

Dreams Do Come True!

I have fond memories of SJC days. Studying was a relative breeze and school life was filled with supportive friendships and fun activities, minus the occasional episodes of teenage angst when friendships went sour. After receiving my GCE O-Level Examination results, I went on to college and that was when things got more difficult and I struggled with my studies. My GCE A-Level Examination results were not ideal and it was clear that I could not go on to university. I was in shock for a while and naively I thought that my life was over. What would I do without a degree? I also felt guilty for disappointing my parents. Then someone shared with me about Ngee Ann Polytechnic's diploma course in Mass Communications and it was a ray of hope. I decided to apply for it and was elated when I was accepted. This new learning path made me more determined to succeed. I went on to graduate from Ngee Ann Polytechnic. A number of my classmates pursued their degrees overseas but it was not an option for me financially at that time. Instead, I secured my first job at an events management company. I also applied for a part-time degree course from RMIT Australia which was offered by Singapore Institute of Management (SIM). It was challenging to manage work commitments and attend lessons in the evenings. I believed that my fellow classmates and I survived it due to sheer determination and our support for one another. There were lots of happy smiles and a tear or two on our graduation day!

What I have experienced is that there are many pathways to achieving the success you desire in life. Just because one door closes, it does not mean that your dream has ended. It only means setting new goals, finding new opportunities and in some instances, creating different dreams. An interest in continuous learning is an essential key to manifesting your dreams and transforming your life. Some 28 years after I graduated from SJC, I am still a student and my journey continues. I have invested time and money in numerous courses over the past decades, some out of interest such as water painting classes, and others such as personal development courses that helped me to achieve breakthroughs in life. There were also other courses such as the WSQ Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment which enhanced my effectiveness in my profession. Never stop learning as it helps you to continuously create value in your chosen profession and brighten your lives.

I am also an avid reader. Articles and books of different genres nourish my mind and being. It was reading that improved my command of the English language when I was in Secondary Two and inspired me to dream of becoming an author. This dream came true in 2011 when my first book entitled "Fly Free: How Accepting the Wings of Life Can Help You Reach Your Rainbow" was published.

I believe that it is my keen learner mentality and positive attitude that have helped me forge ahead in pursuit of my dreams in spite of the challenges. In terms of my career, many learning paths also opened up new opportunities. I have been an events executive, newsletter writer, advertising and promotions executive, youth worker, family life

educator and trainer. Today, I am a Dream Catalyst by profession and passion. It is also the name of my company which I started in 2009. I am a consultant, corporate trainer, coach, speaker and author. This is because I enjoy the variety my job brings while meeting and helping people. Everyone needs to discover what works for them in their career paths and achievements in life's journey.

I also believe strongly that we have to give back to our community. I am currently an ambassador for two charities, Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore and Safe Haven Projects. Spending quality time with loved ones is also important. For myself personally, I also spend time painting, reading, writing and travelling. Striking a balance between work commitments and fun time is critical to continue the enjoyment and pleasure of what I do.

My experiences have shaped me into who I am today. I remain excited about the future and who I want to be as I grow. If I were to meet my younger self in SJC, I would say this to encourage myself:

"Life is a journey with its many winding paths, and its ups and downs. Yet in all circumstances, you hold the ability to celebrate the goodness present in your life and ride through the storms. Remember that it takes both the rain and sunshine to create magnificent rainbows in your life. Dreams do come true if you adopt a positive mind-set and take actions to pursue your heart's song. And at different times of your life, your dreams may change and evolve. Always remain open to possibilities in life. It is you who holds the key to your happiness. Fly Free."