

Turning Points in Students' Lives

I Will Pursue My Dream...by Thi Thi (Ngoc Nguyen), Viet Nam

It was a regular dinner with my family two years ago when we were talking about jobs and some plans for the future. "I would like to change something in my life and I do not want to be an officer like others in my family after graduation," I said. I spent three months to think how to make a big change and I decided that I was going to pursue my dream in the U.S. I told my family many ideas that I had prepared before.

"What? No way," my mother said.

She was confused about everything I said. I told her my plans that I had prepared before to convince them.

In my life, both new challenges and new difficulties are my favorite habits, although sometimes I have to try a lot to overcome them. This way, I can get more experiences for myself. Moreover, I would like to live in another country to explore their culture and people because they can teach me to be more mature. It is also an opportunity to learn new knowledge related to my major in accounting. A few days later, they agreed to give me an opportunity

"I am going to register to study at a college in Eugene, Oregon, and that city is really like our hometown, such as weather and environment. In addition, it is safe and has fresh air," I said.

"How can you adapt your life when your English skills are very terrible?" my father said.

"You know me father, I am an ambitious person, and I have many opportunities ahead. I need to catch them as soon as possible to get the best life for our family. I need to do it."

"Can you tell me your plan when you study there?" my mother said.

I said "I will take some ESL classes to improve my English skills. I am going to study accounting after finishing. If I have an opportunity, I want to work in the U.S. or come back my hometown to open a company of my own."

I have worried a lot of times. Changing my life without taking care of my family is difficult for me, but it is exactly a big opportunity for my life in the future. Later on the day I shared my dream with the family, I began to prepare information and one of the most important things was interviewing to get a visa. I practiced a lot with my family and my friends. Studying in a developed country is a dream of many students in my country. It is not exactly easy to get a visa because it depends on policies of the government. Step by step, I got new visa for studying in the U.S.; it was during that time that I really wanted to be with my family. I spent much time with them to save the most meaningful moments.

I lived and studied in Eugene three months. After that, I decided to move to Colorado with my aunt, and I have lived here over a year and I seem to adapt to everything. Sometimes, I really miss my parents and want to go back my country to see them, but I have to study and save time as soon as possible. Living in the U.S. is not difficult for me now and I love to live here. I will pursue my dream until I become a professional accountant.

Architect of your own destiny...by Thai Le, Vietnam

What does "architect of your own destiny" mean? There are many difficulties and struggles that we have to deal with in our life. How we handle them is even more difficult than the difficulty we are faced with. Some people just give up. The ones who always push themselves harder to try to get through them are who I admire the most.

My family, except my mother, has followed the path of art for generations. From my grandfather to my father and my sister, they are all artists. Many people said that I should also be an artist to follow my family tradition. I used to draw very well when I was in secondary school. I got all A and A+ in my art class even if I didn't try to draw that well. Some people said that I inherited this talent from my father's genes. However, I was not interested in this artistic field so I decided to change my destiny to another field totally unrelated to art field, computer science.

Another time was when I decided to go to America to study. Every single member of my family was surprised because no one in my family ever thought about America. This country was beyond our dreams, just like heaven. No one believed that this land would exist in our life. Even I when I got accepted by the U.S. embassy, all of my relatives thought it was just a joke that I made up just for fun. I couldn't even believe that I made it when I took my first step into the U.S. I will continue to try my best in the future so that I can be able to help my family, my relatives and my friends with whatever problem they have as I promised them before I went to the U.S. I am not only living and learning for my own life, but I am also trying to be successful to help other people that I love or whoever once helped me in the past. I have a big duty ahead. I will not back down for any reason.

In conclusion, to be an "architect of your own destiny", you have to have a faith in what you are doing, no matter who else says it is not going to work. Take advice but just select what you think is going to work the best for you. Also, appreciate whoever gives you advice even if it is not useful for you, because whoever gives you advice cares about you.



Food, Food, Wonderful Food!

Chinese Cuisine...by Yao Zheng

There are many kinds of cuisine all over the world, and each food has its own style. My favorite cuisine is my country's food. --- Chinese cuisine.



China is the third largest country in size and has the largest population in the world. This large population has produced a varied system of cuisine. Chinese cuisine is mainly divided into eight types of food. The most popular are Szechuan and Cantonese cuisine.

Szechuan cuisine includes the spiciest tastes in China. The way that chefs cook it is add a crazy spicy hot pepper and pungent pepper into the food. The most famous of Szechuan cuisine is " Szechuan Hot Pot ". The strongest spicy taste attracts many foreigners who come to try the hot pot.

Cantonese cuisine is famous for its herbs. Chefs always try to put expensive herb and Chinese medicinal materials into the soup that they make. The soup cooked by chefs always comes with great nutritional value. The obvious difference in Cantonese food is that it doesn't come with stronger taste. It uses sugar, salt and msg less than other kinds of cuisine..

