Bright New Future

With scrolls in hand, a new cohort of Parkway College graduates embark on the next chapter of their healthcare careers.

Since its inception, Parkway College’s management team, teachers, alumni and industry partners have been dedicated in providing high-quality education and training opportunities for its students. By inculcating a powerful combination of the right skills, right attitude and right mindset amongst its graduates, Parkway College aims to enhance the employability of its graduates in the healthcare sector. On 3 November 2017, the College proudly graduated a new cohort of students.

Representing a cross-section of healthcare professionals from various clinical areas as well as healthcare administration, the graduates also included the first graduating batch from the Aston University Bachelor of Science (Honours) Optometry and Clinical Practice that was introduced two years ago.

Phua Tien Beng, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Operations Division, Parkway Pantai acknowledged the hard work of the graduates and congratulated them on earning the title of graduate. At the same time, he encouraged them not to be defined or confined by this label but to instead use it as a starting point for their dreams, aspirations and ambitions in their careers.

The healthcare landscape is always changing. With each evolution cycle, new and different career pathways are created. Go for them if you have the interest and skillset.

- Phua Tien Beng, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Operations Division, Parkway Pantai
Since topping her class with First Class Honours, Carine has been working at a private clinic. In addition to securing a good job, her qualification has also armed her with better skills to help the less fortunate.

“I am actively involved in community activities (and) I have just represented my clinic on a mission trip to Cambodia,” she says.

It is this ability to help others that fuels Carine’s passion for optometry, “It really touches my heart when I see smiles coming from their faces after obtaining a functional clear vision from their optical aids. These priceless smiles spur me to continue to work hard and run the extra mile.”
In addition to her passion as a radiographer, Anitha D/O Kunasaigaran always had a keen interest in management, which led to her taking the Master of Health Administration course. While there were other institutions offering such a qualification, Anitha chose Parkway College, saying, “Their focus was in creating a curriculum that was in line with their core values - current, relevant and life-long learning.”

Apart from lectures and constant feedback from her lecturers, Anitha learned a lot from her coursemates who came from different backgrounds – a doctor, nurses, allied health and administrative professionals.

With the invaluable support of her family and their belief in her, Anitha triumphed as course valedictorian. Currently working at National University Hospital, Anitha is keen to apply the knowledge she has acquired to better manage an organisation, saying, “I am looking at developing myself further clinically as well as broadening my skills in the administrative area as I hope to see myself working in the management field one day.”

For 38-year-old Joan Speed Villareal, studying to be a nurse was especially exciting and daunting because she had been out of school for almost 15 years.

In choosing to embark on her diploma at Parkway College, Joan explained that while a smaller class size was important, one fact sealed the deal for her, “Most importantly, Parkway College is under Parkway Pantai, which is known to have the best hospitals in Asia” she said.

Equipped with experience as a caregiver in Australia, Joan was well aware of her innate desire to help people and this would be the impetus for her to put her heart and mind to achieving what her heart desired – being a registered nurse.

Anitha reminded fellow graduates that curiosity should be the compass with ambition as companion in their budding careers.

It’s Never Too Late

Currently working at National University Hospital, Anitha is keen to apply the knowledge she has acquired to better manage an organisation, saying, “I am looking at developing myself further clinically as well as broadening my skills in the administrative area as I hope to see myself working in the management field one day.”

Anitha reminded fellow graduates that curiosity should be the compass with ambition as companion in their budding careers.

It was truly an enriching experience... the diverse skill-set present in my class allowed everyone to contribute different ideas that helped to broaden our knowledge further.

– Anitha D/O Kunasaigaran, Class Valedictorian, Masters in Health Administration
After an observational attachment in a hospital’s radiography department when she was in polytechnic, Siti Farhana Binte Roslee knew that becoming a radiographer was her calling.

Initially accepted to study radiography in Australia, she choose to study at Parkway College instead, saying, “To be able to study what I am passionate about and at the same time be close to my family was what I preferred.”

This decision to stay in Singapore proved to be critical to Farhana’s success and enabled her to come out tops in her class, thanks in part to the support of her family.

For Siti, it’s about pushing boundaries to make the world better, and every small step counts.

Using her experience, maturity and focus to her advantage, Joan went on to overcome all the hurdles associated with going back to school – examinations, presentations and assignments - to emerge nursing valedictorian.

Now that she has obtained her diploma, Joan is looking forward to studying for her degree to further upgrade her knowledge.

Despite graduating as Parkway College’s first top Malay student and securing a job as a radiographer at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Siti is not about to rest on her laurels. Instead, she has her sights on a Master’s degree and hopes to be able to nurture the next generation of radiographers.

Joan is confident that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.