

SPiRiT

FEBRUARY
2013

SINGAPORE
POLYTECHNIC **SP**

WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE



SP⁺ SIBLINGS

Will my sister spill the beans about me in SP? Brothers and sisters studying in SP have some good advice to share!

FROM NEPAL TO PARIS

SP students take on the world!

NEW AND JUST FOR YOU

Facilities to add oomph to your learning.

OPEN HOUSE AND ENGINEERING SHOW 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



**ENRICH
YOURSELF.
GET A HEAD START.**

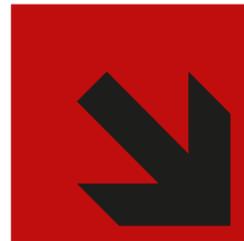
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**content
highlights**

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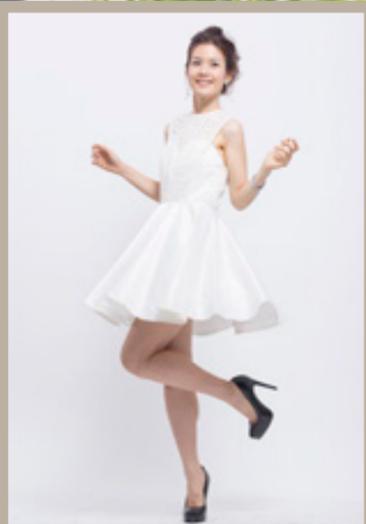
Love + Hate

Brothers and sisters: sometimes we love them, sometimes we don't. But for better or worse, they are here to stay. Siblings in SP Business School share the pains and gains of studying in the same poly.



**10. See
The
World**

Whether it's Paris, Seoul or San Francisco, the world is open to SP students who want to expand their horizons. Read about their unique overseas experiences.



**Fashion
Statement 34.**

For the first time, SP students collaborate with a fashion designer to launch a new line of ready-to-wear fashion.

**44. New And
Exciting**

From Perfumery Centre to Cyber Wargame Centre – a new slew of exciting learning facilities awaits students in 2013.



**50. They
Made It!**

SP graduates reaped another bountiful harvest of scholarships at the universities



**SP+U
OPEN HOUSE 2013**

06. Highlights of Open House and Engineering Show 2013

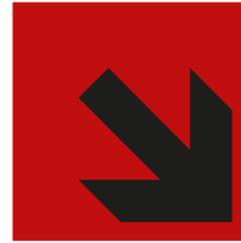
Dear SP Student,

All the BEST in the coming examinations!

The SPirit Team

“Excellence is not a singular act, but a habit. You are what you repeatedly do.”

- Shaquille O’Neal



Celebrating SPIRIT

Hi 😊

I hope you all had a good vacation and now back with a renewed zest to tackle the last semester. For me, 2013 was certainly a brand new beginning. I stepped into Singapore Polytechnic – my new work place which will be a second home.

What was my first impression of SP? The campus is full of vigour and vibrancy – all thanks to the over 15,500 of you studying here. In my initial interactions with some of you, I was impressed by your passion and dedication to what you are doing and pursuing.

I hope 2013 will be a year of celebrations for all of you. Whether you are in your third year preparing for the final hurdle, or a freshman who has just started the SP journey, I hope you will find reasons to celebrate.

For those who have put in your best shot to see your final-year project to fruition, you deserve a celebration. You do not need a big party to celebrate. You can write a blog that documents your project completion or have a meal with your project mates. These are but simple ways to share your joy with others. Later in life, after you embark on your full-time career, these little moments of SP will become fond and treasured memories.

We started 2013 with our annual SP Open House. The event itself was a celebration with a myriad of sounds and colours around the campus. We played host to many visitors on campus, comprising G.C.E. ‘O’ level school leavers, secondary school students, parents and industry partners. Whether they were here to learn more about their desired diploma course or just to soak in the open-house atmosphere, all of you had collectively played a part to make a deep impact!

We impressed our visitors with the creative innovations at the Engineering Show. We demonstrated the vibrancy of SP with a host of exciting CCAs like archery, cycling, cheerleading, singing and dancing. The senior students shared passionately their SP experience and achievements with future students. Be proud that many of them made the choice and will soon join SP because of what you have showed or told them.

In the months to come, I look forward to interacting and chatting with you. I want to understand your aspirations and see how SP can help you realise your dreams. I hope you will passionately, candidly and generously share your views of SP with me, be it our strengths or areas for improvement.

May each of you have an exciting and fulfilling year in 2013. Remember, With SP, It’s So Possible.

Happy reading!

Tan Choon Shian
Principal and CEO
Singapore Polytechnic

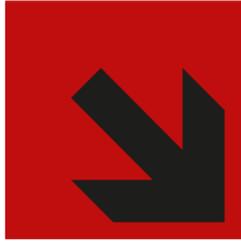
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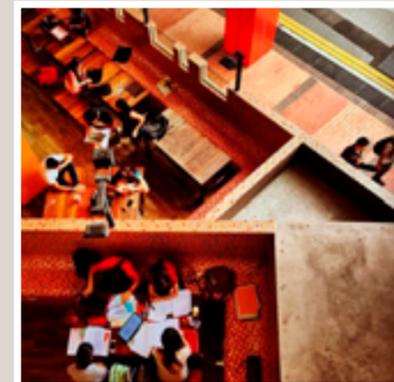
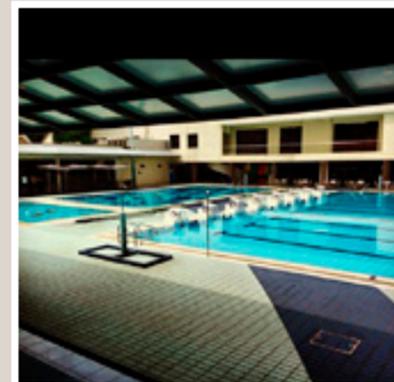
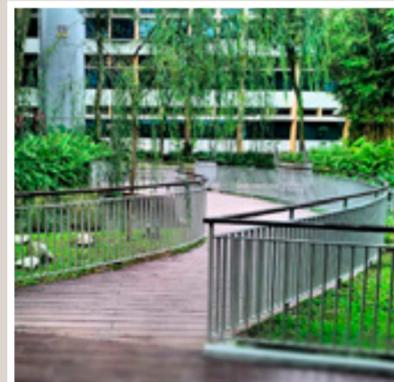


