

Gah!

Gaya Hidup • Artistik • Hiburan

Enam anak Melayu berjaya meraih ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama daripada Maktab Seni Lasalle di majlis konvokesyen yang berlangsung di Dewan 3, Pusat Persidangan dan Pameran Singapore Expo, kelmarin. Bagaikan wujud satu panggilan mendalam dalam bidang perfileman, seni halus, komunikasi visual, perusahaan fesyen dan reka hias dalaman, mereka membuat pelbagai penyediaan demi penakatan jangka panjang. Wartawan HARYANI ISMAIL (haryani@sph.com.sg) dan FARID HAMZAH (farid@sph.com.sg) melaporkan di halaman ini dan halaman sebelah.

LULUSAN KELAS

Ibu susah payah kerja dua tugas bakar sikap bermalasan

ENCIK Luqman Nurhakim Abdul Gafor adalah pelajar yang kurang bermotivasi ketika mengambil kursus penerbitan audio dan video digital di Institut Pendidikan Teknikal (ITE) Kolej Barat, beberapa tahun lalu.

Beliau kerap kali ponteng kelas sehingga menjejaskan prestasi pelajarannya.

Namun, sewaktu menjalani Perkhidmatan Negara (NS), terbetik di fikiran tentang pengorbanan ibunya, Cik Sapiah Nek, demi menyara perskolahannya.

Hingga ke hari ini, Cik Sapiah masih menjalankan dua tugas sekali gus sebagai kakitangan jabatan perkhidmatan di Hospital Universiti Nasional (NUH) dan pekerja sambilan restoran makanan segera McDonald's.

Sebak dada Encik Luqman, kini 26 tahun, dengan kerja keras ibu yang ingin melihatnya berjaya dalam pelajaran, kerjaya dan kehidupan.

Sejak itulah, anak bongsu dalam dua beradik itu memastikan beliau tidak lagi sia-sianak peluang melanjutkan pengajian peringkat diploma dan ijazah di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Setelah meraih Diploma Media Penyiaran, beliau muncul sebagai penerima ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama dalam bidang perfileman pula, kelmarin.

Encik Luqman meraih ijazahnya di sesi konvokesyen yang berlangsung di Dewan 3, Pusat Persidangan dan Pameran Singapore Expo.

Tetamu terhormat bagi majlis itu adalah Menteri Perdagangan dan Perusahaan, Encik Chan Chun Sing.

Ketika ditemui Gah! di Lasalle, baru-baru ini, Encik Luqman menjelaskan:

"Awalnya, saya menyimpan hasrat ke politeknik. Namun, selepas dapat keputusan Sijil Am Pelajaran (GCE) Peringkat 'N', saya terus ke ITE.

"Beberapa guru sekolah menengah saya kecewa dengan keputusan yang diambil.

"Saya pula masih bermalasan ketika di ITE. Payah bagi saya mencari semangat positif ketika itu.

"Mutakhir, sewaktu NS, saya terfikir tidak wajar sia-siakan masa dan peluang belajar. Ibu susah payah bekerja di hospital dan restoran makanan segera.

"Saya perlu membalas jasanya dengan pastikan tumpuan diberi pada bidang pengajian.

"Selama lima tahun di Lasalle, iaitu tiga tahun di peringkat diploma dan dua tahun bagi pengajian ijazah, saya tidak leka atau buang masa.

"Kos pengajian di institusi seni juga menelan belanja banyak. Mujur, saya juga dibantu Mendaki.

"Macam mana penat pun menyiapkan pelbagai projek, saya tidak mudah berputus asa atau membiarkan 'semangat seminit' menguasai diri saya," ujarnya.

Bagi tahun akhirnya, Encik Luqman dan beberapa rakan sekursus perlu menyiapkan dua projek filem iaitu sebuah filem ringkas dan sebuah dokumentari.

Keduanya keluar dari zon selesa malah menyentuh perihal larangan yang disorok masyarakat.

