SP Alumni E-NEWSLETTER | DEC 2016

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UNSUBSCRIBE. To opt out of receiving communications on SP alumni news and information, please fill in the opt-out form.
Mr Frederick Yap, the self-appointed Lobsterman is on a grand mission to provide fresh, quality lobsters at wallet-friendly prices with his hip-and-happening restaurant and bar, Pince & Pints.

The restaurant, strategically located at Duxton Road opened to rave reviews and long queues and was named the Best New Restaurant at the Epicurean Awards 2014. It now has a new branch in Jalan Telawi, Kuala Lumpur. We caught up with Mr Frederick in between his busy schedule just to know more about the man and his passion.
SHARE WITH US YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE RECENT TRENDS IN THE F&B SCENE.

The consumption for live seafood in Singapore will always be strong due to our Asian taste buds and affluent lifestyle. I have also noticed the number of ramen places increasing rapidly in Singapore. This interest in ramen will probably stay, with the recent opening of Tsuta, the world’s only Michelin-starred ramen eatery opening its first outlet outside Japan in Singapore. In terms of declining trends, I feel cafés in Singapore are oversaturated.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO CHOOSE SP FOR YOUR STUDIES AND WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT SP?

Most 16 or 17 year old student would opt to join a Junior College but I opted for SP because I believe SP provides hands-on education and experiences, which was what I prefer. I chose Mechanical Engineering based on my interest; as I like the workshops and projects. I also like that SP allowed me to take other electives like business subjects. The education in SP is diverse and provided me with exposure into different subjects. As for what I miss, I would say I miss the nice food in SP!

ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING TO VENTURE INTO F&B?

If you want to start an F&B business, you must be prepared to work hard and work long hours. It would be an added advantage if you are good with numbers and business analytics. It is important to manage costs and reduce wastage in this industry. Also you must have a unique and strong concept to stand out amongst the competition and make it a unique selling point for your restaurant.

YOU ARE QUITE A MAVERIC; BE IT QUITTING UNIVERSITY TO PURSUE YOUR BUSINESS OR BEING A TRISHAW RIDER JUST TO NAME A FEW PUBLISHED ONES... WHAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT DO YOU HAVE FOR FELLOW SP GRADUATES AND ALUMNI?

I am a high risk-taker so I am willing to take risks without a second thought. In 2009, I was studying in the USA but when my e-commerce business picked up, I decided to return to Singapore to manage the business. I decided that instead of paying school fees to learn about business, I want to earn money while running a business. It is definitely more hands-on and rewarding. I have gathered 11 years of entrepreneurship exposure thus far. I always hope to evolve and improve as I learn more. For example, currently, besides serving delicious lobsters, we are also supplying live lobsters to other restaurants in Singapore, one aspect of how we are growing our business model. For SP graduates and alumni, I encourage you to take that leap of faith and follow your passion wherever it may lead.

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FOR ALL SP ALUMNI READERS AND CARDHOLDERS:

1 FOR 1 ON ALL BEVERAGES

Promotion valid from 1st Jan 2017 to 31st March 2017
Promotion valid with a purchase of at least 1 lobster main course per Pax
Promotion valid for all SP Alumni card holders/readers (must present their card or the alumni newsletter)
Pince & Pints reserves the right to terminate or refuse promotion offered at its sole discretion
Tell us about your favourite “SP-moment”

K The most memorable moment for me was being able to represent SP for the dance event, “The Big Groove”. It was a big event and all the polytechnics were invited to participate.

S I remembered the freshmen orientation programme. It was my first event in SP and I got to know a lot of friends through this event. We bonded through the games and various stations.

D For me, my “SP-moment” is more like my motto, “Individual Success is Team Success”. I would say it would be all the training hours with my teammates and ultimately winning the biggest prize award at Year 3, the Singapore Canoe Polo.

Upon your graduation, what makes you keen to volunteer at your respective clubs?

K The Dance Club has changed and moulded my character. In fact, I found my identity and strength through dance, hence, I believe that this is a great platform for me to help others to discover themselves and their strength. I want to mentor others who are going through a similar journey.

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Giving Back

After graduation, I was missing life in SP when I received photos and Instagram updates from my friends still at SP. This prompted me to consider volunteering as a form of giving back. I enjoy visiting the elderly and meeting other alumni who share the same views and passion for charity like me.

