

INSPIRE

OUR ALUMNI, OUR PRIDE

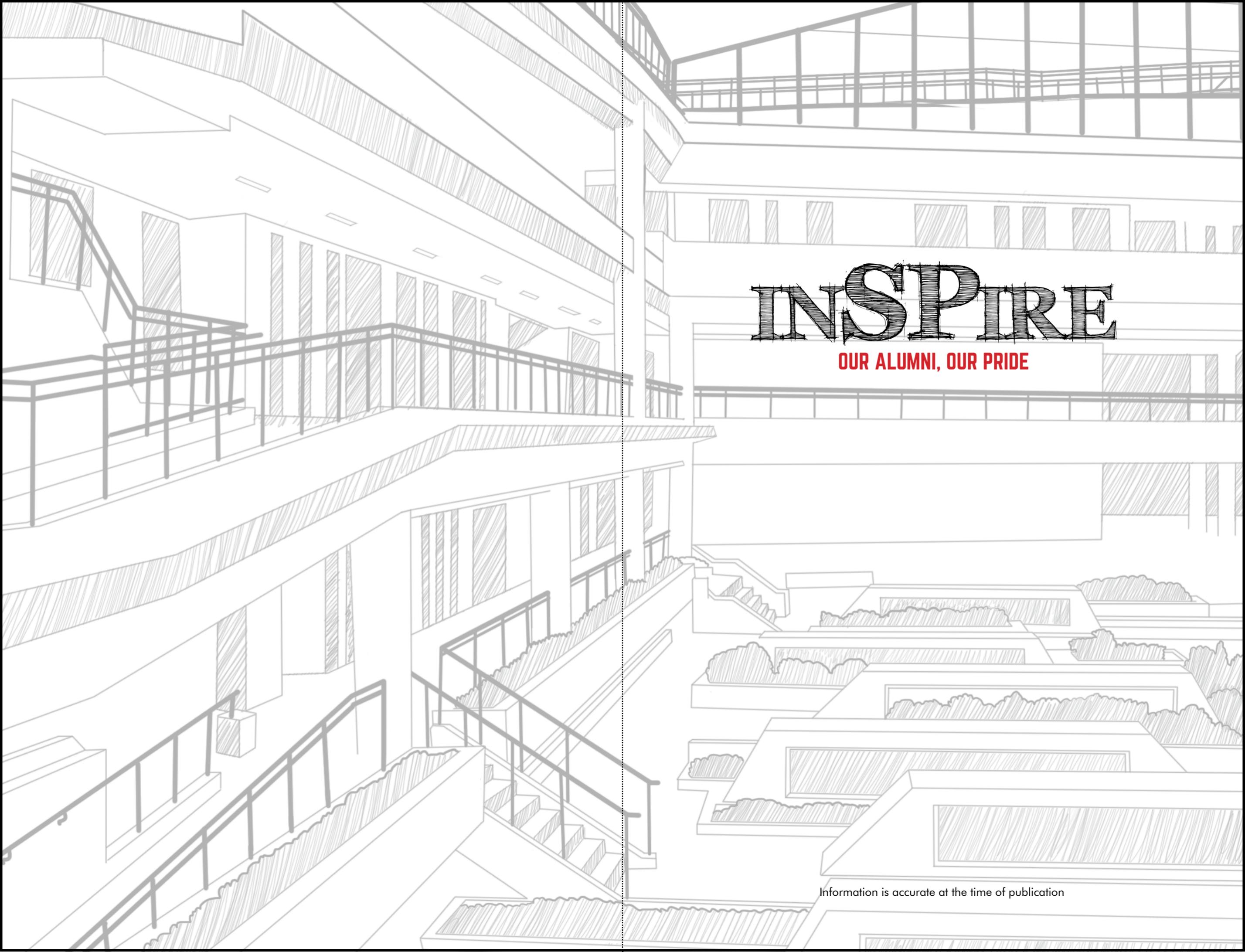


SP

DEPARTMENT OF
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
& ALUMNI RELATIONS

SINGAPORE
POLYTECHNIC

SP



INSPIRE

OUR ALUMNI, OUR PRIDE

Information is accurate at the time of publication

The background of the page is a soft, artistic composition. On the left side, there are numerous small, semi-transparent butterflies in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, appearing to flutter upwards. Below them, there are large, overlapping watercolor splashes in light blue, green, and purple. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and inspiring.

Foreword

Singapore Polytechnic (SP) has produced more than 185,000 graduates who have gone ahead to excel in their respective professions. Over the past years, SP has prepared its students to be life-ready, work-ready and world-ready. Our young alumni have been nurtured with skillsets which have helped them get a good head start in their career. Today, we also celebrate a pool of accomplished alumni who are nation builders, industry captains, scientists, creative talents and successful entrepreneurs.

In line with SkillsFuture, we would like to feature some of our outstanding alumni who have been inspired in their learning journey with SP. They pride themselves in mastering deep skills, performing competently in their area of work and striving continually towards greater excellence through knowledge, application and experience.

LET THEIR STORIES INSPIRE YOU.

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As we celebrate the success of our fellow SP alumni, may they inspire us to forge our own blazing trails and ignite our passions, leaving an imprint on the world stage. Let the SP spirit continue to burn bright and be a beacon of light for all that have walked its corridors - past, present and future.

FORGING THEIR DESTINY

As Singapore Polytechnic (SP) opens the doors and windows of opportunity to all who walk through its corridors, it is the discerning who seize these opportunities and leverage on them to take flight. Fortune and success favours the brave; who have struck out on paths less travelled.

Carrying with them the tools and skillsets learnt at SP, these alumni have forged their own unique paths and made their mark in their respective fields. As they travel far and wide to forge their destinies, SP is proud to have been their foundation. These are some stories of the young and bold who have attained a great career head start with SP education.

CHALVIN SEAH
Quay Crane
Manager,
PSA Corporation Ltd



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JOSEPH CHUA
Head of Account
Management And
Head of Digital,
J. Walter Thompson



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HUBERT NG
Chief Engineer,
Push Offshore

JOSEPH CHUA
Head of Account
Management And
Head of Digital,
J. Walter Thompson



8

JUSTIN TAN
Co-Founder &
Creative Director,
APT811 Design &
Innovation Agency
Pte Ltd



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SHIRDEEN CHOW
Fleet Management
Executive,
SIA Engineering
Company Ltd



12

SHUN NG
Professional
Musician (Currently
Based In USA)



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VICKI LAU
Freelance
Visual Effects
Composer



16

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Senior Executive of
Business Department,
Sinopec Century Bright
Capital Investment Ltd
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The First Step



BEYOND EDUCATION

CHALVIN SEAH YI YANG

QUAY CRANE MANAGER, PSA CORPORATION LTD
DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (2001)

LEARNING DOES NOT STOP HERE, SO YOU MUST **CONTINUE** THE LEARNING PATH. SP EDUCATION HAS PROVIDED A BASE FOR YOU TO **CONTINUE LEARNING** AND PICK UP TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE. REMEMBER TO **STAY HUMBLE AND TEACHABLE.**

FAST-TRACKED

Mr Chalvin Seah started his career at PSA Corporation Ltd. In a span of eight years, he was promoted three times; from an Electrical Engineer to a Quay Crane Manager. During his tenure, his greatest achievement and satisfaction was the completion and opening of Pasir Panjang Terminal 5 in the West Coast of Singapore. It was an invaluable experience that would stick with him for many years to come.

