

# MAGNOLIA'S *next*

Not many young folks have their own motto, let alone a tagline that's printed on bottles of sauces of their own family's recipes, available on Amazon.

## MICHAEL CHEN

'Our flavors are not just eight out of ten, or a nine, or even a ten out of ten. They're a

*Chen out of ten,*' says Michael Chen.

You'll know if Michael is in at their home on La Costa Court, where you'll find his sneakers parked on the welcome mat outside the front door.

Michael is now a junior at MIT, major in Mechanical Engineering with a focus on Intelligent Machines, and a minor in Business. Brother Jason now holds a Master's in Biomedicine from Cornell, and is in cancer research in California.

He's not just about tasty concoctions to stimulate the palate. Spend a little time with Michael, and you'll hear how he is equally dedicated to such challenges as, for example "a sustainable way to efficiently extract water from plant matter". An invention of his with just this purpose was applied to the real-life challenges in the Third World, "A Novel Method to Alleviate the Water Crisis in Uganda" for which he won the Ricoh USA Sustainable Development Award in 2019, while a student at Ridgeview. An idea with potential to solve a human problem on a worldwide scale, the prototype assembled in a neighborhood you'll find familiar: [Michael's Method](#)

"I wanted them to grow up and help the world!" Pam explains of her emphasis on the boys' education. She struggled to fund the boys' preschool, a resolve she knows made all the difference in their progress into



adulthood. She wakes every day motivated with a desire to give back to the community, and the country that gave her and her family a chance, an example she's proud to see resonates with her sons. Someone was watching: Michael was the recipient of a generous scholarship from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in his senior year, in which he also ascended to President

of the Florida Future Business Leaders of America.

"Everyone Should Try and Solve the Big Problems", was the TEDx talk Michael gave in 2020, having overcome his fear of public speaking. In it, he credits one of his Magnolia Point mentors, one 'Mr Luke' (Byrne) as his *casus belli* in his battle against the mental inertia that often enfeebles individual or societal endeavors. A must see: [Michael's Tedx](#)

No surprise: "I love to cook!" says Michael, who produced, staged and prepared a ceremonial **16 course Omakase** sushi dinner for randomly-selected students on the roof of McCormick Hall at MIT. You MUST witness his fluency in other Asian cuisine in: [Michael's Rooftop Omakase Experience](#). When home, he's either on duty in the kitchens of China Wok or Pan Asian Cuisine, or cooking for the family.

Michael's at home here, and admits to local 'plans' for his skills and Chen family values. *Stay tuned.*

