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’s been 10 months since the first time I started practicing for the full one and a half in the air rotation so called the 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, hamstring injuries are just daily things that are not surprising. Despite all that, my coach always tells us to get back up on our feet.

Except I wasn’t sure if I can get back up and continue figure skating. Firstly, I’m competing with athletes who dedicate their lives to skating, practicing 5 hours a day. Secondly, I’m studying at arguably the best all-girl school in Indonesia with exams every other day. Thirdly, my parents started to strongly oppose my choice in competing at tournaments. “You might get handicapped,”they argued. I couldn’t sleep, all I did was thinking why can’t I land this jump? Should I stop skating? Is skating my real passion? Deep down, all I felt was big ambition but covered by greater fear.

It is my dream to pass freestyle level 10 and won the Winter Olympics one day. Above all the uncertainties, one thing is certain – my dream is. I already went this far, how can I quit now? My whole life, summer holidays, weekends, I spent all those times to breathe the cold air, sweat, and glide in the rink. Deep down, I know I can do the axel jump if I believe in myself. If the other skaters can, I know I can. For 6 years, I maintained to keep up with the other skaters who practice every day when I only practice 3 times a week. That thought propelled my spirit. I promised myself to keep my dream and walk the talk in this sport. And this is what I’m doing.

And so, I picked up my skates and got up. I searched all the references I had to land this jump properly. I watched the slow-motion technique and practiced it off ice in my bedroom. I stayed in the rink longer than the other skaters did on weekdays and weekends. I couldn’t sleep properly because my anxiety for this jump is too bad. All I did was keeping my eyes on the goal, landing the axel jump.

Few months later, I arrived at Qingdao. Costume ready, ponytail tied, skates tightened. The euphoria inside the arena was crazy, it was filled with thousands of people, they were cheering and whistling but all I could hear was the sound of my heartbeat racing fast. Lub dub. Lub dub. This is the moment that I’ve been waiting for. The Skate Asia Qingdao, the biggest figure skating competition in Asia. I’m here. I’m ready.

I started gliding, but I slipped into my toe pick. And I fell on my knees. “Get up, Carin!” Alberto struck me as I froze on the floor. “The music hasn’t started so it (your fall) doesn’t count!” He shook my shoulders. I smiled and nodded. I started to glide and flying through the ice, it feels like I own the whole rink all by myself, so called my second home. I passed through 4 elements of my program smoothly. The time came to the moment of the axel jump. I turned my back, stretched my hand to the back, jumped into the air, turned one and a half rotation, and I landed smoothly. I stopped, facing the judges with a very big smile, made my last pose.

That night, I stood on top of the podium and received the gold medal for winning the technical and artistic of Skate Asia Qingdao 2015. I’m glad that I persevere even when I doubted myself. I’m glad that I finished what I started. The same mentality that I keep close to my heart has brought me more trophies in 2017. Day by day, I’m getting closer to Freestyle 10. Year by year, I’m becoming more prepared for the Winter Olympics. And it’s all because I decided to get back upall the time.