Despite his meteoric rise and stellar achievements, Mr Chalvin's main focus was instead to "stay humble and teachable". He explained, "Learning does not stop here, you must continue the learning path." Adding

to his Singapore Polytechnic (SP) diploma, Mr Chalvin went on to obtain a Degree in Electrical Engineering from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) upon his completion of the National Service.

BEYOND EDUCATION

Mr Chalvin urges all to go beyond paper qualifications: "In order to move forward in your career, besides academic and technical knowledge, you need to be good in project and people management skills. SP provides a good platform to promote teamwork, so utilise it well to maximise your exposure."



WELL PREPARED

HUBERT NG EE FENG

CHIEF ENGINEER, POSH OFFSHORE
DIPLOMA IN MARINE ENGINEERING (2004)

IN ALL THAT YOU DO, GIVE IT YOUR **VERY BEST**. DO NOT LIVE WITH REGRETS. INSTEAD, LIVE TODAY AS IF IT IS THE LAST DAY OF YOUR LIFE. IF YOU FAIL, TAKE IT AS AN AVENUE FOR PROGRESSION. **ENDURE** AND **LEARN** THROUGH YOUR MISTAKES.

THE RIGHT START

Mr Hubert Ng has a friendly and open personality but what shines through is his passion for the sea – a passion that can be seen clearly in all he says and does. After his graduation from SP, he pursued a seafaring career as an Engine Cadet. Ever resilient, Mr Ng focused on his ambition and continued to pursue his interest. Eleven years after his graduation from SP, he rose to the rank of Chief Engineer on ocean-going vessels.

When asked about his choice of educational institution, Mr Ng was quick to respond, “SP offers a good and complete curriculum that is holistic. It taught me not only the soft skills of behavioural management but also the practical and technical aspects of engineering through workshops and state-of-the-art equipment as

well. SP’s curriculum is adequate and provides practical teaching. It prepares the students for the future.”

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

One thing that Mr Ng feels strongly about is that knowledge and experience on machinery is essential for this industry; he elaborated, “SP and Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) have invested in the right simulated environments as well as experienced lecturers to share their knowledge with the students. This will prepare the students well before they even step into a vessel.”

His parting words, “Find your passion and give it your very best.” And all in favour say Aye, Aye, Captain!



EXPANDING PASSIONS

JOSEPH CHUA YI XIN

HEAD OF ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT AND HEAD OF DIGITAL, J. WALTER THOMPSON
DIPLOMA IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION (2005)

EXPAND YOUR PASSIONS

AND LIVE YOUR LIFE BEYOND THE CURRICULUM.
REMEMBER YOUR GROUNDED FOUNDATION
AND **CONTINUE TO LEARN** AS
MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

KNOWING THE REQUIREMENTS

Mr Joseph Chua, at age 26, became the youngest Account Manager in the history of Leo Burnett. He feels that further education beyond a SP qualification is not always necessary. Rather, he feels that it depends on the industry you are in. "Certain industries require paper qualifications for advancement, but other industries focus more on skills. So take time to find out what is required for the industry that you are interested in. For the advertising industry, having a bachelor degree is a basic requirement." To ensure that he met the requirement, Mr Chua did a part-time degree programme with Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) and RMIT University. Working and studying was always tough as he had to juggle workload and studies. He recalled how his weekends were spent doing

assignments. With proper time management and self-discipline, he successfully managed to balance both.

EXPANDING YOUR PASSION

Learning and reading, he believes, was the foundation in preparing him for his career. Being part of the debate team in SP allowed him to expand his horizons and exposed him to places such as Cambridge, United Kingdom. He had won numerous trophies as a debater and the experience moulded him into a more eloquent speaker. He strongly encourages all to pursue their passion. "Participate in activities that interest you and drives your passion. The skills obtained can be accumulated and used someday when you least expect it."



CHASING PASSION

JUSTIN TAN WEI YANG

CO-FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, APT811 DESIGN & INNOVATION AGENCY PTE LTD
DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE MEDIA DESIGN (2009)

HAVING A PASSION IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
MAKE SURE YOU **CHASE THAT
PASSION** AND FIND **GOOD MENTORS**
WHO ARE ALIGNED WITH YOUR VISION. IT IS ALSO
IMPORTANT TO CONSTANTLY EXPOSE ONESELF TO
AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AS POSSIBLE. AS LONG
AS YOU DON'T STOP SEIZING THEM, YOU WILL
DEFINITELY FIND SUCCESS IN THE LONG RUN.

LIVING HIS DREAM

Reflecting on his most memorable time in SP, Mr Justin Tan attributed setting up and managing The Student Agency (TSA) together with his lecturer as a turning point in his educational journey. The venture gave him opportunities to apply ideation techniques and design skills. It also exposed him to the realities of agency life.

Looking back on his overseas internship at Yahoo! Bangalore, India, he says, "It definitely opened my eyes to a whole new realm of User Experience Design which was starting to catch on then. Acquiring that knowledge made me empathise more with my users. A purposeful piece of design should solve the user's problem rather than being only aesthetically appealing."

KINDRED SPIRITS

As Mr Tan puts it, "Having a passion is not good enough. Make sure you chase that passion and find good mentors who are aligned with your vision. It is also important to constantly expose oneself to as many opportunities as possible. As long as you don't stop seizing the opportunities, you will definitely find success in the long run." SP provided Mr Tan with many opportunities and he was grateful to have seized them, gradually building up his confidence to achieve more.

"All of my lecturers inspired me in their own unique ways. That being said, the one lecturer who inspired me the most was Mr Noor Azhar. Together we set up the TSA, providing students with the opportunity to work and manage live projects with clients." All these equipped Mr Tan with the skills and confidence to be industry-ready.

DREAM FLIGHT

SHIRDEEN CHOW XUE TIAN

FLEET MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE, SIA ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD
DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS (2006)

MAKE USE OF YOUR **CREDENTIALS.**
FOCUS ON **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT,**
BUILD UP YOUR NETWORKS AND WORK ON YOUR
COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

CAREER TOOK FLIGHT

Graduating from the pioneer batch of SP's Diploma in Aerospace Electronics, Ms Shirdeen Chow certainly felt prestige, honour and great responsibility; as pioneers will be the ones setting the standard and blazing the paths for subsequent batches of SP graduates.

Upon her graduation from SP, she was invited by the SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) to join the apprenticeship scheme as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. She became a full-fledged licensed Aircraft Engineer in 2008. She then pursued a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) at Coventry University and graduated with flying colours in March 2013. She was later promoted to Planning Executive from her role as a Licensed Engineer. That was to become a defining

moment in her career as the new role would start her career in a very different path – Management.

SHE HAD A DREAM

Being focused and precocious, Ms Chow already knew what she wanted to do for work whilst in secondary school. SP helped her attain her goal by ensuring she received the credits required for her apprenticeship. At SP, she was also taught crucial aviation technical skills and principles of flight knowledge. This gave her a very good head start in SIAEC during her apprenticeship. "I count my blessings every day. I have been given an opportunity to do what I want as well as learn and improve in the process. What more can I ask for?" says Ms Chow with a smile and glint in her eyes.



BIG DREAMS

SHUN NG

PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN (CURRENTLY BASED IN USA)
DIPLOMA IN MUSIC AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGY – DMAT (2010)

WHEN I FIRST GRADUATED FROM SP, I TOLD MYSELF TO **DREAM BIG**. I ADVISE ALL SP GRADUATES TO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE THE WORLD BY STORM. BE **CREATIVE** AND **DARING**. YOU ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS, USE THEM AND BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE.

