

An Interview with
Dr. Jane Turner

at *The* Historical Society of Missouri St. Louis
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Oral History Program

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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.

Dr. Jane Turner: ...Jane Turner.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about your youth: your siblings, your mother, your father, your grandparents, your cousins, the kids you played with, your neighbors, how did you play. Just ramble about what your childhood was like.

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, that's easy to do. I'm number seven out of nine children. My father was a surgeon and a academician at St. Louis University and my mother was a housewife. It was just a big chaotic family. We lived in a house, grew up in a house in Webster Groves and Mary Queen of Peace Parish and my younger brother and sister are twins. They're just a year younger than I and the three of us cavorted around the neighborhood with the other neighborhood kids, boys and girls. We had completely free rein of the neighborhood. I think about it now and we were interlopers. We would trespass in back yards and inspect neighbors' fish ponds and check on the welfare of the fish in their ponds and we participated in a lot of make-believe and fantasy. One backyard had a long since abandoned playhouse that looked like a log cabin. Our neighborhood was named after things in Robin Hood: Sherwood Drive and so we were aware of that, that there was this Robin Hood theme in our neighborhood so we pretended that this cabin was Robin Hood's home and we had stories to go along with that and things that we would act out. We would take bike trips to a candy store, unsupervised, unattended by adults. It just was very carefree. We would visit neighbors. We had an elderly gentleman we would visit from time to time who was the candy man. He would give us candy and tell the girls we were purty and we had the cookie lady who always had a tray of cookies waiting for us.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, isn't that nice?

Dr. Jane Turner: It was. Everything about it was...

Blanche Touhill: Did you walk to school?

Dr. Jane Turner: We walked to school. Some of the neighborhood kids went to Mary Queen also so we played in the neighborhood together during the summer, before even attending school that we ended up going through grade school together. My grandparents lived on a farm not far away and so occasional weekends we had trips to the farm. We had exposure to livestock and a farmer's life.

- Blanche Touhill: How did you get all the kids in the car?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Well, back then we didn't have car seats and lap belts.
- Blanche Touhill: So everybody squeezed in.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Well, you know, the station wagon had the cargo area so the youngest four just tumbled around in the back and then eventually we had a Volkswagen.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, that was challenging?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It was not a car that my mom would have picked for herself.
- Blanche Touhill: What's the difference in the ages? Was it over a 10-year span or a 15-year span?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It was 12 years, the age difference between the eldest and the youngest two.
- Blanche Touhill: So you all knew each other?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: And who in your family encouraged you to go to school or was it even a question?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I don't think it was even a question. My paternal grandmother was a school teacher. She didn't go to college though but I think she was the one who instilled the notion that education is a way to elevate your life and your mind, to develop your relationship with God. She was a very, I wouldn't say religious person but very devout and thoughtful Catholic. So she encouraged my dad and my dad, in turn, encouraged all of us and it really was the expectation, especially since being a professor at a university, we had tuition remission so it just was known that we would go to university. And my mother, she came from more difficult circumstances, very poor during the Depression and I would say she was more self-made in that regard. Her parents had no aspirations for her but she did for herself and she won scholarships to college and that was the way she was able to find her way out of those more difficult circumstances. So both my parents supported and encouraged education and my mom, all the while I was in grade school, would tell me that she

thought I was bright and that I was a good student and complimented me frequently.

Blanche Touhill: Did your siblings all have an education?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes, and some of them, like myself, have multiple advanced degrees.

Blanche Touhill: I think it's interesting the way professors can get tuition for their children and I've known a lot of large families that have gone through university education because of that.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right. Well, after nine kids, my dad saw that that was the only way that he was going to get us education.

Blanche Touhill: It was a wise way to work at it. So you went to Mary Queen of Peace. When you were in school, did you play piano or were you a writer or were you an athlete?

Dr. Jane Turner: I tell people I was probably the world's worst Girl Scout. I really didn't care for meetings and I didn't understand the whole point of trying to earn badges. That just didn't make sense to me, to do activities to get a badge. Why don't you do activities because you like them? I was a very good soccer player and played on a championship team in grade school.

Blanche Touhill: How wonderful...oh, in the grade school?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah. The soccer coach was mother of a teammate and she was a wonderful supporter of mine for many years.

Blanche Touhill: Did her daughter play soccer?

Dr. Jane Turner: She did, yes.

Blanche Touhill: Was she good?

Dr. Jane Turner: She was. I would have to say, I was a star fullback so I was quite aggressive.

Blanche Touhill: So you played since kindergarten or 1st grade?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, I think it was probably 5th grade.