My journey to the National Team was not an easy one, our seniors pushed us to learn and improve every step of the way. I realised the new batch of students coming to join may lack the mental tenacity and require support as well. I wish to share my experience and motivate them both in sports and in their life.

In Year 3, I realised the importance of passing down our skills and knowledge. I make it a point to coach my Year 1s, and push hard to make them Champions in their final year during the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) competitions.

What are your greatest rewards?

I was able to bond with different batches of students over the years. I have kept in close contact with them and am happy that I was able to mentor them.

Welfare Services Club (WSC) has cultivated my leadership skills. I enjoy working together with like-minded people who share the same passion as me. We are a close-knit group. The greatest reward is able to make a difference in the lives of the elderly that we visit and bringing smiles to their faces.

Their respective achievements in their various age group categories were proud moments for me. I was also the Under-21 Men’s Assistant Coach during the 2009 Asian Canoe Polo Championship. What was special for me was that the Under-21 Men’s team consisted of all SP Students and they came in 3rd in the Championship.

What do you hope to see in the future for your clubs?

I hope SDZ will stay as a platform for students to find their true identity. I hope more alumni will volunteer in this club and ensure its continuity. Transferring of knowledge is important so the club can continue on. With the foundation built, there is no need to start from ground zero again.

The current committee is doing great! I hope that more alumni will go back to serve in WSC. I would like the club to expand and plan more events for the elderly and children as well as to be more involved in ad-hoc events conducted by the Central Community Development Council (CDC) and other organisations.

I hope to see more students joining this sport. We do provide overseas exposure and many life skills that they can benefit from.

What were your respective involvements?

I set up Project X. This is a platform for seniors to train the juniors (Year 1), so that upon completion, they will continue with the training the following year and ensure continuity going forward. I also plan for the seniors to impart leadership skills and aim to teach them how to set up a self-running studio.

We visited the eldercare centres in Eunos and Commonwealth about three times a month. We played games with the elderly to train their mind and responses. Then we prepare them for the yearly Rummy-O tournament where the elderly compete with other elderly from other centres.

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Since May 2016, 26 participants have been selected to undergo the 18-month work-study programme. We spoke to one of our SP alumni, Masyitah Hasunah Binte Muhammad Mario Ceralvo, who graduated with a Diploma in Chemical Engineering from the Class of 2016. With a GPA of 3.4 for her diploma, Masyitah could have gone on to do a relevant degree programme at most universities, but she chose to take up the first ever Earn and Learn programme (ELP) for the Energy and Chemicals sector. Masyitah joined Shell Jurong Island under the ELP programme.

And she has no regrets whatsoever as she reveals: “I am happy and satisfied with my decision on undertaking the ELP programme instead of taking on a straight degree right away as I am able to gain the necessary experience and insights of the industry before furthering my studies. Besides, I am also earning while I am learning. I believe that the experiences I have gained at work helped equipped me to better understand and apply what I learnt in the degree level.”

