with which they share with another classmate. It's in these labs that one gets to know both the local and the foreign students. In essence, the friends that you make here become your extended family. You turn to them for everything. The local students are always nice and helpful with the little things that I've had trouble with. I admit that knowing a little Chinese makes life a little easier, but that's not to say that it's a requirement. There's always something to do. The labs become the center of your student life because that's where you study and play. The friendships that grow out of the close interaction have been priceless and I'll treasure them for the rest of my life.

While it was difficult deciding whether or not to attend graduate school in a foreign country, it's been easy knowing that it was the right choice made for me. As time has progressed, I see that I've been able to receive a balanced education both in academics and friendships. NCTU has made significant strides in establishing an environment pleasant for international students and has made my stay thus far a pleasant one.