SCALING HEIGHTS WITH RP!

"Go after what you love and what is best for you; it does not matter what other people think. It is your life.”
- Nurul Afifah

For Nurul Afifah, life is divided neatly into before and after 2009. That’s when the then-secondary two student first set foot in RP. She was representing Hua Yi Secondary School as a dancer for an annual hip-hop competition held at RP’s premise that year. “My first impression of RP was that it was unique and different from the other polytechnics. I couldn’t really pinpoint what exactly it was at the time but it sure felt like I was coming back home. The feeling was familiar. I felt like I could go to RP every day,” says Nurul Afifah, who was also a former Girl Guide for four years in Hua Yi. “As a Girl Guide, I had to bake cookies and sell them to raise funds for the elderly and children. That was how my love for baking started.”

Chasing a dream
Only in the first months into her RP education, the Far East Organization Scholarship beneficiary is all praise of bond-free funding that the scholarship provides. “RP offers the course that I’ve always wanted to join. Through this course, I’ve gained relevant practical experience from the modules and work attachments. With the scholarship, I could pursue what I love, while at the same time, it would lessen the financial burden for my family.” says the Diploma in Restaurant and Culinary Operations student who has an undying dream to start her very own music cafe one day.

Make your own destiny
Says Nurul Afifah, the eldest of the three children, “I feel more positive about going to school now because every day is exciting and different. My best friend once told me to go after what we love and what would be best for us as it does not matter what other people think when it is your life.”
“I feel privileged that I am being singled out and rewarded for my strengths and results.”
– C Keerthigha

Who: C Keerthigha
School: School of Applied Science
Course and year of study: Diploma in Biomedical Sciences, Year 1
Recipient of: Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship

When she was barely in her teens, Keerthigha, now 17, set a big goal: to be a medical professional who can make a difference in people’s lives, one way or another. It was not a surprising decision considering she has had many influences from family members who were either already in the field or working towards it then.

All in the family
“I remember that a bulk of family conversations revolved around my uncle, a radiologist consultant, who would throw medical terms around at will,” says the bubbly 17-year-old. “You’d think as a young girl, I would be put off by that kind of ‘high-level’ talk. On the contrary, I was intrigued and it got me all curious about the topic,” says Keerthigha.

The student leader (she was a class representative in her secondary school for four years and has been recently selected as the RP’s 10th Student Council Sub-Committee Member) is well into her first year pursuing her goals and having her first year of education with RP, funded by Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship.

Setting her sights on the future
“I already know what I want. Moreover, I would like to pursue further studies in this field. Monash University is reputable and comes highly recommended by family members, especially my mother,” she says. Keerthigha is thrilled that she gets to choose her specialisation in Year 2.

Winning the RP Freshmen Scholarship
“Coupled with the fact that I have my education fully paid for by Ngee Ann Kongsi, I am more motivated to excel in my assignments and tests now to get better GPAs (at least 3.5). It has been a fulfilling journey so far because I feel privileged and rewarded for my strengths and results,” says Keerthigha, who was invited by RP to apply for the scholarship earlier this year.

The youngest of three children, Keerthigha is also looking forward to the work attachment programme, which is part of her course with esteemed organisations such as Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) – in Year 3.

“I did not face any difficulties when applying for the scholarship as I met all the requirements. The interviewers were very friendly which allowed me to be myself during the interview. No sweat!”
Who: Tan Pin Neng, Elvis
School: School Of Sports, Health and Leisure
Course and year of study:
Diploma in Sports Coaching, Year 1
Recipient of: Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship

“The best advice was from my father: If you suffer for these 20 years, you will enjoy the rest of your life.” – Elvis Tan

Many boys his age would be obsessed with the latest videogames, but Elvis is fixated on making the best out of his tertiary education at RP. “If I had not chosen RP, I would have been in a different field, and I probably would not have enjoyed as much.” says Elvis, who is a member of the Tchoukball Interest Group.

A mix of brain and brawn
“RP gave me the chance to pursue a Sports Coaching diploma, a course which I really like.” says the Jurongville Secondary School graduate. It was there that he found and nurtured his love for Tchoukball. Under Elvis’ leadership, Jurongville Secondary’s Tchoukball “B” Division boys’ team won the 2011 Inter-School Tchoukball Competition, earning the team captain a National Schools Colours Award and an A1 CCA grade. He was also given the honour to represent Singapore in the Asia Pacific Tchoukball Championships in 2010 and the Southeast Asia Tchoukball Championships in 2009.

Needless to say, the Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship recipient was delighted to be able to continue his passion with the RP Tchoukball team.

Apart from doing well in Tchoukball, Elvis had also excelled academically in secondary school: “I went from a score of 32 for my prelims to achieving a 10 for my O-Level examinations,” says the middle child. “The best advice was from my father: if you suffer for these 20 years, you will enjoy the rest of your life. This advice was etched in my mind and propelled me to buck up,” continues Elvis, who aspires to be a sports coach.

“I felt grateful that I got the scholarship as expenses for school fees are covered, relieving my parents of the burden.”

Applying for the RP Freshmen Scholarship was also a motivating factor for Elvis to improve his presentation skills. “I would practise 24/7 in front of the mirror to appear more confident during the scholarship interview.” His determination and tenacity paid off.

“I am really enjoying my time here because of my Tchoukball teammates and the great facilitators who go through great lengths to impart their knowledge to us.”

Want to get a headstart in RP like Elvis, Keerthigha and Nurul Afifah? RP believes in giving deserving students the chance. Which is why the RP Freshmen Scholarship, offered by RP in partnership with industry partners and organisations, is a hit among outstanding Year 1 students applying to the school.

Here’s why you should apply:

1. Prestigious due to association with some of the leading and most reputable organisations.

2. Bond-free.

3. Scholarship value of $2,500 per academic year means you virtually need not fret about your fees so you can focus on your studies.

For more information on RP Freshmen Scholarship, email help-scholarship@rp.edu.sg now.