

1st Year NBS Student Identified as Role Model!

By Joelle Pang Si Ning

Differentiating yourself is something that you should start doing early, even as you are still in the midst of attaining your graduate degree. Differentiating herself at a young age is something Meenakshi d/o Shunmugham has done for herself.

Meenakshi is a Year 1 Business student who has been selected to be featured in SINDA's weekly programme, *Thil Thil Manathil*, an info-entertainment programme that aims to focus on our local Indian community, which is aired at a primetime slot on Saturdays on Vasantham Central.



Thil Thil Manathil touches on the social issues pertaining to the Indian community through the various segments of the programme, and Meena is to be featured in one such segment after being selected to receive the SINDA Academic Excellence Award (AEA) 2006 for her outstanding performance in her diploma programme. She had received a Diploma with Merit in Mass Communication upon graduation from Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Under SINDA's recommendation, Meena is featured as a role model to inspire and motivate other Indian youths. The focus of the segment in which she will be appearing is to showcase people who have succeeded in various fields. Through this, the programme aims to emphasize that everyone has a part to play in improving the community.

Meena is still considering her options as to which activities to get herself involved in NTU, as she wishes to use the first semester to get accustomed to university life. She is a strong believer of taking part in various activities and not always following conventions, as it provides her with an edge. It is hard not to believe her after taking a look at her outstanding record of activities that she has been a part of! Here are a few non-academic activities to give you a taste of what she has been involved in:

- Volunteering at the Spastic Children's Association of Singapore on an ad-hoc basis
- Relief teaching at Lakeside Primary School
- Managing the song database system at OLI 96.8FM
- Designing logos and related materials of H.R. Perkins Consultants
- Designing S.M.A.R.T.S posters and other related materials
- Giving tuition at a subsidised rate to low income families
- Registered member of the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and awaiting her first assignment

Meena chose to read Business at NTU after completing her Mass Communication course in Ngee Ann Polytechnic as she thought it would complement her Mass Communication diploma. Furthermore, having both a degree and diploma in two different but related fields would give her an edge over the others.

Meena lives by the words of Ursula le Guin: It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end. She strongly believes that while a person may find motivation in his or her hopes for the future, he or she must not devalue the steps that have to be taken to get there, because it is through those past joys and hardships that mould a person into what he or she comes to be in the future.

Taking a leaf from Meena's book, and pursuing your dreams by first engaging in enriching activities where your interests lie is definitely something you should consider doing.