Hiding Birds adalah filem ringkas tentang homoseksualiti. *Pre-Loved* pula dokumentari yang membuka kisah gadis yang sanggup menjual pakaian dalamnya untuk meraih wang lumayan.

"Banyak cabaran yang dihadapi sebagai penyunting kedua-dua filem ini.

"Dalam keadaan kurang selesa, saya perlu pastikan penceritaan sampai, ada unsur simbolisme yang digunakan dan keseimbangan diraih agar penonton juga mampu menghidang jalan ceritanya.

"Komunikasi juga perlu. Bayangkan selesap penat menyunting filem ini, si pengarah ingin mengubahnya mengikut keperluan penerbit," tambah Encik Luqman.

Sejak tiga bulan lalu, beliau gigih menimba ilmu pempenerbitan menerusi tugas suntingan video di syarikat khidmat media antarabangsa, TVT Media.

"Filem berperanan menyampaikan kisah yang boleh mencetus inspirasi atau membawa gerak langkah positif dalam diri seseorang.

"Perjalanan panjang saya dari ITE ke Lasalle sendiri mendevasakan. Yang penting, cari minat anda dan jangan putus asa," pesan beliau lagi.



TIDAK MUDAH PUTUS ASA: Penerima ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama dalam Perfileman, Encik Luqman Nurhakim Abdul Gafor, melalui perjalanan panjang dalam dunia pendidikan sebelum menemui minat dalam bidang suntingan filem. - Foto-foto BM oleh SYAZA NISRIWA

Dua sahabat saling bantu raih pencapaian cemerlang



TEROKA POTENSI SENI: Encik Muhammad Masuri Mazlan banyak rebut peluang keemasan menghasilkan kerja seni menarik yang mengdua minda sebagai satu unsur refleksi diri di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

MEMANDANGKAN mereka sama-sama pelajar matang yang telah melalui alam pekerjaan, Encik Muhammad Masuri Mazlan dan Cik Irmawati Tubi saling sokong-menyokong di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Dua sahabat karib ini bahkan menutup tirai pengajian kursus ijazah seni halus mereka dengan Kepujian Kelas Pertama, kelmarin.

Encik Muhammad Masuri, 27 tahun, bekas pegawai khidmat pesakit di hospital tempatan, berkata:

"Saya amat gembira dan bersyukur bahawa setelah melalui onak duri dalam kehidupan, akhirnya saya meraih kejayaan dalam bidang seni halus yang saya minati tetapi tidak dalam sebelum ini.

"Semuanya berkat doa orang sekeliling termasuk guru yang saya hormati persis ibu bapa saya sendiri.

"Irma dan saya pula berkongsi prinsip sama. Walau kami jauh lebih dewasa daripada pelajar lain, kami yakin pembelajaran itu buat sepanjang hayat.

"Ia merupakan satu ibadah yang memerlukan pengorbanan."

Penuda dengan daya humor serta sopan tutur kata itu meraih banyak peluang keemasan menghasilkan arca menarik atau seni persembahan di samping peluang mengembara ke Jepun sepanjang di Lasalle.

Banyak anugerah seperti Anugerah Belia Harapan Goh Chok Tong, Anugerah Seni Antarabangsa Takifuji dari Jepun dan Anugerah Kembara Winston Oh juga dimenangi kerana kerja seni cemerlang.

Menyentuh tentang Anugerah Kembara Winston Oh berupa geran bagi menjalankan kajian seni di luar negara, beliau yang ingin meneruskan pengajian ke peringkat sarjana berkata:

"Minda saya terbuka mengapa orang Jepun yang moden termasuk anak mudanya masih percaya lagi tentang mitos di sebelah Pesta Bintang atau Tanabata di Tokyo.

"Mitos tentang dua kekasih (dilambangkan oleh bintang Vega dan Altair) yang hanya mampu bertemu setahun sekali pada waktu langit cerah ini menimbulkan rasa teruja.

"Orang Jepun itu kemudian memulih harapan mereka atas kertas berwarna kecil yang dipanggil 'tanabako'.

"Sekembalinya saya ke Singapura, saya siapkan satu seni persembahan langkah demi langkah tentang kepercayaan ini dalam video.