FINDING HIS GROOVE

Mr Shun Ng worked very hard and cherished every opportunity given to him. After SP, he realised his dream and went on to enrol at Berklee College of Music. Shun said, “When I first graduated from SP, I told myself to dream big. I advise all SP graduates to not be afraid to take the world by storm. Be creative and daring. You are equipped with the right skills, use them and be the best that you can be.”

His time at SP prepared him with the knowledge and understanding of music recording and music synthesis, which gave him an edge over his peers at Berklee. His practical abilities in music and audio technology also gave him an advantage over other students who came from a more theoretical music background.

FINDING THE RHYTHM

The spirit of SP burns brightly in Shun. He credits SP for providing him with his start in music. The lecturers were very knowledgeable and they saw potential in him despite his dyslexia.

The lecturers at SP also provided him with good guidance along the way, especially Mr Leon Lim, who was his songwriting lecturer. He was the person who inspired Shun to write songs. Mr Leon truly believed in Shun’s talent and encouraged him to delve deeper into his studies to realise his full potential. His group of friends at SP was also a major source of encouragement and support. With conviction, Shun shared, “I had strong support at SP. They helped me build my confidence and abilities so that I could become what I am today.”

NO REGRETS

VICKI LAU

FREELANCE VISUAL EFFECTS COMPOSITOR
DIPLOMA IN DIGITAL MEDIA (2011)

BEING A PART OF THIS **SPECIAL FAMILY**
WILL NEVER EVER BE A REGRET.

THROUGH THE LENS

Ms Vicki Lau found her true calling working behind the lens at SP's Videography Club (SPVC). "If it weren't for the club, I am pretty sure I would probably still be the shy and timid character that I was back in the day – keeping to myself and minding my own business. SPVC not only gave me the opportunity to lead, but their belief and support in my abilities throughout my student days in SP gave me the hope and confidence that there were truly people out there who trusted in my skills and who would support me even if it was something I had not done before, like leading a team."

THROUGH THE GRIND

She also credits SP's education approach as the other building block to her success, "I really liked SP's Digital Media course (now known as Visual Effects and Motion Graphics) for its diverse modules, from mathematics,

media law, to programming and of course, visual effects, which was ultimately my specialisation. I believe this broad base of knowledge has made me very adaptable in my field; I am able to apply the intelligence from these different arenas into my job and work, making me a more reliable and valuable resource."

For one who has graced the red carpet at the recent Emmy Awards, her heart and thoughts are still with her fellow SP family. When asked to impart some good advice to her fellow SP graduates, she readily offered, "When you are out there in the working world, you ought to love what you do. It's really tough to live your life if you don't."



LOGICAL WISDOM

VINCENT ZHANG YUN SEN

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OF BUSINESS DEPARTMENT,
SINOPEC CENTURY BRIGHT CAPITAL INVESTMENT LTD (SINGAPORE OFFICE)
DIPLOMA IN FINANCIAL INFORMATICS (2011)



YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO **GO BEYOND** THE
CLASSROOM THEN YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING
NEW. THAT IS WHERE YOU WILL **ACCUMULATE**
YOUR WISDOM AND **EXPERIENCES.**

FINDING HIS WAY THROUGH SP

Not a fan of Information Technology (IT), Mr Vincent Zhang found it a chore to go through the rigours of programming codes. This changed when his lecturer, Mr Alvin Tang (lecturer of DMIT), helped him develop a better understanding of programming languages. Through modules which taught him JAVA, HTML and JSP, he gradually gained an interest in IT and realized that it was not as difficult as what he initially thought it to be. With other fundamental knowledge that he learnt from modules like Database Management, Business Process Management, System Design and Information Security, he was able to identify some potential system and process enhancements at his current work and was able to communicate it effectively to his IT department

for them to implement those enhancements smoothly and accurately.

FINDING HIS WAY AFTER SP

When asked to share his thoughts, he gave an analogy that provides a good overview of his approach to his goals, "Acquired knowledge is like a database. Your learning ability is like a programme. Wisdom and experience is akin to the programming language created by the programmer. These three elements - knowledge, learning ability and wisdom must fuse together in order to achieve its objective. So in SP, you can gain relevant knowledge and learning ability but you have to gain wisdom and experience from your workplace."

Strive with Passion



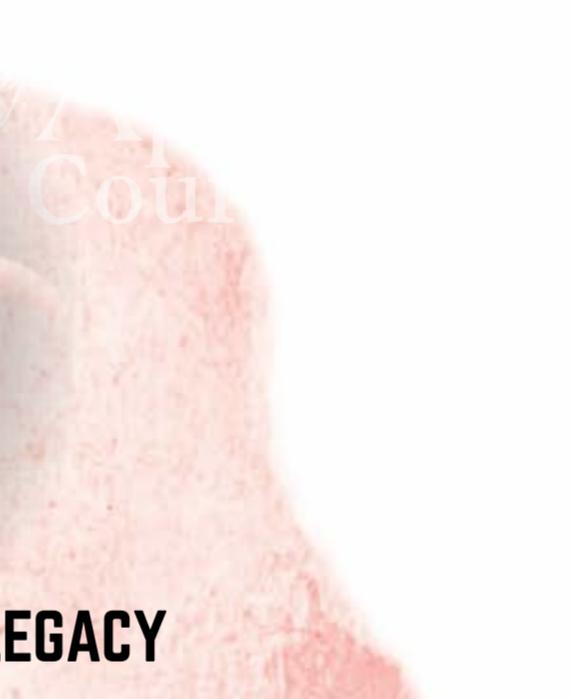
HO CHEE HENG
Senior Project Engineer (Tunnelling), Land Transport Authority of Singapore



NUR QAMARINA
Social Media Manager, Cheil Worldwide



S K SELVA
Director, Sentosa 4D AdventureLand



YONG CHIN HWEI
Associate Director (Technical), DP Architects Pte Ltd



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MUHAMMAD IKHWAN BIN ZAINAL
Technical Director, Springloaded Pte Ltd



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SALLEH BIN ISMAIL
Manager (Engineering Core and Applied Fundamentals), SMRT Institute, SMRT Corporation Ltd



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TAN KIAN HWEI
Operations Manager, Sembcorp Industries Ltd



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LEAVING A LEGACY

Let us not forget those who have forged on, rode the wings of courage and grew with the industries that they have entered since graduating from SP. Our pioneering spirits have conquered challenges with gusto, debunked perceptions of their capabilities, continually built on their knowledge base and have reached the summit with pride.

Here are stories of those who strive in life with the passion to learn through on-the-job experiences.

To those that have embarked on this quest, we salute you and thank you, for it has given the rest motivation and courage to live out the belief that we are indeed First Poly, Future Ready!

improve stay true
RIGHT ATTITUDE aptitude DEEP SKILLS Be
inspire KNOWLEDGE energy

LEARNING JOURNEYS

HO CHEE HENG

SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER (TUNNELLING),
LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
DIPLOMA IN CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING (1997)

TO DO WHAT YOU LIKE AND **DO IT BEST,**
SO THAT ONE COULD BE A **MASTER OF SKILLS**

READY FOR CHALLENGES

Mr Ho Chee Heng joined the Land Transport Authority (LTA) as a Technical Officer in 2001, armed with a diploma from Singapore Polytechnic (SP). That relatively junior position did not dampen his passion as he is a man with an ethos "to never stop chasing one's dreams".

Mr Ho feels that it is important to have passion and interest in a career. He explains, "It is important to build up your project experiences. And that is one of the reasons why I had stayed the course at LTA all these years." The wealth of experience he has gained and the many different challenges he faced in his career has built up the confidence that he has in his work and

his abilities as an Engineer. Yet, according to him "each day is a learning journey". He expounded, "Nothing is routine in this industry!" showcasing an enthusiasm and passion that has not diminished by the passing of time.

MOVING FORWARD

The important skillsets for this industry are critical thinking, creativity, foresight, analytical skills, and being disciplined. Mr Ho is grateful for these skills that he had picked up from his alma mater. The lecturers were always ready to share their industry and technical knowledge which gave the students a better understanding of the technical aspects of their careers.

UNCEASING IMPROVEMENTS

MUHAMMAD IKHWAN BIN ZAINAL

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, SPRINGLOADED PTE LTD

DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (GAME DEVELOPMENT OPTION) (2009)

GIVE YOUR BEST AND NEVER STOP LEARNING. THE KEY WORD IS **CONSTANTLY IMPROVING** YOURSELF.

THROUGH THE RANKS

Mr Muhammad Ikhwan was recruited into Hong Wei Global (HWG), a studio developing 3D gaming and simulation software. After a year in HWG, he progressed from managing the technical system to developing the simulations system, moving up in designation to become Software Engineer 2. He then became the assistant to his Technical Director, Viknash from Ubisoft where he learnt the ropes of management, laying the foundational skills that facilitated him to be a lead programmer and subsequently Technical Director in the present day.

During his time in HWG, Ikhwan busied himself mastering the various job scopes entrusted to him and also continued to learn new and different web technologies with whatever spare time he had. He later moved on to Springloaded as a Senior Engineer,

developing mostly back-end technologies. Within the span of a year, he moved up to the position of Technical Director. "Do not get complacent, give your best and never stop learning", he enthused. His wisdom and dedication to this work ethic has certainly paid much dividends for him in his career journey.

IT ALL STARTED HERE

Ikhwan took the technical path rather than the academic route (of pursuing a higher qualification) because he was focused on what he wanted to pursue.

Despite scoring a good grade point average (GPA) in his course, he chose to hone his skills in a highly skill-based industry instead of furthering his education. This allowed him to build up critical technical knowledge and exposure which contributed to his current career success.


 A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved dress, smiling and standing in front of a whiteboard with sketches.

SINGLE-MINDED DETERMINATION

NUR QAMARINA RAMLI

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER, CHEIL WORLDWIDE
DIPLOMA IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION (2012)

A NEVER-SAY-DIE ATTITUDE IS VERY IMPORTANT AS YOU WILL MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY WHO WILL SAY THAT YOU ARE NOT GOOD OR EXPERIENCED ENOUGH BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO **STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF** AND **STAY FOCUS** ON WHAT **YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUR LIFE.** NO MATTER WHAT, **PURSU**E YOUR DREAMS.

STAYING TRUE TO YOURSELF

Initially when Ms Nur Qamarina started pursuing her interest in social media, her parents had doubts and were not convinced that she will be able to build her career on something intangible. Despite that, she began her plus size lifestyle and fashion blog, Style Beyond Size in 2009. Hard work paid off and her blog slowly grew to what it is today. Fully embracing the internet and all it had to offer, Ms Qamarina landed her first job as a Social Media Public Relations Executive via Twitter.

TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Ms Qamarina, currently a Social Media Manager at Cheil Worldwide, has indeed proven her parents wrong.

She also credits SP's internship scheme as a major stepping stone in her career development. She took up an internship with a boutique Public Relations (PR) agency. Seeing her value and what her talent can bring to the firm, the company crafted a new position for her – Social Media Strategist– this role has since become a “norm” for other marketing communications agencies. Having been a pioneer in a new media space, Ms Qamarina has definitely left an imprint for other aspiring SP students to follow. Her very proud parents are supporting her every step of the way and would gladly admit to being proven wrong by their feisty daughter who had the foresight to jump into an industry at the start of its very large wave.

STAYING RELEVANT

SALLEH BIN ISMAIL

MANAGER (ENGINEERING CORE AND APPLIED FUNDAMENTALS)
SMRT INSTITUTE, SMRT CORPORATION LTD
PART TIME DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING COURSE - MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY (2014)

IT IS IMPORTANT TO **STAY RELEVANT**. You
MUST CONSTANTLY **UPGRADE** AND **IMPROVE**
YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Mr Salleh's impetus for change started his search to acquire new skillsets and expand his knowledge so as to remain relevant and stay employable. Since he had a technical background, he decided to take up a part-time diploma course in Engineering from SP and graduated in 2014. He also leveraged on the SkillsFuture Credit to pursue a part-time degree (Bachelor of Technology, Industrial & Management Engineering) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in August 2015.

Through his learnings in SP, he realised he had a keen sense to nurture and train, this then led him to his role as a trainer at SMRT. His engineering exposure has also proven to be timely as it coincided with a period where his employer was moving towards an engineering oriented organisation.

STAYING RELEVANT

With continuing education comes greater career opportunities. Mr Salleh's work scope has expanded

and was assigned to spearhead a new Learning Technology Section in January 2015. He was then promoted to Manager and given the chance to take on a new role – Manager (Engineering Core and Applied Fundamentals). In this new role, he leads a team of four staff to design the common and fundamental engineering curriculum, as well as, deliver common and fundamental engineering courses to technical officers and junior engineers.

Ever obliging with sharing his observations, Mr Salleh enthused, "In today's environment, with intensive competition and constant economic restructuring, coupled with technological advancement, there is a risk of being obsolete if workers do not seek to upgrade. Therefore, to stay relevant, workers need to constantly improve their knowledge and skills. My advice to those who are considering a further education – seize every opportunity so that you will remain relevant and employable."

IRREPRESSIBLE AMBITIONS

S K SELVA

DIRECTOR, SENTOSA 4D ADVENTURELAND

PART-TIME DIPLOMA IN ELECTRONICS, COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING (1996)

YOU ARE **EQUIPPED WITH
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

TO FACE THE REAL WORLD AND THE FUTURE.

THE ROAD BACK

For someone who works in an environment of virtual reality and make-believe, it would not be too much of a stretch to paint Mr S K Selva's career progression from being a technician to his current position as Director of Sentosa 4D AdventureLand as "Out of this world"!

In an unassuming and candid manner, Mr Selva shared that his O Level results were not good enough to qualify for the electronics course in the polytechnic. So, he applied to the Singapore Technical Institute (STI) to continue his education. While at STI, he bucked up and focused on his studies. With his improved results, he was able to apply to Singapore Polytechnic (SP) for the part-time engineering diploma course.

At Sentosa 4D AdventureLand, he had to learn new skills quickly such as operating a state-of-the-art

projector, sound and IT system. It was a steep learning curve as he had to learn motion technology and usage of the control systems directly from the American specialists. Till today, he is constantly learning as technology evolves and advances.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Mr Selva is one who believes in giving back to society. Since 1994, he has been taking in students for internship and training them with hands-on experiences. He believes that the students will benefit from such learning experiences and he will continue to give students such learning exposure as long as he is able to.

