

Learning Report

I am Yang Nachuan, a penultimate-year student from The University of Hong Kong. It is really an honor to receive the scholarship from Chui's Student Excellence Scheme, which greatly supports me to participation in the learning activity "Cornell University - 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)".

I participated in the research program from 3 June to 26 July 2019, where I met talented students and professors from all around the world. I conducted research on the project "The Equilibria of Elastic Rings and Their Stability" under the supervision of Dr. Andy Borum at Cornell University. We successfully applied optimal control method to model and analyze the configurations of elastic materials, which greatly help me to learn more about the rearch methods in optimal control theory. I had to meet with my supervisor every week and discussed the prograss in our project, which is really interesting and challenging. At the end of the program, I gave a presentation about my research to the students and professors. I felt greatly encouraged by this activity and became more confident than before. When I was a child, my dream was to become a scientist who could contribute his intelligent to change people's life. Today, I am exactly on the way to reallize my dream and I enjoy this process very much!

Apart from research acativities, Cornell University also held many field trips and parties to help us learn more about the life and culture in the USA. Since this was my first time to America, I was really impressed by the wonderful natural secenery and free cultural atmosphere there. After the final presentation, we organized a picnic at the part near Cayuga Lake, where we had much delicious American food and talked a lot about our research. I lived in a cooperative hall named Von Cramm on the west campus of Cornell University, which was a student operated house founded in 1957. There lived more than 30 students in the hall and we often held meetings and parties, where we shared our ideas and happiness together. I really enjoy the happy atmosphere at the hall. I used to be an introverted person, but through this activity, I was encouraged by the open culture in the USA and gradually enjoy the social activities with other people, especially with people from different cultures. I also made a lot of friends in America. They were very curious about Chinese culture and asked me a lot of questions. I really apprciate them as they helped me to adapt to the new environment and learn a lot about American culture.

As one of the most developed countries in the world, America has the most advanced technologies and the strongest economy in the world. At America, I saw people living in big houses and enjoying a happy life. This is different from China. Chinese people live a very stressed life and may spend many years to work for a house. This was the first time that I felt the big difference between China and America. Trump said, make America great again. But I think, it is our responsibility to make China great again. I once said to my American friend that, everyone wants to do something for his motherland. Through this program, I felt the responsibility to do something for my homeland and for the people living there.

Finally, thank Chui's Student Excellence Scheme for supporting my participation in the program, which helped me develop my research skills and broaden my horizon!

Photo 1: Group Picnic at Ithaca

(I am at the last row and the third position from right)



Photo 2: Group Field Trip at Ithaca

(I am at the second position from right)

