MLW: When you were my age, 21 and a junior in college, what were your thoughts on getting married?

MHW: Uhhhh well when I was a junior in college I was 20 [okay], and let’s see thoughts on getting married... When I was a junior in college... None.

MLW: Did you think you wanted to get married someday?

MHW: Eventually.

MLW: Eventually, but not within the next couple of years?

MHW: Correct.

MLW: Um, where did you meet mom?

MHW: Where did I meet mom... Umm... Where did I meet mom? The first time was at a party. Well I think it was at a party. I think actually we were introduced at a party by my roommate, Michael Swartz.

MLW: Okay. What was the path leading up to marriage? How did you decide to get married and at the age you decided to get married?

MHW: Uhhhummm... Well. Um. Mom was a year older and um when she, when I was a senior she was leaving in Southern California... And I missed her. And I thought I wouldn’t find anybody better. And thought she’d be perfect. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

MLW: So when did you get married?

MHW: When did we get married... We got married... Um, after my senior year in college in July of 1984.

MLW: And how did your life change after getting married with going to medical school shortly after.

MHW: Yeah we did all the things you aren’t supposed to do in one year. We got married, we moved, and we started two new jobs.
MLW: How did you choose going so far from your family for medical school? Was that a hard decision?

MHW: No. Um, when uh. So you know being born and raised in California and never you know seeing snow or anything old, um, when I got to Hanover for my interview I was, uh, being shown around by this guy named Dave Tableca. And he was a medical student at Dartmouth and when I got there, um, it was mid fall, it was you know blue skies, trees were all turned, and I fell in love with the campus. And then what sold me was the fact that they had their own golf course and their own ski way. And then on my tour with Dave, we were walking by the first year lecture hall and there’s all these tall skinny lockers and I asked uh, I said “Dave what are these tall skinny lockers for?” And he said “oh that’s where we keep our hockey sticks and our cross country skis cause we go play hockey or ski during lunch. At which point I said, If I get, and I think I called mom and said “If I get in here, this is where we are going.” So that’s how we ended up in New Hampshire.

MLW: What was it like being married during medical school?

MHW: Ummm. It was uh, it was, it was fun and hard being married during medical school because medical school is a lot of work but uh it was also fun because we were among the few married people at that time and uh we made the most of it.

MLW: And I don’t think I really ever heard much about your time in the Air Force, so how did that schedule you work when you were in medical school?

MHW: So um, yeah so lets see. So before uh, basically in the Air Force I had to go do something every summer. Um. So the first year, before medical school, um I had to go to I think it was either four or six weeks, um and before we got married I was in Montgomery, Alabama, and then uh let’s see. Between first and second year, I was in San Antonio, Texas. And between second and third year, um, I think I went to Travis Air Force base and then after third year I don’t think we did anything after third year. I was at Pease Air Force base in New Hampshire. So yeah, it was a four to six week, um you know “tour” basically.

MLW: And mom stayed in Hanover when you were gone?

MHW: Uh yeah.

MLW: Um, and then what factors went into deciding when and what kind of family you wanted to have.

MHW: Um. Well. We knew we wanted to have a family at some point, uh and we really didn’t want to have a family during medical school. Um and I think we decided to do it uh uh towards the end of my residency in Seattle.
MLW: And did your ideas of the type of family you wanted to have change as time went on? Like did you always want have two kids, or did you want to have more than two kids and then something changed?

MHW: Um well I always wanted to have two kids and a cat, and mom always wanted to have four kids and a dog.

MLW: And so we settled at two I guess.

MHW: We settled at two. Well after a certain person, uh we decided couldn’t tolerate another baby.

MLW: I was too difficult for you?

MHW: You were a challenge. The only person who could hold you the first year of your life were mom and your great grandmother.

MLW: That’s kinda funny.

MHW: No but I think after having two we just decided that was enough. Because if you have three then you have to go to the “zone defense”

MLW: What does that mean?

MHW: Well with two people with two kids you can go man to man. With three you have to play the zones.

MLW: More kids than parents?

MHW: Yep. When the kids out number the parents you got trouble.

MLW: How did your career path choice influence your decision to have kids? Well I guess the whole being in medical school affected when you were going to have kids, but did you always want to be a doctor?

MHW: Um, well no. I mean initially I wanted to be a lawyer. And then in high school I changed my mind and thought I wanted to be a doctor. Um, and then when I got to college actually I pondered um you know being a college professor in bio-chemistry, but then I eventually went back to wanting to be a doctor.

MLW: And how was the decision, or take me through the process of making the decision of who parented and who stayed home?

MHW: Um. Well there really wasn’t a whole lot of discussion of how parented and who stayed home. Because I was working [as a doctor – in residency and
fellowships] and mom was working, but we decided that mom was going to stay home after Patrick was born with Patrick and eventually you.

**MLW:** Did you ever feel as though you were forced to do the job that you are doing in order to provide for your family?

**MHW:** Um. Not really because one of the nice things about being a physician is, um, you know salaries are generally very, are good. Um, so and I always liked what I was doing, so you know we were relatively lucky that salaries were really not much of an issue.