Blanche Touhill: By then, most girls are rather a good size...

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

- Blanche Touhill: ...and they have strength.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Where did you go to high school?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I went to Nerinx Hall High School. I skipped 8th grade.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, you did?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I had outgrown Mary Queen of Peace and my mother was very sensitive to that fact and so she had me look at other possibilities and a neighbor had suggested that we look at Nerinx, that Nerinx may be willing to work something out with me. So I took the high school entrance exam, did very well. Nerinx was ready, willing and able to accommodate me skipping 8th grade.
- Blanche Touhill: You know I took the video of Victoria Fraser and she didn't go to Mary Queen; she went to Holy Redeemer, is that right, down the street?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, uh-huh.
- Blanche Touhill: And she talked about how much she liked Nerinx Hall. And then there was somebody else...oh, their name was Mazzarella. They were two girls and they lived in Webster and walked to Nerinx Hall and they spoke highly of it. Did you like it?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I really did. I flourished there.
- Blanche Touhill: What is it about Nerinx Hall that makes everybody flourish?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I think it's the whole notion of empowering young women to pursue whatever it is that they want to do. That's how I felt.
- Blanche Touhill: So that's the culture of the institution?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: And that's really well known and I think they're the first American order. Am I wrong?
- Dr. Jane Turner: No, that's correct, yeah. Father Nerinx was the first proto martyr of the United States.
- Blanche Touhill: What does that mean?

- Dr. Jane Turner: He was the first martyr in the United States.
- Blanche Touhill: So he died?
- Dr. Jane Turner: He did. I think he was attacked by Native Americans. I'm not sure.
- Blanche Touhill: And so then a group of nuns started...
- Dr. Jane Turner: But he started the order and he was a Belgian priest, started the order in Loreto, Kentucky and the Sisters of Loreto continued after he died.
- Blanche Touhill: How did you distinguish yourself at Nerinx Hall?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Not in a big, grand way. I continued to play soccer. I played field hockey a couple of years, one or two years and I got involved with the yearbook. I was a photographer and an editor of the yearbook and so it was not high profile. And also, I was a good student. I stood out academically.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you like science or literature?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I liked it all. I enjoyed all of my subjects. Now, I got the most recognition from my science and math teachers, really, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Marcella Sweeney was an early advocate and supporter and she would challenge me and push me.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, good.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, and other sisters too, Sister Nancy and Sister Paul Mary did the same.
- Blanche Touhill: Could you walk to Nerinx or did you take a bus?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I mostly carpooled but with after school activities, I would sometimes take the bus or ride my bike. It wasn't really walking distance.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah, because I know where both areas are and they are sort of the extremes, aren't they?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: What was the order of nuns at Mary Queen of Peace?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It was, again, the Loretos.
- Blanche Touhill: Did they do Holy Redeemer too?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, I don't think so.

Blanche Touhill: And those were the big Catholic churches in Webster or were there others?

Dr. Jane Turner: There's Enunciation.

Blanche Touhill: Okay, I don't know. I've never met anybody from Enunciation but people come up in these videos and they say Nerinx Hall and I think...well, you're the third person, out of about 150, but nevertheless...and Victoria Fraser became an M.D. and the Mazzarella girls, one is in Harvard Law and the other is in international affairs. But I think it's so interesting, and they talk the same way you do. They could be whatever they wanted to be and they could dress...they could be themselves.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And make a contribution to the society.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Which is very interesting. So then you went to college. Where did you go to college?

Dr. Jane Turner: I started at Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois and that just was not a good fit for me. Remember, I was 17 years old because I had skipped a grade and it just was a different time then. Now, I have older brothers and sisters and they had a lot of influence over me with how I viewed society and they were very much against materialism. I had a sister who boycotted grapes at Schnucks because of the United Farm Workers.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, you had a social conscience in the family?

Dr. Jane Turner: I had a social conscience and yet, with my age group, my cohort, there was a real change, leaving that social consciousness behind. It was the '80s where...you know, Reaganism and Wall Street and how to get ahead and so many people were business majors, economics majors because they wanted to make a big buck.

Blanche Touhill: It was the yuppies.

Dr. Jane Turner: It was the yuppies and that was not me.

- Blanche Touhill: And both the husband and the wife worked and they both had really good jobs and they made a lot of money.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right, right. And with that, on the college level, there was a lot of emphasis on Greek life. Again, my siblings did not support sororities and fraternities. That just did not fit with that mindset and so I was more like my older siblings than I was my cohort and so I didn't fit in at Northwestern. I made some friends but not enough to anchor me there. And I ended up leaving after two years. I gave it a go. I had friends outside of Northwestern and I guess in a way predictably, the way I'd been talking, they were older. They were about 10 years older than myself, I went to France to study through St. Louis U. St. Louis U had just started a program in Orleans, France and I could go tuition remission instead of paying tuition to Northwestern. So that's what I did. I left and I studied in Orleans for a year and I came back to St. Louis to finish my senior year at St. Louis U and I lived off campus.
- Blanche Touhill: So you got a year's credit?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, I did, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you major in French or something?
- Dr. Jane Turner: No, I had to take summer classes to make up because I was a biology major and so I took summer classes at Loyola and University of Chicago.
- Blanche Touhill: How was life at the University of Chicago?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It was really interesting. Of the schools that I went to, undergrad, I liked that the most. I think that fit me the best, really, just intellectually stimulating, not only the professors but the students too.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, it's a beautiful campus but the area around it is not as beautiful.
- Dr. Jane Turner: I suppose that's true. I mean, it's an urban...
- Blanche Touhill: You didn't notice?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I didn't.
- Blanche Touhill: It was an urban university.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Did you live in a dorm?

Dr. Jane Turner: I lived in Evanston and I commuted.

Blanche Touhill: Oh.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So you took the train?

Dr. Jane Turner: I had a car to use, yeah, so it was easy. I was comfortable.

Blanche Touhill: Well, it's a beautiful campus and it is a first-class place.

Dr. Jane Turner: It is and the summer classes that I took really used the museums in the neighborhood...or the area, I should say, to their advantage.

Blanche Touhill: How was studying in France?

Dr. Jane Turner: That was a dynamic experience, to every day be able to measure how much I've learned and to get to the point where I wasn't translating in my head, where I was becoming fluent and even dreaming in French. That was my first really dynamic experience in learning. The second was medical school, just the ability to use what I'd been studying for years. I started studying French in high school and it was my goal that if I was going to study French in high school, I would study in college so that I could go to France and become fluent.

Blanche Touhill: Do you still have the language?

Dr. Jane Turner: No.

Blanche Touhill: But it would come back if you went back.

Dr. Jane Turner: It would, yeah. I go to French movies from time to time and I can pick it up.

Blanche Touhill: And you know the culture.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: How do you think the French are reacting to the devastation of a week or two ago?

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, you've got the Parisians, I'm not surprised that the Parisians are reacting with resolve and defiance and then you have people who live outside Paris who aren't as worldly and they are fearful. So I think that's a real challenge. It was a challenge even when I lived there. I knew that there was growing concern about the immigrant population even back then.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, from North Africa, yes.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Well, the thing I am surprised...I'm not surprised but I am, in a way, America's not used to that in-house terrorism and the French and the English have lived with it for years and the Germans and the Italians and I wasn't in France when there were bombings but I was in England when they were afraid of the IRA and buildings had these places you had to walk through to make sure you...which was sort of normal buildings that made sure you didn't have a weapon on you. I remember going in the British Museum. I was doing research in the British Museum. They looked in your purse every time you went in and out of the door and now they've done away with a lot of that but I don't think America's quite used to that violence at home in everyday life...

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: And the Europeans, they've been doing that since 1880, people have been trying to blow things up in France and I assume in Europe as well.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And they handle it and we seem to be searching for answers and I don't think they're big answers; I think they're little things that, you know, if you were on a subway in England and there was a package, everybody would get off and find the conductor and if they didn't identify the package, they'd get off the train. I mean, they really were vigilant in taking care of themselves. And, of course, the police came. I was in the subway one time in London, I was going up the escalator and some soldiers came down with machine guns, sort of looking, and I thought, you could just as easily get hit by a stray bullet but the Europeans are used to it. If we had that in New York City and they rushed down with a machine gun, everybody would be terrified.

- Dr. Jane Turner: I know, I know. My son and I were in Rome recently and my son commented how the police don't carry weapons like they do in the United States but when they do, they're really big.
- Blanche Touhill: They do use the big ones, that's right. I guess it's something that it's come to us and we have to deal with it.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: So you graduated from college and what was your major, biology?
- Dr. Jane Turner: My major was biology.
- Blanche Touhill: And had you set your mind on medicine at that time?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I was very interested in it but not quite decided yet and my dad suggested I talk to someone at the medical school. It didn't occur to me at the time that...looking back, I realize, I think it was the day of admissions when my dad had me talk to and so I didn't use that as a way to interview for medical school. I was still searching. I wasn't decided about medical school and he put me in contact with a faculty member who was doing research. He thought maybe I should explore that. That was my idea too but I didn't know who or what or where and I met Dr. Mary Rue and we just decided on the spot that I would apply to graduate school and work in her lab and that's what I did.
- Blanche Touhill: So you didn't go into medical school right away?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Not right away.
- Blanche Touhill: And were you getting a MA or...
- Dr. Jane Turner: Originally, I think the first few months I thought I was going to go for a Master's but it was going so well that she and I thought I should just go for a Ph.D.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, go for the...
- Dr. Jane Turner: Go for the Ph.D.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, a lot of people don't bother with the MA. They go straight through.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right, right. So as I started the graduate program, I was taking all these classes with medical students and I was enjoying it. I thought, well, why

