走访前囚犯 写下他们的故事

专题作业出版成书，为前囚犯摆脱刻板印象，激励其他囚犯向善，这是新加坡管理大学商学院一群学生的社会贡献。

新大商学院八名一年级学生简伟阳、庄文铨、李来健、沈建宏、连志焜、黄佳杰、白宝玲和Nabil Mattar，访问了前囚犯，将他们的故事出版成一本书“Alight Again”，作为他们第一学期的社区参与（Community Involvement）专题作业。

组员说，这份作业是配合当时正在推行的“黄丝带计划”。他们想借这本，改变社会人士对前囚犯的看法，并激励其他前囚犯，同时也表扬那些积极帮助前囚犯的人。

李来健（21岁）说，凭着意志力和团队精神，他们在短短十一个星期，就完成了一项近乎“不可能的任务”。出版商和设计师都是校内的同学，所以他们在各方面节省了不少时间。此外，“黄丝带计划”

将学校专题作业出版成书，
新大学生将功课化为社会贡献。
8名前囚犯改过自新的故事，
现在已付梓。

走访问前囚犯，写下他们的故事

采访前先“彩排”

从小组运作方式，不难看出他们的认真。他们分工合作，一些组员负责采访和撰稿，一些则专注于校对工作。撰稿时，他们以最客观的态度，确保所有信息的准确性。在采访之前，他们有时会先进行“迷你彩排”，以确保自己的言语婉转，不会伤害到受访者。

负责采访的组员连志焜（21岁）说，一般上，受访者都乐意分享自己的故事，不会显得畏缩，因为他们其实很想让外界了解自己的经历。不过，有时候也会碰到受访者情绪失控的情况。面对这样的情況，访问者必须更谨慎地进行采访。那他

们打趣地回答：“我们都很专业。”

接触前囚犯后更珍惜现在

小组成员都说这项专题作业非常有意义，丰富了他们的人生。接触前囚犯之后，他们也更懂得珍惜现在的生活。沈建宏（21岁）认为，若有一个读者被感动或是被激励，他就心满意足了。另一名组员庄文铨（21岁）也说，他们希望看到自己的专题作业能改变他人的人生观，对别人

起着正面的影响。

这本“Alight Again”共收录了八个前囚犯的故事。现在，他们都积极地面对生活，有的还在帮助其他前囚犯。要重新面对生活并不容易，尤其是在戒毒的过程中，他们承受的痛苦并非一般人能想象。

既然他们已经戒心悔改，大家也应该调整心态，接受他们。
A book published by a group of students from the Singapore Management University (SMU) hopes to change the stereotypical image of ex-convicts and encourage them to turn over a new leaf. It is a community service contribution by these students from the university’s business school.

The eight first-year students - Alvin Kan, Mervyn Zhuang, Marcus Lee, Sim Jian Hong, Lian Zhikun, Brian Wong, Karen Peck and Nabil Mattar - interviewed ex-convicts and compiled the interview stories into a book called ‘Alight Again’ as part of their project work for their first semester Community Involvement.

The team members said that their choice of theme coincided with the national Yellow Ribbons Project which was rolled out then. They hoped to use this book to change society’s perceptions of ex-prisoners and encourage these people. At the same time, the book also praised the efforts of individuals who have been supportive of ex-prisoners.

Marcus Lee said that they accomplished this impossible project within a short 10-week period based on sheer determination and team spirit. The owner of the printing company and designer were all students from SMU which saved them time on several fronts. Yellow Ribbons also provided them assistance. Local director Jack Neo was supportive too, granting them an interview readily and shared many of his views.

**Rehearsals before the interviews**

From coordination to sharing of responsibilities, it was clear that the team was serious and determined. Some were allotted the role of interviewers and others were assigned to be editors or public relations officers. Editors took on an objective perspective and preserve the accuracy of the original manuscripts as much as possible. Before interviews, the team would go through simple rehearsals to ensure that the right questions were asked and that nothing that was said would unwittingly hurt the feelings of the ex-convicts.

Interviewer Lian Zhikun shared that most of the ex-prisoners were very forthcoming with their stories and were not withdrawn or shy. This was because most were more than willing to let the outside world into their inner lives. Occasionally, they would encounter the interviewees getting emotional and losing their composure. Were the students ever moved to tears by the stories? They replied that they tried to be as professional as possible.

**Experience helps them treasure what they have**

Team members were unanimous that the experience enriched their lives and helped them better appreciate what they already have. Sim Jian Hong said that his satisfaction would be to have a reader being touched or moved by the stories. Mervyn Zhuang hoped that the book would influence people’s mindset towards ex-prisoners.

‘Alight Again’ is a collection of stories of eight ex-prisoners. Most of the subjects in the book were actively embracing their new lease of lives. Others are helping other ex-convicts. It is challenging going back onto the straight path especially for those with drug offences. But where they are willing to take on this uphill challenge, it is also society’s responsibility to change our thinking and accept them.