

## Future: Complicated and Simple

Everyone who ~~lives and wants to survive~~ wants to survive and prosper in this ~~booming~~ chaotic modern ~~developed~~ world needs a career. Regardless of whether our career ~~fits~~ us or not, ~~we~~, because of pressures from our friends, families, and ~~even~~ the society we, are forced to decide our ~~careers and~~ career path at the time we formally enter ~~the~~ society, which ~~for most of us is when~~ mostly is the time we graduate from college. However, as an international student from East Asia, which is frequently considered by Westerners ~~ere usually considered by some westerners~~ as “the Confucian world,” making ~~my own~~ choices for myself can at times present unusual difficulty ~~appears to become a problem~~. My life until now has been ~~is~~ full of the choices that others made for me, so I sometimes feel like I lack the ~~extremely lack the chances and~~ ability of deciding on my own. At ~~the~~ time in my life when ~~re~~ I ~~was~~ am studying a major that I ~~was~~ am not interested in and feeling great hesitation ~~ing hardship while trying to~~ decide ~~ing~~ my future, I took Grinnell’s ~~the~~ Learning from Alumni class with the goal ~~some wishes~~ of improving my ~~learning the~~ ability to make decisions on my own ~~self-decisions~~ and exploring my real dreams. After a whole semester of learning and listening to advices and experience from various ~~ss kinds of~~ Grinnell alumni ~~us~~, I learned to make a ~~more~~ specific future plans, and ~~acknowledged~~ the good parts of being who I am, along with ~~ed~~ the importance of feeling confident about my ~~having good personalities and joy during~~ career path.

~~During~~ For the first day of ~~the~~ Learning from Alumni class, I took a ~~Ceolor~~ Q ~~personality~~ test, which, according to the literature, ~~was supposed to~~ ~~should~~ tell me what kind of person I am and help me ~~to decide~~ ~~with deciding~~ my future. However, ~~after taking the~~ I felt more confused ~~after taking the test~~ because ~~my test result~~ ~~what I got as results from the test~~ was totally different from what I thought I ~~was~~ ~~am~~, and what the test suggested ~~the person with my personality should do~~ as a career was almost ~~the~~ opposite ~~of from~~ what I expected. According to the test, I ~~was~~ ~~am~~ a Gold/Green, ~~a type~~ which has ~~a~~ “grounded, realistic, and accountable” personality, ~~complementeds~~ with empathetic, humanistic, and creative characteristics (Bidou and Zichy, 2007). ~~Also,~~ I ~~was also characterized as~~ ~~am~~ an introvert, ~~a type who~~ ~~who~~ likes to ~~“get energy from their internal batteries,”~~ and ~~for whom being with other people could~~ ~~being with people~~ “sometimes could drain their energy” (Bidou and Zichy, 2007). At first, I was really surprised ~~without~~ ~~these~~ ~~se~~ results because I ~~thought~~ ~~used~~ ~~to think~~ that I should ~~have~~ ~~been~~ a Green/~~Red~~. According to my knowledge about myself ~~at that time~~, I thought I ~~was more of~~ ~~am~~ a creative and humanistic person who ~~was~~ ~~sometimes~~ ~~times would be~~ passionate and action-oriented, ~~a type~~ which fits ~~much more~~ ~~a lot~~ with the description of ~~a person with~~ Green/~~Red~~ personality ~~in the reading~~. ~~Also,~~ I ~~also~~ felt a little ashamed of being ~~classified as an~~ ~~an~~ ~~i~~ntrovert because ~~people usually correlate introvert with words like social awkwardness or loneliness~~ ~~such~~ ~~people are often thought of as lonely and socially awkward~~.

However, ~~my thinking~~ ~~things~~ changed after I heard Mr. Kispert's and Mrs.

