



## As we have learned in the past 30 years from our life experiences, things don't happen if we don't make it a priority.

So on this sunny Memorial Day weekend, in between BBQ parties and the never-ending homework, I made it a priority to fulfill my promise and jot down a few thoughts that come into my mind – i.e. whatever left from the health-harming but delicious BBQs and the self-inflicted insanity of burning the midnight oil.

So many people have asked: “Why did you do it? Are you insane?”

“This is a good question,” as many of my professors would say. The answer to the second part is easy - Yes, I am insane. The first part is not so hard either - it just happened.

Like many other BEINUs who just spent a good 30 years of adulthood growing up and getting wiser, my life in many ways was (and still is) ordinary and extraordinary. There

were ups and downs, happiness and sadness, successes as well as struggles that shaped many life changing events. I feel pretty lucky that I was surrounded by great people during the “downs” and they have made the rides easier. Thanks to the natural aging process and my brain well equipped with selective memories, the happy moments stick in my heart a lot more than the not-so-great ones . Aren't you amazed at the naughty and fun things from our youth that our classmates remembered collectively?

But, don't get me wrong. As I went through every hectic moment in life, the thing called “mid-life crisis” hit me

as well. One of my friends gave me her recipe of getting over the MLC - she adopted a child in her 40's. Her reasoning was that by the time the baby is grown, she would not have any time left for MLC. It made sense, but we decided not to take her suggestion and continue with our “workaholic” routines. Although I have been relatively happy with my work throughout my career and life has treated me well, there is a part of me that feel the loss of sense of being, if I may explain it better in plain English – “I feel restless every few years”. Many have attributed my chronic disease to the “childless syndrome” and I have to agree to some extent, that “gia ba siu yeon” phenomenon (i.e. “nothing left to

BY NOT SO YOUNG AND YET RESTLESS



do after finishing a meal” in Taiwanese) is one of my problems. Nevertheless, the little voice (or whatever you want to call it) continues to tickle me to do something for myself. It’s not that I have not done anything, but rather than not having done anything that was driven by “me.”

After weighing my options and picking something different but not too far off the chart (I did apply some logical thinking into this crazy idea), I decided to explore the MBA possibility. One afternoon in the late summer of 2007, after completing a huge project at work, I went on-line to buy the GMAT books and started looking for programs that might work for me. I had no expectations in the beginning and I didn’t know how it would work with my demanding job. I wanted to do something different to keep me motivated in the midst of work politics and chaos. The rest is history: I got accepted to a program and started in May 2008, I started a new job in June 2008, and the double whammies marked the beginning of my new experience.

I am one year into the program now, it is every bit as demanding and rewarding as what others have told/warned me. The new job is very different from my original perception - the work itself is similar, but the people and environment are very different, so the jury is still out. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to do something different for myself, as crazy as it may be. I encourage all of you out there to do something for yourself, whatever it is, because we are worth it and you will love it!



蝴蝶  
代表美的成熟，  
夢想的實現，  
充滿希望的自由飛翔。  
我想這應是我們  
高中畢業三十年來  
蛻變及成長的  
最好寫照。



三十重聚 logo 設計  
— 曾麗琳

*The butterfly logo is a symbol of  
the beauty of maturity,  
the fulfillment of our dreams,  
and the liberation with hopes.  
I feel that it is a perfect representation of  
our 30 years of metamorphoses and growths  
since our high school graduation.*