

Naw Zong (Hello). I am going to take you
on a 10 minute journey into my past.



Inspirational Philosophy of Education Presentation Project

By Kou Her

- Kou Her
- A Hmong refugee from Laos, third world country
- Learned my ABC's @ age 13 @ West High School



If I can do it, so can you!



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My Goals

- Smile (lion-prey)
- Inspire
- Relate
- Convince
- Challenge

Please get a degree!

Thailand Camp 1977-79



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**3 m old-father died; 7rs
old-mother remarried**

**Adopted by uncle and
aunt @ age 7**



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Back In Laos

**We used roosters and
sunset to tell time**



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**Our humble bamboo home
and domestic animals**



**We walked on bare feet
everyday**



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Victims of the Vietnam War after 1975

- Hid in the jungle for two years
- Starving
- Some parents drugged their babies
- Got sick and almost died
- Walked 17 days to Mekong River
- Swam across the Mekong River @ 2 am
- Freedom!



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Thailand Refugee Camp

- Lived in two Thailand Refugee camps
- United Nations' supports
- Well rested
- Got interview to come to the United States



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- Left the refugee camp
- Headed to Bangkok camp for 3 months
- About 100 families
- Final stop before going to U.S.A.



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**Graduated from West High
School 1984, Madison, WI**

- Learned my English alphabet (th-sound)
- Remained in ESL program until graduation
- Spoke very broken English
- Kept the American dream alive!



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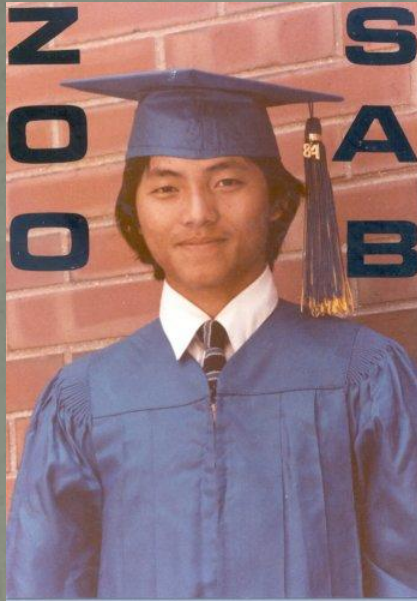
**Graduated from National-Louis
University 1990, Chicago, IL**

- College is the key
- English is a barrier
- I struggled in college
- Took the train to school to Chicago everyday for three years
- Wore Goodwill clothes
- Ate boxes of Kung-fu noodles
- Almost gave up but still kept the American dream alive



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9 yrs later. I did it. You
can, too!



Don't let anybody or
anything stop you.



I hope you got inspired and plan to do something great with your life. She gee doua (Bye).

