

Bio

My name is Andrew Ligus I'm nineteen and I'm from New Jersey. I'm a first year student at Johnson and Whales University, I plan to finish my education with a degree in Culinary Arts. I'm a black belt in martial arts and enjoy the more exciting part of life like sky diving and play paint ball. I am also pledging to the fraternity Kappa Sigma. The funny thing is I'm almost blind. Nothing can stop me from completing my dreams but that's not to say there are not obstacles along the way.

Article

Even with my sight being the way it is I still try to push myself to the limit, for example I mentioned earlier that I sky dive, when you're falling from 15,000 feet all problems just seem insignificant. There was always so much I wanted to do before I lost my sight completely, which is a possibility. As a form of meditation I've earned a black belt in Tang Soo Do, which was one of my biggest accomplishments. I spent five long years working hard, learning the moves, and developing discipline to get through the rigorous training. I've also been accepted into the college I have always wanted to go to, since I was a little kid I wanted to go to Johnson and Whales. This was made possible all thanks to my uncle Gill, he is putting me through college, and if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here typing this. There is nothing I could say or do for him to show how much this means to me, but I guarantee he will be getting a lot of home cooked meals from me once I'm done.

Once embarking on my journey to become a chef I knew there was always going to be some difficulty, but that's life. No matter what though just because you have some disability or a problem doesn't mean it's not impossible. Life for me wasn't easy but it is nothing to compare to some other people in the world sure I may not be able to see but that's it I have two great parents that support me and a ton of great friends some blind some that can see. But let's face it there are people out there that live on the streets fighting just to survive every day, people who can't walk, talk or even take care of themselves.

Most of the things I do are to prove to people that just because someone can't see it doesn't necessarily mean that they can't do everything just as well if not better than some normal people. Though my disability does pose some issues in the cooking field, they are all minor problems that any great chef could easily deal with. People always ask me how I do things and I tell them all the same thing, it's done by memory and feel. Both of these two things are needed in any circumstance in the cooking field. The reason you need feeling is for things like knife cuts or when you need to tell if something is hot, there is nothing like picking up a hot pot just to find it scalding your hands. And memory just helps to keep the constant flow of production in the kitchen. At Johnson and Whales we are moving all day in the kitchen there's no time to stop and take a break.

Before coming to school there were a lot of things on my mind. For example, once I finish college what am I going to do with my life? One thing that was always hard for me was getting a job and keeping it. It was not because I was a bad worker, but simply because of the fact that I was learning how to do the work for the first time, which was difficult with my sight problem. I was once actually let go because of it. The restaurant manager didn't say it was because of my sight but can you blame them? If I was a manager and there was a guy that could see perfectly and didn't need extra time to learn I would hire him over someone who couldn't see. That's why I came to JWU, because I felt that I needed a well known college to back me up and give me a great education so I could be one step further than the average applicant. So as I finish my education here I'm doing all I can to be that one step further and keep it that way. Plus, have you ever heard of a blind chef? That should get people's attention, I just have to be good at what I do and show them I can do what a "normal" person could do if not better. As long as you work hard, you can achieve anything. You can only get so much time, and how much effort you put in will determine how far you can go. It doesn't matter what anyone says, all that matters is that you yourself have the self-determination, because to succeed on your own terms is the

best feeling in the world.