**MLW:** How did you balance the work life and the home life?

**MHW:** Ummmm... Well I think, uh, I mean tried to, um, be around for most, you know, we were very lucky that both our kids doing sports and you know you doing dance and both of you doing Tae Kwon Do and stuff growing up. So, um, I just made it a priority to try and be at as many of those things as I could and you know doing that um basically forced me to you know leave work and go to those things.

**MLW:** How did your family affect your work life? Did having kids change, did you always want to be an anesthesiologist for adults or did you change that decision?

**MHW:** Well you know initially I thought I might want to do pediatric anesthesia but I had a hard time looking at sick children after Patrick was born, um, so that’s when I switched to cardiac anesthesia and critical care. But I don’t think, um, I mean I don’t think, at least for me I don’t think family adversely effected work at all.

**MLW:** So when you started in career of medicine, were you aware of it causing other people to move often?

**MHW:** Um well I think for me, I wanted to eventually be a department chairman. Um and most of the time, if that’s what you want to do, you end up moving. So I kinda knew we were gonna move. But I never really, um, we never really looked to move... Um opportunities just arose, um, and we took them.

**MLW:** What kinds of factors went into the decision making for when you decided to move?

**MHW:** Well each one was different. Um at the end of the Air Force [San Antonio, Texas], I was out of the Air Force, so I had to find a job and so that’s how we ended up in North Carolina. Um and you know we both loved North Carolina, Wake was a really good place to be. And then I had the opportunity to go to um UT Southwestern in Dallas, where I got a promotion and had a lot more responsibility, I ran a division, started a couple of fellowships and um you know that is why we ended up going there. And then to go to Washington University in St. Louis, um, that was a similar thing – it was a great anesthesia department, great medical school, great university,
and they wanted somebody to come and actually run um all of the clinical operation in the operating room in a big place, so that was uh unique opportunity to go do that. And then of course coming up to Minnesota it was a chance to run a whole department. So each time was different, um, and that's kinda how they all kinda played out.

MLW: How do you think moving has affected our family as in the four of us and also our relationships with our extended family?

MHW: Um, well I think the four of us, I think are pretty tight because we all moved together and each time we moved you know you guys were doing something different. Of course this move to Minnesota you guys were both gone [in college], so that you know that didn't really matter as much because you were in different places. Um, as far as you know the rest of our family, which is all in California. Um, you know we made lots of effort when you guys were little to always spend our summers between Northern and Southern California [where my dad's family and mom's family live, respectfully]. And I think that was a lot of fun, and that was good. Um, and then you know recently focusing on going to the beach for a couple of weeks in Southern California with people coming to visit us. So I think it has worked out fine.

MLW: How are you and mom similar in parents in your parenting styles? Or how are you different?

MHW: Um, similar to both of you? Or you differently?

MLW: How are you and mom similar in how you parent?

MHW: Oh. Ummm... I don't know if we really have a “parenting style”. Yeah I don't know. I don't know. I think mom is probably more involved with you know details – you know she is better memory of you know who all of your teachers were and all of this stuff. And I think, I was, a little more um, 30,000 foot view – but I am like that with kinda everything thing. So.

MLW: How did you split the chores and the responsibilities?

MHW: For... What? What kind of chores?

MLW: I guess like household stuff.

MHW: Um. Probably very traditional. Um, I think you could summarize by mom was responsibility for what was inside and I am responsible for what was outside. With the exception of interior decorating and tidiness.

MLW: Is that your role?
MHW: Yes. But you know I think mom likes to cook, so she cooks. I like to garden, so I take care of the outside. I like to you know fix stuff, and you know be the little handyman, so I do that, mom really doesn’t. So, yeah. Pretty inside/outside labor division I think.

MLW: How did your parenting change between Patrick and me?

MHW: Um... I don’t think our parenting changed; I think you two were totally different. You know, Patrick, Patrick you know gross generalization is, Patrick is Mr. Manana. And you are very organized and forward thinking. So Patrick needed a little more encouragement and organization. And you needed a little less stress.

MLW: What were the most rewarding aspects of parenting? Do you remember a certain age that was the most rewarding? Or anything like that?

MHW: Ummm. You know, I mean there’s all kinds of things that were fun and rewarding you know along the line. And of course they changed. You know, it was, its hard to say what the “most” rewarding. Um, I think I think you could say, if somebody was to say “what was the most rewarding” and you had to say what it was, I think the fact um you know both of you, you know went to really good colleges, both of you are gonna be four year athletes, and involved in your schools. And there’s a very small group of people that can say they did that. And the fact that both of you guys are gonna do, I think is very, that’s very rewarding.

MLW: Was there a very difficult part of parenting? Or ages?

MHW: Umm. I mean, not really. I mean you guys were both very good. I mean, everyone had their moments, but there was really not a “bad” age or I don’t think.

MLW: Did parenting change you as a person?

MHW: Um, I guess maybe maybe it made me a little more patient – that’s not my best trait. Um but you know, maybe a little more understanding. um, so maybe those two things.

MLW: Did it change mom?

