

# En route to success

Ms Verine Lee is pursuing her interest in human resource at Kaplan

ESTHER TEO

EVEN as a 16-year-old student at Fairfield Methodist Secondary School, Ms Verine Lee knew she wanted to be in human resource.

All it took was a two-month part-time stint working in the human resource department of a company for her to be hooked to the function.

While doing intensive research on the various recognised human resource certifications offered in Singapore, she became interested in Kaplan's full-time Diploma in Business and Information Management,

and decided to enrol in it.

The programme consists of eight subjects – quantitative analysis; introduction to management, database design and development, multimedia and the internet, as well as computer science; accounting for managers; project management; and principles of information systems and data management. It may be completed in eight months.

Ms Lee has since completed her diploma and moved on to the University College Dublin's Bachelor of Business Studies (Honours) in Information Management course also

offered by Kaplan.

Now into her first year in the course, Ms Lee says she has found Kaplan's courses intellectually rigorous and challenging.

Students' learning is supplemented by the comprehensive and ample materials for the course provided by the school, and they enjoy the tutelage of lecturers who are well experienced in their respective fields.

Ms Lee says her lecturers are adept at making students' learning more applicable. They often cite examples from their personal work experiences so that students can better relate to the contents of the modules and be better equipped with the required skills that they would need for their future careers.

Ms Lee is also enjoying the school's friendly and diverse culture of various races and nationalities.

She says: "I think the culture of the school makes a lot of difference in the students' attitude towards their lessons and campus life.

"Personally, the friendly and helpful culture that Kaplan students adopt is the reason why I look forward to going to school – not just to study but to catch up with friends or make new friends."

The undergraduate advises those looking at tertiary options after their O levels to be sure of their choice of field and to find out more about the certificates that they have to obtain to get their dream job. It is also important to get a qualification that is recognised by companies in Singapore, she adds.

With one more year left to go in her studies at Kaplan, good results keep the diligent student motivated. She is also keen to excel in her studies to prove to detractors that it is still possible to succeed at the tertiary level even if one does not have a good academic record in the past.

Ms Lee says: "Find out what you are truly passionate about and never give up even when things get difficult. We can write our own future even if we cannot rewrite our past. It all boils down to the effort that we put in our studies now."



Ms Lee has always wanted to be a human resource professional. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



Pursuing Shatec's WSQ Diploma in Tourism course, Ms John has found her calling in event management and marketing.

PHOTO: NURIA LING

## Committed to serve

MIN CHEN

AS A young girl, Ms Melissa Iype John had many ambitions – radio DJ, newscaster, air stewardess – but she also had an overriding passion to serve.

"I want to give back to society by serving and helping people," says the 19-year old.

But she felt at a loss about what to do after graduating with O levels from Yishun Secondary School last year.

She reviewed various post-secondary institutes, but none offered a course she wanted to undertake, until she attended the Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (Shatec) open house.

There, she learned about Shatec's many hospitality programmes, particularly its new Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) diploma course in Tourism, with a focus on MICE (meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions) and Events.

The 21-month-long programme aims to equip students with the know-how to manage MICE and events, and travel and tour opera-

tions through institutional training and an industrial attachment.

Ms John was initially worried that her poor math grade would not meet the course's entry requirements, but a successful pre-application interview enabled her to sign up for the programme.

"When they told me I could register, I was so happy. It was a dream come true," she recalls.

Enrolled last year in the pioneer batch of the course, she was quickly impressed by the learning experience on offer.

Among modules such as communication in business, marketing strategies and tourism promotion, she particularly relished her lessons in event management.

"I enjoy the process of planning something and seeing the outcome at the end," she says.

She also had hands-on experiences in planning and managing events during her six-month internship at MICE Depot.

She says: "I could put whatever I learned in school into practice. I handled client servicing and F&B

for corporate events, as well as large-scale events for 3,000 people."

Now in her final term, Ms John is working on a capstone project that will see her class plan an event of its own.

"Event management is not just about studying, but also about getting the experience and being exposed to people," she adds.

The programme has also fostered in her an interest in marketing, and she plans to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Tourism, Events Management and Marketing after graduating from Shatec.

Alongside the exposure and opportunities the course has offered her, she is grateful for the direction she has gained.

"I didn't do well in my O levels and I thought it was the end, but now at Shatec, everything I want is here and I just have to work hard to get it," she explains.

"The course has broadened my interest in the industry. I've always wanted to help people and now, I can do it on a bigger scale."