not? And so I applied to medical school and just suspended the graduate school and I ended up alternating the two. I went to medical school and did the didactic classes and then when it came time to do the clinical work, I suspended that and went back to graduate school to do my research, completed my research, defended my thesis and then did my clinical work in medical school.

Blanche Touhill: What was your thesis?

Dr. Jane Turner: It was the physical chemical properties in estrogen receptors and progesterone receptors when they're bound by their natural [inaudible 24:27] and antagonists.

Blanche Touhill: Have you ever used that research?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, not really, no.

Blanche Touhill: Not even in teaching?

Dr. Jane Turner: Not yet. I did some teaching with it, yeah, I did, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So you go back to medical school. So when you graduated, you had a Ph.D. already, before you got the MD?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, and so on paper, if you look at my CV, it says my PhD. I received in 1991 and my MD in 1992. So on paper it looks like I went to medical school for a year but it was longer than that.

Blanche Touhill: Was your father pleased with that?

Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, yeah, was very supportive.

Blanche Touhill: Did he have other children that became doctors?

Dr. Jane Turner: I have an older sister who became a doctor and she was the one who would boycott grapes. She's a reproductive endocrinologist so she drifted away from that core.

Blanche Touhill: Now, what does a doctor like that do?

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, she's basically an infertility doctor.

Blanche Touhill: So she helps women or men to conceive and to carry and to deliver the child?

- Dr. Jane Turner: Exactly.
- Blanche Touhill: Does she have success?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, she's very good.
- Blanche Touhill: Is that a new field?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I think it's new. It was newer when she started, probably around the '80s and I think that it was a practice that she had some, I think, ethical challenges with. She had a private practice, solo practice for a long time and she would be very honest with people that, after so many failed attempts, that...and yet, she had competitors who would promise the sun and the moon.
- Blanche Touhill: That was hard on her?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right. That was a line that she would not cross. She would not make promises that she knew...but she's in a group practice and has a lot...I think they have the same philosophy and approach as she and she's a lot happier now.
- Blanche Touhill: I don't think you could be in a practice with individuals who didn't agree with you on that topic because you would clash and it does seem to me that after two or three attempts, the odds are not with you.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: So you graduated from medical school and what did you do?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I took a year-and-a-half off to be a housewife. I had my first child my last year of medical school so while I was doing my clinical rotations...that was extremely challenging physically. I was on my feet a lot and for hours at a time, so my ankles swelled.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you have a babysitter then or daycare?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It just depended on the circumstances. For a period of time right after my son was born, I was living in St. Louis and my husband was living in Virginia and so I lived at home with my parents and my mom helped and then when I moved to Virginia, I hired a nanny and then after that, after graduating from medical school, I was a housewife for 18 months because we were moving. My husband was in the military. He went to

medical school on a military scholarship and so there was no way I could do my training and stay together as a couple.

Blanche Touhill: So you needed two more years of training?

Dr. Jane Turner: I needed to do residency training and I hadn't quite decided...I thought I would do pathology even though I had no practical experience in pathology. I just thought that, in some ways, would suit my needs. I had contemplated internal medicine but I think it just didn't fit my personality and I knew it and so I didn't force that one but I needed four more years of training as a resident. So I was a housewife for 18 months, pathology at the time. I think it's probably still true to a certain extent, was not extremely competitive so with my Ph.D., I knew that chances are wherever we ended up, I could just walk into a program. And that's exactly what happened.

Blanche Touhill: So where did you do your training then, your four years?

Dr. Jane Turner: I did the first two years at University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City and then my husband and I split up and by then I had two children and I needed family support so I left Oklahoma to come back to St. Louis and I completed my training at what was then called St. John's Hospital.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, indeed. And were they in the city or the county at that time?

Dr. Jane Turner: They were in the county, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Well, they're a long establishment in St. Louis, aren't they, St. John's?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And weren't you lucky that your mother, once again, would be happy to help.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: So are your children medical people?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, not at all.

Blanche Touhill: What did they do eventually?

