Arisa Chue (amazonchue5@yahoo.com)

While I feel in touch with my American background, I feel disconnected from my Chinese roots. I've studied Mandarin for nine years to connect to my heritage, but I hope by studying and rooming among local students, I will be able to learn values and viewpoints that I couldn't grasp just from language.

Going to Hong Kong will remind me of when I visited several years ago. I remember being amazed at the dense living structures, the vibrant city that was both Chinese and Western, and the vast greenery despite being one of the highest-density housing in the world. I want to learn how Hong Kong preserves its culture while cultivating a global city. I'd like to compare those lessons learned with my experiences growing up in Japan, where everybody integrates into the society and little diversity exists, and Singapore, where some say has diluted their Chinese heritage unlike Hong Kong.

Professionally, Hong Kong, and the Greater Bay Area, is a booming tech region. As a Computer Science (CS) major, I have always been interested in China, and Hong Kong's role as a gateway to China. China has one of the leading tech industries, being the creator of TikTok and Alibaba. I am interested to see how China influences and competes with the U.S. in the CS industry and hope to incorporate my learned experiences into my professional career.

To prepare, I am taking RELIGST56: Exploring Chinese Religions. Through this class, I was able to study the similarities between religion in Hong Kong and China but also the divergence after British rule and the control of the Chinese Communist Party. I would love to get an

opportunity to experience the culture and its complexities first-hand, and even visit the temples we studied.

Although Stanford classes can greatly help me prepare for Hong Kong, I strongly believe that being an armchair scholar is not enough, especially with a potential external bias against China. Therefore, I am excited to learn directly from professors at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). For example, OSPHONGK74: "Consumer Culture in Contemporary China" explores China, supposedly a communist society, and Hong Kong, being largely consumer-led by a wave of young people. Industries such as TikTok and WeChat are all innovating at a fast pace, and I am eager to bring these lessons back home.

I also have planned ahead academically. Currently, I am in 20 units and structured my CS schedule to fully commit to one quarter of expanding my perspective beyond CS while making sure I am on track to graduate.

I see Stanford as an opportunity to undergo unique experiences. I want to challenge myself to study in a setting where censorship and governmental control are more prominent, unlike Stanford where I can freely study and voice my opinions. In Hong Kong, I hope to gain a new perspective–on my privileges and disadvantages–to further take advantage of my Stanford education.