

Spring 4-29-2015

Interview of Jennifer Sipe, M.S.N., R.N.

Jennifer Sipe

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Anthony Palazzolo

Dr. Allen

4/17/2015

Field Notes

Interviewee: Jennifer Sipe MSN, RN. Assistant Professor of Nursing at La Salle University (age 46)

Interviewer: Anthony Palazzolo (age 24)

Interview Date(s): Session #1: April 8, 2015

Session #2: April 19, 2015.

Interview Location(s): Session #1: Jennifer's office @ St. Benilde Tower room 1128 on campus at La Salle. Session #2: Donald Brindisi home (Jennifer's father home) in Warrington, Pa

Field Notes were written on April 27th, 2015

The Interviewee:

Jennifer Sipe was born on November 11, 1969 at Chestnut Hill Hospital. Jennifer had an unstructured childhood which allowed her time to follow her interests and explore local woods and creeks in Bucks County going up. Jennifer went to Willow Dale Elementary and also was a graduate of William Tennent High School class of 1987. During high school Jennifer was involved in many activities and took a wide range of classes. At an early age as an aggressive learner after completing high school, Jennifer decided to be the first one in her family to attend college. She started college at Temple University in the fall of 1987. Jennifer remained at Temple for two years and then changed career paths and enrolled at Abington School of Nursing. During her time at nursing school at Abington Jennifer flourished and excelled in education and built a deep knowledge base of medicine and pharmacology. Exposed to many scenarios in ICU and different educational experiences at Abington Memorial Hospital Jennifer would continue her educational journey at La Salle University obtaining a BA and Master in Adult Health and Illness. Jennifer has also held various positions in hospital administration and in health care consulting. Jennifer currently in 2015 aside from being an assistant professor of nursing at La Salle works full time as a nurse practitioner and is the chair person for Hands for Life at La Salle University. Jennifer is currently completing her PHD in Health Policy at the University of Sciences. Jennifer has three older siblings (Kathy, Marion, and Ralph) and one younger brother (Donald).

The Interviewer:

I, Anthony Palazzolo was born on October 26 1990 in Philadelphia, Pa. I was raised and grew up in Abington and went to Abington School District for grade school and high school. I

earned a B.A in History from Susquehanna University in the spring of 2013 with a focus on early American History and the American Civil War. I currently attend La Salle University as a graduate student and I am pursuing a Master degree in order to work with the National Park Service. I currently work as an assistant archivist at Doylestown Historical Society.

Background:

I decided to interview Jennifer Sipe for the oral history project Jennifer for several reasons. In the beginning when researching and looking at past La Salle oral histories on the digital commons I found it very surprising in my research that the commons (In 2015) lacked not only oral histories of women but also nursing oral history. As I read Dr. Rossi's *Living The Promise* (which is a book about the history of La Salle) I began to appreciate the significance of nursing program at La Salle and also the impact women had on the campus. Dr. Rossi in his book explains that nursing provided women with earlier opportunities to develop careers at La Salle. Armed with the background research on the origins of women at La Salle I presented my idea to my fellow classmates and Dr. Allen during the beginning of the semester. Dr. Allen also encouraged me to pursue an interview with Jennifer Sipe for the oral history project. This lack of nursing in the commons, Dr. Rossi's information on the history on women and nursing, and also Dr. Allen's advice and encouragement to pursue an oral history from a nurse inspired me to reach out to Jennifer and contact her for an oral interview.

When I first contacted Jennifer in mid-February she was very honored and pleased to be asked for an oral interview for the digital commons. Jennifer like me was very shock that the digital commons lacked an ample pool of women and nursing faculty. Jennifer agreed to the interview because like myself Jennifer saw her story as an essential addition to the digital commons. Our mutual goal as Interviewer/Interviewee was to add not only Jennifer's story to the commons but also diversity the digital commons. Jennifer always was thrilled at the fact that future students and researchers at La Salle and beyond could use her story and experiences in study. For researching Jennifer's background I looked up her bio on the La Salle University website and also on Linked. This day and age Linked is great resource for getting a snapshot on a professional's career and obtaining a CV/ resume. The information I gathered became very useful in shaping my interview and also my questions.

