

BY EE-LYN TAN

FOR Lai Kar Jun a love for dealing in money matters drove him to pursue his goal of becoming an accountant.

The 22-year-old was named Ernst & Young's (EY) Best Graduating Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) student at the recent graduation ceremony at Sunway University College.

Kar Jun graduated top of his class with first class honours in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Accounting course by Oxford Brookes University, beating 110 others to the award.

He also holds a Diploma in Business Studies and a Diploma in Law.

The gym fanatic said being active in sports took away the pressure of studies.

"I started taking up taekwondo when I was in Year One and received my black belt in Year Four.

"From there, I got involved in table tennis and swimming," said Kar Jun, who has a lifeguard licence.

"The work of a lifeguard is exactly as it is portrayed in *Baywatch*, but without the girls," he said with a laugh.

Kar Jun today is an Associate in Assurance and Advisory Business Services at EY, which involves verifying financial statements. He describes this as an opportunity of a lifetime.

"The first few months on the job was stressful and challenging, but I am lucky my colleagues have been helpful.

"It involved long working hours, but I am glad that I paid attention in class because I had to turn back to my notes to apply what I learnt in college," he said.

Kar Jun said the working world had made him more confident.

"I used to think that the working world would be 'ideal' - everything would just happen. But I've learnt that it is important to be responsible for what you do.

"Being proactive and taking the initiative to

# Money matters for top ACCA student



Kar Jun graduated at the top of the class of 110 with first class honours in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Accounting.

help out whenever you can are also important lessons to live by," he said.

The eldest child of a general manager and a corporate secretary, Lai studied in the science stream and contemplated between taking up engineering or accountancy.

"I consulted my parents when I was making my decision and both of them agreed that accountancy would be a prestigious qualifica-

tion to acquire," he added.

So what is the secret to this young man's success?

"My parents. They always told me that studying is for the benefit of my own good. There was never any pressure," Kar Jun said.

"In life it has to be difficult before it is easy later on. Right now, I'm living by the slogan *Work hard, play hard*," he said.

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