COURAGEOUS ENDEAVOURS

TAN KIAN HWEE

OPERATIONS MANAGER, SEMBCORP INDUSTRIES LTD (SUT DIV)
DIPLOMA IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (1998)

“**BE DARING AND STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.** MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU

MUST HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND APTITUDE TO HANDLE EVERYTHING.

MOVING UP THE RANKS

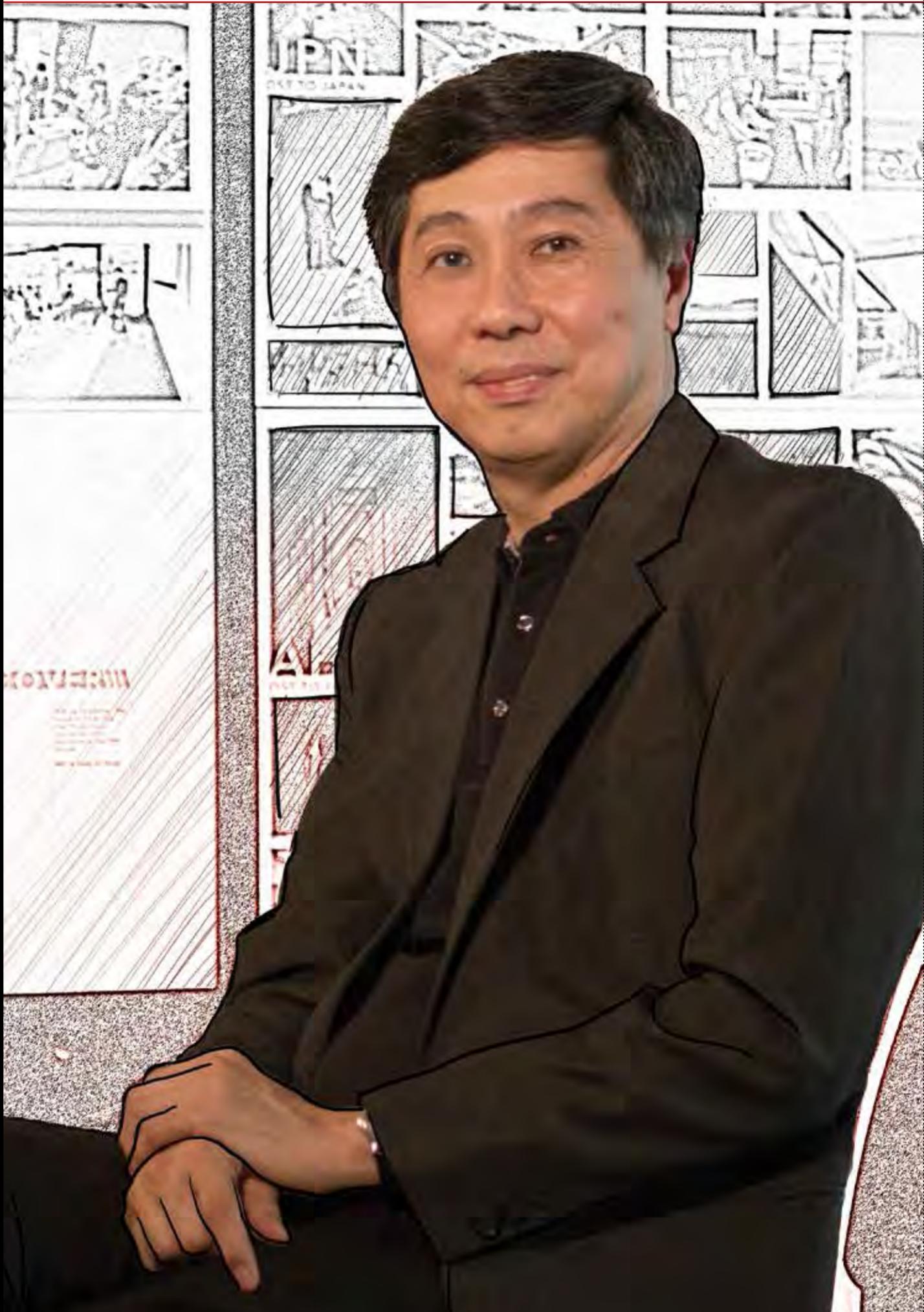
Mr Tan Kian Hwee advanced through the ranks to be a Manager at Sembcorp despite having only a diploma. He credited this to the deep skills that SP has forged in his training and character development. His good foundation in SP helped him adapt easily to new environments and enabled him to pick up new skills and knowledge quickly. He rose through the ranks rapidly in Sembcorp. In a span of eight years with Sembcorp, he was promoted three times and has now reached management level.

He encourages all students to do their best in their studies. His motto for learning is to always have the right attitude.

GOOD INTERNSHIP

SP's internship also prepared its students for the real world. Mr Tan is thankful that he was attached to ExxonMobil for a four-month internship. His SP lecturer, Mr Koh Chuan Aik (current Deputy Director, CLS), was instrumental in arranging the internship. SP has definitely helped him in his career path and connected all the dots for him, ensuring a smooth transition from school to the working world.

His advice to SP graduates joining the workforce, “Be daring and step out of your comfort zone. Most importantly, you must have the right attitude and aptitude to handle everything that crosses your path.”



BUILDING DREAMS

YONG CHIN HWEI

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL), DP ARCHITECTS PTE LTD
DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY (1985)

ALONG THE WAY, YOU NEED TO **REFINE** AND **UPGRADE** YOURSELF. SUCCESS DOES NOT COME EASILY. **PERSISTENCE** AND **ENDURANCE** ARE REQUIRED. WHEN THINGS FALL INTO PLACE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE RESULTS AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOUR.

PLANNING AHEAD

Mr Yong Chin Hwei, Associate Director (Technical) at DP Architects, graduated from SP with a Diploma in Architectural Technology in 1985. He has been working at DP Architects since SP's work experience programme some 32 years ago. Upon his completion of National Service, he worked as a draughtsman which was part of the pre-requisite work experience required then to complete his Diploma in Architectural Technology.

For Mr Yong, he felt that SP provided him with a strong foundation of skills which he can now use to lead his team. His course had emphasised on codes and materials which has been a great knowledge base and skillset to have in his career. As such, he felt that "an SP education provides sufficient foundation to start

your career. However, along the way, you need to continually refine and upgrade yourself." Starting as a junior draughtsman did not dampen his dreams, nor did it hinder his ambitions. With persistence, hardwork and perseverance, he had overcome the obstacles and challenges placed in his path and realised his ambitions.

A significant career high for him was his involvement in the planning and building of Temasek Polytechnic. It was a project that he was heavily involved in, from inception to completion. It was also memorable as it was a project which DP Architects embarked in collaboration with the renowned architects late James Stirling and Michael Wilford.