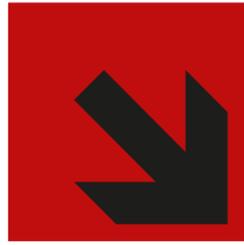
Sharing Photos

SP In Your Eye...

On any other day, the building that stands in front of you looks just like another building. Not for some of you though. SP has come alive through the creative lens of your smartphones and cameras.

SP+EYE, a social media initiative that ran alongside the SP Open House's creative campaign strategy, received more than 750 entries. The photo entries, displayed on aspirations.sg, the Open House microsite, gave a visual representation of the SP campus and the learning journey to our potential students. And what a life there is at SP, as these pictures would tell you!





SO POSSIBLE

SP+U

OPEN HOUSE 2013

Open Sesame

Once again, SP doors were opened to the public at the Open House held in early January. The annual event involved months of preparation by SP staff and students who took up various roles in the planning and execution. The

Student Agency, a living lab under the SP Design School, took the lead in mapping out the creative strategy which included print advertisements and outdoor banners. Second-year event management students from the School of Architecture and the

PURSU
YOUR CALLING.
IT ALL BEGINS
HERE.

aspirations.sg

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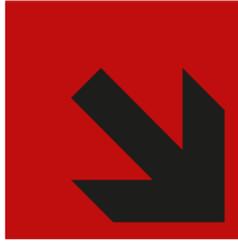
Built Environment had their hands full planning the campus tours, bazaar and distribution of goodie bags, among other roles. Students from all schools were also recruited to provide counselling on their diploma courses and many others played tour guides to their school facilities. Cheerleaders, cyclists, rock climbers, cheerleaders, singers and dancers added to the vibrancy of the event with their

demonstrations and performances.

More than 15,000 people comprising G/C.E. 'O' level school leavers, secondary school students and parents thronged the open plaza and the course counselling booths to check out the 50 diploma courses that SP offers. SPirit brings you a photo spread of the hustle and bustle of SP Open House 2013!



SO POSSIBLE

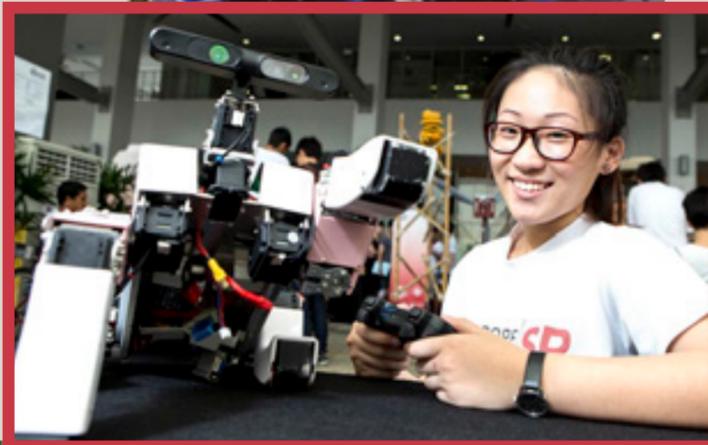
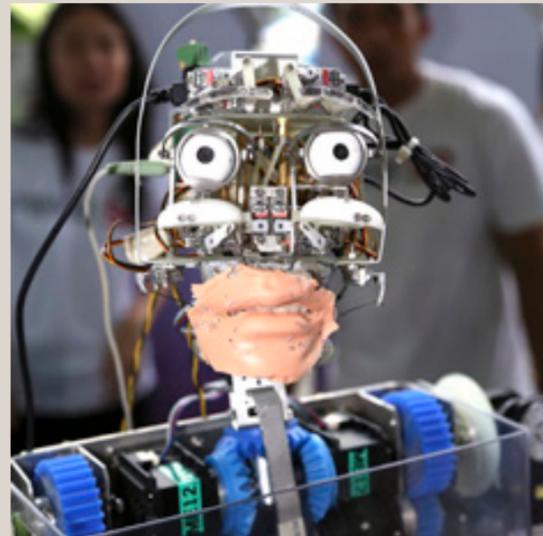


Engineering Curiosity

SP ENGINEERING SHOW 2013

They say curiosity killed the cat. But it was curiosity that also begot an impressive showcase of engineering innovations at the Engineering Show 2013. True enough, from the impressive array of displays that were also the final-year projects of third-year students, SP is indeed the place where curiosity is nurtured and cultivated. Our engineering students have ventured beyond what was taught to them by exploring new ideas to build things that could make a difference in our lives. From solar-powered innovations to unmanned aerial vehicles, there was no lack of "Wows" from the show's visitors.

SP brings you a round-up of the projects by our young engineering wonders!