"Terus yang cuba saya sampaikan, kalau kita mahukan sesuatu, jangan berharap sahaja tanpa bekerja keras."

Cik Irmawati, 36 tahun, seorang guru seni lukis di Sekolah Menengah Fuhua pula akur dirinya sudah lama ingin memburu ijazah seni halus sejak tamat pengajian diploma di Akademi Seni Halus Nanyang (Nifa), sekitar 15 tahun lalu.

Sebelum bergelar guru, beliau pernah bekerja sebagai pengurus kes dan jurulatih golongan dewasa berkeperluan khas di Pergerakan Untuk Golongan Kurang Daya Upaya Intelek (Minds).

Beliau membimbing mereka agar mampu menyesuaikan diri dengan masyarakat sekeliling.

"Setelah sekian lama meninggalkan dewan kuliah sebagai pelajar, saya perlu menyesuaikan diri saya dengan amanah belajar semula.

"Namun, saya selalu beriklan yang terbaik bahkan menjalankan projek seni bersifat peribadi, sama ada mengenai kekangan perubahan yang dilalui neneknya di hospital atau penyakit kulit yang pernah saya sendiri hidapi.

"Saya bahkan yakin setiap kerja seni boleh dijadikan sandaran dan rungutan dalam mendidik masyarakat," ujarnya lagi.



TIDAK KENAL ERTI PUTUS ASA: Cik Irmawati Tubi kembali sebagai pelajar setelah lima tahun menjadi guru seni lukis di sekolah menengah kerana dahagakan ilmu pengetahuan seni yang relevan dengan keperluan masa kini.

PERTAMA DARI LASALLE



CADANG SAMBUNG PENGAJIAN KE PERINGKAT SARJANA: Cik Muafah Amran, yang pernah tinggal di Dubai dan Arab Saudi selama 10 tahun bersama keluarganya, tidak sangka meraih keputusan cemerlang dalam bidang reka hias di dalam di Maktab Seni Lasalle selepas mendapat hanya gred 'O.K.' saja di peringkat awal. – Foto BM oleh HARYANI ISMAIL

Pelajar dewasa di Dubai terkejut cemerlang di bidang reka hias dalaman

KEPUTUSAN tahun pertama Cik Muafah Amran semasa mengikuti kursus ijazah Kepujian dalam Reka Hias Dalaman Maktab Seni Lasalle kurang memberangsangkan sehingga beliau berasa akan berpuas hati sekiranya beliau dapat setakat tamatkan pengajian tiga tahunnya itu.

Namun, tanpa diduga, keputusan yang diraih dua tahun kemudian mengubah pandangannya itu. Meskipun tidak menaruh harapan tinggi, anak kedua lapan beradik itu masih berjaya meraih ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama bagi kursus yang disertai itu.

"Memang saya tidak sangka dengan keputusan ini.

"Apakan tidak. Keputusan tahun pertama dan penggal pertama tahun kedua seperti O.K.-O.K. sahaja.

"Sebab itulah apabila dapat keputusan kelas pertama itu, saya terpanjat," kata Cik Muafah, 24 tahun. Beliau berkata, selain mendapat dorongan keluarga, terutama ibu bapanya, Cik Muafah turut mendapat nasihat berusur peringatannya daripada asatizahnya setiap kali beliau mengikuti kelas ukhrawinya.

Pada masa yang sama, kerjasama rapat dengan rakan-rakan sekursusnya turut membantu beliau menyesuaikan diri dengan semua modul yang diambalnya sepanjang pengajian.

Tekanan yang diberi para gurunya langsung tidak mematahkan semangatnya untuk memberikan yang terbaik dalam setiap pelajarannya.

"Saya tidak pernah simpan rasa marah setiap kali "ditekan" guru.

"Bagi saya, setiap guru itu inginan yang terbaik daripada pelajarannya," ujarnya lagi.

Lebih memberangsangkan lagi, keputusan yang tidak diduga itu dicapai meskipun beliau dan keluarganya baru sahaja pulang ke tanah air selepas 10 tahun bermastautin di Dubai dan Arab Saudi empat tahun lalu.

