

Georgian Week Presentation

Good afternoon everyone, thanks for having me here to share my ideas with all of you. My name is Peng Tang and I came from China. Right now I am a student at Automotive Business School of Canada at Georgian College. Recently I just completed my first year study and about to engage my first Co-op work term this summer.

To be honest, public speaking is not my strong suit because I am a nervous person. The reason I decided to take the chance that college gave to me to be here is not only that I want to confront my weakness. More importantly, in my opinion, international student is part of the internationalization of Georgian College, and I do have unique experience and perspective which I believe would be valuable to be shared with you.

As a mature student, before I came to Canada to pursue studies. I had a five-year career as a business manager in the automotive industry. My job involved a lot of international businesses and I have travelled and lived in several different countries. I spent a year in Africa and another two years in Latin America. During these days I was not only to do business with local people, but more importantly I positively tried to be part of local communities. I learned their languages, I tasted local food and drink, I went to visit local church, I was invited to their families, I even joined local protest march, etc. These unforgettable experiences have brought unique view and value to my life. And to some extent, have largely influenced my outlook on life. Since then, I made myself a promise that I will explore my vision of the world as much as I can.

The past experience have taught me how to survive in different environment as well. That was also the reason I could easily get used to local study and life after I landed in Canada in last

year. Because non like most of young international students here, I knew exactly why am I here and what am I supposed to do step by step. And I have made a smart move to come to Canada because this country to me is a very good place for international communication. Canada is known as a multicultural country and it has a friendly and inclusive society, it also has tons of people here from multiple countries with multiple cultural backgrounds. People respect each other and their cultures very well. I still remember impressively that the first session of international student orientation I had was about the cross-cultural awareness in Canada, I leaned basic characters of local culture over there and I still benefit from them.

For most of us, the mission of international students is to successfully complete our studies at campus. But I want to emphasize something else that campus study is only part of our studies, because we only spend a couple of hours a day at campus while all other time we spend is in the local community. We are not only students here, we are also residents. Campus life is just a part of social life. When we graduate from college, we meanwhile graduate from Canada as well.

Moreover, I believe both domestic and international students should cherish the valuable time of campus life as well. Campus is a resourceful place for us to learn and grow, classroom is also a magic place in terms of international communication. Faculty and domestic students could exchange their views and ideas with each other. International students could share their perspective and experience with domestic students and faculty as well. At Georgian we have students come across continents from Asia, Europe, Africa, North and Latin America. When we arrived in Canada, we were just like a piece of paper, with one side blank and eager to be filled with knowledge. While on the other side was full of words and colors, which we have learned and experienced in past years. Therefore, I believe every single student here has his or her unique

background and ideas. Domestic students have the chance to access the idea of cross-cultural awareness even before go to society, which comes through the communication with international students at campus.

21st century is an era of globalization, Canada is an example of multicultural country, and we are part of international communication. I hope my presentation can deliver more messages to all of you regarding the mission of internationalization in college on behalf of our international students. And I appreciate your attention. Thank you.

Peng Tang

Automotive Business School of Canada

Georgian College

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