**ABU BAKAR
BIN MOHD NOR**
Managing Director,
Keppel Singmarine
Pte Ltd

GOH TEIK POH
Managing Director,
Global Maritime
Talent Pte Ltd

KATHLEEN KOH
Managing Director,
Kalsec Asia Pacific
Pte Ltd

**MIRZA BIN
MOHD SALLEH**
Production
Unit Manager,
Shell Chemicals
Seraya Pte Ltd

RICHARD PHUA
Head (Technical
Services),
Perennial Real Estate
Holdings Ltd



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**CHONG
PHIT LIAN**
Advisor,
Singbridge
Corporate Pte Ltd

JEREMY NG
Regional Sales
Manager,
Mott's Snapple
International Inc

LIM KOK HENG
Operations
Manager, Easteel
Services (Malaysia)
Sdn Bhd

ONG POH KWEE
Chief Operating
Officer,
Sembcorp Marine Ltd

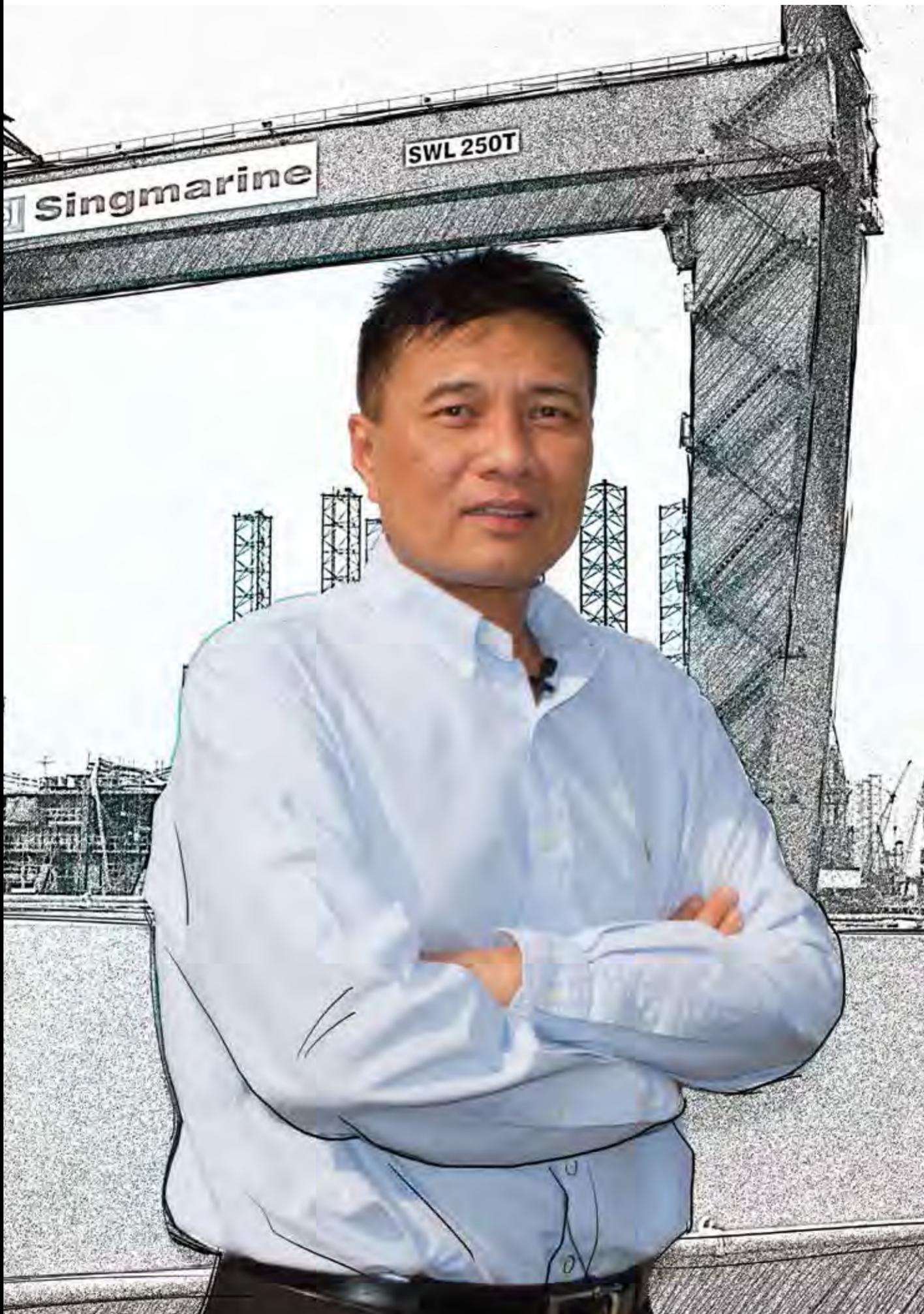
PAVING THE WAY

Amongst those who have walked through the corridors of SP and received their graduating certificates of accomplishment, there are many who have since experienced significant career growth and triumphs in staying abreast with industry knowledge.

As their alma mater, SP is honoured to share some of these success stories.

May their stories inspire you to persevere and seize every moment - *Carpe Diem*.

Aspire to Excel



UNWAVERING DETERMINATION

ABU BAKAR BIN MOHD NOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR, KEPPEL SINGMARINE PTE LTD
DIPLOMA IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (1987)

HE HAS GAINED **MASTERY OF HIS CAREER**, TAKING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE BUSINESS, WORKING IN AREAS SUCH AS PRODUCTION AS WELL AS MARKETING. HIS **UNWAVERING DETERMINATION** HAS PAID OFF. TODAY, HE IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KEPPEL SINGMARINE PTE LTD, THE SPECIALISED SHIPBUILDING UNIT OF KEPPEL OFFSHORE & MARINE.

HAVING THE RIGHT START

Looking back at his Polytechnic experience, Mr Abu Bakar greatly appreciates the attachment opportunity that Singapore Polytechnic (SP) has provided for him. The technical-based attachment gave him insights and a better understanding of what to expect before he started his career. It equipped him with the necessary fundamentals that prove to stand him in good stead when he began his career with Keppel.

HAVING A SPECIFIC GOAL

While serving his industry attachment at White Industries, he was inspired by the safety management aspects of the company. Recognising then that this was his real passion, he focused on learning all he could about safety management and was determined to pursue this aspect of his career.

HAVING A SPECIFIC ROLE

His first leadership role was also, by his own reckoning, his greatest achievement. It affirmed his belief that he had made the right decisions in pursuing his goal and passion.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

He felt that he made the right choice in choosing SP to embark on his studies. Back then, companies were looking for polytechnic graduates because of their industrial training and technical competencies. SP had provided him with the right kind of balance, both in curriculum and industry based learning, equipping him with the depth of knowledge and technical competencies required for him to have a good foundation when he started his career.

ENDEARING PERSEVERANCE

CHONG PHIT LIAN

ADVISOR, SINGBRIDGE CORPORATE PTE LTD
DIPLOMA IN PRODUCTION ENGINEERING (1974)

SP HAS PROVIDED ME WITH **A GOOD PLATFORM**
TO PURSUE MY DREAMS. **FOLLOW YOUR**
PASSION AND **GIVE YOUR VERY BEST.**

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Ms Chong came to Singapore from Malaysia to continue her education in Singapore Polytechnic (SP) despite her family's limited financial resources. She then began a challenging yet most rewarding chapter of her life.

CONQUERING OBSTACLES

Ms Chong was able to gain employment immediately after completion of her Production Engineering Diploma Course at SP. She worked as Engineering Assistant for 2.5 years to gain more practical experience and accumulate financial resources before pursuing her Engineering Degree in England.

With both SP Diploma and Engineering Degree, Ms Chong was offered various job opportunities on her return from her education in England. Ms Chong chose to work in workshop management environment that provided her the platform to acquire skills and experience in value chain of equipment trading with value added engineering content. Within four years, she rose through the ranks to become a General Manager. Since then, she has been in careers that span across various industries including precision engineering

and manufacturing, retail and distribution, lifestyle and leisure. Over the 40 years of work life, she held several leadership positions as CEO of companies and in some cases as Board member. In fact, she was the first woman Mint Master when she was appointed CEO of Singapore Mint. Subsequently she also became the first female CEO for an airline in Singapore. Ms Chong is currently an Advisor of Singbridge Corporate Pte Ltd. Prior to this, she was its CEO for three years.

