

Isabella Wang

Peek Into Your Past

This is a cherished photograph of my grandfather becoming a professor. Hearing stories about my grandfather, I learned that he grew up in Taiwan wanting to become a doctor. When time came to study for the test to get into school, he got sick, lost his kidney, and did not get into Medical School. Rather than giving up his dreams, he decided to become a science teacher. Later, he continued his education across the Pacific Ocean, ending up in Kansas to pursue his Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD). The picture I am sharing is the end of a long road with my grandfather graduating.

Hard decisions came after that. My grandfather had to decide whether to stay in the United States or return to Taiwan, as his dad wanted. Luckily, his aunt pointed out the great opportunity he had. This photo is important to my family history because it was a pivotal moment in my grandfather's life, and my life too. A different decision at that time, and I might have been living in Taiwan.

My grandfather wanted to be a doctor to help people, but became a Professor. I hope to be similarly helpful to others. If classmates need assistance reading, I offer encouragement. When a special needs student gets frustrated, I help problem-solve their emotions. At dance, when someone forgets a part, I gently remind them. Where as my grandfather helped many, I help one at a time. I hope to help more in the future.

The most valuable information I learned from this photo is that there are important stories in simple pictures. So much happened in a black and seemingly simple, black and white graduation picture. So many



dreams and opportunities are in those memories that connect with my own life.