Stuart's opinions on being an introvert. Mr. Kispert, who ~~runs~~ an international business and is considered ~~by many people as successful~~ "successful men" for most of the people, is an introvert. ~~He said in his speech that~~ ~~In his speech, he mentioned:~~ "being ~~an~~ introverted is not useless; ~~and~~ there are advantages ~~to~~ being ~~so~~. I go to a lot of big negotiations, and when ~~I am~~ sitting around the ~~conference round~~ table, I am able to sense even a tiny ~~at~~ titude change ~~in~~ from others. ~~E~~ ~~Those~~ extroverts ~~are~~ ~~les~~ ~~se~~ ~~an~~ ~~never~~ ~~ever~~ ~~be~~ able to do this, and this ~~ability~~ gives me a huge advantage." Mr. Kispert ~~thus gave~~ ~~has provided~~ me more confidence as an introvert by ~~emphasizing the~~ ~~benefit~~ ~~stating the goodness~~ of being more sensitive than others. Mrs. Stuart ~~has~~ also suggested ~~an advantage~~ ~~good part~~ of being an introvert by mentioning that "we are not unwilling to talk; we ~~are~~ ~~just~~ ~~more~~ prefer ~~more~~ ~~red~~ to listen to others and give them our advices." By characterizing introverts as "good listeners, Mrs. Stuart ~~has~~ provided me ~~with~~ more self-assurance ~~regarding my~~ ~~of~~ ~~normally~~ being a little more quiet than others.

~~Furthermore, a~~ ~~Also,~~ after learning more about ~~different~~ career ~~paths~~ and their relationship with ~~the color test's outcomes~~ ~~people's color characteristics~~, I noticed that the ~~C~~olor Q results ~~we~~ are not comprehensive. ~~As Shoya Zichy mentions in her work,~~ "They do not say anything about intelligence, mental health, education, maturity, stress level..." ~~as Shoya Zichy mentions in her work~~ (Zichy, 2000). ~~Also, I also~~ noticed that although in the ~~W~~estern world, the idea of "being an extrovert is preferred," ~~has deepened in westerner's mind,~~ in my country, ~~with its~~ ~~where,~~ ~~due to~~

Confucian cultural background and emphasis on the moral value of quiet femininity thoughts, believe in the morality of being an quiet and introverted female is, being an introvert is likely not considered odd at all (Zichy, 2000). Therefore, I really appreciate having had the chance to take the Learning from Alumni class because without taking the class, listening to the many speeches, and reading the many pieces of work, it I would not have learned that never know that there are many advantages to being an introvert rather than an extrovert. It taught me that as an introvert, I can still succeed, and as an introvert I could also succeed

批注 [PC1]: Some might say that "the morality of being a quiet and introverted female" is actually damaging to women. How can women stand up for themselves or fight against things they think are wrong if they are expected to be quiet? This is, as you note, a primarily Western critique, but it's something to think about.

Moreover, I used to be really lost in the class also helped me to determine respect to my future. However, from the class and the many pieces of advice I received from the alumnis, I learned some new ways of thinking of my future. I learned that a good career that fits me the best should be a combination of my interests, personality, and expertise. In other words, I learned that I should be concerned with about who I am, what I am good at, and what I am interested in during the process of choosing and deciding my career path. I Also, from the class, in combination with these idease "what makes a good career idea", I began to write up a career plan using some other suggestions I received from I got more opinions about my own future path after a Grinnell College biology major graduate from Grinnell College with biology major, and I had more things wrote up in my plan during my Grinnell years.