STRIVE TOWARDS YOUR GOALS

Ms Chong's course at SP exposed her to a good spectrum of skillsets, giving her a good foundation. She strongly believes that good foundation enables a person to adapt and adjust very quickly to the industry and set a person apart from the rank and file. "You need to think beyond the immediate scope and strive towards your goals," said Ms Chong. As an advice to SP graduates starting their new career, she added, "Give your very best in building your capabilities and knowledge within the organisation so that you will be well-equipped with a strong foundation of skills." Ms Chong has indeed proven that with focus and perseverance, one can overcome obstacles and achieve success in his/her chosen career or specialty.



MANAGING TALENT

GOH TEIK POH

MANAGING DIRECTOR, GLOBAL MARITIME TALENT PTE LTD
DIPLOMA IN NAUTICAL STUDIES (1983)

HE WAS IN A GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY WITH 11,000 EMPLOYEES DRAWN FROM MORE THAN 90 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. IT WAS A VERY **ENRICHING AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE**, ALLOWING MR GOH TO REALISE **HIS TRUE CALLING** OF EMBARKING ON HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY OF **MANAGING TALENT** WITHIN THE MARITIME SPACE.

THROUGH THE STORMS

Recalling one of the more dramatic moments in his sailing career, Mr Goh Teik Poh shared his encounter with a strong typhoon off the coast of Japan. He observed that amidst the heavy weather and uncertainty, the Captain onboard the vessel portrayed a sense of calm and displayed strong exemplary leadership throughout. The Captain successfully navigated the ship through the storm. That left an indelible impression on Mr Goh and would give him a beacon throughout his career on what good leadership should resemble.

BEING PEOPLE-ORIENTED

Mr Goh set up Global Maritime Talent because he enjoys working with people. Having spent close to three decades mentoring others and identifying talent, he thrives on the interaction and believes in sharing

his experiences with both employers and employees. One of his areas of focus is on retaining and nurturing potential leaders and talent within the maritime industry.

INSPIRED TO INSPIRE

To students who are facing a VUCA world (i.e., Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous world), the affable Mr Goh had these words to share, "Do study hard and enjoy your time in SP. Do not worry about what life has in store for you. Most importantly, like what you do and do what you like. Step out, be adventurous and explore. Be courageous and take on the challenges and opportunities that come your way. If I can do it, so can you."



LIFE-LONG LEARNING

JEREMY NG

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, MOTT'S SNAPPLE INTERNATIONAL INC
DIPLOMA IN RETAIL MANAGEMENT (1992)

WITH SO MANY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS GRADUATES IN THE WORKPLACE, IT IS BECOMING MUCH MORE COMPETITIVE. EVERYONE IS **HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS** SO YOU NEED TO CONTINUE TO LEARN AND **STAND OUT** FROM THE REST.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Mr Jeremy Ng felt that an important element during his time in SP was the opportunities given to do various projects that entailed working with diverse groups of people. While he cited the importance of project work and people exposure, there was another key aspect Mr Ng felt contributed to the reason why an SP education works: The students were given numerous opportunities to hone their presentation skills.

BE REALISTIC

For fresh graduates who are looking for a career shortcut to the millionaire's circle, Mr Ng has this piece of advice, "Be realistic when looking for your dream

job. You need to perform and never stop learning. Don't be complacent and always aim to improve and better yourself." His own journey is a testament to the importance of a life-long pursuit of learning that he hopes all SP graduates would hold fast to.

He is thankful that he has built up his foundation in sales since his first job at Royal Sporting House (RSH). The training that he received in SP, together with the contacts and experiences that he had gathered throughout his career are all major building blocks that have made him a successful Regional Sales Manager today.

WHOLE-HEARTED COMMITMENT

KATHLEEN KOH SOCK YEN

MANAGING DIRECTOR, KALSEC ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD

DIPLOMA IN CHEMICAL PROCESS TECHNOLOGY (FOOD TECHNOLOGY) (1995)

SP WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE RELEVANT SKILLS FOR YOUR CAREER AND WORKFORCE. GIVE YOUR

100% TO EACH JOB. FROM THE EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT AREAS, YOU WILL **REALISE YOUR PASSION**, WHETHER IT IS SALES, MARKETING OR R&D.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Ms Kathleen Koh received the Singapore Institute of Food Science & Technology Award in 1995, an achievement that she traced back to her roots in SP.

Ms Koh credits SP for providing her with relevant theory and practical knowledge. The technical background which she gathered in SP has helped her develop skills relevant to both the Asia and Global food market.

Being an avid learner, Ms Koh subsequently enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Business Administration course from PSB Academy to hone her sales and business skills. She later received her Degree in Business Administration in Marketing from the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM).

THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT ATTITUDE

Ms Koh shared that to be a successful food technologist, one must always take the initiative to learn, be humble and open-minded to learn from others. Ms Koh said, "It is also important to network with people around you. This will keep you relevant and up-to-date on the happenings around you and the world."

Not one to forget her roots, she is always seeking collaboration opportunities with SP. She has worked closely with Mrs Ngan-Loong Mann Na (Centre Director of Food Innovation & Resource Centre (FIRC), Deputy Director of Chemical & Life Sciences) to sponsor final year project sponsorships and consultancy projects with FIRC.



HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

LIM KOK HENG

OPERATIONS MANAGER, EASTEL SERVICES (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD
DIPLOMA IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING (2002)

YOU MAY NOT BE SMARTER THAN THE NEXT PERSON BUT IMPORTANTLY YOU MUST **BE PREPARED TO WORK HARDER.** MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU MUST **BE HUMBLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC** ABOUT YOUR WORK.

SP – THE RIGHT CHOICE

The old adage “Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration” holds true for Mr Lim Kok Heng. For his myriad contributions in SP, Mr Lim was awarded National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Gold for CCA excellence and given the SP Model Student award.

Besides the academic aspects, SP has provided many opportunities for Mr Lim to improve his soft skills (such as presentation skills) which helped prepare and equip him for his career.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY

Mr Lim shared the importance of being humble. Whenever a senior taught him something new, he

would listen intently to what was taught and thereafter visit the library to do his own research. That extra effort enabled him to learn better.

As an Operations Manager, he oversees various day-to-day operations of his company. To ensure smooth operations, Mr Lim has to work together with his team and other departments. Mr Lim shared, “To meet safety requirements and comply with regulations, great teamwork and a safety first environment is very important in the manufacturing sector. Success will come if all of us work together towards a common goal.” Parting words of wisdom from the ever energetic Mr Lim, a SP role model through and through.



TAKING CHARGE

MIRZA BIN MOHD SALLEH

PRODUCTION UNIT MANAGER, SHELL CHEMICALS SERAYA PTE LTD
 DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (1992)
 ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING (1997)

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER DEVELOPMENT.
WORK HARD AND **DREAM BIG**. ALL PATHS

ARE OPEN TO YOU IF YOU ARE WILLING TO WORK FOR IT.

OPEN YOUR HEART, MIND AND EARS TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE
 FEEDBACK FROM THE TRUSTED PEOPLE AROUND YOU AND

STRIVE TO ALWAYS **IMPROVE YOURSELF**
 THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER."

