Always on the go

NURULASYIQAH
MOHAMMAD TAHA, 20
(right)

The story of Nurulasyiqah in May encouraged a number of parents, who saw from her example that there are no limits on a wheelchair-bound child's potential.

Syiqah, as she is affectionately known to friends, has continued to press forward to new heights.

"I've been installed as the fifth president of the Rotaract Club of SMU," she shared. "I'm very honoured to be given such a huge responsibility."

Born with spinal muscular dystrophy, Syiqah finds it hard to think of herself as disabled, as she has always lived a full life. She plays boccia — a form of petanque for the handicapped — and placed second in the 1st National Boccia Championship and even went on to the South Pacific championships with the national team. This on top of scoring a B+ average for her third-year studies and despite missing five weeks of school when she was hospitalised with pneumonia. Her friends helped by e-mailing notes, and discussions were held via MSN Messenger.

When we last spoke to Syiqah she was just about to move to the new Singapore Management University at Bras Basah. Was it everything she had hoped for?

"Yes!" she exclaimed. "I can go out for lunches at the nearby eateries."

Previously this was a challenge, as her campus was in isolated Bukit Timah.

"I only wish the Museum Station could be completed sooner. Neither City Hall nor Bugis are wheelchair accessible, and Dhoby Ghaut is too far away for me to 'drive' there in case my batteries die out!"

What are her hopes and dreams for 2006? "To walk on custard. I was watching this science documentary the other day on how it is possible for a person to walk on a pool of cornstarch-based custard and not sink. But the moment he stops, he sinks. So I hope to steadily keep myself on the go — pausing only long enough not to sink."

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