

## Autobiography

I was born the baby of the family on August 4, 1950. I have one older sister. My older brother passed away the year before. Both of my parents have passed away. Still, I feel myself the baby of the family.

The place I was born was only about two miles from the Taiwan Strait. I remember when I was a small kid I could hear the ships blowing their horns. I later found out that they were battleships. And the harbor was where the main Taiwanese Navy base was located, which I later joined as an enlisted navy sailor and was later honorably discharged after three years' service. I still remember both when I joined



Figure 1: Picture was taken in 1974

the Navy and when I went back home the day I was discharged, I walked on foot purposefully.

I have loved the ocean always, and the three years in the Navy only strengthened my feelings toward it. Even now, I still remember the sound the crashing waves made before we could see the ocean when my brother and I took fishing trips on bicycle when we were still school kids. Now, I enjoy sailing and hope one day I will sail back to Taiwan for a visit.

My school years had been smooth until the year I got into college for the first time. I was certainly not ready for college, both academically and attitude-wise -- mostly the later. I hardly even studied. I still remember when I was in college the first time I spent most of my time playing guitar. It was no wonder that I got dropped out. That was when I joined the Navy.

Then, my attitude began to change. I began to pay respect to people around me and also pay more attention to what I should do to prepare myself for the future. I was then determined that I must go back to college. And, in order for that to happen I was determined to make the best of my own time to study. Therefore, I spent most of my free time learning English.

When I finished my military service, I passed the entrance examination and went to the most prestigious college in Taiwan, the National Taiwan University.

Being in company of the students of the most prestigious college had two folds: the classmates respected me, mostly for my being older and having the experience of serving in the military; but on the other hand, as hard as I tried, it was still hard for me to achieve the same level academically with my classmates.

My college years had been hard and struggling, and that is why today I take it as my responsibility to make sure that I can help struggling students whenever I can.

When I finished my years at the NTU and got my bachelor's degree in foreign languages and literature, I worked for two years in Taipei, the city of Taiwan. All my jobs had to do with English, and I really took the opportunities to improve it. Then I landed a job with BES (Bureau of Engineering Services) to work overseas in Saudi Arabia.

For me, that was a critical changing point of my life! For two reasons: first, I had always wanted to go overseas and could not afford to do so financially; second, my sister was not long ago married and moved to Jordan, which was next door to Saudi Arabia. I enjoyed working there and my parents were really proud of me too. For that period of time, I wrote a memoir with the title "I Remember Saudi Arabia".

Then I used the money that I saved working in Saudi Arabia to come to the United States to study. And the real challenge began.

As I mentioned before, college years were hard for me. The main reason that I could be prepared intellectually and mentally to come here to study was because, during my two assignments to work in Saudi Arabia back in Taiwan, I learned taijiquan. Taijiquan is a form of exercise that I believe can strengthen the ability to learn, in addition to other health benefits. To invite people to learn this marvelous exercise, I also wrote a booklet "Taijiquan, the martial art for the 21st century."

In July 1989, I obtained a master's degree in linguistics from the University of El Paso.

In July 1995, I obtained a bachelor's degree in computer and information science from the University of Delaware.

I joined the Impact Community at the University of Delaware, a volunteer group of students to help the needy people. Besides going out to help people from time to time, I also learned how to make balloon animals while I was with the community.

I worked as the manager of the Chinese American Community Center after I graduated from the University of Delaware for more than one year. During that time, I again strengthened my community service sense. Also, during the same time, I learned the importance of cultural activities as a means for a foreign ethnic group to achieve local recognitions. For the same reason, when I moved to Texas, I immediately started with the same pursuit.

I moved to Texas in November of 1996 and worked for 12 years for Inteplast before I early retired in November of 2008. At that time, my mother had been living with me for over seven years. I was lucky that I could spend more time with her and take care of her. She passed away on my watch early 2010, something I did not do for my father.

In January 2011, my brother passed away in Taiwan, leaving my niece and my nephew orphaned. I went back and forth between Taiwan and the United States three times and spent time in Taiwan for about 6 months. It was during this time I visited the Pescadores Archipelago which made a strong and favorite impression on me. I actually want to try if I can help the islanders achieve higher English language standard which many of them will like to do.

Then I embarked on my journey to become a teacher. And here I am, ready to serve the struggling students.



Figure 2: Which one was Mr. Ting?