

Make an “Investment” in Yourself – Taking a Chance to Enhance Your Skills By: Nicholas Jenkins, 10 CONS

I have a confession. I love the reality television show *Shark Tank*. Sometimes, after work, I find myself binge watching episodes instead of working on my 20-page research paper that has a quickly approaching due date.

The show features entrepreneurial people competing for cash investments in their businesses, many of which were launched from their own homes.

Some of these courageous entrepreneurs have given up EVERYTHING, from high paying executive-type jobs to financial and residential comfort, to pursue their passions in hopes of living the American dream.

As I root these folks on from my living room, I’m thinking of a different kind of investment than the one being sought after on *Shark Tank*.

As we progress in our respective career fields or educational pursuits, we should be reminded to make an “investment” in ourselves and pursue the goals or dreams we may have forgone in the past.

For instance, I really enjoy cooking, and love to prepare meals or snacks for my family, friends, and coworkers. However, I still lack a bit of technical skill when it comes to food preparation, such as chopping and frying to name a few.

To hone this craft and serve better food, I’ve enrolled in a one-week culinary “boot camp” in Napa, Calif., in February.

Do I hope to become a professional chef? No. Do I want to become better at something I enjoy, and share this with those around me? Yes.

I have several friends currently “investing” in themselves, and using their skills and abilities to pursue new ventures in their lives.

A former coworker of mine is speaking at a Women in Technology conference in San Francisco, an offer born from an Instagram post of a robotic arm she built with her children.

Two friends from my active duty years are making entrepreneurial leaps of their own. One is the owner of a brand new fitness center he built from the ground up, which is already expanding to a second location in its first year; the other has been approached to host a Podcast discussing his military experience.

Moral of the story: Take a chance on yourself and your abilities to try something new or something you have always dreamt of doing. You never know who you might impact and what footprint you may leave behind.