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### Young Scholars Grinchenko – Seton International Journal, 2025, issue 6

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## Potholes and possibilities: a mom's rough road to success

The decision to go back to a place that I previously visited umpteen years ago. Now in my late thirties, I made a choice that many others might believe to be unrealistic, if not impossible. I made this choice because I was determined to pursue my deepest desires. I decided to put myself through college full-time while concurrently being the mother of three children, each possessing a personality distinct from the others. I must attend lectures and make meals, read late into the night, and drop off my children at school; my days are filled with chaos.

My youngest son, who is only five years old, is a little diplomatic ambassador who uses his kindness to bring everyone together. A delicate balance occurs between friendships and factions, and my middle son, who is nine years old, is consumed with this fragile equilibrium. My oldest daughter, who is eighteen years old, is currently understanding the unpredictability of the tides of maturity. Every day presents a new opportunity to arbitrate and navigate between responsibilities. I genuinely enjoy the challenge and the precious moment that I'm blessed to cherish with every one of the children.

*Philosophy major, why?* I decided to study philosophy because it focuses on big ideas; qualities such as patience, bargaining, and resilience via this experience would be advantageous to me in the law profession. I can develop these talents through this experience. Apart from being an essential aspect of my education and preparation for the career I plan to have, the study of philosophy has acted as a compass guiding me through the complexities of life itself.

Why Now? It is a question that is frequently asked by many. I will straightforwardly explain this: I do not intend to let society determine my life's path. Women of my age are typically counseled by society to settle down and accept the rhythm of stability rather than pursuing their objectives to achieve their goals. I have decided to pursue my desires and follow my dreams, which I know will be full of possibilities for self-discovery and academic challenges.

I frequently experience a sense of being submerged in tasks and find myself questioning my capacity to accomplish them. I'm determined to keep going even though things are complicated because of my challenges. I'm not alone on this journey. I seek to fulfill the pursuit of a desire that I have had for a very long time: to become a corporate attorney. I am firmly resolved to keep going even though I may get discouraged or experience such severe fatigue that it feels as if I am completely overwhelmed.

My goal is to believe aspirations have no time limit, that education is a lifelong adventure, and that the most crucial element in positive results is resolve, to prove to myself that dreams don't have an expiration date, learning is an ongoing journey, and that persisting at something is the most essential requirement for success. The fact that I have dyslexia complicates my issue. I'm determined to keep going even though things are difficult. At times, I feel so worn out that my energy rivals the intensity of a natural disaster.

I frequently feel so overloaded that I wonder if I can effectively finish the work. Reading legal information is nearly like trying to understand ancient hieroglyphs. To put it simply, the

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material that I am reading can become confusing at times. When my thoughts can't keep up with the rapidity of my reality, the weight of self-doubt begins to settle in. It seems like I'm slipping behind whenever this happens.

Depression is characterized as a constant presence that lingers in the background, murmuring its discouragement. My belief that hardship is not a conclusion, but a detour, encourages me to persist despite the problems I encounter.

A vision that extends beyond borders. My objectives are not limited to the courtroom; they cover nothing less than the world. I fantasize about embarking on adventures before settling down in the corporate world. A few of my goals include being fluent in several languages, gaining knowledge about the legal systems of various countries, and completely immersing myself in the cultures of other countries.

Just for a moment, I imagine myself studying Spanish legal concepts while wandering through the streets of Barcelona or learning about international law in a bustling neighborhood in Tokyo. Not only will each of these events enhance my perspective, but they will also underline my opinion that there are no boundaries to the amount of information that can be obtained.

I want to convey a message to you at this moment. The experience of becoming a mother has not only provided me with the resilience and perseverance to conquer daily obstacles; it has also granted me limitless opportunities to do this.

Challenges are designed to strengthen us, not restrict us. Remember that your path is unique, your strength is indisputable, and your goals deserve the spotlight. Understanding and recognizing your successes is vital. The challenges should be accepted and embraced.

Rewriting the screenplay that society has placed in front of you is something that needs to be done. Everyone is looking forward to hearing your voice, seeing your vision, and understanding your purpose. Together, we will overcome the challenges that we face.