The ELP allows participants, who have successfully completed the programme, to pursue a related degree in renowned local universities. Inspired by her parents, both working in the oil and gas industry, who revelled her childhood with exciting accounts of life at work, Masyitah, had as a child, already set her mind on following her parents’ footsteps! With this, she is one step closer to her childhood ambitions!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Diploma in Building Automation &amp; Services</td>
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<td>17 Apr '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Diploma in Power System Engineering</td>
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<td>(1-2 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Diploma in Process Control &amp; Instrumentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma (Conversion) in Computer Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist Diploma in Civil Engineering (Productivity &amp; Technology)</td>
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<td>NEW!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist Diploma in Cyber Security Management</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Energy Efficiency And Management</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Microbiology</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Mobile Apps Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist Diploma in Network Security</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Statistics &amp; Data Mining</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Web Development Technology</td>
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<td>Specialist Diploma in Digital Technologies for a Smart City</td>
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<td>Diploma (Conversion) in Digital Media Creation</td>
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<td>Diploma (Conversion) in Marketing Management</td>
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<td>Diploma (Conversion) in Shipping And Marine Offshore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Electrical Installation &amp; Control</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 Feb-30 Mar '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Science of Coffee</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-27 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate for Employment Intermediaries - CEI (Basic)</td>
<td></td>
<td>16-19 Jan '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate for Employment Intermediaries - CEI (KAH)</td>
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<td>16-20 Jan '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 1 Boiler Attendant Course</td>
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<td>22 Apr-27 May '17</td>
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<td>Class 2 Boiler Attendant Course (5 Full Day Class)</td>
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<td>27 Feb-3 Mar '17</td>
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<td>Class 2 Boiler Attendant Course (Evening Class)</td>
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<td>4 Jan-13 Feb '17</td>
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<td>Class 2 Boiler Attendant Course (Saturday Class)</td>
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<td>7 Jan-18 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoC Class 1 Marine Engineer Officer (Orals)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6-7 Mar '17</td>
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<td>Computer Aided Design with Autodesk Inventor</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Apr-24 Jun '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Plastics Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td>21-22 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Import/Export Business And International Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td>20-21 Feb '17</td>
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<td>Import/Export Contract and International Trade Practices</td>
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<td>6-7 Mar '17</td>
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<td>Import/Export Practices and Effective Uses of Letter of Credit</td>
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<td>16-17 Jan '17</td>
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<td>Intermediate Quantitative Data Analysis and Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Statistics and Quantitative Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>19-20 Jan '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Survey Methodology: Sampling and Factor Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-3 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparatory Course for COC Class 1 Deck Officer (Orals and Shiphandling)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-28 Jan '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles of Business Analytics</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-10 Mar '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science and Business of Wine</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Mar-8 May '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory and Clinical Practice of Phlebotomy</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Apr-30 Aug '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Advanced Certificate in Workplace Safety and Health</td>
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<td>15 Feb-15 Aug '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Apply Food Safety Management Systems For Food Service Establishments</td>
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<td>13-14 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Diploma in Warehouse Services</td>
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<td>7 Feb-30 Mar '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Graduate Certificate in Workplace Safety and Health</td>
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<td>22 Feb-22 Jun '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Monitor Noise and Vibration</td>
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<td>8 Feb-6 Mar '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Provide Advice on Wine</td>
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<td>7-16 Feb '17</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSQ Specialist Diploma in Workplace Safety and Health</td>
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<td>8 Mar-18 May '18</td>
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Note: ** 10% Discount for SP Alumni (Applicable to Individual Only)  ❖ Eligible for SkillsFuture Credit (SFC)
❖ PACE Academy course schedules, course trainers, course fees and course availability are subject to change without prior notice.
REMEMBERING SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC’S LONGEST SERVING PRINCIPAL

Singapore Polytechnic’s longest-serving principal, Dr Khoo Kay Chai passed away at the age of 80. Mr Bill Chang, Chairman of the Board of Governors, who is also a SP alumnus, mentioned how Dr Khoo had always cared for the student community.

Former students and staff of Singapore Polytechnic (SP) remembered him as a caring leader who continued to develop SP even long after he had stepped down.

Click here to read more.

SP GRADUATES AWARDED PSC SCHOLARSHIPS

At the Public Service Commission (PSC) Scholarships Award ceremony on 20th July, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister-in-Charge of the civil service, Mr Teo Chee Hean, shared that public service officers need to do things differently to help Singapore progress.

SP’s Diploma in Infocomm Security Management graduate and Institutional Medallist from the Class of 2016 Daniel Ho, and Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering graduate William Tan, were among the 73 scholarship recipients this year.

DEPM STUDENTS WIN THE 2016 SINGAPORE MICE CHALLENGE

A team of four students from the Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management (DEPM), Ferry Maulana, Denice Poon, Samuel Yat and Qiqi Yeow, won the 2016 Singapore MICE Challenge.

Organised by the Singapore Association of Convention & Exhibition Organisers & Suppliers (SACEOS), the event was a nationwide challenge for all tertiary students majoring in MICE or Business Events, Business Management, Hospitality and Tourism related fields.

Click here to read more about the winning team.
Students with special needs would now be able to borrow tools to help their learning at the SP Special Education Needs (SEN) Centre. The $200,000 facility took two years to set up and is the first of its kind among the institutes of higher learning.