Other Chinese cuisine also tastes delicious. The cuisine from the south is mainly plain food or sweet food. Southern Chinese cuisine provides lots of fresh seafood which means the seafood is fresh out of the ocean because most of the southern provinces are near the ocean. The northern Chinese food is totally different. It has a stronger taste like spicy, salty. But both of them are good to try.

Favorite Foods,,, by Natasha Markarova, Russia

Everybody has his or her favorite dish. Today, there are many delicious foods in the whole world. My favorite food is Mexican and Italian, for instance Burrito and Tacos, Pizza and Pasta. My country is Russia and it is very hard to find good Mexican and Italian restaurants there. These are my favorite foods, which I will like forever: Burrito and Taco, Pasta and Pizza.

Firstly, Burritos and Tacos are both traditional Mexican food which is very popular in the US. Unfortunately, in my city there are not any Mexican restaurants. These Mexican dishes are very simple and also very yummy. If you are from Denver and you want to try the most delicious Burritos and Tacos you have to go to "Bonfire Burrito." It is my favorite place in the whole world where there is amazing Mexican Food.

Secondly, Italian Food is the most popular food in the world because everyone knows Pizza and Pasta. Also, there are not any good Italian Restaurants in my hometown. Pizza and Pasta are the first things which come to our minds when we are hungry. There are a lot of varieties of them. I do not have a favorite Pizza because every Pizza is delicious and the same with Pasta.

All in all, my opinion of Italian and Mexican food will never change. I think that people who live in these countries are so lucky. Everyone should have a favorite dish.

Medellin Gourmet Destination...by Veronica Uribe Pulido, Colombia

Medellin has not only been nicknamed the eternal spring city, now it has also won the title of the best gourmet destination in Latin America because of its innovation and frequent updates in their menu.

In this moment in Medellin, many restaurants have been opened and their owners are chefs. For this reason, the restaurants are taking more risks by offering a wide menu that combines traditional food with dishes of more innovative cousins, For example "EL CIELO" restaurant that sells molecular food and is one on the top 50 best restaurants in Latin America.

My Favorite Food...by Hugo Li Xing

My favorite food is Chinese dumplings, the pronunciation is JIAOZUO in Chinese. It is a traditional Chinese food and essential during holidays in Northern China. And it is also popular in other Chinese holidays or festivals, so it is part of the Chinese culture or tradition. I like eating dumpling not because I am from Northern China but because it is really very delicious and stand for reunion. My family usually eat dumpling when all the members of family come together. Making dumplings with my sisters is the happiest thing for me.

Chinese dumpling is one of the most important foods in the Spring Festival. Since the Spring Festival marks the first day of a brand new year, the first meal is important. People from north and south have different habits of the food, so they eat different foods on this special day. In Northern China, people usually eat dumplings. In southern China, people always eat dumpling with soup, but in Northern China we only eat dumpling with vinegar and chili sauce.

Chinese dumpling is a delicious food. You can make a variety of Chinese dumplings with different fillings. It depends on your taste and how the various ingredients are mixed together by you. Also the method of making dumplings is different from Northern China and Southern China. And we have many kinds of dumplings, I prefer the common dumpling, which has chives mixed with pork or chinses chives with eggs.

Usually if you have Chinese dumpling for dinner, you will not have to cook anything else except for some big occasions. The dumpling itself is good enough for dinner. This is one of the advantages of Chinese dumpling over other foods, though it may take longer time to make them. We always make a lot of dumplings one time and put them all in refrigerator. So if you hungry at midnight and you don't want to cook, then you can just boil some dumplings. Just 5 mins and then you can eat. It's super convenient.

Making dumplings really requires teamwork. All family members often make dumplings together. It is also a good time to share their stories with each other. I started to make dumplings when I was a kid in my family, so most Chinese like me know how to make dumplings.

Friends...by Xin Dai, China

"Rely on your parents at home, rely on your friends outside." This is an ancient Chinese saying. Friends help you connect socially, which is important for everyone and for me. In my opinion, I can lose all, but I can't lose friends. Friendship first, is my choice.

First of all, you can share your life with your friends. In fact, in my country, I have four best friends. We climb mountains, eat delicious food, shop, and we often share our lives. If I have a little bit of confusion about my kids' education, they often give me good advice.

Next, friends help lead your way through life. You never know what turning points you will have, what intersections you will come to, but your friends will lead you to walk the road in the future. For example, my friend has lived in Denver for 20 years. I told her that my daughter wants to study in America. She says, "Come on. I will help you to solve everything." So, with my children, I moved to a new country. We have a new life, and everything is new.

