Be inspired by S’porean author and his subject

THE celebration of the 300th birthday of Benjamin Franklin recently occurred on Jan 17. Surprisingly, what brought this notable event to my attention was a delightful book titled Benjamin Franklin, A Bright Spark, written by a Singaporean author, George Tan. Tan’s approach to presenting the history of Franklin is nearly as inventive and inspiring as Franklin himself. Tan views Franklin through his unique life-skills model, and shows how this great statesman, politician, inventor, engineer and businessman started from very humble beginnings and managed to achieve extraordinary success and impact through the cultivation and practice of clearly defined life-skills.

I hope this letter will motivate people to reflect on the remarkable achievements and legacies of Franklin (from bi-focals to batteries to public libraries to the founding of the University of Pennsylvania and the United States) as well as the unique contributions of Singapore’s own George Tan, who is teaching us all how people have the potential to overcome troubled or humble beginnings and achieve significant things in life.

Steven Miller
Practice Professor
Dean, School of
Information Systems
Singapore Management University