First, I decided to take ~~a sip of the business area~~ a look at the business world. After listening to many of the speakers, I chose to ~~investigate~~ take a look at some MBA schools after graduation and take an internship at an insurance company in China. Since ~~the time I was young~~ from I was young, due to the ~~many~~ respects and honor givens to people working within the medical discipline, I thought of becoming a doctor in ~~the~~ my future. However, after I entered college and took more and more science courses, I realized that medicine ~~isn't~~ might not be the right choice for me ~~my right choice~~. Thus, I ~~felt~~ was lost. I ~~entered~~ went in to a stage of my life where I was not sure about ~~ever~~ anything – I was not certain about ~~not knowing~~ my future plan, about ~~not knowing~~ my interests, not even ~~and not knowing the~~ ways of making decisions. However, taking the Learning from Alumni class became a turning point for me in this regard. A couple of alumni ~~us~~, such as Mr. Dunn and Mr. Kispert, ~~have~~ mentioned ~~about~~ getting MBA degrees in their life; It was ~~and~~ Mr. Brian Dunn's experience that had particularly enlightened me ~~me the most~~. Mr. Dunn graduated from Grinnell with a science degree, with some notices about the hardship of ~~but felt many of the same difficulties I did while~~ learning science, ~~which is similar to my situation, and~~ He switched his focus to business and went to an MBA program after graduation. Mr. Dunn's personal story resonated ~~me~~ with me because everyone in my family is involved ~~doing~~ business and I, because of the constraint of my science major's ~~constraint~~, usually did not dare to think anything about pursuing business as a career path. Nevertheless, Mr. Dunn's story and his mention ~~of~~ about the easiness of MBA after taking sciences at Grinnell encouraged me to take the step. Thus, after the

批注 [PC2]: Is something being "easy" really a good reason for doing it?

class, I sent out my application for a ~~summern~~ internship at an insurance company in China, ~~whereand~~ I ~~will be helping to~~~~ould be~~ ~~trying to~~ advertise some of their ~~economic~~ products ~~of the company this summer~~. I really appreciate the class because without having the chance to hear the ~~story of~~ science major alumnus's ~~story of~~ switching ~~to~~ a ~~run large~~ business ~~career path~~, I would not have ~~had~~ the courage ~~to~~ ~~of~~ ~~decide~~ing to try ~~any~~ business-related internship this coming summer.

~~Second, a~~Second, after hearing many of the ~~presentations~~speeches from the class, I ~~also~~ decided to try ~~things and~~ thinking of my career from the most basic level, ~~which was an approach suggested by several of the speakers, because I learned that everyone starts from the basic level. Perhaps~~ Maybe because of the cultural difference between China and America, I used to think ~~beyond what was reasonable for me~~higher than my ability. For example, because I am the only child in my family, I always put much pressure on myself ~~and think that I have~~ to become ~~really~~ successful in the future. ~~Also,~~ I ~~also~~ used to think that if I were not successful enough ~~in the future~~, then other people would judge my family ~~in a negative way~~low. However, ~~the~~ many of the speakers from the class ~~this semester had~~ provided me ~~with some~~ new sights on looking at this ~~problem~~issue. I learned that even ~~the~~ successful people have ~~tried and~~ started from the most basic ~~point~~. Yanjun Chen, ~~a~~ Grinnell alumna who graduated a year ago, is currently working for Morning Star as a product consultant. She ~~has begun her working life at the entry~~is ~~trying at the basic~~ level and she appreciates the many social and working experiences that her current job has brought

~~to~~ her. ~~Also,~~ since we are both Chinese students at Grinnell~~from the same country~~, I have known Yanjun for a while, and during her speech. ~~s~~She struck me as quitereally different from ~~when she came back to give the speech this semester than~~ ~~the time~~when she first graduated from Grinnell. I attribute Yanjun's~~the~~ changes happened on Yanjun to her job. It was her job as a basic consultant that changed her and allowed her to become more socially mature and diplomatic. ~~W~~~~Also,~~ when I asked her for her suggestion on my own future ~~personally~~, she was able to give me some extremely practical ideas, such as, “knowing who I want to become and taking into account my previous likes and dislikes ~~when~~what I like in ~~previous~~ ~~of~~ deciding my future career path.” Moreover, Mr. Aldo Fusaro, who graduated as a~~with~~ biology major from Grinnell, worked as an entry-level ~~basic~~ part-time electron microscopy technician before he began~~went up to~~ his medical school journey. Like my friend Yanjun, Mr. Fusaro ~~He also~~ at the end appreciated the experience he earned during his “basic” time and acknowledged the value of spending years of working as a ~~basic~~ technician. Therefore, from the experiences and stories of the Grinnell alumnus, I learned that trying from ~~at~~the basic level is more valuable than immediately seeking out~~prospecting~~ higher level positions~~plaees~~ because the precious experience people will get from even simple jobs~~the basic level working experience~~ is unique and helpful for ~~people's~~ future success.