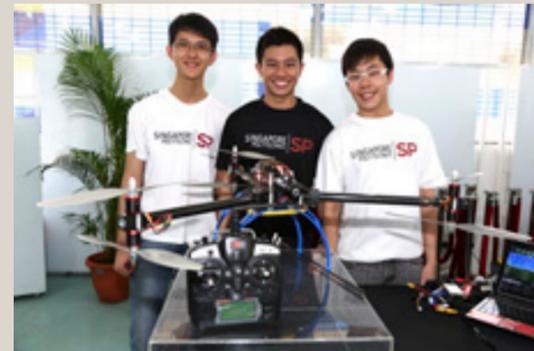
SP Curiosity I Go Serve
DIPLOMA IN PERFUMERY AND COSMETIC SCIENCE

Fragrance Application in Mosquito Coils

This project was done in collaboration with Takasago International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. to investigate the performance of 100 fragrance ingredients and 6 solvents in mosquito coils. The study can value-add to the use of mosquito coils by optimising their performance for the benefit of communities in developing countries.

Supported by Takasago International (Singapore) Pte Ltd

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION



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The World

All their bags are packed, they are ready to go! Some to Shanghai, others to Paris, London and Tokyo. He took the road less travelled in Nepal, while she visited Psy's hometown in Seoul. Whatever and wherever, all they did was for a common goal. To be shown the world and watch their visions grow.

In preparing them to become world-ready graduates, SP students are given plenty of opportunities to participate in overseas programmes. From immersion programmes to community service trips; competitions to industrial attachments, they leave their marks in the major capitals of the world, and also the lesser known villages. They return with brand new perspectives of the world, and the eagerness to taken on fresh challenges, even on a global scale. Read our special feature on some of the unique overseas trips that SP students embark on.

Los Angeles, USA

Three weeks in the United States but they wished it could be longer. For the 24 students from School of Architecture & the Built Environment, School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering, School of Chemical & Life Sciences, and School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, the Youth Creativity, Innovation and Sustainable Leadership Workshop cum Study Tour was an eye opener in every sense of the word.

They visited the top universities on the west coast, such as the University of California Berkeley and Stanford University. There were site visits to the Google headquarters and the Computer History Museum, the world's largest history museum at Silicon Valley. The highlight was a two-week leadership workshop at Stanford University.

One student said after the trip: "The



workshop was very enriching and very different from the school curriculum. I enjoyed the personal interaction with the mentors and the professors at Stanford University. Their openness and willingness to share touched me personally and helped me to grow as a complete person. Their pointers and lessons were especially useful and applicable."



Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

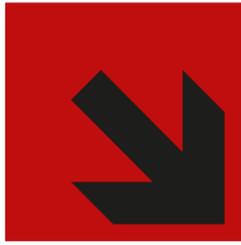


The School of Architecture & the Built Environment students had an amazing Arabian adventure. They drank coffee and ate dinner in the desert, and even rode camels!

All this was part of a five-day trip to the Emirates to understand Arabian culture and architectural style. They visited incredible architectural works such as the Burj Khalifa (world's tallest building), the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, and the Atlantis The Palm Hotel (a hotel filled with marine-themed sculptures, art and aquariums). They also had talks with various officials and hotel owners who shared knowledge about the United Arab Emirates and the hospitality business. The most exciting part of their journey was their half-day trip into the desert for dinner and entertainment!

One student from the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** was deeply impressed by the incredible quality of Arabian service. She said: "The service was brilliant! Managers would come and chat with you warmly, as if you weren't a customer but a close friend coming over to their house to stay. And it's the same for the rest of the staff. They treat everyone with the same welcoming manner. Arab hotels sell an entire package of grandeur and hospitality."

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Max Plank Institute, Mainz, Germany



Research is a very important aspect in the study of life sciences. Students from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences certainly have most enviable research internship opportunities. Over the past three years, students from the **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)**, **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** and **Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science (DACP)** have conducted research projects alongside professors at the best universities in the world. These include Cornell, Harvard, Imperial College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford and Yale. This year, two students went to the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, Germany, the same institution that Einstein attended! One of them, Fong Weijie, even continued to work with the Germans for his final-year project upon his return.

Back in Singapore, our students benefitted from scientific research work with Dr Jonathan Loh, an SP biotechnology alumnus who is now an award-winning scientist with A*STAR.

France and Finland

SP Business School students taking the **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)** have opportunities to shoot off to every corner of the world for their internships. There, they work in various tourism establishments and perform a wide variety of tasks, such as cooking, cleaning and office administration, to understand how the tourism business functions as a whole!

This year, some of them jetted off to France and stayed in a province called Burgundy, where they worked in a hotel, a museum and a tourism office. After their internship finished, they took the chance to travel all the way across Europe to places like Italy and London!

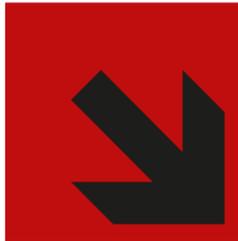


Some of the students who went to Finland got their first-ever look at falling snow in their lives! They worked in a hotel where they cooked, cleaned, and waited at tables. While they were there, they also made short trips to countries like Sweden, France and Belgium!

Besides Europe, Business School students also landed in countries like China, Hong Kong, Thailand, United States and Vietnam for various overseas immersion and industrial attachment programmes.



With SP, it's So Possible



San Francisco, USA and Tokyo, Japan

Shimmering water and an orange evening sky framed the majestic Golden Gate Bridge that greeted Digital Media & Infocomm Technology (DMIT) students as they entered San Francisco. The city is one of the leading financial and cultural centers of the USA, and houses several high-profile digital media and animation companies. Our students toured the studios and talked to the staff of Lucasfilm, Adobe and Pixar! Another group of four DMIT students was invited for a sponsored trip to the same city where they took part in the Oracle Thinkquest 2012 Competition and came in second.

Students loved the hearty and full flavours of the food in San Fran. Jeremiah Ang says: "The food was



great! Once we had lunch at a cafe and I had a meal of chicken wings, pasta, and beef cheeks! It was a set meal for two... but I gobbled it all down by myself!"