The new facility is equipped with a rest area and resources such as books on SEN and assistive technology devices.

For more details about the facility, please click here.

SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR WINS HEARTS AT NDP

SP’s Diploma in Information Technology alumni, Neoh Yew Kim, caught the eye of Singaporeans when she used sign language to lead 150 special needs participants and the 55,000-strong crowd at the Sports Hub in a mass song-signing activity during the National Day Parade.

Neoh said that song-signing enabled those who couldn’t hear to “enter the world of music and allows the able-bodied to join in with us in that moment”. The inspiring performer also performed at the opening ceremony of the 8th ASEAN Para Games in Singapore last year.

Click here to find out more.
Aiming High In Space Research

In his National Day Rally Speech, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong cited SP’s Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering graduate, Abdul Halim Ali Akbar as an example of a young Malay who was participating fully in the new economy.

After graduating from SP, the 26-year old went on to obtain a master’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Imperial College London, and is now a research intern at A*Star.

Read more about this aspiring young Singaporean here.

Mas To Work With The Polytechnics To Shape Curriculum For Fintech

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the five local polytechnics to promote the development of skills in financial technology (Fintech).

MAS will work with the polytechnics to help shape the curriculum and engender greater alignment with the needs of the financial sector. In addition, MAS will facilitate Fintech internship opportunities for final-year polytechnic students at financial institutions, regulatory bodies and start-ups.

To find out more, please click here. To find out more about Fintech, please click here.

45-Minute Dengue Test Kit To Hit Market In 3 Years

Singapore Polytechnic and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) has jointly developed a new test kit which takes just 45 minutes to diagnose dengue with a 100 per cent accuracy rate. The kit will also be able to determine the dengue serotype among the four known strains of the virus.

SP and TTSH also signed a second Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in researching new methods for the early detection of infectious diseases over the next three years. It was also announced that a prototype test kit for both the dengue and Zika virus is in the works.

Click here to find out more information.
SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY WINS LLOYD’S LIST ASIA EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING AWARD

Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) won the Excellence in Training Award at the Lloyd’s List Asia awards.

The Lloyd’s List Award series recognises the industry’s successes, setting a benchmark for excellence while rewarding innovative ideas and concepts that have pushed the boundaries of what is possible.

SP’s Singapore Maritime Academy clinched the award by impressing judges with their forward thinking, proactive approach to training and for bringing in ideas from outside the industry.

To find out more, please click here.
For the list of award winners, please click here.

SP TEAM WON FIRST PRIZE AT CIENA’S OPEN NETWORKING COMPETITION

“Team SP Avengers” comprising engineering students, Jeremy Lee Kian Kiat, Muhamad Farhan Bin Mohamed Haryadi, Seow Zhi Sheng and their supervisors, Dr Lim Joo Ghee and Phyo Kyaw Kyaw, won first prize at the inaugural CIENA Open Networking Innovation Competition 2016.

The competition, open to students, staff and faculty members of Research & Education Institutes from Asia and Pacific, was organised by CIENA, a US-based provider of Carrier Ethernet solutions for broadband and telecommunications service providers.

To find out more, please click here.
It was an inaugural gathering of alumni who have graduated with the Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) and are currently working at DiHUB or its affiliated company CpG. The reunion held on 29 July 2016 started with an opening address on the historical background of DARCH since its formation in 1961. ABE lecturer, Mr Chris Ho and CpG Senior Architect, Ms Fara Zakaria shared on their graduation from SP and thereafter their career journeys. The alumni were updated on the closing of W5a for renovation, as well as, the setup of DARCH Alumni Facebook Page which provides a ready platform for various cohorts of alumni to network and be connected. A group photo was taken to commemorate the alumni gathering before all 26 attendees mingled with one another over a simple dinner. The event ended on a positive note with everyone looking forward to the next get-together.
Students from the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) took a break from their studies to be energised, refreshed and enlivened at the DEB Diploma Day 2016 on Wednesday, 2 November 2016.