Soft Addiction... by Nipaporn Suttisorn, Thailand

Many people have soft addictions which involve necessary behavior like eating, shopping, and daydreaming. Soft addictions are habits that take energy and keep interminably feelings all of my life. These usually become addictions when I use them for intended purpose. It's amazing how soft addictions affect my life. I can spend time eating, shopping, and obsessively daydreaming..

First is my soft addiction toward eating. Although I want to eat healthy food and drink juice to get a boost of energy for the day, sometimes I don't care and choose junk foods because I don't have time to make healthy foods. I have to study and work after I finish class. That's why I buy a burger, French fries, and drink soda. It is not good for my body. The junk foods make my stomach upset.

When I feel sad and bad, I want to feel comfortable quickly, so I choose to go shopping because I need to spend time feeling better. I use my money to buy things shopping, I try to control my purchases, but I can't and usually incur a large problem. Although, I still go shopping, I try not to buy items I do not need.

My soft addiction is obsessive daydreaming about traveling around the world. If I had a lot of money, I would be travelling and dreaming of seeing wildlife and collecting memories that will make me happy.

In conclusion, a lot of people should be thinking seriously about spending significant time on any activity that does not benefit them and their goals. I want to curb my soft addictions so I have time to achieve my dream of being a professional accountant..

My Favorite Teacher...by Puzakova Yelena, Kazakhstan

Teachers are important people in life of every person. A good teacher can help you not only with knowledge, but he can change your life in better way.

For example, I had great teacher in college, who had great influence ON me. His name is Yurik Karapetovich. He gave us painting classes. He works as an architect in his own company, and has designed a lot of buildings in our city. Also, he paints in his free time and organizes his personal exhibitions. He is famous in our city as an architect and painter. We were lucky, that we got the moment when he decided to share his experience with the younger generation.

Yurik Karapetovich thought everybody was talented and had a personal style of painting and vision. We had in class some people who had never tried to paint before, but thanks to our teacher, they started believing in themselves and even they drew great pictures. First, when people came to painting class, they saw other's works. After that, they saw someone who could paint better than they could, and they tried to copy their work, to paint as well as they could. Yurik Karapetovich didn't show us examples of painting. He told us that we have to do it like we feel, find our personal method. And after, when he saw how we started, he helped every person in their own style. People don't have to see one another's work's, because it develops inferiority, and if you think about other work and want to paint like that person, you will never get that level, and you will never have better painting. In other words, we have to see in ourselves the feeling and vision and express it.

He taught us not only how to paint, but he also helped us to be sure of ourselves like an architect. After his classes, we believed in ourselves, and understood what it means to be a good architect.

Roots

My roots are in Saudi Arabia. Two things I like best about my culture are the food and soccer. First, Arabic food is delicious, and it is different from all foods. Our favorite is lamb and rice. Second, we prefer to play soccer, and we strive to become the best team in soccer. Also, we had the best soccer legends, like Majed Abdullah and Yousef Al-Yhunayan. I like my country's food, and I enjoy watching our soccer team matches. In short, the food and soccer are my favorite things about Saudi Arabia. I love my roots.**by Zamal AlDossari**



My roots are in Mexico. Two things I like best about my culture are scenery and the food. First of all, every place in Mexico has beautiful views, such as the Sierra Madres, which is a major mountain range system of the North American Cordillera. The forest has beautiful landscapes and mountain bike rides can be done there. Also, Mexico has wonderful beaches with extraordinary landscapes. Mexico is a country rich in its ecosystems because here you can find everything. For example, impressive water falls, lagoons, rivers, and much, much more than you can imagine. The second thing I like about Mexico is the food. Mexico has the best meals from around the world. Their dishes are exquisite with impressive seasoning and the best of all is that everything is mostly organic and homemade. For example, tamales are made with nixtamal and delicious fillings. Another authentic dish is pozole, which is a strong soup whose base ingredient is corn and, according to the region, is added the type of meat and complementary ingredients, can be enjoyed throughout the territory. As you can see, my roots in Mexico are wonderful, but these two are my personal favorites because I consider that there is nothing more beautiful than the wonderful places of Mexico and nothing more delicious than Mexican food. **by Maritza Orozco**

My roots are in Saudi Arabia. Two things I like best about my culture are the food and the desert. First, the food is delicious. We eat lamb and camel meat. Our favorite dish is kabsah. It has rice with chicken or lamb. Also, we eat a lot of dates in desserts. Second, I love the desert. it is beautiful because you can see far away and the orange sunset. In addition, we like to go camping there, and we enjoy Arabic coffee and talk or play soccer. Also, we love to drift on the sand with our cars because it is fast and fun. In short, I love Saudi culture, especially the food and the desert. I miss my country. by Abdullah AISagour

Spring International Family Picnics at Clement Park Relays, Sack Races, and Good Food



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