Other DMIT students flew to exciting cities like London, Paris, Los Angeles and Tokyo! Muhammad Hilmi Abdul



Rahim, a big Final Fantasy gaming fan, got the experience of a lifetime in Tokyo. He and his course mates attended the Tokyo Game Show 2012, where they watched and played demos for new games to be released in 2013. They also had time to visit the studios of top game companies such as Square Enix and Namco Bandai!

London, United Kingdom and Seoul, South Korea



Diploma in Interior Design (DID) students had an all-encompassing design experience during their trip to Seoul. Working together with the warm and friendly students from the Kaywon School of Art and Design, they analysed street market stores with the intention of making fresh and creative designs for these stores. The students chatted with store owners and researched market conditions. With this knowledge, they applied their own creative flair to

design eye-catching and vivid store concepts!

A Brit-fuelled exhibition borne of the inspirations and visual collections from an earlier trip. This time round, students from The Student Agency were in the motherland of the English. Surrounded by tea-lovers and the browning leaves of fall, the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design students exhibited their designs right in the heart of the London College of Communication. They made their mark at the London Design Festival 2012 with a reprise of London's Calling: The Exhibition, held at SCAPE last year. London was welcoming, encouraging and royal! They savoured the once-in-a-lifetime chance to exhibit experimental and interactive works to an international audience and returned to Singapore inspired, and ready to take on the world. Jolly good!



With SP, it's **So Possible**



Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA



Every year, students from the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Programme make trips to either Harvard or Princeton universities for the United Nations Model Conference. This is a four-day international relations simulation for high school and tertiary students around the world. They gain insights into the workings of the United Nations and the dynamics of international relations by assuming the roles of UN representatives and members of other international bodies. They debate on issues that confront world leaders and draft resolutions in response to these global issues.

While there, the SPOT students, who come from the different SP Schools, also get to visit the Harvard campus, talk with undergraduates there, tour the campus as well as attend admissions information sessions. Truly a unique and exciting opportunity for them to be immersed in the Harvard experience.



As the only students taking the **Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology (DADP)** in Southeast Asia – they get to take study breaks overseas to work and learn from theatre practitioners in different countries.

In 2012, they spent eight days at the Theatre Camp with Makhampom Theatre, a group that teaches theatre and circus skills to young people from a marginalised ethnic community in Northern Thailand. They participated in workshops that focused on exploring theatre as a tool for community cultural development and Thai theatre art forms. There was also a visit to the local ethnic community where they interacted with the young people's theatre group there.

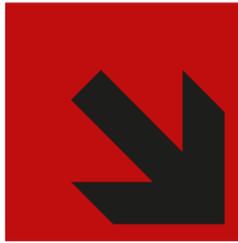
Besides Thailand, DADP students also went to the United Kingdom to attend a three-week long course called Methods of Devising Performance Course at the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. They learned artists' specialisations such as physical theatre, masks, autobiographical performance, ecological performance, clowning and verbatim theatre. It was also an opportunity to explore the skills, processes and concepts of making and devising performances.



Chiang Mai, Thailand and London, UK



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Taipei, Taiwan

Members of Gusto!, SP's cheerleading team, went for an intense week-long training session in Taipei. There, they trained with teams from the universities, as well as MONSTER, a cheerleading team open to the general public. These experienced teams shared skills that brought Gusto's abilities to a new level. Our cheerleaders learned new techniques and even formed their first 3-3-5 pyramid consisting of three people at the base, three people at the second tier and five on the third tier!

Gusto! also combed the streets of Taipei, visiting hotspots like Taipei 101 and the Simenting night market. They even summoned up the courage to execute impromptu stunts on the streets! There was some time for them to get a nice, warm soak in the hot springs with their Taiwan hosts too.

Gusto! is the national cheerleading champion two years in a row. They were the champion team at the Singapore National Cheerleading Championship in 2011 and 2012. Some members were invited to represent Singapore at the Cheerleading Asian Invitational Open 2012 held in Tokyo.



Sukka Valli, India and Washington, USA



Team SP has done incredibly well at the SIFE Singapore competition. Since 2008, the SP SIFE Team has won the local championship consecutively, except for 2012 when they took a break. Winning the local leg won them the rights to represent Singapore at the SIFE World Cup which has taken them to places as nearby as Kuala Lumpur and as far away as Berlin. This year, the team went to Washington. Although they did not win the international championship, they reaped invaluable once-in-a-lifetime experiences through their participation.

SIFE, which stands for Student In Free Enterprise, is an international non-profit organisation that works with business leaders and tertiary institutions to engage students in social enterprise projects and help them to become socially responsible leaders in their communities. The SIFE World Cup is a platform for students to compete first on a national level, and then on an international stage if they advance to the international finals. Projects on both levels are judged by business leaders.

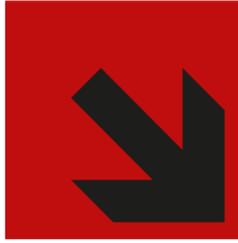


The SP SIFE students have created social enterprise projects in India, Indonesia and the Philippines which have benefitted hundreds of natives in these countries. In India for example, they built a greenhouse to speed up the growth of saplings which were later sold by the villagers to generate income.

Note: SIFE has been rebranded as Enactus since Oct 2012.



With SP, it's **So Possible**



Shanxi, China

Kids in a Shanxi village were treated to a dazzling display of dance and music by students from the School of Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE). They entertained the little ones with performances like the Gangnam style dance and a magic show laced with fire eating! There was even an adorable segment where the kids were taught the proper method of washing hands. ABE students also shared knowledge about water conservation and sanitation, taught English and helped to paint and construct facilities for the village!