Third, although I have decided to try taking a step into the business world and working up ~~to things~~ from the most basic level, I realized that I still need to try and

explore ~~new~~more things. This is because during the journey of exploring diverse new things, I might find some new interests that I had previously not been aware of~~ve~~ never known about. For example, Mr. Brian Mann, who is currently a really successful agent for many famous celebrities~~idols~~, graduated from Grinnell simply with a degree~~major~~ in theatre, and not knowing anything about being an agent at the time he graduated. Also, ~~he~~ found out that being an agent was actually the job he enjoyed most ~~after he became an agent only after he became an agent~~. Thus, Mr. Brian Mann's story has really enlightened me because from his story I noticed that not knowing exactly what job ~~am~~ I am interested in is not necessarily bad ~~fearful~~, and that the main thing that I should worry about is that I am not trying enough things. Also ~~another~~ example of this would be a quote that ~~mentioned in the~~ Future Perfect.:

*"The peer-progressive response differs from both these approaches. Instead of turning a blind eye to market failures, it assumes that these problems are widespread, and actively seeks them out as the central focus of its agenda. Instead of building a large government agency to combat the problem, it tries to build a peer network around it, a system of dense, diverse, and decentralized exchange...in effect, they create Hayek-compatible solutions in the blank spots that the market has overlooked",*

The quote states that the solutions and ideas that people usually think could solve a problem might not always be the best solution, which just ~~assimilar to~~ the approaches that people usually use when facing market failures in the above quote (Johnson, 2012). However, sometimes turning insights into some new approach~~spect~~, which ~~just~~ as the peer-progressive idea suggests, could help people figure~~ing~~ out better solutions

for a problem. The quote therefore illustrates an example of how looking at a problem from a new perspective could help people to find the blank spots that they used to overlook and obtain better solutions for a problem. The situation that the quote puts forth states is just like my situation now. I am not trying enough things, instead only and thinking of going following where my biology major, Biology, in which I am not interested, will lead me into, will lead me. The quote reminds me to try broader range of things, because who knows whether there will be “better solutions” for the “career problem” that I am facing right now in only one field of inquiry. I have said “no” to many opportunities because I thought that they did not seem fit me. From now on, I would be willing to take as many opportunities as I can because who knows whether or not it’s uncertain whether there will be a job I enjoy within the limits of my present situation opportunities. From this Also, I learned that it is always true that as you widen the field of your possible your sight into more choices, you are more likely to find the one that better fits your interest.

批注 [PC3]: This quote and analysis is very difficult to follow. Its connection to your point seems tenuous at best.

After being in the Learning from Alumni class for one semester, I not only learned ways of how to better think about and plan for my future and plan my future more specifically as mentioned above, but also learned valuable things that go beyond the simple concept of a “career besides the word “career”.” More specifically, I learned the importance of personality, which matters in all categories in my future path and will help me to achieve approach my success.

