went through or to go to a college catalogue and have it say at the University of

Virginia, if you were a woman, you couldn't major in engineering. She'll never understand that, and I'm glad. I'm glad. I'm happy that she won't have to face that sort of thing, that we've gotten beyond that.

William Fischetti: So, is she in college now?

Candice Agnew: No, she, when she graduated from high school, was just so happy to graduate from high school, she went to the community college for a while, and she takes classes—but now she's an assistant manager for the QuikTrip Corporation, which is an actually amazing company. I am amazed by that company, and she loves it, and she's an assistant manager, and she's gotten promotions and all that, so she likes it. And she works hard.

William Fischetti: And [Matthew?], I think he's an assistant manager, too. I'm not sure, but he moves around from one to the other.

Candice Agnew: Yes, it's a good company. I mean, really and truly, if you work hard—now, I don't know, maybe she'll see later on that all of the—not manager people, but maybe the levels in upper management—maybe she'll see that they're all men, or maybe she'll see that they're all white men. Maybe then she'll see something, but right now, it's: if you work hard, you could be promoted. And they take care of their employees.

William Fischetti: Well, I want to thank you, Candice.

Candice Agnew: Thank you. Am I done? [laughter]

William Fischetti: Yes.

Candice Agnew: Thank you.