Ini kerana pada waktu itu, bapanya bekerja sebagai jurutera bagi sebuah projek bangunan pencakar langit Burj Khalifa di Dubai.

Bekas Pelajar Sekolah Rendah Tampines North itu menyambung pengajian menengahnya di luar negara sepanjang tempoh itu.

Namun, itu tidak membuat gadis yang ramah itu "hilang bahasa ibunda dan budaya Melayunya."

Malah, wawancara yang berlangsung dengan wartawan membuktikan beliau masih fasih berual dalam bahasa Melayu.

Padahal semasa di luar negara, bahasa Inggeris (bahasa utama) dan Perancis (bahasa elektif) merupakan dua bahasa yang dituturnya.

"Meskipun bahasa Inggeris kerap ditutur, bahasa Melayu tetap menjadi bahasa utama kami sekeluarga.

"Jadi, tiada masalah disesuaikan diri berbahasa Melayu bersama anggota keluarga lain semasa pulang ke Singapura," ujarnya.

Menurutnya, ibu bapanya tidak pernah menyuhr mereka sekeluarga ubah cara amalan mereka di sana.

"Yang penting kami terus kekalkan jati diri," jelasnya lagi.

Cik Muafah, yang bercadang menyambung pengajian ke peringkat Sarjana dalam beberapa tahun akan datang selepas ditawarkan bekerja di sebuah syarikat rekaian dalaman.

Beliau dijangka memulakan pekerjaannya itu awal bulan depan.

'Amaran' abang bawa jaya dalam pengajian industri fesyen



CABARAN DITEPIS: Biarun membesar dengan masalah seperti remaja lain, Cik Nurul Huda berjaya mengatasi semua masalah itu dan akhirnya menggapai ijazah Sarjana Muda (Kepujian) Kelas Pertama jurusan Media dan Industri Fesyen dengan keutamaan dalam Industri Fesyen. – Foto BM oleh SYAZA NISRINA

SEPERTI remaja lain, Cik Nurul Huda Rohailan juga pernah mengalami masalah semasa di peringkat sekolah menengah.

Namun, semua masalah remajanya itu tidak terba-bawa sehingga beliau dewasa. Sebaliknya, semua yang dialaminya dijadikan pengajaran selepas beliau keluar daripada alam remaja.

"Abang sulung saya memberitahu saya bahawa sebelum melangkah masuk ke alam remaja, saya perlu tahu bahawa ia merupakan tahun paling "teruk" buat saya kelak. "Ternyata amaran itu membantu saya.

"Saya juga buat kesilapan seperti remaja lain, tetapi saya sentiasa beri masa untuk mengimbas kesilapan saya itu," katanya, yang kini berusia 23 tahun.

Mujur baginya juga beliau mendapat sokongan padu daripada ibunya, Cik Faridah Mohamed Hussain, 66 tahun, seorang ibu tunggal dan bekerja sebagai ejen hartanah.

Kematangan Cik Nurul Huda bak terserlah tatkala beliau, anak bongsu tiga beradik, melangkah masuk ke Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Hasilnya, bekas penuntut jurusan Media dan Industri Fesyen dengan keutamaan dalam Industri Fesyen itu meraih ijazah Sarjana Muda (Kepujian) Kelas Pertama selepas tiga tahun mengikuti kursus tersebut.

Menurutnya, minatnya terhadap subjek yang berkaitan pemasaran dan penjenamaan, selain mempunyai penyarah yang hebat, menjadi faktor pendorong bukannya.

"Dalam tahun kedua, penyarah saya itu membimbing saya untuk memilih jurusan Industri Fesyen sebagai subjek utama selepas melihat kekuatan saya terletak pada aspek perniagaan kursus tersebut.

"Memang saya tidak menyesal memilihnya.

"Saya fikir subjek-subjek tersebut menarik perhatian saya memandangkan saya dapat lihat idea saya "dihidupkan" dan saya dapat hasilkan kaedah kreatif dan menarik untuk mengatasi masalah," kata bekas penuntut Politeknik Temasek (TP) itu lagi.

