

Jennifer, thanks for taking time to catch up with Experience!

#### When did you get the bug to become a reporter and journalist?

I don't remember one particular "aha" moment – I always just assumed I would at least try to make it as a television journalist. Watching the evening news and reading the daily newspapers were an important part of my family life. My parents were very engaged in what was going on, and that interest was fostered in me at an early age. Actually, when I was a teenager, my plan was to become a foreign correspondent. Covering stories around the globe seemed so exciting and glamorous.

#### Were you inspired by any particular journalists?

Certainly. I saw female journalists such as Leslie Stahl, Judy Woodruff and Barbara Walters working on major stories, and I wanted to be just like them. Today, I feel indebted to these women for blazing the trail for my generation.

### Were there any moments early in your career when you thought "this is absolutely what I want to do!"?

After college and a brief internship at CNN, I took off for the West Coast and landed an entry-level job at a television station that was a CBS affiliate. I was working there when the Loma Prieta earthquake hit the San Francisco Bay Area in 1989. That night, I worked around the clock helping the news team gather information and get it out to the public. I remember walking home from the newsroom the morning after the quake, to find people throughout the city sitting outside their buildings – afraid to go inside – glued to battery-powered TVs, watching the coverage I helped bring them. There was no going back for me. I knew I had discovered my career.

### Maine Watch covers so much ground – literally and figuratively – in Maine, how do you decide what to cover?

When I first joined MPBN and started working on **Maine Watch**, my first thought was "we produce a lot of programs... what will I do if I run out of topics?" I laugh now about that worry. The problem is not finding the topics, but rather, finding the time to cover all of them.

# While you have given the viewers of Maine Watch some extraordinary stories and great insights into life and issues in Maine, what is your chief take-a-way from the show?

The state of Maine and its people are fascinating. I've been all over the state – from the Crown of Maine to Cobscook Bay to Southern Maine – and it's such a privilege to get to know so much of Maine. I happen to work with a great team on **Maine Watch** so that has made my experiences that much better.

## Ever think about becoming that foreign correspondent that you had envisioned years ago?

I'm exactly where I want to be and doing what I want to do.