

| PARKWAY COLLEGE 2015 GRADUATION CEREMONY

THE JOURNEY STARTS NOW



WITH GRADUATION
SCROLLS IN HAND, OVER
100 PARKWAY COLLEGE
GRADUATES WALK
CONFIDENTLY INTO THE
FUTURE.

It may have been Friday the 13th but there was nothing ominous in the air at Concorde Hotel Singapore. Rather, the excitement was almost palpable as 131 eager graduands, dressed in smart blue gowns, waited for their names to be called.

Parkway College's Graduation Ceremony, held on 13 November 2015, honoured the hard work and academic achievements of its latest graduating cohort. The school proudly handed out 75 Diplomas in Nursing, 15 Graduate Diplomas in Healthcare Management, 14 Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging degrees, and 27 Master of Health Administration degrees.

This cohort, diverse in background with some mid-career professionals making the switch from medical research, aviation inspection, web publishing and customer service to healthcare, is united by a common desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Applauding them, Parkway College Chief Executive Officer Dr Lee Hong Huei said, "Congratulations! You've achieved what you set out to do, which is to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for the career you've chosen. However, to be truly successful, you need to be mindful of an important ingredient—one that cannot be learnt in the classroom or from books. This ingredient is empathy. Whether you're directly or indirectly involved in patient care, your ability to understand and share the feelings of those you serve is what will make you exceptional."

As Singapore seeks to improve the accessibility, quality and affordability of healthcare, Parkway College is doing its part by developing healthcare professionals with the right skills and aptitude. Its graduates continue to be well received by the industry, with this class of nursing and radiography students receiving job offers prior to graduation.



▲ Study hard, play hard!



◀ Jump for joy! Graduates show their excitement for the future.



◀ Dr Lee Hong Huei, Chief Executive Officer of Parkway College, congratulates the cohort.



"Knowledge is changing. The world is changing. As you venture out, please keep an open mind. The rich experiences that await you will help you grow and develop further."

GUEST OF HONOUR DR LIM SUET WUN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PARKWAY OPERATIONS DIVISION (NOW GROUP CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF PARKWAY PANTAI)

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CHASING DREAMS

Giving up a stable, well-paying job to undergo re-training as a nurse sounds like a bold move but for two Parkway College graduates, it was their answer to a calling in healthcare.

"My parents didn't know," admitted Loh Sze Hua. The 29 year old kept her parents, who reside in Malaysia, in the dark until her second year with Parkway College.

"I've always wanted to be a nurse but I followed my parents' wishes and got a Bachelor of Science in Medical Bioscience instead. Then I followed in my lecturer's footsteps and became a medical researcher," shared Sze Hua. "But I never really gave up my dream. A few years ago, I learnt through a casual conversation with a friend that Parkway College was recruiting. I was tempted but it wasn't an easy decision to make.

"I was earning a good salary as a medical researcher. Giving that up to become a full-time student with no income for three years and understanding that, after graduation, I might not earn as much as I used to, was a major worry. I still had to support my family," she revealed.

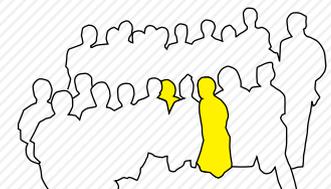
After giving it much thought, Sze Hua mustered up the courage to pursue her passion. "I want to enjoy life by doing what I love. There are many 'real world' considerations but I don't think these should be obstacles to pursuing my dream."

"The day I was accepted into Parkway College, I told myself that I've given up so



much to be here, so I'm going to do my utmost best." And she did, graduating at the top of her Diploma in Nursing class as Valedictorian (Nursing).

"My parents attended the graduation ceremony. They didn't say much but from the smiles on their faces, I know they're proud of me," she said. Now a Staff Nurse at the Intensive Care Unit of Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Sze Hua hopes to keep learning and growing and to eventually become an Advanced Practice Nurse in Critical Care.



▲ Loh Sze Hua (left) and Caroline Sim (right) made a mid-career switch to nursing.



"This is an extraordinary career. Watching my patients get better is priceless and that's the only reward I need."

CAROLINE SIM (left)

"My parents attended the graduation ceremony. They didn't say much but from the smiles on their faces, I know they're proud of me."

LOH SZE HUA (right)

For Caroline Sim, making the switch to nursing was not an easy decision either. "It took me two years to accept my calling," she recounted. The 40 year old was the head of web publishing with Singapore Police Force when she decided to call it quits in favour of a career in nursing.

"All along, my passion was in arts, design and multimedia. This was until 10 years ago when my grandfather became gravely ill. I nursed him for three months and, in the process, discovered that I enjoyed caring for the sick. I also found that I was able to communicate well with the elderly," she shared. "Since then, I have come to believe that nursing is my calling but it was tough to give up a 13-year career in multimedia design to start from scratch.

"Eventually, I left my job because I realised there is greater meaning in life. I love taking care of the elderly. I know I will be happy working closely with them and nursing allows me to do that. Yes, I did forego a higher salary but I also believe that money cannot buy me happiness," she said.

To start over, Caroline enrolled in Parkway College for a Diploma in Nursing but going back to school after all these years was a challenge in itself.

"I'm blessed that my husband and my family are very supportive of my decision. They believe in me and that was what kept me going in school.

"Parkway College was a wonderful learning journey. I met many passionate and knowledgeable lecturers and gained valuable experience through clinical attachments," she said.

Caroline, who is now a Staff Nurse with Ren Ci Community Hospital, is glad that she made the mid-career switch. "Nursing is never an easy job but it is certainly a fulfilling career. I feel like I'm on a journey with my patients, walking with and caring for them through their recovery process. Once they get better, they move on and others take their place. This is an extraordinary career. Watching my patients get better is priceless and that's the only reward I need."

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

When Jasena D/O Ramdas graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging degree, she became the second radiographer in the family. Her sister Vidya completed the same course just two years earlier.

"Back in secondary school, I was part of the St John Ambulance Brigade. I quickly realised that I found joy in helping the sick and knew that a career in healthcare was for me. I was contemplating my career options when I began learning about radiography from my sister, who was studying at Parkway College. When I found out that radiography combines both healthcare and physics, which was my favourite subject in school, I felt it suited me well," shared Jasena.

The three-year full-time course was not without its challenges but Jasena, who graduated as Valedictorian (Allied Health), is thankful for a strong support network. "There were only 13 students in my class so we become very close. We were determined to make it to the end together, so we were always helping one another out. My family and my sister were also very encouraging and motivated me to work harder."

Today, Jasena is a radiographer with Mount Elizabeth Hospital while Vidya serves at Parkway East Hospital.



"It is comforting to have a sister in the same profession. When I face difficulties at work, I know I have someone at home who understands and is able to give me advice," said Jasena. "Parkway College has given me the knowledge and confidence to pursue my dream. Now, I aspire to do my job well—to be a competent and composed radiographer who always has my patients' interests at heart."

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JASENA D/O RAMDAS



► Sisters Jasena (left) and Vidya (right) are both proud graduates of Parkway College.