AmCham awards first SMU Scholarship

By LOTTE POOLE

It was a tough decision for the AmCham panel of judges chosen to interview and select the first recipient of the AmCham Scholarship at Singapore Management University (SMU). From a shortlist of three and after considerable debate, Amy Wen Wei-Ching emerged the winner. Amy will be pursuing a double degree in business management and social science at SMU from September 2004.

“...I was attracted to AmCham’s scholarship because my study focus is business, and AmCham has helped develop important and long-standing business links between Singapore and the U.S.,” said Amy. “It felt like a connection with AmCham would prove valuable in the future.”

Amy is a graduate of Victoria Junior College (VJC), where not only did her principal Chan Kiah Gek describe her as “an intelligent and lively learner,” but she led many extra-curricular activities, such as the Wahlu team to the National Championship. She was also active in maintaining the college’s archives. Her sporting activities included cross-country, track and field and cheerleading. “She was an enthusiastic cheerleader for her faculty,” said Chan. Her community work included tutoring under-privileged children at the Chen Su Lan Methodist Home.

College friends describe Amy as a person with a zest for life, a sunny disposition and a sweet and bubbly nature.

Prior to VJC, Amy attended Raffles Girls’ School, where she was a member of the Gifted Education Program from 1998 to 2001. Again, her lively personality appears in reports of her time there, and the principal described her as “a frank young lady who readily articulates her opinions.”

She was involved in dance and won a gold medal in the 2001 Singapore Youth Festival Dance Competition. Raffles is also where her love of cheerleading first began, and her support for Richardson House was “very active” according to Deborah Tan, the principal.

Amy said she chose SMU not only because it allowed her to do a double degree but “their interactive and less rigid teaching method suited my learning style.”

Amy has no set plans for her future, but she hopes it will include entrepreneurial work. “My family has always dreamed of having a small business, but somehow we haven’t had time for it yet,” she said. Before becoming a businessperson, she would like to work abroad in the United States, China or India and in developing countries, such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Cambodia or Vietnam. In 10 years time, she hopes to find herself “in an exciting and challenging job which I enjoy.”

The AmCham-SMU Scholarship Fund now stands at $230,000. AmCham has until the end of 2004 to raise its contribution to $400,000, which will be matched 3:1 by the Singapore Government.

Many events are being organized by AmCham to help raise funds. The next will be the Ambassador’s Black Tie Dinner on September 3. This is being held at the Ritz-Carlton Millenia Hotel to thank Ambassador Frank Lavin for his support of the American business community over the years. The theme of the evening is Winds of Trieste, and the ballroom will be decorated with a sea of sailing boats. Good food, world-class entertainment and a focus on the 1970s will guarantee an excellent evening out and full coffers for the Scholarship Fund.

For information about the scholarship fund, contact Holland Dunn at 6235-0017, ext. 28 or hdunn@amcham.org.