Yu Xiangzhi, a SP student who is also a freelance magician, was deeply impacted by a conversation he had with one of the children: "When we asked him, 'Do you want to go out to the city when you grow up?' he answered no. We were all surprised by what he said. His answer was that he would miss the village, as it was where he grew up



and where his parents are living as well as his friends. His words left a deep impression in my heart. I think none of us would want to live in the village for our whole life, because we are always yearning for better things. Yet, this boy really treasured and appreciated all that

he had. I feel his words showed me that we should really appreciate what we have, live our lives to the fullest, and stop complaining over small matters!"



Nargakot, Nepal

They gathered together for a trip to a village in the Nargakot province in Nepal. The aim of this group of SP students from different schools was to learn more about Nepalese culture and living as they helped out with various tasks around the village. The 18 students built foundations and walls for a new classroom building. They also taught Maths and Science to the children there and interacted with them by playing games.

Some students felt that they learned more than what they had taught, and received more than they had given. As one student puts it: "Nepal has broadened my perspective of life and taught me to appreciate the basic necessities we have back home. The trip made me treasure friendships more and be more observant of the environment and surroundings I'm in."



SP+

Siblings

With its long history, it's not uncommon to have family members who are studying in or have graduated from SP. We have students whose parents are also SP graduates. Within the various SP Schools, there's a strong presence of students with siblings in the same school. They have sat through the same classes, eaten in the same food courts and studied under the same lecturers. Some make the choice to study here together, while others tell all they know to their younger siblings and let them make their own choice. SPirit checks out the siblings in the SP Business School to find out more.



Critical + Diplomatic

Sisters Zara and Amanda are like oil and water. Zara likes running and swimming whereas Amanda likes music and reading. Amanda is critical and direct, whereas Zara is more diplomatic and agreeable. Though they get along, their only other common activity besides watching TV is quarreling with each other when things get heated. They're not even from the same course. Zara is in the **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)** whereas Amanda is taking the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)**.

However, despite their differences, the two sisters appreciate each other's strong points. Zara admires Amanda's intelligence and persistence in studying whereas Amanda likes that her sister is diplomatic and can really get along well with others.

Both of them enjoy their days in SP. Amanda loves playing percussion instruments with the SP Symphonic Band. For Zara, however, it's the people that make all the difference. "SP is one of the few polys where your class has the same students for all three years," says Zara. "Over here, we are with the same classmates throughout and that really helps us to bond together. I'm really close to a lot of my classmates, and they've been like pillars of support for me throughout my three years of study!"



Sisters Zara (top) and Amanda Choo have a love-hate relationship with each other but a love-love relationship with SP!



SP business lecturer Mr Ryan Tan attended Siak Huey Wen's (left) graduation in 2012. On his right is Siak Sing Hao.

Question + Advice

Near the end of his final year in secondary school, Sing Hao sought the advice of his older sister Huey Wen on where to go next. Huey Wen gave his question some thought, and in the end, she encouraged him to join her own course - the **Diploma in Financial Informatics (DFI)** at SP. "I advised him to choose DFI as his first choice," says Huey Wen. "It's a course that provides students with both hard and soft skills. The course allows us to specialise in either Information Technology (IT) or Finance and both are invaluable if we work in banks in future." She also considered his love of co-curricular activities and interacting with people, and told him that there are many fun events at SP Business School. Her advice has worked well for the younger one. Sing Hao says he finds both studies and student life in SP to be very engaging: "I think DFI is a very special course. Other business courses focus more on business, but ours has a large IT element as well. Modules that teach JAVA and HTML coding will give me a rather unique advantage in the workplace. I made a lot of great friends here and I always enjoy organising camps and other Business School events together with them!"

Love Food + Love Fun



Thio Eng Chuan (second from right) and his younger brother Eng Leong (far right) with friends and their lecturer Ms Melisa Lim (centre).

Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) student Thio Eng Chuan loved his time in SP from start to finish. He enjoyed the many different

food outlets in SP, such as McDonalds, Starbucks, Burger King, KFC and Ya Kun Kaya Toast. More important to him however, were the lecturers who shaped his life. Eng Chuan says, "My lecturers Ms Melisa Lim, Mr Tang Kah Heong, Ms Olivia Koh, and Mr Antony Ranasinghe definitely helped me a lot throughout my second and third years. They supported me tirelessly and gave me much advice about further studies." Eng Chuan completed his SP journey with great results that earned him a place in Nanyang Technological University to pursue a double degree in Accountancy and Business.

His brother Eng Leong, now a second-year DBA student, enjoys the life here as well. For him, it is the facilities that engage him the most. "Our facilities are all up-to-date," says Eng Leong, "Besides the usual sports facilities, there are also pool tables, karaoke rooms and music rooms for jamming! The Dover MRT station is also right next to SP, making it really easy to get to!"

Cheery + Cheery



Tan Min Min (left) with her younger sister Tan Min Hui

One has graduated from the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** whereas the other is still in the first year of the same course. Sisters Tan Min

Min and Tan Min Hui have a passion for accountancy. They both believe that accountancy is a stable career and highly-valued in many companies. Aside from the love for numbers, both of them also share common hobbies like cooking, baking, and watching *The Vampire Diaries*.

Min Min is now furthering her studies in Accountancy and Finance at Singapore Institute of Management (University of London programme). Both of them spoke in unison when asked about what they liked about SP - the people and the food. Min Min says, "We like the food in Food Court 6, especially the chicken rice and Malay food stalls. It's really cheap and yummy!" Min Hui adds: "The environment, lecturers and friends here have made my SP days really fun and memorable. although I've only spent one semester here, I'm already enjoying the company and pace of studying life in SP!"

