

Glykeria Martou

Interviewee: Glykeria Martou, Kingston, November 12th 2017, Duration: 20:41			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_MARTOU_G_20171112A_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:34	Born	Irakleitsa, Kavala	Glykeria was born in Kavala in 1976. She was raised in a village called Irakleitsa and lived there until high school
1:15	1994	Canada	Glykeria moves in Canada for the first time in 1994
1:25			Glykeria has a younger brother named Nikos. Irakleitsa is a small village next to the sea. Irakleitsa is 15 minutes' drive from the city of Kavala
2:10			Her family was living with her father's parents. Glykeria's grandparents from her mother's side lived in another village, Vlasti, Kozanis. They visited this village every 15th of August. There was a celebration during that time every summer. She had a typical childhood.
2:53			Glykeria's father owned a business that made feta cheese. The business is called Feta Paggaios. Paggaios is a mountain close to the village.
3:10			Nowadays her brother owns the business.
3:30			Her brother is married and a father of two children. Her mother passed away.
4:00			Glykeria had to commute with a bus to get to the school and to other activities.
4:19			She had daily contact with her grandparents as she lived in the same house on the ground level apartment.
5:00			Big family. Her parents have lots of siblings and Glykeria has many cousins. She still stays very close to her family. The families used to get together on every name-day celebration, every Christmas and every Easter.
5:45			Glykeria graduated from high school in 1993. She wanted to be a doctor. Her mother's brother moved to Canada in 1973 and he suggested that Glykeria attend a Canadian university to study medicine.
6:30			She pursued bachelor studies in Waterloo university in Biology
6:50			There was a lot of discouragement for Glykeria to study medicine. However, she was very dedicated to what she wanted to do.

7:30			During high school she accidentally watched a documentary on plastic surgery and that was when she decided to study medicine.
7:43			She had exams in Greece and she had two choices. Either to retake exams or to study in Canada.
8:20			At the beginning she stayed in her uncle's place. Her aunt had a big Cypriot family in Waterloo so Glyka felt like being in a big family again. She finished her bachelor, concluded her graduate studies and then got into the medical school.
8:50			She met a Cypriot plastic surgeon who became her mentor.
9:02			She got into operation room very early. She enjoyed the surgery part of medicine the most. She could use her hands to actually do something.
9:20			Glykeria finished medical school, worked as research assistant and then she started her residency in plastic surgery at University of Toronto.
10:17			When she started her residency, she was satisfied. She could treat people.
11:15			University of Toronto provides a high-quality education in the field of plastic surgery. She gained a lot of experience during her residency.
12:10			Glykeria feels grateful for how things turned out in her life. She is thankful to her parents, her uncles and God.
12:36			One of the things that made Glykeria decide to be a doctor was that she wanted to help and have an impact on other people's lives.
13:35			Someone needs to be passionate to become a doctor.
14:00			Glykeria finished her residency in 2011. She was married with two children and decided to move to Greece. Unfortunately, Greece struggled with their financial crisis.
14:40			Glykeria's group in Toronto invited her to work for two 1-year contracts in the hospital to cover some maternity leaves.
15:00			She and her husband decided to move permanently to Canada as the situation in Greece was not getting any better. While she was working in Sunnybrook there was an opening in the Kingston hospital. It was a great career opportunity.
15:58			At first she didn't know anything about Kingston or their Greek community but she quickly learned about it. By the time Glykeria moved to Kingston she was involved with the Greek community. She met Greek people in the church and was warmly welcomed by the Greek community.
16:10			Glykeria considers it very crucial to be in a place where there is a community with the same culture.

16:42			Her husband will move and live with them permanently soon.
17:12			Life in Kingston is very nice. Glykeria's priority was to be in an environment that she could work as a doctor and create something. She leads a team for breast reconstruction.
17:57			Breast reconstruction is part of breast cancer therapy. This requires a specialized team and equipment. Kingston hospitals' cover a population of 600 000 people and didn't have this team before Glykeria joined the hospital
18:50			The initiative has been widely supported by the hospital, by cancer care Ontario and the local community
19:10			She works on breast reconstruction for breast damage caused by any cancer type
19:44			Glykeria always thought that Canada was a great chance for her to realize her dreams

\*Translators note: Glykeria is also called Glyka