

My Journey

PAULINE LUM

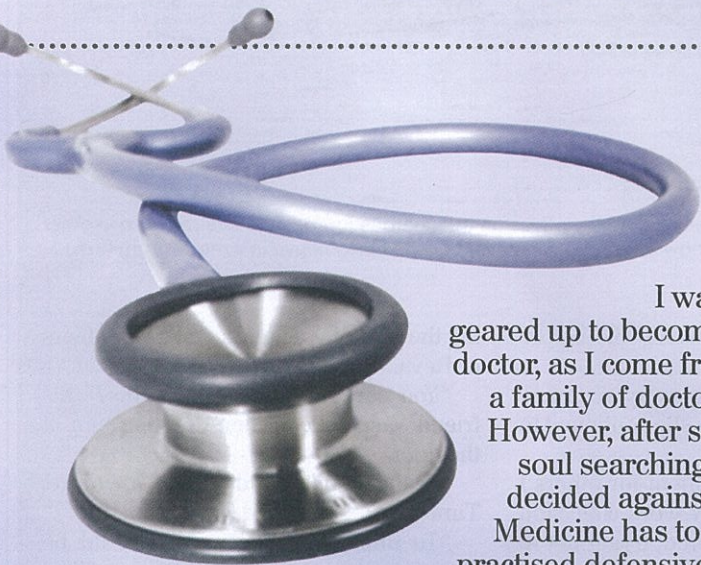
39, executive director of International Tax Services/M&A, PwC Taxation Services Sdn Bhd



JULY 11-17, 2015

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Focusweek



I was geared up to become a doctor, as I come from a family of doctors. However, after some soul searching, I decided against it. Medicine has to be practised defensively (increase in legal cases, insurance, etc.) and that would have been difficult for me. I believe in giving my all, without restrictions in all tasks that I undertake. I also enjoy engaging with people. My guidance counsellor suggested accounting, as it would be a versatile degree to have. My first job was in personal tax, which I enjoyed and the rest is history.

Education

High school at Sayfol International. Completed 8 'O' Levels, University of London (1988 to 1992)

Cambridge 'A' Levels in Prime College (1992 to 1994)

Bachelor of Accountancy from University of Dundee (1994 to 1998)

Fellow member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Career

July to August 1996
Temporary job as a writer at *The Star* for a supplementary publication

August 1998 to March 2000
CA Trainee, HLB Kidsons, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

October 2000 to May 2005
Senior Tax Consultant, KPMG Tax Services Sdn Bhd

October 2005 to September 2009
Joined the tax practice as Tax Associate Director, Baker Tilly Monteiro & Heng Tax Services Sdn Bhd

October 2009 to May 2012
Helped set up tax advisory team at BDO Tax Services Sdn Bhd. Left as Tax Director

July 2012 to present
Executive Director at International Tax Services/M&A, PwC Taxation Services Sdn Bhd

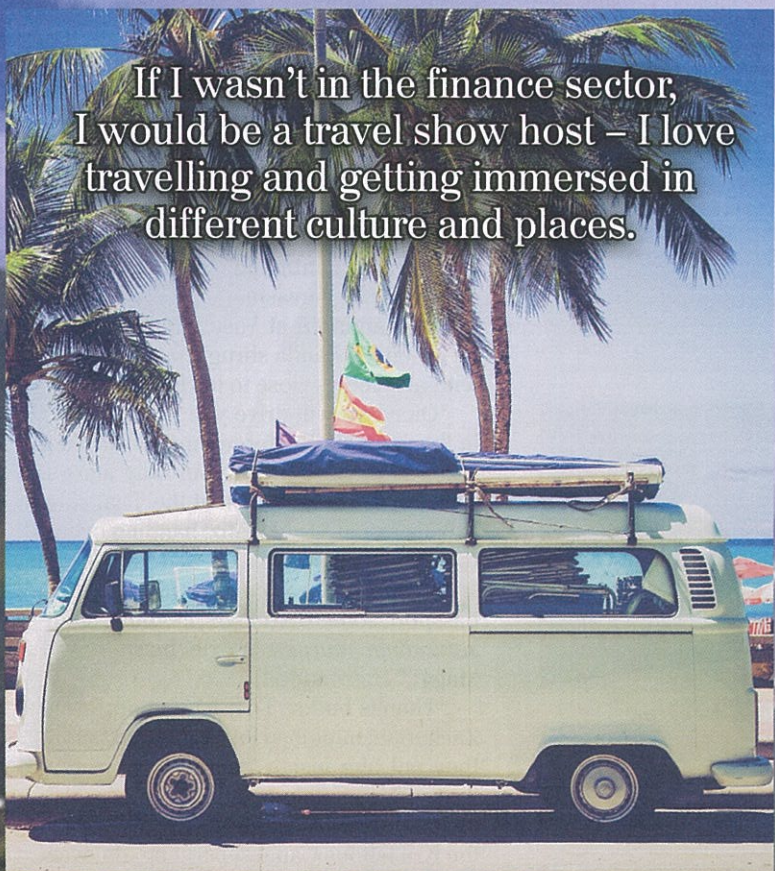
The best part of my job is being able to engage with different people and getting some insights into different personalities, culture, industries, sectors and countries. The worst part is managing and accepting that sometimes there are boxes or limitations in place due to bias, which hamper solutions, transactions and smooth execution of projects.



Generally, I do not like using my fingers to eat food and even for durians, I use a spoon. Once, my client arranged a meeting and had some jungle durians brought in especially for us. Mid way through the discussion, the durians arrived and my client decided to open them up for us to eat. He handed us each a seed with his bare hands - no cutlery! Eating like this at a meeting was a nightmare come true for me. In my mind, I had a heart attack! I had one seed and excused myself from eating the rest.



If I wasn't in the finance sector, I would be a travel show host - I love travelling and getting immersed in different culture and places.



Colourful experiences and people have helped develop me into who I am today and that has allowed me to take on different roles, including my current one. I am still on a journey and my current role continues to allow me to push my boundaries. It is a constant evolution.



At the moment, I spend a lot of time in the studio, silversmithing. My collection is nearly complete, which is part of my bucket list. Apart from that, I travel, catch up with family and friends over good meals or coffee, read and watch movies.