

OPEN LECTURES FEATURED LECTURER

QUEEN OF ICE

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Casatrina is possibly one of the friendliest lecturers you can meet. After all, she is a freshman at Stanford University, popularly described as the happiest place on earth.

Experiencing education in Singapore and the USA, Casatrina feels that students should take charge of their own learning. Passion, as her experience in Stanford taught her, has kept many people going despite the great amounts of effort and time invested in their endeavors.

Casatrina believes that we can improve education in Singapore by showing students how knowledge is applicable in their lives. Rather than forcing students to learn for the sake of learning, knowledge has to be made accessible to students.

"My Chemistry professor at Stanford associates the chemical structures we're learning about to drugs. And that connects with every student. He goes, 'This is how you synthesize heroin,' and everyone laughs."

Casatrina contributes to the Economics, Chemistry and Mathematics programs at Open Lectures. "I think Open Lectures has potential to become really big in Singapore and I believe a lot of people will appreciate it. It's a cool idea."

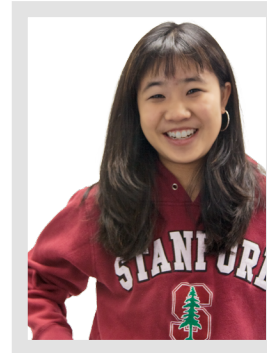
So why is she the *Queen of Ice*? That's because she's a national ice skating champion.

Last year, she won the national title despite a ligament tear two days prior to the competition. Most people will draw lessons of perseverance from this, but Casatrina clarifies, "It's not that I fought through the pain or persevered." Instead, she believes that when you fall, you just keep going. "Focus on what you want to do, focus on what you need to do, don't be derailed by something else."

She shares her favorite stunt, "I like the power and challenge that comes with a jump. It doesn't matter if I fall, because when I try again, it'll be better."

Her parting advice? "Go for the big things. Don't be content with gliding across the ice. Try to achieve as much as possible. You never know where your potential lies."

Casatrina is a lecturer at Open Lectures, contributing to the Economics, Chemistry and Mathematics programs. E-mail her at casatrina.lee@openlectures.sg



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