Dr. Jane Turner: My oldest son is an analyst for a tech start-up in San Francisco.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful.

Dr. Jane Turner: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: And your girl?

Dr. Jane Turner: I have two sons.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, you have two sons?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, and my other son is in his last year of college at University of Colorado-Boulder. He's studying evolutionary biology. He likes plants and so he's contemplating graduate school and plant biology.

Blanche Touhill: That's a nice career. So, how did you get to St. Louis U in the medical world or did you go there immediately?

Dr. Jane Turner: When I was at St. John's, I completed my training there and needed a job and was still a single parent and still needed support and so I was looking for a job in St. Louis. I couldn't find a job in pathology in St. Louis and I had this interest in forensics and I developed this interest in forensic pathology while I was in Oklahoma. I was at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, resident in their training program when the Alfred P. Mura building was bombed...

Blanche Touhill: Yes, talk about terrorism.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right, and that's home-grown. And all of the pathology residents were called to the medical examiner's office to help investigate this crime and that involved helping to identify the victims and triaging, looking at the x-rays and recovering evidence from bodies and going through barrels of debris from the crime scene, looking for evidence: the bomb casings, for example, bomb parts, and I just became fascinated with forensic pathology. I'd had just a little bit of exposure to it in medical school in the form of some lectures where the forensic pathologist showed devastating injuries of the head. That didn't appeal to me but the practical exposure to it did appeal to me, especially in a time like that. I've come to realize that I have this justice aspect of my personality.

Blanche Touhill: Well, that's the grapes, isn't it?

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

- Blanche Touhill: It goes back to your social conscience.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right. And so, working in the medical examiner's office in the aftermath of that horrendous crime made me feel like I was part of something bigger than myself, made me feel like...
- Blanche Touhill: Well, you were.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, and it made me feel like I could make some contributions and put some order back where there had been chaos.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, and some justice.
- Dr. Jane Turner: And some justice. And so I always kept that in the back of my mind, that if I had an opportunity, I would pursue forensics and so here I was, having completed my training in St. Louis, looking for a job and a family friend suggested that I meet with the chair of pathology, the new chair of pathology at St. Louis U and I told him about my circumstances and he asked me what my interests were and I mentioned forensic pathology and it just so happened that he had an interest. It was more of an avocation for him and our department has a forensics division but they had not had an active training program in forensics for 10, 15 years. So this new chair decided that we should start the training program again and I should be the first one and that once I completed my training, that he would likely hire me as faculty. And it just went from there.
- Blanche Touhill: Do you have students?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I do. I have residents and students. Right now I have two fellows so they're residents who have completed their basic training in pathology and are doing sub specialty training with me in forensic pathology.
- Blanche Touhill: Is pathology a job 9:00 to 5:00?
- Dr. Jane Turner: It is.
- Blanche Touhill: Unless there'd be an emergency at which point you'd have to come out 24/7?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Well, it just depends on the type of pathology that you're talking about but mostly it's 9:00 to 5:00 and there is call for surgical pathologists where there may be an emergency surgery where a surgeon needs a

pathologist there. That doesn't happen very frequently and if it does, it's usually on a weekend.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, so it's a real emergency?

Dr. Jane Turner: Right. It's very conducive to family life.

Blanche Touhill: Are you a pathologist then? Is that what you're saying?

Dr. Jane Turner: I am.

Blanche Touhill: And are you a forensic pathologist?

Dr. Jane Turner: My sub specialty is forensics.

Blanche Touhill: And you like it?

Dr. Jane Turner: I love it and that is very much a 9:00 to 5:00 job. I work one Saturday a month as needed.

Blanche Touhill: It's like you're on call or something?

Dr. Jane Turner: That's right.

Blanche Touhill: And do you find murders and things like that? Do you find what kills people?

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, that is my job, to determine the cause of death and the manner of death.

Blanche Touhill: And is it hard to find?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, no, most of the time it's not.

Blanche Touhill: You know what to look for.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right. Some of the deaths are natural deaths and we have some medical records to work with and we have the ability to investigate by performing the autopsy and looking at microscopic slides and doing other testing.

Blanche Touhill: Do you create the slide?

Dr. Jane Turner: No.

Blanche Touhill: You have a specialist who creates the slide? You create the item that you're going to take out of the body?

Dr. Jane Turner: That's right. So I biopsy the tissue and then that biopsy gets made into a glass slide by a laboratory.

Blanche Touhill: You've had murders so...

Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, absolutely.

Blanche Touhill: And does that tell you who did it? No?

Dr. Jane Turner: Not very often-but sometimes-but not very often.

Blanche Touhill: Well, what do you want to do if you didn't do that?

