



► Mr Soh and his daughters spending some quality time together at Pebble Beach, California.

A journey of discovery, right here at home

Three sisters had planned to study abroad, but they found a world-class education at SMU instead. Their father shares how he's seen the girls bloom at SMU.

Mr Soh Chye Guan's eldest daughter Genevieve used to be a quiet girl, he says, thinking back to her younger days. She was studious and focused, and rarely shared her opinions with the family.

That changed when she took up a double degree in Business Management and Accountancy at the Singapore Management University (SMU). "Genevieve learnt to express herself and speak more confidently," recounts Mr Soh. Their dinner table conversations grew more spirited, as father and daughter debated economic policies in Singapore. "She was becoming an adult, and impressed me with the points she made," says Mr Soh, who works in the financial industry.

He wasn't the only one who took note. Genevieve's two younger sisters, Geraldine and Gillian, watched as their sister blossomed, too. When Genevieve led a team to Canada to compete in a case study competition and triumphed, her siblings were cheering on the home front.

When it came to Geraldine's and Gillian's turns for university, both girls originally had their hearts set on studying abroad like many of their peers. However, they were won over by their sister. "Genevieve had really grown and developed as an individual," says Mr Soh. "I think her sisters saw that in SMU, she was given a lot of freedom to experiment, and was happy." It also helped that Geraldine, like Genevieve, received a scholarship from the Lee Kong Chian School of Business.

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Genevieve's father,
Mr Soh Chye Guan

In any case, the sisters never missed being abroad, as overseas opportunities at SMU proved to be plentiful. All three girls travelled extensively, undertaking exchange programmes in the United Kingdom, Sweden and Canada, and teaching in Cambodia and Thailand. Even their father overcame his initial reluctance to let them take so many trips, amazed at how independent they had become.

This year, when his youngest daughter Gillian graduates, Mr Soh is confident she will be well prepared for a successful career, just like his two older children. "SMU is a choice university," he says. It has certainly been the right choice for their family.