Having a good ~~ppersonality~~ies, ~~including honesty and devotion~~and in particular ~~being honest~~, is important with respect ~~ofto~~ achieving success. Many of the speakers who came to the class have somewhat mentioned the importance of a person's personality during their career~~s~~paths. For example, Mr. Brian Mann, ~~the~~a successful ~~idol~~ agent, ~~had~~stated ~~that~~: "being nice and being honest are the two things that have helped me the most in my whole career. They matters~~...~~" Because ~~of his~~of ~~being~~ honesty, Mr. Mann has ~~made~~had his life much easier. He did not need to ~~complicate his situation by telling~~take the hardship of keep making lies to ~~cover up for~~compensate previous lies. He also ~~was~~ere ~~being~~ more trusted by other people, which ~~had~~had made his job as an agent much easier. From Mr. ~~Brian~~Mann's experience, I learned that being dishonesty and ~~telling~~making lies would not make things easier~~;~~; ~~instead, whereas~~ it ~~will~~destroys others' trust ~~ion~~ you and therefore makes things harder.

Moreover, ~~one's~~ level of engagement as a team member, or, in other words, ~~one's~~people's intrinsic devotion to ~~their~~their job is another valuable personality ~~trait~~ that matters much in ~~people's~~life. As Mrs. Asha Morgan ~~has~~mentioned in class, "I, as an interviewer, mostly look for engagement..."; Mrs. Asha Morgan implied that she usually makes the decision on accepting or denying an applicant by assessing the level of engagement that the interviewee would be willing to devote to her company~~;~~. ~~This emphasis~~which shows the importance of devotion in a company leader's mind. Thus, both honesty and devotion to ~~one's job~~ the job people are working on are the

two personality ~~traits~~ that I learned to be ~~truly~~ important ~~to~~ career path from the class.

Lastly and most importantly, I learned the importance of doing a career of ~~my~~ interest ~~to me~~ because I noticed the significance of ~~being~~ enjoyment within my future career. The book *Drive* by Daniel Pink has provided a great example that shows the importance of intrinsic joy towards tasks. The book describes that a group of monkeys was isolated in a cage with a puzzle, and, without any ~~external~~ rewards, ~~the monkeys naturally and daily~~ solved the puzzle ~~each day~~. According to the book, the reason for ~~this~~ “odd” behaviors of the monkeys was the ~~puzzle's~~ “intrinsic rewards”. As in the book, “the performance of the task”, he said, “provided intrinsic reward.” The monkeys solved the puzzles simply because they found it gratifying to solve puzzles. They enjoyed it. The joy of the task was its own reward, ~~and~~ it was ~~such~~ “intrinsic joy” that drove the monkeys to ~~daily~~ perform the task ~~each day~~ (Pink, 2009). Also, Mr. Brian Dunn ~~has had~~ switched to a business ~~focus~~ area from his ~~original~~ major, ~~Chemistry~~, because he enjoyed being ~~in~~ ~~with~~ business ~~setting~~. Therefore, after a semester of learning ~~knowledge~~ about careers, I noticed the importance of enjoyment when being in a career. I further decided to try my best ~~to~~ figure out my ~~own~~ interests, and once I ~~determined these~~ ~~know my~~ interests I would try even harder ~~to~~ working within ~~this chosen my interested~~ discipline. ~~This is~~ because I learned, from our class, that without joy, the intrinsic reward, I would ~~be~~ lack ~~the essential of~~ inner motivation ~~during~~ the long journey of my career.

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In conclusion, I learned many valuable things that I would never know if I ~~had~~ not taken the course. From the many alumni's stories, I became more confident in being who I am and noticed the advantages of being a Gold/Green Introvert. From the many pieces of advice I received from alumni ~~alumni's advices~~, I obtained a more specific future plan, and from their ~~many alumni's~~ personal experiences, I ~~learned~~ acquired the importance of being honest and devoted during a career, ~~path~~ and the worth of having a career of real interest to me. During my time in ~~Traveling through~~ the course, I obtained a clearer picture of my future, the future I ~~want~~ for the rest of my life. Likewise, thanks to the many speakers and their precious personal stories, I became less fearful and more confident about ~~on~~ my future career path. It is just like a Chinese old saying: "the ten more people you listen to, the one less mile you need to travel." I have now already listened to more than ten alumni, and thereby believe that my journey will be less bestrewed with thorns.

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