

"Do they have televisions and computers in your country?"

A lot of my American friends ask me this when they find out I am an exchange student from Vietnam. The question sounded strange to me at first, but it always reminds me of my own dreams and why I am here in America.

To introduce my home country to foreign friends is one of the most important reasons that made me participate in the exchange program. Many people have only heard about Vietnam in "Vietnam war," which actually ended almost 30 years ago. Vietnam seems to appear with destruction and poverty, though in fact we have recovered from it. Being an exchange student, I have the responsibility to represent my own country. I have come here to bring a part of the new Vietnam to the world. I demonstrate the generation that will contribute to the development of the nation in the near future. Through my exchange program, not only have I gained better knowledge of the United States of America, but also I have changed my American friends' impression on Vietnam.

Like other high school seniors, I am full of dreams, and plans. For my country, I dream of an industrialized, modernized, developed Vietnam, where Vietnamese can live in peace and happiness, creating a new image internationally. I plan to devote myself to the country's development, so at first I have to prepare by getting good education and training. Being the only part of Vietnam that my foreign friends can see, I plan to build a good image of myself - friendly, polite, and responsible. And I plan to share the stories about my country with foreign friends. For my beloved family, I wish my parents to always be satisfied about proud of their daughter. I plan to do my best in everything to plead them. For myself, I have a

dream of becoming a good computer engineer. I plan to study Computer Science in an American college.

I have already started on my plans by coming to the United States. I go to school to study hard and well. I try to be a good sister and daughter in the host family, a good student and friend at school. I tell my new friends, teachers, and host family about Vietnam. I get Honor Rolls at school, get inducted into the national Honor Society, and take part in a lot of volunteer work and extra activities not only to keep myself busy, but also to make my parents proud of me. I take Advanced Placement Mathematics and Computer Science courses in preparation to college and my later career. And I apply to Quinnipiac University, as an important part of the way to my goals, with strong belief that Quinnipiac University will help me, along with my own efforts, to fulfill my dreams.

I have gone through six months of the exchange program. While enjoying surprises and excitement everyday, I still keep on with all my dreams and plans. I hope to one day tell my friends at Quinnipiac University: "Yes, we do have televisions and computers in Vietnam, and so much more!"