

# Inspirational Sparks

## Hallmarks of Success



## Pillars of Strength

By Ng Li Rong

I am not a whiz kid. I am just an ordinary student like every one of you. Come to think of it, my three years in Millennia Institute (MI) was never smooth sailing. I had serious issues with academic performance over the three years and a hard time coming to terms with myself. In all honesty, I guessed I had set expectations too high that were beyond my reach. I was relieved that I began to see the light at the end of my stay in MI. Without my teachers and buddies in MI, I would never have made it.

Complacency was the word. I was performing relatively well in PU2 and scrapping through examinations to get promoted was not an option for me. Yet I realized my performance did not last long. I was usurped by procrastination and my pride so much so that I did not manage to get back on track. This tardiness dragged on to the final year in PU3. Soon, the vicious cycle set in.

It was not long before everything started to deteriorate. My grades started to take a plunge significantly and I knew I was underperforming. On such occasions, I would come up with every possible excuse to console myself. It was my ego. Deep within, I knew I was not prepared to face the truth. Taking the first step to make changes and rectify my moments of folly was tough but I knew it had to be done. I would not have done it without the help of all my teachers. Till now, I am still extremely grateful to each and every teacher who pulled me out from the mess I have created back then.

Allow me to express my utmost gratitude to my teachers - my pillars of strength and support even till today. Mr. Eric Ng, I can never thank you enough for your endless motivation and all that you have done. Without your constant reminders, I would not have made it at all. Thank you for spending hours on consultations and individual talks to motivate me. Thank you for believing in me.

Mrs Lau, thank you for being so patient during consultations. Thank you for not giving up on me. Thank you for all the pizzas and McDonalds meals during the most critical moments of our exam preparation. I would not have enjoyed Economics without you.

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I would also like to say thank you to Madam Ong Chai Hong, for being my ‘second mum’ in MI. Without your guidance and gentle reminders, I would not have achieved a decent grade for Chinese Language. Thank you for all your support and encouragement.

To all my close friends, I must say that I am indeed blessed to have you guys around. We fought a beautiful battle, isn’t it? However, it was not an easy feat. We struggled through essays after essays for all the subjects. We spent sleepless nights doing MCQs together. We went for countless consultations before and after school hours. We did everything to get each other to study. Most importantly, we never gave up on each others’ dreams. And we made it!

Millennia Institute has taught me more than just Economics, Literature or Geography. It was more than education. My journey in MI has made me a stronger person. My life would have been quite different if I have chosen other academic routes in the first place. I am sure these skills and lessons in school will be invaluable as I transit from here to the next phase of my life.



A current member of MI Alumni Association 2007/2008, Ng Li Rong graduated from the former Jurong Institute (JI) Class of 2003. Li Rong is currently doing her bachelor’s degree in Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), National University of Singapore (NUS). We wish Li Rong all the best in her future endeavours.