

AC is My Business

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I am Isaac Lee Rui Feng, a final-year student from the Department of Accountancy (AC). Recently, I was awarded the **Best Paper Award** in the Corporate Governance Paper Competition 2021, along with my teammates from the College of Business (CB) and the School of Law. In my previous articles, I discussed my life in the AC and the CB and my university achievements; you can find these on the AC website (under the categories “*My Discoveries and Learnings*” and “*e-Circular*”).

As this article is likely the last one I will write for the AC before graduation, I want it to be memorable. I want to ask two questions that I spent more than two years trying to answer: *What makes you different from others? Why do you, and not others, deserve an offer from the AC?*

These questions were asked in my AC group entrance interviews, which featured 30 candidates. Many candidates gave answers with examples to show how competitive, ambitious and knowledgeable they were. However, the interviewer was not satisfied with these answers because the candidates did not bring something unique to the AC. The interviewer said, “The AC accepts not just the excellent but the extraordinary. I want to clarify that you are excellent, as you received an interview invitation. There are many candidates with excellent academic records, outstanding community service records, etc. I can easily find someone similar to you. Imagine how many people graduate with First Class Honors in Hong Kong in one year, or even worldwide. There are many talents across the world. Do you think your academic records are much better than theirs? I do not think so. Please illustrate something unique, something that makes it difficult for me to find someone similar to you.” The room went silent. No one knew how to answer the question. After the interview, I wrote a long email to these interviewers, thanking them for their time and telling them that I would like to talk with them further. Unfortunately, I got no responses; however, three weeks later, I received a conditional offer from the AC.

After I became an AC student, I started thinking about these questions again. “How could I be unique? How could I be different from others?” are daily in my mind. I tried to differentiate myself in many ways, but failed: many other students had the same achievements.

After months of exploring, I discovered the answer: be yourself, because everyone is unique. I started entering literature competitions in addition to business competitions, as writing has been my hobby for over 10 years, and I have since won awards in both literature competitions and

business competitions. It is difficult to find accounting experts with writing talent. A few months from now, my first novel will be published. Some people think that literature and business are distinct. However, the Corporate Governance Paper Competition required my writing skill to express ideas effectively and persuade others. Hence, being yourself at all times is the way to be extraordinary. Everyone around you has particular talents. If you spend enough time with them, you will see their abilities. I am always impressed by my AC friends, as they are each outstanding in their own areas.

I look forward to hearing your success stories in the future, and I am sure that all of your achievements will be outstanding. Be excellent as well as extraordinary! Be someone that your grandchildren will be proud of.

I am an ACer, and AC is my business.

Some of my best memories in the AC:

