ASPIRE!
A New Season Begins
**Director’s Message**

Learning must be a rich tapestry, with vast opportunities for personal growth. A curious mind develops through classroom encounters, a healthy body, tired to meet challenges, and giving spirit, ready to meet the world — these help you aspire. At School of Business, myriad activities enhance your learning experience. The buzz of learning is alive in our lectures, labs and classrooms. Outside the classroom activities abound to help you develop your character, leadership and interpersonal skills. Study trips and overseas community projects add zest and zing, leading to global awareness and community engagement. The organized activities provide avenues for your development, as our alumni stories will attest. As you start a new year, remember that school life is about having relevant and meaningful encounters with learning, taking time to enjoy laughter with friends and relishing the adventure of discovering who and what you want to be.

Daniel Yeow
Director
School of Business

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**Living the Fulfilling School Life**

“There are three good things in life,” said author Christopher Morley, “learning, earning and yearning.” At School of Business, learning aims at inspiring hope, igniting interest in possible future careers or areas of study, and instilling the idea that life is about balance and wellness. Learning is crucial to the fulfillment of aspirations and dreams. But as one famous author put it, “You can get all ‘As’, but still flunk life.” Life is not about greedily devouring the contents of lecture notes in study sessions. It’s also about getting involved in a hive of activities and evolving as a rounder person. School of Business helps students avail themselves to the abundant life under the umbrella of clubs, committees, interest groups, overseas community projects and study trips. This immersion brings with it multiple benefits: teamwork, responsible behaviour, strength of character and values like embracing winning with humility and defeat with grace.

“Most students think achievement is an ‘either-or’ proposition. Either they strive for ‘As’ or throw themselves into CCA and other outside the classroom activities.” But it’s actually about balancing both CCA and academic work, observes Desmond Lim, Assistant Director, Student Development, School of Business. And it’s not just CCA involvement. It’s also about seizing the opportunity to go on study trips and playing the role of ambassadors for Singapore, whether it is in bands, Indonesia or to Bratislava, Slovakia. Through service, students develop in other ways.

The benefits of CCA participation are more than the “tanned-and-toned” look, as triathlete, Pearlyn Leong, Diploma in Accounting & Finance Senior, attests. Pearlyn came into TP via the Direct Polytechnic Admission route. The triathlon, a gruelling sport, involves running, swimming and cycling. Pearlyn has done a 75km swim in the open sea, cycled 200km and run 5km, all consecutively.

“Coping with alternatively semi-liquid legs, rock-hard legs and sore legs as one transits from one sport into another is about will power,” muses Pearlyn.

Competition has broadened Pearlyn’s exposure to events like the Singapore Aquathlon and the OSIM Triathlon. “Once you’ve done this, you’re almost immune to stress,” she quips cheerfully.

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**My CCA involvement has relevance for my future life, I compare challenges to new wakeboarding tricks.**

Parvinder Singh, Diploma of Business, Senior

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**Getting a new spin on life. Parvinder Singh, negotiating the water with liquid style, credits his communication skills to his TP teachers and National Service.**

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**Business with a cultural handshake. Students from Diploma in Leisure and Resort Management painting a mural in the Old Town Square, Bratislava, Czech Republic. The students, with two lecturers, were ambassadors at “Specifically Singapore”, a networking and cultural exchange programme.**

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**Samantha Tan, Diploma in Communications & Media Management (CMM), Junior**

“School of Business has given me great opportunities over the last year, for which I am extremely thankful. My journey through education has not been easy, despite having completed my GCE ‘A’ level examinations. Choosing between fulfilling my dream and fulfilling obligations was the hardest decision in my life. But I stuck to my passion—mass communication—and chose CMM.

My journey has allowed me to realise my potential. I’m on the Director’s List and serve in the Main Committee of the CMM KS as Vice-President. I’ve worked on several IG projects like the Speaker Series and even participated in an overseas community involvement project to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where my friends and I taught English to high-schoolers. Through all these activities, my self-belief has grown. It’s enabled me to achieve my first podium finish in sports climbing, as well. From climbing, I’ve learnt that everyone needs the extra push to achieve targets. Over this year at CMM, I’ve learnt to climb beyond what I’d dreamt I’d ever achieve.”