Beliau kini pekerja pelatih bahagian penerbitan kandungan dan kreatif di sebuah syarikat.

Justeru, apakah nasihat beliau kepada golongan muda? "Saya fikir nasihat terbaik adalah mengimbas setiap masalah yang dihadapi dan lihat masalah itu dari sudut luaran.

"Tidak kira apa juga perselisihan faham yang dihadapi dengan ibu bapa atau rakan baik, lain orang bertindak berlainan dan penting bagi kita meletakkan diri dalam diri orang lain untuk kita memahami mereka," jelasnya.

Minat pada kajian perkasa ilmu reka bentuk



SENANGI PROSES 'TUKAR ANGIN': Bekas pelajar aliran Sains di Maktab Rendah Jurong, Cik Nur Faleyna Zulkifli, mendapati mindanya lebih segar dengan idea kreatif sehingga berjaya menggapai ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama dalam kursus Komunikasi Reka Bentuk. – Foto BM oleh SYAZA NISRINA

MINDA Cik Nur Faleyna Zulkifli dilatih agar lebih fleksibel dan kreatif setelah mengambil kursus ijazah Komunikasi Reka Bentuk di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Kecenderungan menjalankan kajian yang dipupuk sewaktu di aliran sains di Maktab Rendah Jurong (JJC) dahulu pula turut dimanfaatkan.

Dengan kelebihan memiliki pengetahuan dalam dua bidang, sains dan seni, yang jauh berbeza bak lagi dengan bumi, Cik Nur Faleyna, 22 tahun, akhirnya berjaya menggapai ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama, kelmarin.

Katanya: "Saya tidak tahu-menahu tentang lukisan langsung apabila memasuki kursus komunikasi reka bentuk ini.

"Namun, saya tertarik dengan fungsi grafik yang dapat memudahkan orang ramai menghadam maklumat secepat manapun topik yang ingin disampaikan.

"Grafik mampu melancarkan pemahaman secara lebih berkesan."

Dalam membesarkan tugas sekolah, Cik Nur Faleyna banyak belajar tentang kejiranan sekeliling mahupun sejarah kawasan ikonik seperti Geylang Serai.

Beliau juga seronok bereksperimen dengan barangan terpakai atau terbuang yang boleh dinaiktartakan kepada barangan berguna dengan daya kreativiti.

Sebagaimana kongsiannya: "Salah satu projek memerlukan saya mengkaji kawasan Geylang Serai dan sejarahnya.

"Bangku dengan bahagian yang patih atau hilang digunakan. Saya dan teman-teman kemudian memotong sebahagian daripada papan basuh kain lama untuk dilekapkan pada bangku tersebut.

"Dengan menambah warna pada bangku itu hasil inspirasi daripada rumah kedai sekitar Geylang Serai, sesuatu kerja seni yang menarik dapat kami hasilkan."

Ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama itu bagi Cik Nur Faleyna adalah pencapaian terbesar selepas meraih keputusan cemerlang dalam Peperiksaan Tamat Sekolah Rendah (PSLE).

"Saya tetapkan matlamat ingin buat yang terbaik demi datuk saya. Langkah selanjutnya adalah bagi saya menimba ilmu pemasaran pula sebagai persiapan jika ingin membangun usaha naga sendiri," kata Cik Nur Faleyna yang rapat dengan datuknya.

Six Malay youths obtained First Class Honours from LASALLE College of the Arts at the college's 32nd Convocation ceremony at Hall 3, Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday. As they heard a calling to delve into the fields of Filming, Fine Arts, Design Communication, Fashion Development and Interior Design, they made various adjustments for the long term. Reporters HARYANI ISMAIL (haryani@sph.com.sg) and FARID HAMZAH (farid@sph.com.sg) report on this page and the next.

First Class Graduates From LASALLE

Mum endeavours to work two jobs to burn laziness

Mr Luqman Nurhakim Abdul Gafor was an unmotivated student while taking a course in Audio Publishing and Digital Video at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College West, a few years ago. He often skipped classes until his studies were affected.