The event brought together about 150 DEB students, tutors and alumni to celebrate and renew their identity as members of the DEB family. DEB students had a good time of fun and interaction with their tutors as they participated in three uniquely designed fun-filled games, namely, Eating 31 Dishes, Jumping Photo Shots and Charades at SP Convention Centre. Student volunteers from the Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DaSE) and Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (DEEE) helped facilitate the event. Four DEB alumni, Mr Nigel Lo, Mr Jovan Tan, Ms Jolyn Tey and Mr Gary Teo shared their thoughts on the possible options available to the students, after they graduate from SP, inspiring and motivating them. To show support for this event, Mr Gary Teo also sponsored 150 bottles of herbal drink.
SP ALUMNI ATTENDED
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TALK

More than 40 Singapore Polytechnic (SP) alumni attended an Emotional Intelligence (EI) Preview Talk held on 11 November at Devan Nair Institute. This is the first time that Singapore Polytechnic and Rohei Corporation co-organised a talk for SP alumni.

Besides having enjoyed a delectable buffet dinner spread, our graduates received great emotional intelligence insights and tips from Rohei facilitators.

In line with Skillsfuture, Singapore Polytechnic’s Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA) will be organising a series of professional and personal development talks and workshops for our SP Alumni. Follow us on SP Alumni Facebook Page to find out more about the upcoming talks and workshops.
International Supply Chain and Shipping Management. The graduates donned the traditional graduation gown and mortarboard, alongside their proud family members, friends, lecturers and guests to celebrate their achievements.

In professor Simon Payne’s welcome address, he shared that the city of Plymouth is situated in one of the most spectacular natural harbours in the world and has a historic seafaring port that is akin to Singapore’s. UoP is one of the largest and oldest universities in UK founded in 1862. He was honoured to have the opportunity to build a strong partnership with SMa which enabled SMa graduates to experience life in a different country and gain cross cultural interaction and networking while furthering their academic excellence with UoP.

The Valedictorian was Miss Chan Si Yun, from the Bachelor of Science Maritime Business and Logistics (SMa Graduate from the Diploma in Maritime Business, Class of 2015). Miss Chan who was the recipient of the SMa-pU-MaritimeONE scholarship worth £12,000 is the top graduate among the SMa alumni in her cohort.

Many SMa graduates have benefited from the collaboration between SMa and UoP. The partnership with UoP began in 2009 when the first Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions was signed. Since then, the Bachelor’s Degree Programme offered by UoP has become increasingly popular amongst SMa’s Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB) graduates.

SMa is pleased that the diploma from SP have prepared our students well in their foundation to be “Life Ready, Work Ready, and World Ready”. The results for the 2015 cohort were encouraging, with a total of 44 SMa alumni receiving their degrees, out of which 17 of them were conferred with First Class Honours, with the rest conferred with the 2nd Class (Upper). There were only 19 graduates conferred with First Class Honours in their cohort. As inspired learners, the overseas living experience have made many of them resilient, resourceful and adaptable. SMA-UoP graduates are greatly sought after upon their return to Singapore and most of them find employment within 3 months of returning.

Heartiest congratulations to our SMA alumni – “Our Alumni, Our Pride”.

17 SMA ALUMNI CONFERRRED WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 8 November 2016, Singapore Maritime Academy, Singapore Polytechnic (SMA-SP) hosted University of Plymouth’s (UoP) inaugural Graduation Ceremony in Singapore. The event featured a traditional UK graduation ceremony, the academic procession and the platform party led by Professor Simon Payne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Plymouth.

The Graduation Ceremony was specially organised for 50 UoP graduates who are predominantly SMA alumni who completed their studies in their respective degree courses which include BSc (Hons) Maritime Business and Maritime Law, BSc (Hons) Maritime Business and Logistics, BSc (Hons) Maritime Transport and Logistics and BSc (Hons)
ALUMNI@SP ENEWS SURVEY

In hope of upgrading the Alumni@SP Enews experience for you, we will like to request for your feedback to help us get a sense of which areas to improve on.

This survey will take you 5 minutes to do. As a small incentive, **vouchers will be given to 50 randomly selected respondents**. As selected respondents will be contacted via email to collect the vouchers, kindly ensure that the email address you submit to us is accurate.

CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY!


THE "HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ALMA MATER?" CHALLENGE

Want to find out if you have enough knowledge of your alma mater?

Challenge yourself to this quiz and stand a chance to win prizes if you get all correct answers!

CLICK HERE FOR THE QUIZ!