

“HAVE you ever wondered what it would be like to unleash your true potential? We are all born with different strengths, circumstances and experiences – each unique. Matching our natural blueprint to what the world has to offer, that is the key.”

This advice came from PrepWorks Sdn Bhd founder Tamara Lim, who set out to be all she could.

From winning the district piano competition and long jump, to getting a varsity “half-blue” for representing Oxford University at pistol shooting, to being bestowed the presidential award for contribution to Trinity College and being an Oxford academic scholar (ninth in her year) and Shell Personal Development award holder, she outperformed at every opportunity she could – her latest being an Outstanding Leadership in Education award from Dubai’s Education 2.0 conference.

It is unsurprising she managed a place at top ranked institutions such as the top UK girls’ independent boarding school Wycombe Abbey, Oxford University, and MIT, Boston.

“But there were some dicey moments,” she cautions.

Lim noted instances when she could have had much better guidance.

“There were junctures where the situation could have gone either way. I could have listened to the careers test I took at 16 and pursued furniture design, or to my aunt on dentistry.

“I was disappointed when I did not get into Yale, my initial choice, after my housemistress said it was a certainty.

“For my Oxford interview, I was

TOP UNIVERSITY TALENT: BORN OR BRED?

Young students can be geared for higher chances of top boarding school and university entry



The PrepWorks team consists of (from left) Priscilla Peter, Tamara Lim and Syazwani Mahat as well as over 100 tutors who have graduated from the top 20 universities in the world.



Oxford University is ranked No.1 in the World University Rankings. In its best year, two out of three PrepWorks applicants gained places at Oxford and Cambridge.

misled by a London interview training company in London who gave false advice. It was overall quite stressful.”

Lim adds: “Eighty two percent of graduates say their degree is a good thing but 61% would have changed one aspect – the subject they read.

“I realised after my first year that Materials Science was not for me, then two years into my career, that engineering did not align with my personality.

“It does spotlight a huge risk – allowing our teenage selves to decide something so pivotal, unassisted.”

On whether a top university degree was worth the ordeal Lim says: “Some would say factors such as character, networking, timing and luck would weigh in heavier.

“I believe going to a top university enhances those and more – opening doors, valuing a diversity of perspectives, being inspired by professors and colleagues holding the bar higher every time. This exposure is irreplaceable.

“The future is fast-changing – Covid-19 epitomises that. Having three kids myself, I constantly question how to prepare my children for it. To thrive, the next generation will need critical thinking, literacy and numeracy skills as a foundation while being adaptable, communicative and creative.

“The environment of our formative years matters and in that respect, I believe attending a top university gives them the nurturing environment to grow in these areas.”

To ensure students have a trusted source to guide them into top universities, Lim founded PrepWorks in 2015 based on three pillars – character, skills and academic development.

PrepWorks prepares children from five to 17 years old for top boarding school and university entry, with recent successes into Harvard and Yale increasing their chances of getting in by up to four times. In its best year, two out of three PrepWorks applicants gained places at Oxford and Cambridge.

PrepWorks is also the official education advisor of HSBC Premier customers.

“We are a group of 100+ tutors from top universities,” says Lim.

“We offer a 100% online primary academy, online and in-home tutor-

ing in subjects including philosophy for secondary students, skills enrichment classes in critical thinking and university admissions packages – exposing them to how the best in the world learn with the mindset to eventually get them to the top.”

PrepWorks has grown 1.5 times yearly and is holding upcoming events at its centre in the heart of Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur.

“Do book a free consultation to find out more. We’d love to see how we can help,” says Lim.

Find out how to reach your full potential at the What it Takes to Reach Your Dreams Talk on Dec 11 (2pm-5pm). Details are available at www.prep.works



EXAMS taken by students of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) Strategic Credits Partners are of equal standards with the body’s external exams, and all papers share similar learning outcomes.

The implantation of the strategic credits, said ICAEW external moderator Prof Phillip Ormrod, is a great example of international collaboration that reflects the global business environment.

Universiti Malaya (UM) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) are the first two public universities in Malaysia to have obtained the ICAEW Strategic Credits Partner status. Currently, there are only 11

Future-ready curriculum for aspiring accountants

ICAEW Strategic Credits universities in the world, including UM, USM, and Multimedia University (MMU), which acquired the status in 2018.

“I look forward to seeing UM and USM graduates become ICAEW chartered accountants and helping to build a sustainable economy for Malaysia,” said Prof Ormrod.

Historically, higher education institutions (HEIs) are only able to apply up to a maximum of eight credits for prior learning (CPLs) against 15 ACA (ICAEW Chartered Accountant qualification) modules.

Through the ICAEW Strategic Credits programme, selected HEIs are able to embed an additional four ICAEW modules within their own curricula.

The syllabus is moderated by

ICAEW and updated annually to match the organisation’s standards. Through this approach, ICAEW Strategic Credits Partner students will be able to complete their degrees and pass the majority of their ACA exams during the same period. The students will only be left with three advance level papers to complete during their training period with authorised training employers.

At a recent event held to commemorate the first successful cohort from the partnership with UM and USM, ICAEW deputy president Julia Penny said the Strategic Credits programme will give

accounting students from these varsities greater access to ICAEW membership, provide them with future-proof careers, and benefit employers as these students will come into the employment market job ready.

Higher Education Ministry director-general Prof Datuk Dr Husaini Omar, who officiated the event, said the partnership is in line with the policy that the ministry has planned for producing a highly-skilled, innovative and professional workforce.

UM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor said the partnership, which allows select-

ed institutions to acquire eight CPLs and an additional four Strategic Credits through exam moderation, is a testimony to ICAEW’s recognition of each institute’s strengths.

USM vice-chancellor Prof Dr Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan said the varsity, in line with its vision of “Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow”, is committed to producing the best talents among its students to enable them to transform their socioeconomic well-being and contribute to a sustainable future.

Brand icons to drive SEGi’s vision

AS the marketplace readies itself for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0), it is vital that future graduates be groomed to flourish in a more agile workforce and to possess the necessary technological skills and versatility to meet the demands of businesses.

This is even more pressing in the post-pandemic era as there is a need to revitalise businesses through data analytics and business intelligence software.

In addition, Malaysia is expected to be a strategic partner for smart manufacturing and a primary hub for high-tech industries by 2025.

With these in mind, SEGi has made the move towards enhancing its curricula, upgrading its campus equipment and introducing innovative programmes to its students.

Representing its strategies are its two brand icons: SEGiRO and RUDY, the varsity said in a press release.

SEGiRO, derived from the term SEGi’s Hero, signifies the institution’s strategic, wise and innovative direction while RUDY, short for Are You Ready, stands for SEGi’s steadfastness in producing analytical,

agile and creative graduates.

These icons will carry SEGi’s vision to become a leading research and innovation-driven institution through a four R approach: reimagine possibilities, recognise potential, redefine future and revolutionise the market.

The four thrusts are combined to ensure every student learns IR4.0-related subjects, is provided inter-faculty assignments to develop cross-disciplinary skills, has access to cyber-physical classrooms and state-of-the-art facilities, and experiences integrated web-based learning to connect from anywhere across the world, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with over 600 smart industry partners.

Among SEGi’s academic offerings include mechanical engineering, automotive engineering, electrical and electronics engineering, information technology, computing and business administration.

The curricula of these programmes have been upgraded to provide digital skills which are vital for better technological adoption in organisations.



Dynamic duo: SEGiRO and RUDY will carry SEGi’s vision to become a leading research and innovation-driven institution.