

Tell us about your experience at the University of Georgia (UGA).

UGA has one of the top American football teams in the country — the Georgia Bulldogs. When football season started, every Sunday the entire campus will be packed with thousands of people setting up tents everywhere. This is known as “tailgating”. Their Sanford stadium of 90,000 strong will be packed to the brim as fans attempt to terrorise the visiting team.

What was the most interesting trip you took?

I went on a spontaneous road trip to Yellowstone National Park with another NUS exchange student, Jazton. We flew to Denver, rented a tent and barbecue pit, and did a 5-hour drive to Yellowstone. We travelled across the park, and saw bison, elk, and even a black bear!

On the last day, we woke up to a barrage of snow covering our tent and car. We were slightly worried that the roads might be too dangerous to drive on. Thankfully, everything was fine, and we made it to the airport just in time to catch our flight.

How were classes at UGA different from classes at NUS?

There are no tutorials at UGA. It can be quite intimidating to speak up in big classes.

Professors offer students opportunities to earn extra credit if we feel like we are lagging behind or if we want to try to achieve a certain grade. There is no bell curve; instead there are fixed thresholds, e.g., you need 94 to get an A.

What was your favourite class?

Economics of Sports by Dr McWhite. He talked about the major sports league in the U.S. — NBA (basketball), NFL (American football), MLB (baseball), and NHL (ice hockey). He covered real-life issues such as antitrust, cartels (e.g., the NCAA), player drafts, and wagering markets.

In one class, we were divided into teams, and embarked on a real-life NFL fantasy league with a bidding system. In a fantasy league, we pick our players; their performance in actual games affects the point system in the draft. By making us bid for players, we are attaching an economic value to



Yong Xuan (left) with his friends at Horse Shoe Bend in Arizona.

Lau Yong Xuan

University of Georgia
Georgia, USA

each player’s expected future performance. This was exhilarating as we got to discuss strategies and understand the opportunity cost of each team’s decisions.