

# About Me:

## A Story about a third way for Teachers College Graduates



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# Appreciation and Thank You

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- This presentation:
  - Dedicated to all professors guided and taught me about 20 years ago in The National Hualien Teachers College.
  - I greatly appreciate your efforts and time.
  - Without you, I will not be here and share my life experience with you all.
  - Thank you all, my dearest professors.



# Preview/Topics to be Covered

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- Life plan
- About me
  - A little different path
  - Academic experience
    - Introduction to American Higher Education
- How to survive
- Questions and Answers



# Life Plan

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- What's your life plan after 5, 10, 15 years
  - Life is short, but.....
  - What is your plan?
  - Why major in Educational Administration?
  - What is your dream
    - We all live in our dream
    - How to make your dream come true



# Life Plan

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- World trends
  - What will happen in the world in next ten years?
    - Do you know slides
  - Not look at what happen around you
  - Global village: Butterfly effects
  - Competition
    - How could you compete with other people
      - What is your selling point?



# About Me

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- Class of 1994
  - Elementary Education with Educational Administration concentrate
- Career
  - 1997-2000: Teacher in Elementary School
  - 2000-2008: Master & PhD in Penn State
  - 2007-Present: Assistant Professor in St Cloud State University



# About me

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- A little different from my classmates
  - Most of them have worked for 16 years
  - More than 55000 a month
  - Nine more years for retirement
  - Why
    - I just start my career in US: The second year in SCSU.
    - I need to work until 62 then I have my pension.



# About Me

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- Why I decide to go a different way
  - I have a dream: Dr. Martin Luther King
  - I want a different life
  - I like adventure
    - Sometime
    - Life is a gamble: My colleague, Ken Wong.
  - Give it a try
    - Different ways of life: Adaptation to new environment



# American Higher Education

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- Similar to Taiwan's
  - Universities and colleges
    - Private: Ivy League: UPenn, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Brown
    - State-Owned
      - Teaching focus: People's university, SCSU
      - Research focus: Penn State, U of Wisconsin, or UC systems
  - Liberal Arts Colleges
  - Tech colleges
  - Community colleges



# American Higher Education

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- A world-leading system
  - 30/45 in Academic Ranking List ( by SJTU)
    - Evaluated by winner of the Nobel Prizes, professional publication, Citation Indexes (Social sciences, Science, Arts & Humanities)
  - Socio-Demographics
    - 19.5% had attended college but no degree; 17.1% held bachelor degree; 7.4% held an associate degree; 9.9% held graduate degree.
    - Not everyone can be a college student
      - Admission process
      - Tuition fees; Financial sponsors



# American Higher Education

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- College students
  - Usually take about 18-21 credits a semester
  - Endless school works
    - My GEOG 362, 396 classes
      - Three exams, 1 final project, case study, pop presentation, field trip
  - Part time work
  - Crazy at some activities
    - Parties: Tailgate parties, Greek parties
    - Looking for partners
    - Crazy spring break
    - Crazy Friday night



# American Higher Education

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- Graduate programs
  - Master degree
    - 1-3 years
  - Doctoral degree
    - 1-5 years
- Location of program
  - East coast: Personal preferences
    - Do not need another Taipei?
    - Mid-west: Might be a good option



# American Higher Education

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- Graduate students
  - A totally different ways of life
  - A new career
    - Assistantships: Funding
  - Pushed by yourself
    - Advisor just help; You make your own decision.
  - Academic pressures
    - Publication and professional presentation



# American Higher Education: Master

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- Master students
  - Types of degree
    - MA: Master of Arts
    - MS: Master of Science
    - M of ENG: Master of Engineering
    - MBA: Master of Business Administration
  - Prepare for the next stage
    - Academic world
    - Manager position
    - Required for some specific majors: Law and Medical programs



# American Higher Education: Master

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- Admission requirements
  - A standardized test
    - GRE or GMAT
    - LAST for Law School
    - MCAT for Medical School
      - The potential performance for academic excellent
      - Serve as an important reference but not everything
  - A statement of purpose
    - State why you want to obtain the master degree
  - GPA
  - Recommendation letters:
    - Find someone to recommend you



# American Higher Education: Master

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- Admission process
  - Graduate Application Review Committee
  - Graduate School
  - Letter of admission
    - Just finish stage one
    - Stage two
      - Finish degree
      - Looking for a job: Practical Training



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Different types of degree
  - PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
  - EdD: Doctor of Education
  - JD: Juris Doctor
  - MD: Medical of Doctor
    - Not a real doctor
    - But earn more than us



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Admission process: A higher standard than MS
  - A standardized test
    - GRE
  - A statement of purpose or study plan
  - GPA
  - Master thesis
  - Recommendation letters (3 or more)



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Decide your major
  - Based on your interest, not the job market
- Two important exams
  - Candidacy exam
    - Qualified to be a doctoral candidate
  - Comprehensive exam
    - Qualified to write the dissertation



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Life in being a doctoral candidate
  - Miserable
  - Question about why I need to earn this title
  - Peer pressure
    - Publication, publication, publication
    - Presentation, presentation, presentation
    - Proposal, proposal, proposal



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- It is a very different life experience
  - Should be aware of it before you make your final decision
  - You never know your potential
  - Hang on
  - Relax yourself
    - Find your Mr. Right or Ms. Right
    - Have a baby?
      - Not bad, but you will double busy
      - Family support



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Funding issues
  - Assistantship
    - Hard to find it
    - Can not compete with people from China or India
      - They are crazy exam machine
      - Always got full credit
    - Major funding resources: A three-year contract
      - About 1200 a month
      - A prestige
      - Talk with advisor after one semester



# American Higher Education: PhD

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- Final stage
  - Comprehensive exam
  - Finish proposal
    - Proposal defense meeting
  - Writing the dissertation
    - Find some financial support
  - Dissertation defense
    - PhD or go home without any degree



# How to survive

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- Where is my career
  - Being a educator or others?
  - In Taiwan
    - Exam, Exam, Exam
    - Long line before the job bank
- In world-wide recession status
  - Where is my future
    - Blue ocean strategy
      - Not go to red ocean
      - Look at the whole world
        - » International views



# How to Survive

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- Be a person with different life plan
  - Study abroad
    - Be a world citizen
  - Not only in Taiwan
    - Aim high
  - Be a Chinese Teacher in North America
    - The rising second language
    - Use different word system
      - Simplified word and pronouncing system



# How to Survive

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- You decide
  - Your future
  - Life is a gamble
  - Nothing venture nothing gain
- I love teaching
  - I am an educator in US
  - The same job as I graduated from NHLTC.



# Summary

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- A different path
- American higher education system
  - Graduate program
- How to survive
  - How to response the current situation
  - Blue ocean
- You can make it



# Question

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- Any question or concern
- Wake up
  - Nap time is up



# Thanks Again

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- Thank you for your coming
- Contact me if you have any question
  - [hyu@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:hyu@stcloudstate.edu)