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**Life is an adventure climb. Samantha Tan (far right) taking time to do some voluntary work in an overseas community project with fellow “CCMers” in Siem Reap.**
Shining the Leadership Light

Chopping vegetables under intense pressure in a hot kitchen may not be everyone’s cup of tea. Like an actor in a scene from an intensely competitive reality TV cooking show, Mohamad Syahidin bin Sarbini, or Syah as he is known, worked feverishly to prepare ingredients for a gourmet feast for F1 guests. Syah, from School of Business, Diploma in Culinary & Catering Management, served as the crew for the Ferrari suite at the F1 reception, working alongside the culinary team at Fairmont Hotel. In the process of coping with stringent demands, Syah found himself thrust into a leadership position.

He had to step in to lend direction to other groups who were working feverishly in other suites to prepare for the reception. According to Syah, during crunch time, he maintained his sense of humour and perspective. Syah shared that at the Diploma in Culinary & Catering Management, students are encouraged to take initiative which stands them in good stead in the hospitality and tourism industry. Not one to rest on his laurels, Syah is on the lookout for more stints which help him prepare for the real world. He observes, “There are always opportunities to improve yourself, even if others don’t instantly see you as a leader.”

Syah might have found himself wearing the hat of leadership informally but unlike him, there are other students at School of Business who take on the mantle of leadership through formal appointments. Students emerge as leaders through exposure to experiences that hone their leadership skills. They also get to serve in Interest Groups (IG) at each diploma or when they run for the School’s Business Studies Club.

Cherie Ling is one example. From the Diploma in Law & Management, she helms Law Inc, the Diploma in Law & Management IG as President. When asked what prompted her to run for President, Cherie quipped, “I served Law Inc. in the first year. I saw how IG events help bring the Law Diploma closer; I ran for President in my second year, hoping to bring Law Inc to greater heights.”

Cherie’s maiden year as President saw her launch Law Inc’s first camp. Not having organised camps before, the Law Inc team started from scratch and bonded while acquiring interpersonal and event management skills. Cherie’s experience taught her to be more proactive and assertive in providing a vision. She learnt that a positive mindset helps in making a leader energetic and purposeful.

“Leadership also sharpens creativity among School of Business students, as Diploma in Business Information Technology (BIT).” Junior Tan Xin Ying can testify. Inspired by Amazing Race, Xin Ying, a BIT IG leader came up with the idea of organising the BIT Running Man and received positive feedback. Xin Ying hopes to pass the leadership baton to other BIT students. She said, “I wanted to create a special bond among the BIT community.”

As Diploma in Law & Management Course Manager, Loo Kwok Peng observes, “Leadership is a quality that both universities and employers look for. One of the best ways to demonstrate leadership is by being an office bearer in CCA IGs, clubs and societies.” Indeed leaders are not made. They develop in a learning climate suitable for nurturing character, initiative, composure, dedication and desire to serve others.

“Positively minded leaders always create an energetic and purposeful atmosphere.”

Cherie Ling
Diploma in Law & Management, Junior

Wee Seng Cheong,
Diploma in Marketing, Senior

“I am a committee member of the Business Studies Club (BSC) and President of the School of Business Running Club. BSC is a club that brings all the interest groups or IGs together. Collectively, all the School of Business IGs and BSC are affiliated to Temasek Polytechnic Student Union. I ran for BSC because I felt the need to be involved in projects that will benefit the student body in School of Business. Overall, it’s been a really good experience, especially since I get the chance to roll up my sleeves participate in activities. There is never a dull moment because the entire committee chips in. Sure, there is also the need to balance various commitments, but I enjoy the challenge of doing what stretches me. One good experience that only running in the BSC elections gave me was the insight that only people with a heart for service should lead. Leading is demanding, and standing for elections requires creativity, effort and finances. Leaders, I believe, must be sincere.”