RIDING THROUGH CHALLENGES

If life is one big balancing act, Mr Mirza Bin Mohd Salleh would qualify as one of the top contenders. In his 19 years of working in Shell, starting from an entry level position, he has been promoted a staggering 11 times within the organisation.

Throughout his years in Shell, he faced many challenges that required perseverance and resilience. He credited his ability at overcoming these challenges with a willingness to accept critical feedback from people that matter; his spouse, supervisors and even staff.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Of his many accomplishments, the one that ranks highest on his list was the time he was entrusted with being the lead of a crucial project. The complexity of

that project involved understanding the setup of the plant as well as working closely with the customer to understand their needs. Mr Mirza said with satisfaction, "My supervisor had entrusted me to lead the project and I delivered successfully."

On balancing work commitments and an advanced diploma course at the same time, he said, "One has to decide based on financial capabilities and personal time commitment. The key advantage to working and studying at the same time is that as I build up work experience on the ground, I am also able to learn new engineering skills in the course which I can apply the very next working day."

As Mr Mirza has shown, the rewards of working hard are indeed immense and sweet.



CURIOUS AND POSITIVE

ONG POH KWEE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, SEMBCORP MARINE LTD
TECHNICAL DIPLOMA IN MARINE ENGINEERING (1982)

BE VERY CURIOUS AND
HAVE A POSITIVE MINDSET.
CONTINUE TO LEARN AND
WORK HARD.

RIDING THROUGH THE STORM

After his National Service, the world shipping market was hit by a severe downturn, so this made it difficult for Mr Ong Poh Kwee to continue his cadet sailing career. Taking the difficult times in his stride, Mr Ong decided to further his studies and eventually graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Upon his re-entry into the workforce, he joined Sembawang Shipyard. After working twelve years for the company, he was sent to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for an Executive MBA programme. It proved to be a great opportunity for him and gave him valuable insights on general management.

LOOKING BACK

As the shipyard business is very technical in nature, the hands-on education at SP provided him with a good foundation for his initial years as an Engineer, Project Manager and Head of Production. His exposure to practical training made on-the-job learning a lot easier and faster.

Mr Ong stressed that good education with relevant work experience must be coupled with a positive mindset. His desire for more local engineers joining the industry was evident as he expresses his hopes to see more passionate SP engineering graduates joining him in the near future.

SETTING GOALS

RICHARD PHUA

HEAD (TECHNICAL SERVICES), PERENNIAL REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LTD
DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (1996)

YOU MUST **BELIEVE** IN YOURSELF. MAKE SURE YOU **SET GOALS** AND WORK TOWARDS IT. TELL YOURSELF **YOU CAN DO IT** AND YOU CAN MAKE IT.

HAVING A GOOD START

Mr Richard Phua felt that SP, Singapore's first polytechnic, has successfully trained and equipped him with specialised skills. It has given him a conducive learning environment to study and grow towards being a professional engineer. The practical lessons help him understand how things work and how concepts can be applied.

THE RIGHT SKILL

Mr Phua felt that the deep skills which he acquired in SP has helped him tremendously during the course of his work. Very often, his strong engineering

background allowed him to explain the concepts succinctly to his clients. This, he felt, is actually more important than having paper qualifications. Mr Phua elaborated, "Once you are able to grasp the concepts that you learnt in theory, you will find that it is an asset in the course of your work. The application will supplement and reinforce what you have learnt."

"You must believe in yourself. Make sure you set goals and continually strive to work towards them!" he added.

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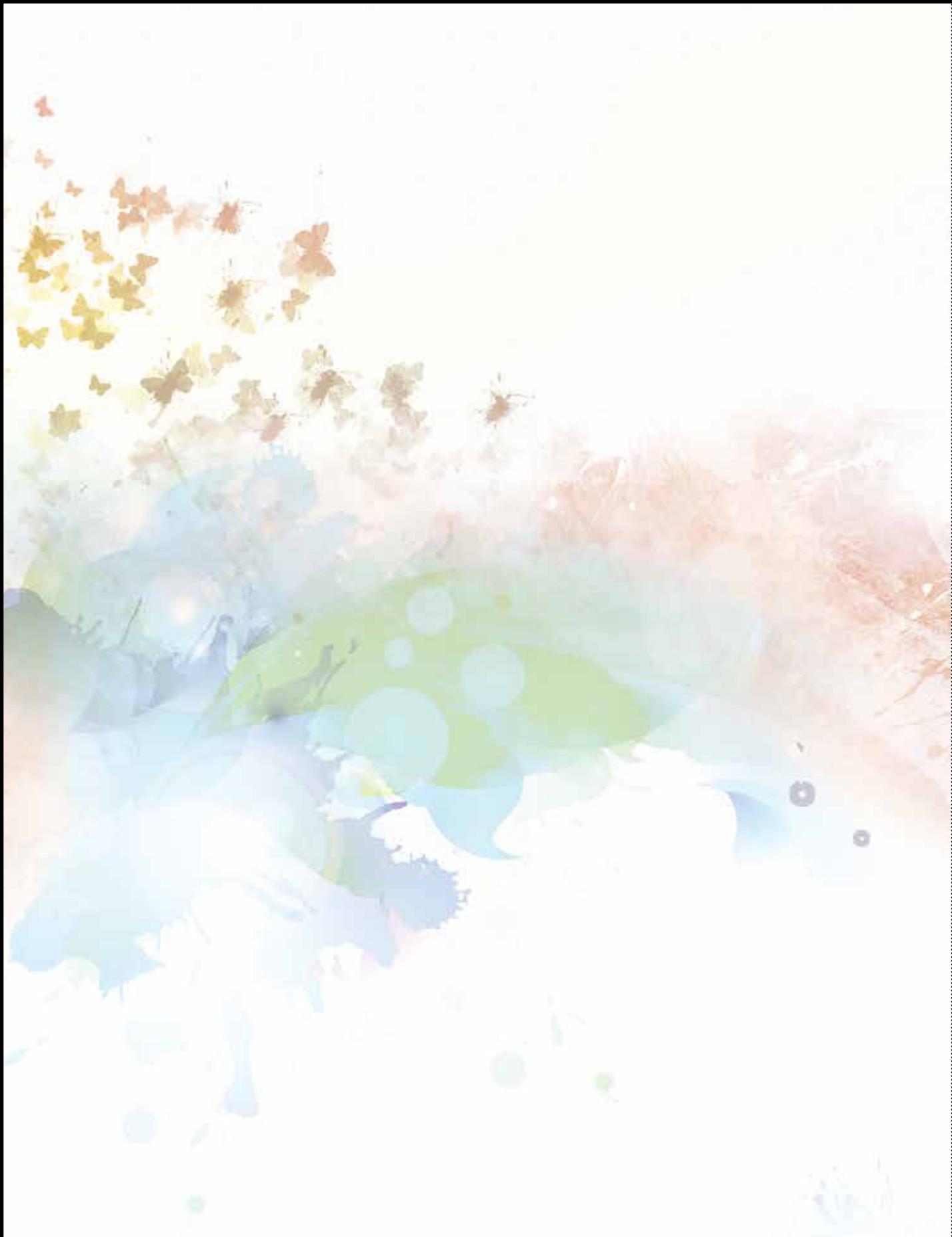
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- Ms Lee Keng Keng, Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture & The Built Environment
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WE'RE FROM **SP** AND WE CHOOSE TO IN**SP**IRE



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