



1. What TV shows are you watching at the moment?

I watch a lot of Scooby Doo. I watch a lot of Good Luck Charlie. Game of Thrones. Every summer, my little sister gets me addicted to another reality show. I do watch whatever sports I can get away with before my daughter makes me change the channel. I'm looking forward to watching all five seasons of Breaking Bad in one weekend... don't talk to me the next Monday.

2. What was your first or favorite pet?

We had a cat, named Fred, growing up.

My daughter had a list of demands upon moving to Las Vegas, so I think a cute dog is in our future. She's a tough negotiator.

3. What are your hobbies?

I read mystery novels at a great rate. I'm a pretty serious sports fan. I play fantasy football. I enjoy playing squash and racquetball. And my family and I love to travel.

4. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I grew up in D.C., so politics always grabbed me. My parents were both in the policy world, so that was where I thought I'd end up. It was only when I taught high school that I realized that teaching was so fulfilling, and the academic side interested me. I wanted to be able to write.

5. What extracurricular activities did you participate in during high school?

I played on the basketball team. I was active in student government and eventually became student body president. I also did a lot of plays.

6. Where is the most interesting place you've visited?

I climbed to the top of Mount Rainier. That was interesting mostly because I survived.

I was fascinated when I went to Nairobi, Kenya. I was also fascinated by Buenos Aires.

In terms of go-to places, you can't beat London. You can go again and again, and there's always something different.

7. What college subject did you enjoy the most/least?

I enjoyed history the most. I took a statistics course that haunts me to this day.

8. What is your favorite vacation spot?

My extended family goes to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in the summer, and we've been doing that since I was a little kid. It's nice now to bring our kids. It's multi-generational... mom, siblings, kids, all together.

I've also immediately fallen in love with Lake Tahoe. It's very special.

9. Name a food most people don't like that you do, and a food most people like that you don't.

I've always loved liver and onions, even as a kid.

I don't eat cooked fruit. I don't do apple pie, cherry pie, or blueberry muffins. What I can handle is when the fruit is not identifiable. If it's part of the mixture, fine.

10. What is your fondest memory of your daughter?

When she's nice to other kids when she doesn't know we're watching. That's very gratifying. It's very heartwarming.

11. What is the toughest obstacle you've overcome?

Writing a dissertation was both fulfilling and daunting. It's the isolation of doing academic work... to see it through wasn't always easy.

12. What is your favorite Las Vegas restaurant so far?

Harrie's Bagelmania at Swenson and Twain. I'm a regular. They have fantastic bagels. They're low-key. Rachel's inside the Ogden is another favorite.

13. What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the Las Vegas Valley?

How much culture there is. How much music and theater there is. The Smith Center is a revelation; it's a great addition which brings cultural life to Vegas. That is very important to my wife and me. It's a great part of the city. Downtown, I've been reading

about it a long time, but to see what's going on down there is really exciting.

14. What is a hidden skill you have?

I can juggle. As a kid, I took to it. Also, I give the world's best directions. I pick up the lay of the land very quickly.

15. What is your funniest pet peeve?

I can navigate the cream and milk station at Starbucks with incredible efficiency and skill. It makes me crazy when someone doesn't move efficiently at Starbucks.

16. How many siblings do you have?

I have a twin sister who has three boys in Washington, D.C. Also, I have a little sister who's living outside San Francisco.

17. Has anyone else in your family pursued a career in history or law?

My mother went to law school at age 60 after a career at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She and I were sworn in to the Maryland Bar together. I went back to be formally sworn in with her.

18. What song is currently playing on your iPod?

Badlands by Bruce Springsteen. A lot of Springsteen in there.

19. Do you have any phobias?

Other than cooked fruit? I have an uneasy relationship with bugs.

20. How many languages do you speak?

One and a half. French is the half.

My wife speaks fluent Italian, like a native, and she quickly became a better French speaker than I am. She's great with languages.