Dr. Jane Turner: You know, I can't even think. I don't know. You know, the two things that I've wanted to do, become a doctor and then after that, becoming a forensic pathologist. But before I even knew I wanted to be a doctor, which that decision I didn't make until after graduating from college but when I was much younger, I knew I wanted to be a mother and I've been able to do that too. So other than that, I don't fantasize about doing anything else. I recently had a leadership position at St. Louis U.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, tell me about that.

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, I needed an outlet when I was junior faculty. I was very isolated working in the medical examiner's office so I was faculty at St. Louis U but I was not on campus and had very little contact with the university and I wanted that contact. I wanted that identity as a faculty member and I became involved with the faculty senate. I got myself on the ballot as a representative of the School of Medicine and that was the easiest in ever because there was no little interest at the School of Medicine in participating in this organization that there were, I think, four open slots and I was the only one on the ballot so I was guaranteed elected and I was and my first year on the senate, I spent a lot of my time volunteering. Any time there was any mention of a need for faculty to serve on a committee, I was there and the secretary of the faculty senate and the president of the faculty senate became very aware of my presence and my eagerness to be involved and I think it was in the second year of my service on the senate that there was an opening for a secretary on the executive committee on the faculty senate and they recruited me and they also mentored me. And so I served on the executive committee for a number of years as secretary and ultimately I decided I needed to take a

break from that and I took a short break, came back and served as secretary again with the intention of ultimately running as president of the faculty senate, which I did. I nominated myself.

Blanche Touhill: You knew what you were doing.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah. Now, I had thought that everybody else on the executive committee knew that I wanted to be president and so when it came time for nominations, I waited for my colleagues to nominate me and they nominated someone else, a man who had less experience than I and I was crushed. I thought, well, what am I going to do about this? And I thought about it and realized I had another opportunity to nominate myself and that was at a full senate meeting and that's what I did.

Blanche Touhill: And so you got elected.

Dr. Jane Turner: And I got elected.

Blanche Touhill: Isn't that wonderful.

Dr. Jane Turner: It is and so I'm proud of myself that I didn't allow that opportunity to slip away just because I might have been maybe too presumptuous and maybe too timid.

Blanche Touhill: Were there many women on the senate?

Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, there are.

Blanche Touhill: And is that who you used to do some politicking or did you use men and women?

Dr. Jane Turner: You know, I didn't do any politicking to be elected.

Blanche Touhill: You just let it be known that you'd be willing to be nominated from the floor?

Dr. Jane Turner: That's right and I also, after having served as secretary for so many years, everybody knew me. I had served the faculty senate very well as a secretary. I had a lot of direct contact with the representatives.

Blanche Touhill: And is it all schools and colleges?

Dr. Jane Turner: It is. It's a representative body.

Blanche Touhill: And how many are on it?

Dr. Jane Turner: There somewhere around 53.

Blanche Touhill: And do you have committees?

Dr. Jane Turner: There are standing committees.

Blanche Touhill: Like curriculum and tenure?

Dr. Jane Turner: No, although we are moving in that direction. No, there's a governance committee and a professional relations committee, a compensation and fringe benefits committee, and a few others...academic affairs.

Blanche Touhill: Were your medical school colleagues surprised when you became chair of the senate?

Dr. Jane Turner: I don't think they were surprised. I think, though, that they were very gratified.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, that a medical school faculty member would be the head of the senate?

Dr. Jane Turner: Right, and my predecessor was from School of Medicine. He was a Ph.D. researcher.

Blanche Touhill: Were you the first woman?

Dr. Jane Turner: I was the first woman from the School of Medicine to be elected faculty senate president, yes.

Blanche Touhill: Are there a lot of women in the medical school?

Dr. Jane Turner: There are, yes; more junior faculty.

Blanche Touhill: When you went to medical school, were there many women in the class?

Dr. Jane Turner: At that time, I think it was 40% women so it was starting to change.

Blanche Touhill: And what is it now?

Dr. Jane Turner: It's about 50/50 now. It's very close.

Blanche Touhill: Have you bumped into the glass ceiling?

