

SMU boot camp for budding investors

Investment club's weekend event an eye-opener for 200 participants, reports **RUCHIKA TULSHYAN**

JUDGING from the response to a recent weekend event, today's youth is increasingly more focussed on their education and future careers. Over 200 freshmen showed up for the Singapore Management University's E.y.E Investment Boot Camp which took place on Saturday, Sept 2.

The Boot Camp, with its stated objective of attracting SMU freshmen to join its E.y.E Investment Club, was organised by the financial club's executive committee with \$7,000 sponsorship from Kim Eng Securities and the Singapore Exchange.

Pang Jiing Wuh, or Dave as he is known to his friends, is vice-president of the E.y.E Club and played a pivotal role in the set-up of the Boot Camp.

"When I became a member of the executive committee I wanted to set up many different activities that would benefit students at large. Our events are geared towards providing financial knowledge for our members," said the 22-year old about the E.y.E Club.

The Boot Camp comprised seminars and talks on stock investment, financial concepts, and the corporate world. President of the investment club, Chan Ying Jian, kicked off the event with a brief introduction to methods of stock picking. Ying Jian currently manages investment portfolios for himself and family members of close to \$200,000.

The Boot Camp also had representatives from the sponsor organisations sharing information about online trading and the inner-workings of the stock market for novices to the world of investments.

Dave remarked that one of the best received talks, however, was from SMU's Assistant Professor of Finance, Chua Choong Tze who got students all fired up about taking charge of their personal finances as well as the important financial concepts of risk and return.

"The special thing about the Boot Camp was it gave the freshmen a very holistic view of the world of finance. From talks by peers who are already investing like Ying Jian, to the experiences of our sponsors in the corporate world to the academic theory supplied by our professors, the Boot Camp allowed everyone to see how well-rounded finance really is," he said.

Dave is currently in his second year at SMU, pursuing a double degree in business management and accountancy. So what did he find challenging when setting up this me-



Leading the way: Members of the 4th executive committee, SMU E.y.E Investment Interactive Club are (back row, from left): Hon Wei Fa (vice-president), Chan Ying Jian (president), Nicholas Cheong. Middle row: Ong Qihan, Lewyn Lee, Dave Pang Jiing Wuh (vice-president), Terence Sim, Haotanto Anna Vanessa, Brian Wong, Nicholas Chui. Front row: Camy Loh, Lydia Khan, Chium Yuet Ching

ga-event? "The main challenge was to manage such a big group of people efficiently. Furthermore, while our sponsors were very generous, we had to make sure that our funds were allocated in the best possible way," he remarked.

While "boot camp" conjures up images of slaving away physically, Dave emphasised that this "mental boot camp" was just as challenging for participants.

"The Boot Camp was challenging as some of the topics covered were quite tough for beginners in finance. When we were setting up the camp, we had to bear in mind that some of the freshmen are already quite financially sophisticated so we really had to find a balance in the level of topics covered," he said.

Dave's passion for finance extends to his knowledge of technical analysis and he aims to start investing as soon as he has the

start-up capital for it. "I'm part of the spend-thrift youth generation. I really need to start saving up because I'm very serious about investing, it's just a matter of starting up with the right amount," he laughed.

For the Boot Camp, Dave and his team were also responsible for looking beyond just the seminars and talks to provide a long-term understanding of finance, as well as a memorable experience of the camp.

"Although it was a challenge, logistically, we provided tee shirts as well as a folder pack with a pen, notebook and the notes covered in the seminars," he said.

Certainly, it was due to this thoughtfulness that the event was well-received and much more than just an ordinary lecture at university. Tang Ke Jie, a freshman from the School of Information Systems, said, "The Boot Camp was eye-opening and insightful. It defi-

nately aroused my interests in the investment sector. Having already some interest in investments before the camp, I was glad that so many speakers shared their experience and knowledge with us."

The Boot Camp was just one of the many events that the E.y.E Investment Club has organised since its creation four years ago. With bright and ambitious students such as Dave at its helm, there is no doubt that the club will just go from strength to strength.

"I hope to share my knowledge by creating a syllabus for our research team of E.y.E. I hope to be a mentor and guide to students on finance and create a holistic package to the world of finance with our committee," he concluded.

There you have it, folks. And you thought the young generation was lazy and unambitious!