Merry + Merry
= Merrier!



Desmond and Sophia with their little sister Jerraine in their home.

Merry and good-humored siblings Desmond and Sophia Lin look back at their SP days with fond memories. Both graduated from the **Diploma in Banking & Finance (DBKF)** and chose to join Singapore Management University. While Desmond still has to finish NS before he enrolls, Sophia has already graduated and is now working for BHP Billiton, an Australian mining firm.

What made you take up DBKF in SP?

Desmond: I was attracted to the rigorous course work offered by DBKF. The modules ranging from Banking Law to Financial Planning and International Trade are all very applicable to the industry. After hearing from my friends about the great SP culture and environment, I decided to study DBKF there.

Sophia, did you ever give any advice to your younger brother when he was choosing schools after 'O' Levels?

Sophia: For sure. I provided him with a chunk of advice on the differences

between junior colleges and polytechnics as I had experienced both educational routes. I encouraged him to join SP as I felt that his learning style would allow him to excel and enjoy student life in the polytechnic.

What was the one thing that you both enjoyed about life in the SP Business School?

Desmond and Sophia: (Unanimously) Projects! Haha!

Sophia: I think we both enjoyed the merciless torture of projects because it allowed us to build good friendships during the process.

Desmond: Yup, I have to agree with my sis on that because you literally go through thick and thin together.

Describe your SP days in general.

Desmond: I don't remember a day when I was ever free. If I was not attending lectures or tutorials, I would be busy with projects, participating in co-curricular activities or just chilling with my friends in the library. Even though the stress level was daunting at times, it made my polytechnic life much more fun and memorable.

Overall, did you enjoy your time at SP?

Sophia: Yes! Especially those countless hours spent with my friends doing projects, chilling out in Food Court 6 and being involved in overseas community projects together.

Desmond: Definitely! I enjoyed every moment of my time in SP!



Winners in SP: Sophia won the Language & Communications Award and the Alumni Scholarship award; Desmond clinched the Associate Wealth Planner Scholarship and the Lee Foundation Bursary.



The Tan brothers goofing off during Chinese New Year!



Tan Jun Hao (left) with older brother Chun Wee at the former's Specialist Cadet School graduation.

Focused + Grounded
= Decisive

For Tan Jun Hao and Tan Chun Wee, junior colleges were the norm after secondary school. Going to poly required a leap of faith. However, that leap was no problem for the two brothers. With focused minds and a strong idea of what they wanted in life, they took that leap and made the choice to join SP.

At the age of 16, Tan Jun Hao was already very clear about his goals. "It was a leap of faith choosing the poly route," says Jun Hao, who joined SP from Gan Eng Seng Secondary School, "because back then the junior college route was the norm. However, I already knew that I wanted something different from the rest, and I felt that SP would be able to give me that. I decided to choose either Business Administration, Accountancy or Banking and Finance in SP because they were time-tested courses."

Jun Hao's older brother, who came from Victoria School, had simpler concerns but he too chose SP after 'O' Levels. "At that time it was a simple idea of getting a good job with good pay," Chun Wee says. "I felt that SP just had that reputation of providing a better education. I was initially enrolled in another polytechnic but made an appeal to join SP."

Both of them eventually enrolled into the **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)**. During their three-year course, the Tan brothers found themselves challenged and excited by their studies. "Studies in SP tax you just enough," says Chun Wee. "You learn enough from your course modules to go deeper and explore the topics you are interested in. At the same time, you have enough free space to develop your own interests and friendships with others." Besides this, Chun Wee also felt that his lecturers made a great impact on his life. "There are several

lecturers in SP who take a genuine interest in your life. That makes you feel more like a unique and cared-for individual, rather than just another faceless student in a school."

Today, Jun Hao is studying for a degree in Business Administration at the National University of Singapore. Chun Wee is at the Singapore Management University, where he is studying for a degree in Economics with an additional major in Finance. Both brothers feel that while the future cannot be foretold, their education at SP has certainly given them a great head start. As Jun Hao puts it: "I think SP, or the poly education in general, produces graduates that are resilient, practical and realistic. They are not shy about trying and failing. Instead, they see failures as opportunities to improve. The future is a big unknown, but I am certain that these values are essential and will be of great help to me in the years ahead."

Lovable + Jovial
= Inseparable!



Lisa Chan (left) has been on the Dean's Honour Roll list (a list for top-performing students) since her first year in SP. Sarah is currently working as a financial analyst in Accenture, a global management consultancy firm. She was also on the Honour Roll list during her three years here.



Lisa and Sarah with their mom and dad, Mr William Chan, a deputy director in SP's School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology.

Sarah finds Lisa lovable. Lisa finds Sarah jovial. Together, they are a pair of inseparable sisters who love many of the same things. According to them, coming to SP was the "natural choice." Lisa is currently a final-year student in the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)**. Sarah graduated from the same course and is now a financial analyst in a global management consultancy firm.

Hi Lisa and Sarah. We've heard that you have a lot in common with each other. Tell us more?

Lisa: We like to sing! We both have an interest in music; we play the piano and listen to pop music by artistes like Adam Lambert, David Archuleta and Beyonce. I like Taylor Swift but she doesn't, though.

Sarah: Huh? No! I couldn't stand her songs for a very long time, but recently I've started to find them catchy, haha. I also think we were brought up the same way, so we have similar beliefs and values.

Would you say you both get along well because of that?

Lisa: Yeah, maybe! We are really good friends. Although it's natural that we argue a bit, most of the time we just have a lot of fun together. And we're really close.

Sarah: We don't hide things from each other. When we're unhappy, we'll just tell each other. And the good thing about that is that we don't keep it within ourselves and we make up very quickly.

