

STUDENT LIFE

Overseas Exposure

Students Chen Hui Ting (School of Business), Ong Chee Siang and Poh Yang Zheng (both from School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering) were selected for the Switzerland-Singapore Youth Exchange Programme held from 31 May to 13 June 2004.

Led by staff Mr Benjamin Koh and Mrs Vera See-Toh, 44 students participated in the SP Concert Band Exchange Programme in Perth, Australia from 22 to 28 May 2004.

The Singapore Polytechnic Chinese Orchestra went on a Hong Kong Exchange Programme from 7 to 11 November 2004. They held a joint concert with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Students' Union Chinese Orchestra.

A group of 28 students and two staff embarked on an Educational and Games Tour of Hong Kong from 9 to 14 November 2004. Another 12 students attended the Outward Bound School in Sabah, Malaysia from 15 to 27 November 2004.



▲ *Opportunities aplenty for students to travel overseas to broaden their horizons.*

To hone their skills, seven students participated in the Wushu Skills Upgrading Exchange from 28 November to 11 December 2004 at Xiamen University, China.

In July 2004, the principal, a staff member and 10 students from Japan's Hiroshima Institute of Technology Polytechnic (HITP) were here as part of a 16-day exchange programme. The exchange programme was into its 11th year. In turn, five students were sent to Hiroshima for industrial training in November and December 2004.

Several other groups visited Japan as well. Fourteen students participated in the 16th MILE Programme in Kanazawa in May and June 2004. Another 37 students went on an annual cultural exchange cum home stay programme in Miyazaki in December 2004, organised by the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century.

A new educational and cultural exchange programme was initiated with Japan's Chiba Institute of Science. Eight students embarked on this inaugural programme from 15 to 23 June 2004 which included home stay, a campus tour and visits to industry.



▲ *Concert Band on exchange programme in Australia.*



▲ Students of Singapore Polytechnic performing community service in the Philippines.

Community Services

Six teams embarked on overseas community service in China, the Philippines and Vietnam during the vacation. A total of 101 students and 11 staff participated in these projects. Four of these were funded by external organisations like the Totalisator Board through the Singapore International Foundation's Youth Expedition Project. Participants were involved in the construction of VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) latrines, school facilities and housing as well as in the promotion of HIV awareness and education programmes.

A sum of \$124,218.81 was raised during the SP Flag Day on 1 July 2004 in conjunction with the Freshmen Orientation Programme. Net proceeds of \$117,251.60 were donated to the President's Challenge 2004.

In conjunction with the Singapore River Raft Race 2005, \$75,208 was raised for four charities, namely the Salvation Army Haven Children's Home, Chao Yang School, Clementi Student Service Centre and SP's Overseas Community Service Programme. A total of 140 teams registered for the event which was held on 29 and 30 January 2005 at Clarke Quay.



▲ While the rafts generate much excitement, the Singapore River Raft Race generates funds for charity.

During the year, a new student interest group, the Singapore Polytechnic Library Club, was formed.

Self-Development Programmes

Talks, workshops and training sessions were provided for students to further develop themselves. Self-management workshops trained students in appropriate coping responses for adolescent issues, and the No Apologies workshops sent out a strong message on sexual abstinence outside marriage. A special training programme was put together to encourage student leadership.

Three in-house courses were conducted to equip Personal Tutors with first-line helping skills to identify students who may require special assistance early.

Model Student Award

The Model Student Award recognised students for academic excellence, co-curricular achievements, outstanding leadership and exemplary character. Out of the 75 nominations received, 12 were selected for the honour in 2004.



▲ Model student gets recognition for being an all-rounder and an inspiration to peers.

Financial Assistance

As at 31 March 2005, 1,442 students (10.7% of the student population) received some form of financial assistance ranging from scholarships, bursaries, needy funds and study loans (excluding Mendaki Subsidy). The total amount disbursed was \$2,574,296.60. This was a marked increase since Academic Year 1996-1997 when financial aid amounting to \$970,657 was disbursed.

Active Lifestyle on Campus

The 2004 Staff-Student Games on 15 December was a success, bringing all participants closer and livening up campus life.

Another campus activity popular with staff and students was the annual Poly 50 campus run.



▲ Lots of fun and camaraderie at the Staff-Student Games.



▲ Proud tradition, the Poly 50 campus relay, lives on to promote a healthy lifestyle and competitive spirit among staff and students.



▲ Generous donors such as the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple provide funds for scholarships and bursaries for needy and deserving students.

Alumni Ties

The Singapore Polytechnic-Singapore Armed Forces (SP-SAF) Reunion cum Fund-raising Dinner was held on 31 August 2004 and a sum of \$8,000 was raised.

Many alumni continued to live up to global challenges, venturing beyond the local market as entrepreneurs or professionals. Communication with the alumni body - over 125,000 of them - through the quarterly publication SPAN News became even more important. Besides creating affiliation and updating alumni on campus happenings, SPAN News featured many entrepreneurial alumni's inspiring stories.

With the help of the Alumni Office, academic schools also organised 10 reunions and networking sessions to reach out to their alumni. As secretariat for the SP Entrepreneurs' Club, several activities for alumni entrepreneurs were organised during the year.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Alumni Office continued to provide opportunities for graduating students and alumni to make online job applications to employers through the eCareerFair website.



▲ Rekindling ties with alumni at the SP-SAF Reunion cum Fund-raising dinner.

► Myriad of experiences and programmes on campus to develop all-rounded students.