However, while undergoing National Service (NS), something sparked a thought in his mind about the sacrifices made by his mother, Mdm Sapiah Nek, to sponsor his schooling.

To this day, Mdm Sapiah still works her two jobs as a housekeeping staff at the National University Hospital (NUH) and a part time worker at the fast food restaurant, McDonald's.

26-year-old Mr Luqman's chest heaves as he remembers his mother working hard just to see him succeed in his studies, career and life.

It was from that moment on that the youngest of two siblings made sure that he never wasted the opportunity to continue his Diploma and undergraduate studies at LASALLE College of the Arts.

After getting a Diploma in Broadcast Media, he was awarded a First Class Honours in Film yesterday.

Mr Luqman got his scroll at LASALLE's 32nd Convocation ceremony which took place in Hall 3 of the Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Guest of Honour at the ceremony was Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Chan Chun Sing.

When he was interviewed by *Gah!* at LASALLE recently, Mr Luqman explained: "In the beginning, I had hopes of going to a Polytechnic." However, after he got his General Certificate of Education (GCE) 'N' Level results, he went straight to ITE. A few of his secondary school teachers were disappointed with his decision.

"At that time, I was lazy at ITE. It was difficult for me to be positive then. Fortunately, while serving NS, I thought about how it was not right for me to waste my time and the opportunity to study. My mum was working so hard at the hospital and fast food restaurant. I have to repay her for all that she has done by focusing on my studies.

"For five years in LASALLE, that is three years for the Diploma and two years for undergraduate studies, I have never been idle or wasted time.

"The cost of my studies at the art institution is also expensive. Luckily, I received help from Mendaki.

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No matter how tired I am, I will still work to complete my projects. I did not easily give up or let the “one-minute spirit” overcome me,” he said.

For his final year, Mr Luqman and a few of his course-mates had to complete two film projects, a short film and a documentary.

Both were out of his comfort zone and touched on taboo topics often hidden from society.

Hiding Birds is a short film about homosexuals. *Pre-Loved* is a documentary that tells the narrative of a girl who was willing to sell her underwear in order to earn a lot of money.

“I faced many challenges as the editor for both films.

“I was in an uncomfortable position. I had to make sure the story-telling came through. There were elements of symbolism in the film and I had to balance that with other aspects so audiences could better digest the storyline.

“Communication is also necessary. Imagine the director deciding to make changes to accommodate the needs of the producer, after a tiring period of editing the film,” adds Mr Luqman.

As of three months ago, he has been hard at work learning about post-production through his job editing videos at an international media service company, TVT Media.

“Film has the role of presenting stories that can spark inspiration or positive steps in an individual. I have matured in my long journey from ITE to Lasalle itself. Most importantly, find your interest and do not give up,” he advised.

Image caption:

DOES NOT GIVE UP EASILY: Recipient of First Class Honours in Filming, Mr Luqman Nurhakim Abdul Gafor, went through a long journey in the world of education before finding his interest in film editing - BM photograph by SYAZA NISRINA

Two friends help each other achieve success

CONSIDERING they are both mature students who have work experience, Mr Muhammad Masuri Mazlan and Miss Irmawati Tubi often support each other at LASALLE College of the Arts.

The two friends in fact have ended their studies in the BA(Hons) Fine Arts Programme, with both receiving First Class Honours, the day before yesterday.

Mr Muhammad Masuri, 27, a former Patients’ Services Officer in a local hospital said:

“I am happy and grateful that after going through the trials and tribulations of life, finally I am successful in the field of Fine Arts which I am interested in but never delved into before this.

“All this is possible due to the prayers of those around me, including my teacher who I respect like my own parents.

“Irma and I share the same principles. Even though we are much older than the other students, we are certain that this knowledge will last our whole lives.

“It is an act of worship that requires sacrifice.”

The humorous young man with polite manners has received many golden opportunities producing attractive sculptures or performance art pieces, apart from opportunities to travel to Japan throughout his studies in LASALLE.

