

Graduate Diversity Statement

Ever since I lost half of my middle finger on my right hand from a blender, I was used to trying hard for some things. I had difficulty learning how to use chopsticks not only because it was my first time, but also because my middle finger was too short to hold them properly. When I wanted to write using pencils, I had a hard time holding pencils in right shape. Every time I learned to do things, my middle finger had to suffer from blisters.

Although some of my friends and families took pity on me, I tried to think of it as a play. After fingertip surgery, a transparent rubbery thing, which I assume is nail, grew from time to time through my fingertip. I usually made it soft by soaking it in hot water and cut it out so that it would not grow too long. I liked touching it because it felt like a jelly. Also, the more I practiced using pencils and chopsticks, the fingertip became smoother and rounder, and I liked that it looked better. As I constantly tried to enjoy the situation, I eventually came to enjoy it.

I had an opportunity to recover my finger when I was in elementary school. Although the severed finger was already untraceable in the blender, the doctor told me at the time that I should come back after I grow up and see what I could do. So I went back, and he asked me if I want to transplant one of my toes onto my middle finger. He said there would be no significant problem from transplanting although the sense of balance could be weakened. I refused.

I have never regretted not transplanting my toes. From very young, my shortened finger inspired me to try harder at everything and think positively. Even though it took some time and pain, I learned how to play piano and guitar, write cleanly, and be confident in myself no matter what. I like seeing myself trying hard at things I cannot do well and my positivity allows me to enjoy whatever I do. I am thankful for having this and my other fingers together to constantly inspire myself.

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