The biggest challenge in this process which I stressed to my classmates and stress to anyone reading this log right now is the importance of communication when interviewing a nurse or health care professional. My interview sessions alone were rescheduled seven time throughout the final months of this semester. No matter how you schedule an interview with a health care professional you as an interviewer will always be at the mercy of the interviewee schedule and profession. A health care professionals schedule changes on daily based on the field they are in, the patients he/she sees, and also the activities that they are involved in. Even though Jennifer is

my aunt it was extremely stress and hard to finalized and schedule dates for these interview sessions. For example, session two which had been rescheduled several times had to be conducted at Jennifer's father house because that was the only opening she had on her schedule. I encourage future oral history students at La Salle to be patient if they decide to pursue a health care professional. I stress again the importance of keeping an active conversation and strong communication between the health care professional interviewee you choose to interview. Without an active and ongoing communication an oral history for a health care professional becomes near to impossible. Active communication MUST exist in order for an oral history project to work based on a health care professional!!!

Jennifer told me before I interviewed her and recorded her in session one that several of her colleagues were interested in the project when they found out I was interviewing. Interviewing a nursing faculty and health care professionals can be very rewarding. After completing my interview sessions I was opened not only to field of nursing but also a side of Jennifer's life which I had no knowledge of prior to this project. I am very thankful for this experience and this project.

Description of the Interview:

I recorded the first interview session on April 8th, 2015 at Jennifer office at La Salle. Her office is located in St. Benilde Tower on campus. I set up my phone to record at her office on the table in between both us in her office. I made sure my phone battery was ok and also that the door was closed. Prior to the interview beginning Jennifer grab an ice tea so her mouth would dry up during the recording. The first recording went ok. During the interview there is a subtle humming that sounds like breathing which is Jennifer's desktop. Although it doesn't affect the quality of the interview much it was background sound I picked up during my recording. I was unable to edit it out of the first interview session recording. Session one has a focus which more loose and story based. Jennifer wanted to describe her educational journey as well as her experiences in nursing school. I gave Jennifer this freedom in part one because I wanted her story to be authentic. I also wanted her to feel empowered as she shared her story for the record.

For session two and the "La Salle experience" I created a questionnaire from my research. Part two is more structured and traditional question based because I wanted as an interviewer to ask specific questions about Jennifer experience at La Salle. I ask questions regarding adjunct years, class size, role of diversity, and changes at La Salle. Jennifer also describes campus resources and the importance of clinical studies. I used the Galante interview and Dr. Zane Wolf questionnaire as guidance in completing my interviews. Session two was conducted, as I explained earlier, at Jennifer Father's house.

Notes on Recording and Technology Used:

For the field interview I used my Samsung Galaxy S4 mobile phone. I originally purchased the Olympus WS-821 at the start of the semester at Staples but after feedback from

my classmates on the audio quality of recording on a mobile device and Dr. Allen's practice interview feedback I decided to switch to the S4 and use a mobile app called auto recorder. The app was easy to use and gave me far better audio clarity than the Olympus WS-821 which I used in the practice interview. After conducted the interview sessions I connected my Samsung Galaxy S4 to my ASUS M32 desktop computer and downloaded the interviews onto my computer. Since android mobile files are (aac.) files I had to use a conversion website to convert these files into wave files. This website <http://media.io/> did the conversion for me and I provide the link here in my field notes with the hopes future students in this class will be able to use this resource in converting their mobile phone recordings into wave files for digital commons and the library of congress. Once I had the interview on my computer I named the files Sipe Interview Session #1 and #2 and saved it as a wave file. Once Saved I began to playback the interview on a program called Audacity. Audacity is a music editing program which I had used previous during. One of the key features in the software in to slow down and speed up audio files. By using Audacity I was able to create an accurate Index for the interview sessions. Once I completed the index's I uploaded interview sessions to digital commons for grading and submission.

Editing the Index:

1. Eliminated unnecessary sounds and unimportant silence pauses in interview
2. Kept silences when important...such as showing signs of rethinking or reflection
3. Place and wrote out time stamps throughout Index also in front of sections.
4. Labeled in **BOLD** on Index focus sections of interview for future researcher use (ex. La Salle)
5. Used quotation to indicate dialogue from a memory
6. Capitalized names and locations. Location in session one I provide footnotes on where I accessed the address of Jennifer's educational journey.
7. Used to indicate period of thinking and reflection
8. Eliminated noises and some transition words that didn't make sense or upset the flow of dialogue between interviewer and interviewee.