He has won multiple awards like the Goh Chok Tong Inspirational Youth Award, Takifuji International Art Award from Japan and the Winston Oh Travel Award for his excellent art work.

Touching on the Winston Oh Travel Award which includes a grant to carry out art research overseas, he wishes to continue his studies with a Master’s degree and said,

“My mind is open as to why the modern Japanese, including the youths, still believe in the myth behind the Star Festival or Tanabata in Tokyo.

“The myth about two lovers (represented by the stars Vega and Altair) who are able to meet only once a year on a clear night has made me more excited. The Japanese write their hopes on small pieces of coloured paper called ‘tanzaku’.

“Upon my return to Singapore, I completed a performance art installation step by step regarding this belief in a video format.

“The core message I am trying to present is, if we want something, don’t just hope for it without hard work.”

Miss Irmawati, 36, an art teacher from Fuhua Secondary School, admits that she has wanted to pursue a degree in Fine Arts since she completed her diploma at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) some 15 years ago.

Before becoming a teacher, she once worked as a case manager and trainer for a group of special needs adults at the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS)

She trained them so that they would be able to fit in with the community at large.

“After having left the study hall as a student for so long, I had to get used to carrying the responsibility of learning once more.

“However, I always gave my best and in fact did personalized art projects, whether they were about medical problems of my grandmother or a skin affliction that I had.

“I believe that each work of art can form the basis through which we can reflect upon and educate society,” she continued.

Image captions:

EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF ART: Mr Muhammad Masuri Mazlan has grabbed many golden opportunities to produce attractive works of art that provoke thought as a source of self-reflection at LASALLE College of the Arts.

DOES NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF GIVING UP: Miss Irmawati Tubi returns as a student after five years as an art teacher at a secondary school due to her thirst for knowledge in the arts, which is relevant to current needs.

Adult student in Dubai meets unexpected success in Interior Design

Muafah Amran's journey in the BA(Hons) Interior Design Programme at LASALLE College of the Arts was so lacklustre that she would have been satisfied just to complete her three years of studies.

However, unexpectedly, the results she got two years later changed her perspective. Although she did not entertain high hopes, the second of eight children was able to obtain First Class Honours for the course she enrolled in.

"I really did not expect these results. Why not? My first-year results and those of my first term in the second year were just ok. So when I got the First Class results, I was shocked," said Miss Muafah, 24 years old.

According to her, apart from family support, especially from her parents, Miss Muafah also got a lot of good advice and reminders from her religious teachers each time she attended her religious classes.

At the same time, cooperating with her course-mates also helped her to get used to the modules she took throughout her studies.

The pressure she got from her teachers did not break her spirit at all and she gave her best in every lesson. "I never harbored any grudges against my teachers whenever they "tekan" (pressed) me. To me, every teacher wants the best from their students," she added.

What was more encouraging was that the unexpected results were achieved shortly upon her return home four years ago with her family, after having lived for ten years in Dubai and Saudi Arabia. This is because at that time, her father was working as a project engineer for the skyscraper Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

The former Tampines North Primary School student continued her secondary schooling overseas during that time.

However, that has not made the friendly girl lose her Malay mother tongue and culture. In fact, this interview conducted with the reporter proved that she was still fluent in Malay.

This is despite the fact that while studying overseas, English was her first language and she took French as an elective and is the second language that she speaks.

"Even though we had to speak English often, Malay was still the main language we used as a family. Therefore, there was no problem fitting in speaking Malay while mingling with other family members back in Singapore," she said.

According to her, her parents never wanted them to change their habits as a family while overseas. "The most important thing was for us to preserve our identity," she explained again.

Miss Muafah, who plans to further her studies and take a Master's degree in the near future, has already been offered a job in an interior design company. She expects to commence her job at the beginning of next month.