MHW: Um. I don’t know. I mean parenting has to change people, but I don’t know if you can say what it does.

MLW: How did your experience as a child growing up effect the way you parented? Um, did your parents do any specific things or did not do anything that you tried to do or not do with us?

MLW: Um no. I think we tried to do, well I tried to do a lot of the same stuff mom and dad did with me. Um, you know we took trips, we went camping, they were
involved with my sports and athletics. So yeah, I think, a lot of the stuff that my mom and dad did I wanted to do with you guys.

**MLW:** Do you think that your relationship with Patrick and I is similar from the relationship that we have with mom?

**MHW:** Um, I hope so.

**MLW:** Why do you hope so?

**MHW:** Well, I hope that you guys can you know call me and talk to me just like how you call mom and talk to her. And if you need advice or help, you know you can call or talk to either one of us and we’ll do everything we can do to help ya.

**MLW:** How do you feel about the kind of dad you have been?

**MHW:** Um, I think I have done a pretty good job.

**MLW:** What about the kind of mom that mom has been?

**MHW:** Um I think mom has been a fantastic mother.

**MLW:** What kinds of sacrifices have you made as a parent? Within your work life or your social life, or anything?

**MHW:** Well, um. You know I think that... I mean probably instead of doing stuff just for me – like playing golf or playing tennis or doing something like that – we were spending it with you guys. Um, usually at swim meets for weekends. So, you know that’s just what we chose to do. And uh, if we had to choose it over again we would choose the same thing. So basically time. I mean, people that don’t have kids um have an awful lot more time to do whatever they want to do as opposed to doing what the kids want to do.

**MLW:** Would you do anything differently if you could go back and do it again?

**MHW:** Umm.. No I don’t think so. I don’t think, I mean each – you know medical school was great, we loved being in New Hampshire, I loved the Air Force, um you know I think each place we’ve lived, each job I’ve had, has been fun. Um I think this most recent move has been harder, much harder, than for anybody else. Um, because you guys were gone and the easiest way you know we met other people was through swimming and through school. And with you guys not doing that here, it was harder for mom. But now she’s landed in a good spot. No, I think each time we’ve made a decision it has seemed to work out.

**MLW:** Um, if you could give me any advice on parenting what would it be?
MHW: Um what would it be. I would say, let your kids pick what they want to do. Um and then support them um, to do it. But don’t be pushy.

MLW: As far as when Patrick and I were little how was it decided what sorts of activities we were involved with?

MHW: Well we definitely did not encourage swimming. We would basically let you guys pick whatever you kinda wanted to do. I have no idea how you picked dance, um so I don’t remember how that started. You know Patrick, you know, did the usual, I mean he tried lots of sports – baseball, basketball, soccer – you had to play soccer so you could get a trophy. Patrick tried roller hockey I think. He was always very good at skateboarding and biking. And then I think you guys got into Tae Kwon Do because some of your friends started doing it, um, and then you guys got into, I think you both got into music because you had to, I think you had to take a music class – which is how you got involved with the flute and Patrick with the trumpet. And then, um, swimming started you know you did the summer swim club in Winston Salem and then you did the same thing when we moved to Dallas, but you both found a swim coach that you liked and you really didn’t like the Tae Kwon Do place you were going to, so that’s how you guys kind of ended up swimming. So that’s how, that’s how it got decided.

MLW: Did you ever hope that Patrick would swim in college, since you and Papa both swam in college? Well you both played water polo too.

MHW: Um, you know, I didn’t really care. I knew too many people who started swimming when they were little and then quit. So I was very kinda anti-swimming when you guys were little because so many kids quit. And I didn’t really, you know, care what you guys did in college. You both had talent and you both liked it, um, so yeah I think it’s very cool that you both swam in college but we never went into this thinking okay they gotta both end up swimming in college.

MLW: When you were growing up, did you live in the same house your whole life?

MHW: Um no, we moved once.

MLW: Within California?

MHW: Yep, we moved a mile. I think it might have been two miles.

MLW: Do you see a difference in Patrick’s and my kinda growing up moving around compared to that of yours when you were in the same place the whole time?

MHW: Um. Well I mean clearly its different, yeah especially when I moved we moved a mile or two. But I think, you know, now, if I kinda think about my friends, and the people that mom and I are still friendly with – most of them are from either
college or medical school or the places we've been. Um, very few are from high school and growing up. Like for me, I don’t think really any.

**MLW:** When mom was pregnant with Patrick did you read any parenting books?

**MHW:** Um did we read any parenting books? I think we did – um but I could not begin to tell you what they were. Yeah probably mom read more than I did because I think I was studying cardiac anesthesia then.

**MLW:** Do you think your being a doctor more or less worried when Patrick and I were babies or when we were sick when we were younger?

**MHW:** Um, it made me more worried while mom was pregnant. Because all I could think of were all the things that could go wrong.

**MLW:** Umm... okay that's all of them!

**MHW:** That was easy!

**MLW:** Yeah? Too easy?

**MHW:** No they were good questions!

**MLW:** You had good answers, I like hearing them.