You both also made the same choice to take the Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) course at SP. Why?

Lisa: I took Principles of Accounting (PoA) in secondary school and I enjoyed it. I liked numbers so I decided on DAC... Actually since young I've always wanted to go to SP, haha. One reason is that my dad's a lecturer there. And well, it bears the name of our country.

Sarah: I remember deciding based on my impression of SP as being the

most established polytechnic. And my dad has been there for as long as I can remember, so it just felt natural to go there.

Sarah, how is life in SP?

Sarah: Polytechnic life is a bit more liberal. You get to manage your own time. Own time own target, you know? But of course, you still have responsibilities and homework at the end of the day, just like any other school. It helped that most of my lecturers were good guides. I could knock on their door any time and get advice from them.

If you had another younger sibling, what advice would you give for choosing schools?

Sarah: Choose something that you think you will enjoy. Don't just pick something because of career prospects. If you spend three years doing something you hate, you're just wasting your time. Find that balance between passion and practicality.

For top **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** graduates Tan Sze Rae and Tan Sze Min, the formula to success is simple math. Add in passion and discipline for best results!

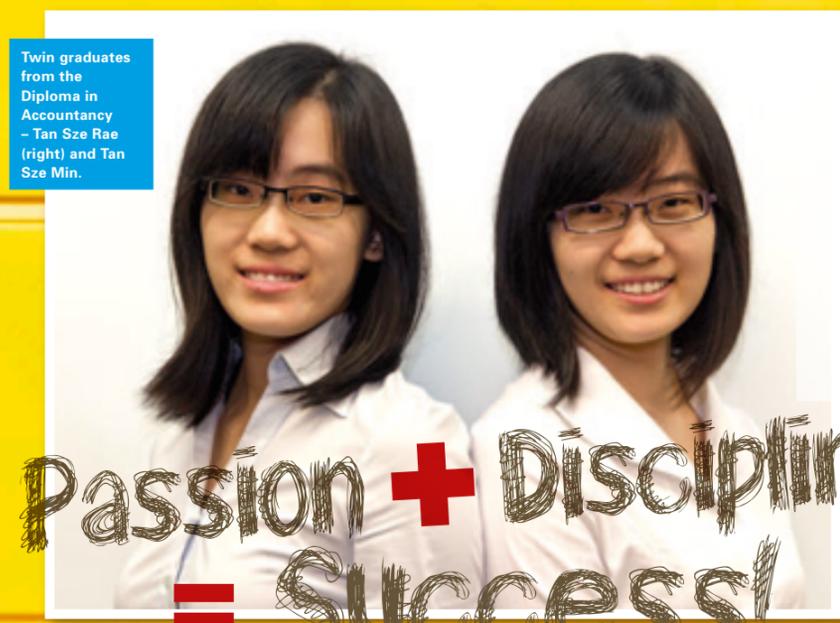
Twins Tan Sze Rae and Tan Sze Min are a pair of gentle souls. Lecturers describe them as positive, quiet and mature. When you talk to them, they are polite and soft-spoken. Both sisters received a string of awards during SP days. Their outstanding results got them on the School's Honour Roll for three consecutive semesters, which won them both the Certificate of Commendation and the SP Business School Achiever Award. Furthermore, both also received the Diploma with Merit Award. Their incredible track record got them both places in Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to study for a Degree in Accountancy. Sze Rae even clinched the Nanyang Scholarship!

Studying (Passionately?) in SP

How many hours a day do you need to study to get top results year after year? For Sze Min and Sze Rae, the answer is six.

Outside of class, they would spend six whole hours every day (including weekends) to do revision. They would also make it a point to write notes and summarise every chapter, only stopping whenever project work got

Twin graduates from the Diploma in Accountancy - Tan Sze Rae (right) and Tan Sze Min.



Passion + Discipline
= Success!

too demanding. Despite their tough schedule, they still found time to help out in the SP Leo Club which organises activities to help the less fortunate.

Where did they get the energy to do so much? Sze Min says that it came from a love of what they do: "Both of us love numbers. When we score well in assignments, we feel a sense of satisfaction and achievement. I think that because we enjoy what we're doing, we are motivated to work harder."

"Compared to other subjects, accounting just feels easier and more natural," says Sze Rae. "I think that when you're motivated by a subject, you just don't feel so tired."

The twins also believe that good friends and lecturers helped a lot. They add: "Our lecturers were very approachable and passionate about teaching, and we were inspired by them to work hard. We also had a bunch of loveable friends who supported us throughout our three years in SP. The Business School was like one big family where we had lots of fun, joy and laughter!"

Walk Your Own Path

For those who are mulling over which diploma course to study after their 'O' levels, Sze Min has sage advice: "Choose what you really think you'll be interested in. You shouldn't listen too much to other people's advice because ultimately, it's your own path that you're walking, not somebody else's. When you really love what you do, you'll be motivated to work hard and succeed!"

The Heng Team



Dawn and Terence Heng graduated from SP Business School in 2004 and 2007 respectively. Terence took the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** and Dawn chose the **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)**. Both of them were on the School's Honour Roll during their SP days and they continued with their journey of excellence after graduation.

Dawn went on to get her degree in Business Administration at the National University of Singapore and graduated as one of the top two marketing students in her cohort. She is now an Account Manager doing Advertising Sales at Discovery Networks Asia.

Terence pursued a career with the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) as a tax officer after graduating from SP. He recently completed his Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) course.

"SP has built a strong knowledge foundation for me to pursue a career in accountancy through its enriching and diverse modules." - Terence

"SP has taught me how to work smart, which is especially important in today's society. I built up my self-confidence when I was with SP, and learned to overcome my fear of speaking in front of a big audience. Basically, it's where I grew up." - Dawn

Special Poly



ESLAPADE
2012

16 & 17
November at SP

Specialty for
2012 'O' level students!