- Dr. Jane Turner: I think as far as my career at SLU, I have, and you asked me if there was anything else I wanted to do and I said no, but I have to take that back because after my experience with the senate and that leadership role, I've come to look at myself differently. I've come to look at myself as an effective leader.
- Blanche Touhill: And administrator.
- Dr. Jane Turner: And administrator, academic administrator and so that's something I would like to pursue. I currently don't see any opportunities for a role for myself at St. Louis U. I'm hopeful that maybe in years to come there will be something but I'm searching.
- Blanche Touhill: Can deans of medical schools...can you go to Washington U or to...I don't where the other medical schools are in Missouri...Kansas City...
- Dr. Jane Turner: And Mizzou, University of Missouri.
- Blanche Touhill: That's right, so there are four that I can think of.
- Dr. Jane Turner: And then there's an osteopathic school.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's right, in Kirksville, and in Kansas City, and then they have the dental program now down on Park and 12th or something like that. They have a dental clinic. The osteopaths have come to St. Louis with a clinic.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Oh, I didn't know that, okay.
- Blanche Touhill: I went through the other day and I was very impressed. Can you move from a Catholic institute...of course, St. Louis U isn't a Catholic institution anymore, is it? Well, it is but it isn't. It has a lay board.
- Dr. Jane Turner: It has a lay board.
- Blanche Touhill: I guess it has a Catholic philosophy.
- Dr. Jane Turner: It has a Catholic philosophy and identity. You have a mission.
- Blanche Touhill: That's right; they have a mission, yeah.
- Dr. Jane Turner: But, no, I could.
- Blanche Touhill: You can move.

Dr. Jane Turner: I could, yeah. Now, whether it would be a good fit for me is another question. I don't think just any...because I am an idealist, I don't think just any institution would work for me.

Blanche Touhill: No. It's like when you went to Northwestern, it wasn't a good fit.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: And we've all had those experiences and when you're in those, you have to get out of it or you have to change the question or you have to do something to ameliorate that problem. So you're just waiting to see what opens?

Dr. Jane Turner: I am searching. I'm trying to figure out what it is that I can do elsewhere.

Blanche Touhill: Are you willing to leave town?

Dr. Jane Turner: I am.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, well, then that opens up all kinds of opportunities.

Dr. Jane Turner: It does, I hope. In academia, the expectation is that, for any leadership position that that individual have tenure but in medicine, the trend since the '80s, has been to not offer as many tenured positions to faculty in medical schools. I was one of those faculty not offered tenure and I didn't seek it. So you have this mis-match of medical schools requiring academic years to have tenure but they are not grooming their faculty to be leaders by offering a sufficient number of tenured spots.

Blanche Touhill: But you have a Ph.D.

Dr. Jane Turner: I have a Ph.D.

Blanche Touhill: Which gives a different dimension to it.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And you've had teaching experience. Have you published?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: So you have all the categories except...

Dr. Jane Turner: ...tenure, and so my search would involve looking at institutions who aren't so bound to the traditional scheme.

Blanche Touhill: I think higher education is sort of moving in that kind of direction in one way or the other.

Dr. Jane Turner: I think so. I think on either coast, the...

Blanche Touhill: Have you gotten federal grants?

Dr. Jane Turner: No.

Blanche Touhill: Is that an important thing in medical school?

Dr. Jane Turner: It is but I don't know how important it would be to be an associate dean or...

Blanche Touhill: Well, it isn't in regular...in arts & sciences or...it isn't in the University of Missouri but it's an aspect.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Let's change the subject just for a minute and then we'll come back to medicine. If you had been born 50 years earlier, what would your life have been like?

Dr. Jane Turner: I most likely would have been a frustrated housewife, maybe not frustrated. Maybe I would have found some ways to find some satisfaction, a niche, a creative outlet and that's just been my history. I did that as junior faculty.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, you found your niche through governance...

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: ...and then you found that you had an ability for administration.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: I always found administration easy. Did you find administration easy?

Dr. Jane Turner: I loved it, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: I found it very easy. People were always saying to me, "Oh, it's such a hard job." It's got hard problems but I always enjoyed it.

Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.

- Blanche Touhill: I think I was able to bring people together. Is that what you had, your trait?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: And you could say, "What is it that you really want and what is it that you really want?" and generally speaking, you can find accommodation.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: I was surprised at how smoothly it could go. And if you got an award, what award did you really prize or really love?
- Dr. Jane Turner: The most recent award I received, which I received in the fall of this year, it was the John Slosar Shared Governance Award that the faculty senate bestowed upon me.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Blanche, here I am, I'm number seven out of nine kids and always felt like I got lost in the shuffle, typical middle child, right? And my colleagues, my esteemed colleagues gave me two standing ovations and this award.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, isn't that wonderful.
- Dr. Jane Turner: I kept having to pinch myself. I couldn't believe it was me.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, that's very satisfactory.
- Dr. Jane Turner: It is.
- Blanche Touhill: So, what do you want to do with the rest of your life?
- Dr. Jane Turner: I just want to keep on going and doing good things, like you said, bringing people together, finding creative solutions, making a difference and seeking justice.
- Blanche Touhill: How do you think medicine is going? It seems to me that it's getting more centralized and that the hospitals are buying up practices. I was sitting with a doctor the other night and he said, "I really want to go in the hospital and treat my patients but the hospitals are taking my role."
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah, and that's not my area of practice. I'm in a medical examiner's office so I don't have exposure to that aspect of medicine as much. I left

that behind, really, when I was a medical student. I mean, pathology is still kind of removed from that aspect of medicine but medicine has so changed from when my dad was practicing and I think when he was junior faculty, there was a lot more freedom to innovate than there is now.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. Is that good or bad?

