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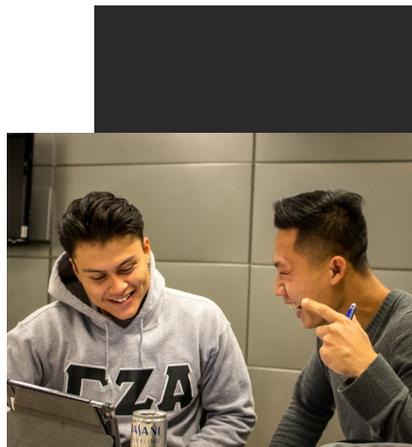
As an immigrant myself, I highly respect the hard work and sacrifice people endure when they come to the United States. There are so many fascinating stories, and not one of them are the same. I took the chance to get to know the people who I hold very close to me, and asked them to tell me their story. Enclosed are the stories of two immigrants.

ian kaufman

I was born about an hour away from Hong Kong In Guangzhou, China. I lived there until I was about four years old and moved to Shenzhen for about two years for my dad's business. Living in China, I was with family a lot. At one point, my aunt had to take care of me for a few months because my parents were always traveling for their business. My dad worked in construction but then changed to jewelry distribution. He would try to find stores and companies to sell his inventory to. When I was six years old, my grandma became a citizen in California and was able to move us to San Diego and naturalize me and my family for better education and better quality of life. Here, my dad has a small business involving converting currency and my mom doesn't work.

I went into first grade. I remember during the silent reading times, my teacher gave me a picture book and had a classmate join me since I was not able to read English. Slowly I was able to catch up and upgraded to novels. When we came to San Diego we moved in with my aunt at first. I remember my cousins were really mean to me and would bully me a lot. I guess they were going through puberty or something. My parents worked all the time as sushi chefs and didn't really have time to hang out with us.

I'm currently studying Business Administration concentrating in Accounting and Information Systems. I came to Cal Poly because none of the UC schools accepted me but I think that was most likely because of my personal statement. So I had a choice between San Diego State University and Cal Poly, so I chose Cal Poly because I didn't want to be close to my parents, but I kind of regret it now, since it's not really my kind of environment. I go to school so that I can provide for my family because they really depend on me. I also want to be rich so I can do a lot of the things I want. I'm worried about not getting an internship this summer, and about what I'm getting for dinner tonight. Also, I'm not sure if I should like this one guy, and I'm also worried about finding housing for next year. My biggest worry though is that I might not be happy in the future, and be doing something that I don't want to do and being someone that I don't want to be.



I was born in a village in Burma towards the southern border. My mom was a farmer, and my dad was in the rebel army. When I was five months old, we moved to Thailand because of the civil war in Burma. Villages were getting burned down and it was getting too close to our village. In Thailand, we lived in a rural outskirts and we built our own house. It got burned down because my mom knocked down an oil lamp while we were sleeping and the whole house burned down, so we had to build another house. From what I remember, I did a lot of outdoor things. I went shooting with my slingshot, and I went to a Thai school for a bit.

We came to the US so that I could get a better life and a better education. When you are from a different country you see the US as a golden country with opportunities. I started third grade in California when I was seven years old. It was really hard when we first got here. My mom was a farmer, and my dad was in the rebel army. When I was five months old, we moved to Thailand because of the civil war in Burma. Villages were getting burned down and it was hard when we first got here. My parents were trying to get a job and they didn't know English. It was hard to understand the system for school, and they had to fill out paperwork, which they never did before. I didn't really understand people, and I was always by myself in school. We came here through the UN, and we stayed with family and friends for a bit.

In high school, I would always make a mess. I would take toys and play with their motors. I also like nature. Recently I interned as an electrical engineer at a company contracted with the federal government. I'm really proud of my accomplishment of going to college. It's really uncommon to get this far. I wasn't expecting to make it this big one day, but everything I did from high school to now brought me to this point.

HSER