



GUAN YIFEI
PIL-MARITIMEONE SCHOLAR

STUDYING:
BSc in Maritime Studies
(with Business Major), NTU

Steering the Ship to Success

They have taken the first, brave step to pursue a degree in the relatively obscure field of Maritime Studies. Now let the SMF scholars tell you more about their passion for the sea and the maritime industry.

By Lim Yan Wen

While her wide-eyed innocence may initially trick you into believing that she behaves her age, Guan Yifei's quiet determination to succeed and her firm belief in the industry she has chosen reveals a kind of maturity that is beyond her years.

The 20-year-old is currently a first-year student in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), pursuing a double major in Maritime Studies and Business. Born in China, Yifei has been studying in Singapore for the past six years. She enrolled into secondary three at Xin Ming Secondary School, before entering the Hwa Chong Junior College. Her decision to enter the field of Maritime Studies with a Business Major stemmed mostly from her self-understanding.

"I took a mixed subject combination in junior college, so I wasn't sure if I should do engineering or business. I later decided that a business degree would be too general but a degree in Maritime Studies with a Business major is more specialised and valuable," Yifei explains.

NTU's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) launched the Bachelor

of Science (Hons) degree in Maritime Studies in July 2004. The programme focuses primarily on tertiary education in shipping, business, management, and maritime science and technology. In August 2008, the Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Maritime Studies with Business Major was offered jointly by the School of CEE and Nanyang Business School.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Given that the course is still relatively new, it is not surprising that each cohort is a fairly small one. For example, Yifei's fellow freshmen number just slightly over 80 and only four people are in the double major programme. "Very few people choose this course because they don't know about the course at all, or they have misconceptions about the course. They might also feel that other popular courses like Law or Medicine have better prospects," Yifei says.

That notion is probably far from the truth. The maritime sector employs over 100,000 people in the maritime workforce, thus offering good career prospects