Sparkling like a leader: Cheryl Ang, Diploma in Retail Marketing, Senior, seen with a creation, immersed in quirky and jewellery, travelling to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Sharjah and Dubai during her 6-month internship. Cheryl was made responsible to overseas clients and accountable for sales achieved against company targets. But her job is too small for a leader.

It’s all about passion: The BSC team taking a “fun brake” while planning a BSC activity.

Cool leader in a hot kitchen: Syah feels that a leader has to be a team-player and remain confident and in control of his emotions.

I love Law: Cherie Ling (centre row 2nd from left) with Law Inc members forging close bonds through activities that bring the IG together.
The Sweet Smell of Success

Famous scientist, Albert Einstein, once remarked that life is not about being a man of success through positions or paper qualifications but rather about being a person of value. Indeed, successful people are those who can build a firm foundation with the very bricks that life equips them with. At School of Business, students are taught that what counts is not just academic success but also success in overcoming obstacles. After the euphoria of graduation from TP comes the serious business of contemplating “what's next”. Some graduates take the university route while others carve for themselves different paths – the world of work or entrepreneurship.

Some alumni believe that acquiring first-hand industry experience will give them a competitive edge over those armed only with academic qualifications. Take 2011 Diploma in Communications & Media Management graduates for example. Nadia Natasha Azmi. She followed her new interests and landed an Assistant Producer position at Mediacorp’s Channel News Asia. Barely eight months later, she became Studio Director, working on exciting “live” news programmes like the 2012 Singapore National Day Parade. Calm and composed, ingredients necessary for a Studio Director, Nadia credits her success to her willingness to try her hand at whatever is given to her. Instead of balking at challenges, she has embraced them, winning the confidence of her superiors. This, together with her acknowledgement that every foray in the studio is a team effort, has helped her in her job.

For Diploma in Leisure & Resort Management (LRM) alumni Liang Qingyun, an internship with Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) paved the way for a permanent position and sponsorship for further education with Laughborough University (UK). She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Studies degree with high Resource Management degree while working full time and studying part-time. Qingyun was also a finalist for Best HR Young Gun in HRM Award 2010 and a WRS Employee Award Service First 2011 Nominee. Qingyun observes that “assignments at university are easier to understand because of real life experience at work. Of course self-discipline helped too.”

Other graduates take a completely different road and follow a burning desire to do something that they truly believe in. Diploma in Law & Management graduate and Shatec teen pastry chef, Noorizan Ahamed set up her baking business during her second year at School of Business. After graduation, she worked in several F&B companies to gain experience before she co-founded a licensed bakery, Petalflow Express in 2004. Today, Petalflow Express is growing, catering not only to consumers but also to corporate clients. The reason for Nourizan’s success is simple. In her own words, “Failure exists only when we stop trying, and that word is not in my dictionary.”

Many School of Business graduates have flown the TP flag high, with commendable achievements in their respective fields. Their stories serve as reminders that regardless of the route taken, sheer hard work, and an unwavering spirit, lead to success.

Sneak Preview

TOURISM & LEISURE ACADEMY (TLA)

The 7-storey TLA will serve students from the Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM) and Diploma in Leisure & Resort Management (LRM). With a scenic Bedok Reservoir frontage, the TLA will comprise the following key facilities:

- Hotel Lobby
- Hospitality Learning Stage
- Travel Management Centre
- Student Clubhouse
- Spa & Wellness Centre
- Event Management Ideaion rooms
- Tourism Technology rooms

The academy is targeted for completion by end 2014 and promises to elevate the level of experiential training for our students. In addition, the academy will be located at the hub of activities, in close proximity to the TP Sports Centre, Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and myriad trendy food outlets. There will also be collaborations with key industry partners to ensure that training is relevant. In this way, you could manage a Spa, Travel Centre or a Clubhouse. Do join us so you could experience a whole new level of tourism, hospitality- and leisure-based training at TP!