As Georgetown is a diverse community, the Admissions Committee would like to know more about you in your own words. Please submit a brief essay, either personal or creative, which you feel best describes you.

“GET UP CARIN! FOCUS! Land that axel jump or you’re not going home tonight! How are you going to win at Qingdao?!” My coach, Alberto, screamed at me. Literally.

It was already over ten months since I first started practicing for the one-and-a-half, in-the-air rotation or the so-called ‘axel jump’ – figure skating’s oldest and most difficult jump. One time I had to be lifted by a stretcher as I couldn’t walk. I couldn’t even sit as I injured my tail bone. Fractures, torn ligaments and hamstring injuries have become the norm for me. Nevertheless, my coach’s constructive feedbacks were what always made me get back up on my feet.

It was not, however, a superhero tale where the protagonist fought against all odds into victory.

A stream of consciousness ran through the back of my head. Firstly, my competition were athletes who basically dedicated their lives to skating full-time. Secondly, I had to strike a balance between the rigor of arguably the best all-girl Catholic school in Indonesia and this. Thirdly, my parents started signaling their reserved concern towards my choice to compete in tournaments. “You might be handicapped,”they argued. I couldn’t sleep, hesitation flooding my mind. Should I stop skating? Is it my real passion? And ultimately, will I be able to nail the jump – even if it is going to be my last?

It has always been a dream of mine to pass Freestyle Level 10 and win in the Winter Olympics one day. Above all uncertainties, one thing is certain – my dream. With all the hard work and grit I’ve put into my craft – breathing the cold air and feeling the sweat dripping as I glided through the rink – I know that deep down I can do the axel jump if I believe in myself. For over six years now, I have maintained to keep up with other skaters who would practice daily when I only had the luxury of three slots a week.

‘Tis the season to be focused and commit to my schedule. During every practice, I would stay in the rink longer than other skaters did. At home,I would online-At times, I would feel like the pressure is too great to bear; having to maintain my academic excellence as well. As I lay down on my bed, all I could do was close my eyes and direct laser-focus attention on the goal: landing that axel jump not only with precision but grace.

Fast forward a few months and I arrived at Qingdao. Costume ready, ponytail tied, skates tightened. The euphoria inside the arena was crazy, filled with thousands of people cheering and whistling. All I could hear, though, was the sound of my heartbeat racing fast. Lub dub. Lub dub. Time to shine at The Skate Asia Qingdao, the biggest figure skating competition in all of Asia. I’m here. And I’m ready.

“Carina Angel Natanael from Indonesia,” the spokesperson sounded off.

I started gliding onto the humongous rink and took in the intensity of the limelight, only to slip into my toe pick as I fell on my knees. Lub dub, lub dub, lub dub, my heart beating faster as I see a blurred vision of Alberto signaling me to quickly get up before the music starts and the judges start scoring. I smiled and nodded, gliding through four of five elements smoothly. The time then came for the final instalment: the axel jump. I curved my back, stretched my hand to the direction, jumped into the air, turned one-and-a-half rotations, and landed with what I felt was finesse. I halted, faced the judges with the smile of an ice queen and curtsied with my last pose.

That night, I stood on top of the podium and received gold medal for taking home both technical and artistic aspects of Skate Asia Qingdao 2015. Yet what I cherished the most to date was not the recognition nor the trophies that I won ever since. It is the community that I got to be part of throughout the process. It is to my family, my coach, my practice mates and even my school and teachers that I owe this victory to. For all the core values you have all instilled to my life, thank you.