

26/01/2003

Chew twins make Systematic College proud

R.V. Veera

ACCOUNTING & Finance graduate Chew Hooi Fay from University of Abertay Dundee (UAD) says being the serious twin sister of an ebullient "other half" has taught her to be more independent.

"People are scared to communicate with me, thinking I'm fierce. Brenda, on the other hand, is very talkative and outgoing.

"In college, she would speak her mind on any subject and be the first to ask when she doesn't understand something. From her I have learnt to speak up and be braver ... bit by bit, lah!"

Known to friends as Kelly, both Brenda and her twin sister aged 23, were conferred during the University of Abertay Dundee's eighth award ceremony in Kuala Lumpur recently.

When the Chew sisters enrolled for the degree programme at Systematic College Penang, hilarious incidents happened to them.

"Lectures and classmates got us confused and called our names wrongly quite often. Some didn't even know there were two of us, even though the clothes we wore were a little different," said Kelly.

In their younger days, the Chews dressed alike, shared a room, and did nothing without each other.

"That includes study, breakfast, lunch, dinner, sports activities and so on. I remember in primary school when we were placed in different classes, I cried as I could not take the separation from my sister," said Brenda.

As is expected for twins, confusion over identities followed them all through school-days. Brenda laughs in recollection.

"It's a funny way to be famous! I would be naughty sometimes, we'd take turns attending tuition classes instead going together.

"Those in tuition would become concerned why I suddenly turned quiet. Another time, when Kelly breached the school rules, our headmistress punished the wrong person ... me. My sister laughed silently at my expense!"

Mix-ups aside, the Chews have always had different interests.

Vivacious Brenda loves swimming, hiking and badminton, whereas laidback Kelly was involved in the Chinese Society.

But they gamely participated in the Double 'A' Twin Angels Search in September 2002, being selected along with nine other pairs out of the 300 twins who took part. They got the runner-up position.

"We played the gu zheng (Chinese harp) during the contest, having learnt it from a Penang music college. We were invited to perform at a shopping complex event recently ... we were nervous initially but ended up having a good time!"

On a serious note, Brenda said she has much respect for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad, her role model.

"He has proven with his moderate policies how to manage our country's economy. Malaysians have him to thank that we thrive in an environment of social harmony and with very little boundaries."

The young graduate, who loves Teresa Teng, Mariah Carey and Andy Lau said the decision to study Accounting and Finance was Kelly's. She initially wanted to take up Business Administration but she tagged along so as not to be separated from her twin.

Kelly, on the other hand, is a fan of David Copperfield, kungfu action movies and Michael Jackson.

She has this advice for other aspiring accountancy students: "The public

may see accountants with great suspicion owing to the major financial scandals that brought big corporations like Worldcom and Enron to its knees.

However, this does not stereotype everyone in the profession. Accountants, financial controllers and others must be responsible in carrying out their job as professionals.

"As long as we continue to uphold the principles of integrity in doing our duty, accountants will always be valuable to businesses, big or small."

For more information call 03-20702078 (KL) or its PJ campus (03-78757118), Klang (03-33426555), Penang (04-2628127), Johor Baru (07-2244622) and Kuching (082-452936).