Outstanding academic performance and a passion for community service make him SMU’s Valedictorian

夏光远与他校内所经营的Screme咖啡座。

（林国明摄）

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“为他人的幸福着想就是生命的意义所在。”这是新加坡管理大学应届毕业生夏光远（25岁）的人生座右铭。

成绩优异和热心公益的他，在今年毕业典礼上成为应届毕业生的演说代表，他也获颁新加坡报业控股集团毕业演讲者奖（SPH Valedictorian Award）。这名商学与会计系的毕业生考获双学位文凭的优异学业成绩。此外，他也是首届毕业的李光前奖学金得主之一。对于这些殊荣，他丝毫没有动心过，反而他只懂得要感恩。

他说，上大学纯粹是为了体验四年的大学生活，从未想过自己要胜过别人争取第一。他认为，能够名列前茅是额外的收获，并不是代表他在学业上超越过人，对他来说求学与生活经验胜过课堂课本。

应付繁重的学业之余，夏光远也热衷于公益活动帮助社会上不幸人士。他在2005年8月设立社区服务团体“新加坡基督青年会大学”（University YMCA），主办活动与参加自愿工作。但是，他仍然有时间抽出时间陪伴家人、上教堂与朋友聚会。他解释说：“没有私人时间其实是一种误解，我总以我自己的步伐前进，当你做你喜欢的事情时，你就不觉得是一种浪费。”

另外，他也与同学合资3万元在校内经营一家名为Screme的咖啡座，同时也开设网站从事音乐与录像制作，自己经营网站生意，凡事亲力亲为。

夏光远表示，他能把大学课程中所掌握的知识带到现实生活中，在生意经营上学以致用，反而，有些东西是理论永远学不到的。如怎么待人处事，怎么学习失败。

今年毕业生人数历届最多

今年的毕业生人数多达1374人，是新大创设以来历届最多的。据了解，已有超过50％的毕业生找到工作。

吉宝集团高级顾问林子元是毕业礼嘉宾，他致词时说：“虽然我们正面临金融海啸的冲击，但是我们必须以正面积极的态度面对，这是每位年轻人从事具有挑战性与满足感事业的最佳时机。趁着经济低迷时期好好加强资源、巩固基础、提升技能为更好的将来备战。”

新大第六届毕业典礼昨天在新达城举行。
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"Looking out for the happiness of others is the meaning of life." This is the cornerstone principle that SMU Valedictorian Vincent Ha abides by.

His outstanding academic performance and passion for community service has earned him a place as SMU's Valedictorian for the 2009 graduating cohort and also a recipient of the SPH Valedictorian Award. He graduates Summa Cum Laude with a double degree in Business Management and Accountancy. Vincent is also among the pioneer batch of Lee Kong Chian Scholars to graduate and was simply just grateful for having received these honours.

He said he went to university purely to enjoy 4 years of undergraduate life and never thought about striving to achieve top awards. He felt that receiving the award is a bonus but it didn't really meant he was brighter than others - he gained much more through student life and various experiences than from academic studies.

Besides juggling academic studies, Vincent has always had a passion to help the less fortunate. In August 2005, he set up a community service club known as University YMCA, organising activities to benefit the local community. He still found time to spend with his family, attend lessons and catch up with friends. He explained, "It's a misconception to think that one does not have personal time, I have always managed my own pace and moved forward, and when you do the things you love, you don't find it tiring."

He and other students also put in some $30,000 in total to set up Screme cafe on campus. At the same time, Vincent also set up his own music and video production business and is also embarking on another online business venture.

He said while he's been able to put knowledge that he's gained in lessons into practice, however, there are things which one doesn't learn from class, such as how to deal with people and learning from failure.

Record number of graduates.

SMU has 1,374 graduates this year, the largest batch of graduate since the university was set up. The paper understands that more than 50% of graduates have found jobs.

Mr Lim Chee Onn, Senior Advisor of Keppel Corporation Limited was Guest-of-Honour at the Commencement ceremony. He said, "Although we are currently facing the aftermath of the financial tsunami, we must continue to remain positive and upbeat. This is the best time, when every youth faces the most challenging yet most satisfying of opportunities. Take this "downtime" to consolidate your resources, strengthen foundations, sharpen skills and get yourselves “battle-ready”.

SMU's 6th Commencement Ceremony was held at Suntec City yesterday.