Dr. Jane Turner: I think the reasons why it's changed, why there's more regulation is good.

Blanche Touhill: To make everybody come up.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: And best practices and all of that.

Dr. Jane Turner: Exactly, but I think the pressure on doctors to see more and more patients has stifled the drive to do research and to innovate.

Blanche Touhill: So what is happening? There's going to be a faculty for research and a faculty for the clinic and that's going to separate?

Dr. Jane Turner: I think that's ultimately what's going to have to happen and I think we're pretty much there.

Blanche Touhill: So the researchers can be creative and...

Dr. Jane Turner: ...get the grants.

Blanche Touhill: And they're transfer that knowledge, so it's basic and applied research?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: By that I mean, once the basic researcher transfers it over, the clinician carries it out?

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: How do the pharmaceuticals fit in here?

Dr. Jane Turner: You know, again, I'm not...

Blanche Touhill: Okay, you're not in that, but they were talking this morning on the TV that Jimmy Carter, they tried some new drug on Jimmy Carter and he seems to be doing very well with it. So there has to be that link.

Dr. Jane Turner: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Is that up to the pharmaceutical companies?

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, they're heavily regulated too but, sure, I think the shift is going to be personalized medicine now and how pharmaceutical companies can make that work for themselves is a good question because historically they've been interested in drugs that have broad applications and now we're going to the extreme opposite where it's drug therapies that are designed for individuals.

Blanche Touhill: That must be very difficult.

Dr. Jane Turner: I think it's the wave of the future. I think we're very close to it, if not already arrived.

Blanche Touhill: So it's going to face gigantic change?

Dr. Jane Turner: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I know that the academic area in the universities is undergoing terrific change. Talk about the relationship of social justice to what you do.

Dr. Jane Turner: Well, I think that my attraction to forensic pathology, as I said before, has a lot to do...and it took me a while to realize this...has this appeal to my need for justice and when I am testifying in court, I'm advocating on behalf of the victim. I'm advocating on behalf of justice, in my view. I do medical legal consulting and so when I do that, I'm advocating for the doctor who's being sued; I'm fighting for the opinion that I formed based on my review of the materials, and that's very different from being a pathologist in a hospital and I like the intellectual challenges that are there with that kind of work but I also like having an answer when an answer can be had.

Blanche Touhill: Were your parents interested in social justice?

Dr. Jane Turner: I think so.

Blanche Touhill: But it was really your sister?

Dr. Jane Turner: It was really my sister.

- Blanche Touhill: And how did she get so?
- Dr. Jane Turner: You know, I think it all goes back to our Catholic background and for me; it's also with Nerinx and then being at St. Louis U with the Jesuits. I had to think a second about my parents. My dad identified very strongly with the Jesuits and all during his career, he would go to morning mass with the Jesuits and when he retired, he ended up spending a lot of time with them and one of his closest friends was Father John Cavanaugh, a philosophy professor at St. Louis U. So I think it's just always been there, whether it's out in the open or just in the background.
- Blanche Touhill: That you had a sense that there were people in need and that somebody had to reach out a helping hand?
- Dr. Jane Turner: Exactly.
- Blanche Touhill: You're really very fulfilled.
- Dr. Jane Turner: I am and when I haven't had that in my life, I found a way to regain it.
- Blanche Touhill: And when you haven't had it in your life, you realize that had to get away.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: That was not the place for you.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, I wish you well in finding...I know you can stay doing what you want to do but I think administration has given you a new approach and I think administration has a great need for people who want to really do the job and make it run and make it run for those people who really don't have any other opportunities.
- Dr. Jane Turner: Right, right...service.
- Blanche Touhill: Service. Well, that's a wonderful tone to end this conversation. I'm delighted you came by and I'm always delighted to meet a woman doctor or a woman judge because those things were just out of reach when I was young and actually never thought about it. So it's wonderful to meet young people who have filled those niches. So thank you very much.
- Dr. Jane Turner: You're welcome. Thank you for the opportunity, Blanche.