Image caption:

PLANNING TO CONTINUE HER STUDIES AND PURSUE A MASTER'S DEGREE: Miss Muafah Amran, who used to live in Dubai and Saudi Arabia for 10 years with her family, did not expect to get excellent results in the BA(Hons) Interior Design Programme at LASALLE College of the Arts after having gotten only an 'OK' grade in the earlier stages of her studies. – BM photograph by HARYANI ISMAIL

Older brother's 'warning' brings success in Fashion Industries studies

Image caption:

CHALLENGE PUSHED ASIDE: Although she grew up with issues like other teenagers, Miss Nurul Huda succeeded in overcoming all her challenges to finally obtain her First Class BA(Hons) Degree in the Fashion Media and Industries Programme, with emphasis on Fashion Industries – BM Photograph by SYAZA NISRINA

JUST like other teens, Miss Nurul Huda Rohailan also faced problems in secondary school. However, she did not bring over her teenage problems into her adulthood. Instead, all that she experienced became lessons for her when she left her teenage years behind.

“My oldest brother told me just before I stepped into my teens, that I needed to accept that it would be the worst years for me soon. His warning proved helpful to me. I made mistakes just like other teens but I always made time to reflect on my mistakes,” said the 23-year-old.

Lucky for her she gets solid support from her mother, 66 year old Mdm Faridah Mohamed Hussain, a single mother who works as a real estate agent.

Miss Nurul Huda's maturity shone through when she, the youngest of three children, stepped into LASALLE College of the Arts.

The result is, the former Media and Fashion Industry major with an emphasis on Fashion Industry obtained a First Class (Honours) Bachelor's degree at the end of her third year of studies.

According to her, apart from having a great lecturer, her interest in subjects related to marketing and branding were driving factors for her.

“In the second year, my lecturer guided me to pick Fashion Industry as a main subject after observing that my strength lied in the business aspects of the course.

“I did not regret picking it. I think such subjects attract me as I can see my ideas “come to life” and I can produce creative and attractive solutions for different problems,” said the ex-student of Temasek Polytechnic.

She is now an intern in the content publishing and creative department of a company. Thus, what advice does she have for young people?

“I think the best advice is to reflect on every problem that we have faced and look at the problem from a distance. No matter what misunderstanding we have with our parents or good friends, different people react differently and what is important is that we place ourselves in other people's shoes in order for us to understand them,” she explained.

Interest in research to empower design science

Image caption:

AT EASE WITH THE PROCESS OF 'TRANSITION': An ex-Jurong Junior College Science stream student, Miss Nur Faleyana Zulkifli finds that her creative ideas refresh her mind so much so that she successfully achieved a First Class in the BA(Hons) Design Communication Programme – BM photograph by SYAZA NISRINA

MISS Nur Faleyana Zulkifli's mind has been trained to be more flexible and creative after taking the BA(Hons) Design Communication Programme at LASALLE College of the Arts.

Her interest in conducting research, which was nurtured when she was in the science stream at Jurong Junior College, was also put into use.

With the advantage of picking between two fields of study, science and art, which are as vastly different as the earth and sky, Miss Nur Faleyana Zulkifli, 22, at last succeeded in achieving a First Class Honours yesterday.

She said, "I did not even know about drawing at all when I enrolled in this BA(Hons) Design Communication Programme. I was attracted to the function of graphics which can facilitate the consumption of information by the general public regardless of how heavy the topic to be presented is. Graphics are able to jumpstart understanding more effectively."

While completing her school assignments, Miss Nur Faleyana learnt a lot about the surrounding neighborhood, even iconic areas like Geylang Serai.

She had fun experimenting with used or discarded items that could be upgraded into useful objects using creativity.

She shared, "One of the projects required me to research the Geylang Serai area and its history. We used a chair with some parts broken or missing. My friends and I then cut up a piece from an old wash board and stuck it to the chair.

By adding colour to the chair after being inspired by the shophouses all along Geylang Serai, we were able to produce an attractive work of art."

First Class Honours was an enormous achievement for Miss Nur Faleyana after her impressive results for the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE).

"I decided to do my best for my grandfather's sake. The next step is for me to gather as much knowledge in marketing science in case I want to establish my own business enterprise," said Miss Nur Faleyana, who is very close to her grandfather.