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Ximena Chrisagis interview for a Wright State University History Course

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where were you born?
2. What do you remember about your childhood?
3. What activities did you enjoy as a child? sports, reading etc...
4. What activities were not so much fun?
5. What were your high school years like? Where did you attend high school?
6. What kinds of cultural and social events did you engage in?
7. Describe the cultural make up (environment) of the community you lived in?
8. When did you decide to leave home, community?
9. What influenced your decision?
10. Where are you now in terms of what you aspired to do in life?

Lucy R. Jones

February 28, 2003

Xemina Chrisagis

Xemina Chrisagis reveals that although she was born with a disability, she did not let her physical condition interfere her desire to live life to her full capacity. Her story tell how important loving and supportive parents gave her the confidence to overcome her disabilities and pursue a full and sustaining life.

L.F : Xemina tell me where you were born

X.C : I was born in Wheeling West Virginia at Wheeling hospital, but I never lived in Wheeling my parents lived in Ohio across the river.

L.F : What do you remember about your childhood?

X.C : Well it was, I lived in a very small town all my life it was very uneventful. I started, when I first started, I lived in a small town called Hillsville, Ohio which was had a population of around 2200 people and then later on when I was in the first or second grade, we moved to yorksville Ohio which had an even smaller population, of 1400 or so people, so it was the type of situation where most families knew each other. There knew everyone else, it was kind of close knit.

L.F : Do you think a small town has advantages, growing up in a small town?

X.C : Yes I think it does, one of the advantages it was very comfortable, every that lived there had lived there all of their lives, there were a lot of old people there they were comfortable, did not worry about a lot of crime. And that sort of thing because everybody knew everybody else, the disadvantages was there was not the type of activity that you would get in a larger area.

L.F : Yes, that was going to be my next question, do you remember what kinds of cultural events or what did people do for enjoyment or recreation?

X.C : Actually, compared to Dayton, it was really bland, there weren't many cultural events at all, and there were things that could be done but what they were known for was country and western music. But if you don't get into country and Western music there's not much things to do. One of the big things they had every year was the Jamboree in the hills and I guess people come from all over the country to go to this. But unless you like country music it is not interesting (Laugh). I guess I watched TV a lot as a kid, I didn't get involved in as many physical activities as other kids did because of my disability,

L.F : when were you aware of your disability?

X.C : Well, pretty much as soon I had any awareness at all I don't know about what age it was but obviously when you are a child in school it 's made very obvious to you whether anybody realizes it or not, and children don't even realize sometimes when they ask you or make comments to their parents, well what's wrong with her, they don't realize even they are doing it I suppose

L.F : Yes, ok, How do you think you were received, or how did your protect you from these kinds of behaviors or attitudes?

X.C : It really, they were really good about it they always encouraged me not to get concerned about things like that and because I did live in a small town and I went to grade school, in that town, and it was a Catholic school and a very group of students, I think it wasn't as hard on me as it would have been if I had been in a larger school and Not known as many of the people because the people that did get to know me a lot of them became my close friends of mine and for the most part once people got to know me it wasn't that bad. It's that people are not use to dealing with people with a disability.

L.F : Your friends got to know you as Ximena, not your disability? that didn't interfere with your relationships?

X.C : Yes, uh huh

L.F : What brought you to Dayton?

X.C : Actually it was my first shot out of library school I had applied several places trying to get an entry level position and was finding it really difficult and Wright State happened to have a Residency program for entry level library students who were from under represented groups, it turned out when I applied I mentioned that I had a physical disability and it turned out that I interviewed and got that position it was a temporary two year position then it turned out they had another position available here at the Health Science Library so I was able to apply for that position and was hired.

L.F. While we are talking about protected groups, all of the controversy surrounding Affirmative Action around the country what are your feelings about that?

X. C : Well I'm very much for in favor of Affirmative Action and I really feel like this controversy has been, . . .the reason for this controversy is the whole idea of Affirmative Action has been mis-represented and it is not preferential treatment in my view I feel that it is a reasonable way to go about hiring and admitting people to schools and I just I really don't see what is causing all of the controversy.

L.F : Do you think that the country becoming more diverse that may have a reverse attitude on, a reverse effect on people and they want to maintain status quo because the country is becoming so diverse?

X. C : Well I don't really see that I don't really see that I guess I can see why people would bring that argument into it but I really don't see that to be the case.

I don't think that trying to eliminate Affirmative Action will help protect the status quo in anyway, I'm not sure how to put it but I just don't feel like that argument would work