An exhilarating 20-hour daily
adventure into the SP, STARRY
and HEDAPADE to experience the
amazing SP Journey. You don't
get this anywhere else!

Regular school arrangements by
Closing date: 30 October 2012. *Subject
to availability and SPB approval.

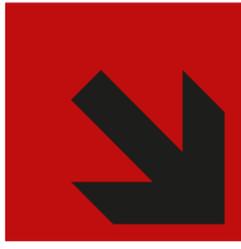
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC SP

It promised to be an exhilarating adventure for 'O' level students to experience the amazing SP journey. The promise was kept for the hundreds of them who had signed up for Escapade, SP's iconic event for those who just completed their 'O' level exams.

But there was another group who experienced rounds of high during the two-day 20-hour event – the SP Acers, student performers and helpers who, together with the (very tired!) SP staff, organised this year's Escapade.

Friendship bonds were quickly formed between the secondary school students and the SP Acers, a special group recruited by the School Relations section under the Department of Corporate Communications. For months, they attended meetings and training sessions to prepare for this iconic event and made sure they looked after their charges, many of them from their alma mater secondary school.





40 Gold Stars for SP!

Winners of the National Youth Achievement Gold Award (NYAA) don't just get a medal. They make incredible memories overseas and learn new skills as well along the golden journey. To achieve the award, they have to complete five components of the programme over a period of 18 months - Service, Adventurous Journey, Skills, Physical Recreation, and Residential Project. This year, SP had 40 students and recent graduates reaping 40 out of the 150 awards given out, far outstripping those from the other polys. Lydia Yee and Zheng Jiang Ping share the most exciting parts of their journeys.



NYAA Gold recipient Lydia Yee (far left) and fellow SP students chatting with President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan (2nd from right) and Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat (far right).



LYDIA YEE
Diploma in Business Administration (DBA),
Class of 2012

NYAA Sections Achievements:

- Service** - Served as the treasurer for SP Gusto! cheerleading team.
- Adventurous Journey** - Snorkeling and abseiling off a cliff at the SP Leadership Programme (LEAP) camp at Pulau Sibü.
- Skills** - Learned to cook Chinese and Western food.
- Physical Recreation** - Ran in the 42km Sundown Marathon.
- Residential Project** - Planned and executed recreational activities for elderly folks in China during a community service trip.

What was the most unforgettable experience out of your five components?

Definitely abseiling! It's something I've never tried before and it really made me feel exhilarated. In cheerleading, I learned how to trust people with my life, but in abseiling, the only thing that kept me alive was just a rope. A little scary because there were plenty of rocks on the ground below the cliff, haha! At that time, I could feel my heart beating really fast. But I must add that the view was magnificent.

Which component was the toughest for you?

I think the Service component while doing cheerleading. As leaders, we want to bring our team to the highest possible

level. So we had to make sacrifices by taking on paperwork, admin duties and doing reports. On top of that we still had to put in our efforts as a team players and performers. It also got hard sometimes when I was caught between two sides in an issue, for example between the students and the staff. Sometimes I felt misunderstood and discouraged. But in the end, when a complicated issue is resolved, the feeling is quite sweet!

What is the best lesson from your NYAA journey?

Having the right mindset. NYAA has really taught me to persevere through difficult tasks and experiences. With the right mindset and with goals in mind, I felt that I was able to go further than I normally would have.



ZHENG JIANG PING
Final-year student, Diploma in Integrated Events and
Project Management (DEPM)

NYAA Sections Achievements:

- Service** - Represented school as an SP Ambassador.
- Adventurous Journey** - Climbed Mount Kinabalu and did white water-rafting in Malaysia.
- Skills** - Completed a Diploma Plus module in International Humanitarian Assistance.
- Physical Recreation** - Ran in the Poly 50 event.
- Residential Project** - Brought 150 computers to Bangladesh and taught computer skills to the natives there.

What was the most unforgettable experience out of your five components?

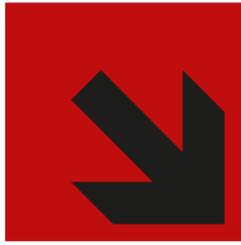
I've got two. One is my residential project where we visited a slum area and a school for kids in Bangladesh. A lot of the homes are just one-room flats with about 20-30 people in it. At night, they would all be cramped together to share the space. It kind of surprised me that they didn't complain. They were satisfied and grateful for what they had. The second unforgettable experience is white water-rafting. It was actually very exciting for us because we overturned our boat thrice! Luckily we wore safety vests. When I started I was a little hungry, but when I finished, I was full with all the water drank! It was really amazing. It seems funny when I think about it now but at that point in time it was really bad!

What is the best lesson for your NYAA journey?

To me, I would say it's meeting the people from different parts of the world who need help. I don't know for sure if I'll get the chance to continue doing overseas or local community work in future, but I will try my best to help those who need it.

How does it feel to receive the NYAA Gold?

It definitely feels great to receive this award. At the end of it, I treasure most the unforgettable and indelible experiences gained. The award is a bonus to me but it is the journey that will forever be in my heart.



Dark Spirits

For Halloween 2012, 17 SP students organised a haunted house event that entertained locals and tourists both young and old for almost a month. Titled FrightFest 2012, they were commissioned by the Singapore Flyer to conceptualise and execute this spooky project. **SPiRiT** has the details.

This heart-pounding, flesh-numbing event was put together by second-year students from the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)**. As part of their coursework, they were tasked to collaborate with management from the Singapore Flyer to create a fun yet frightful Halloween event.

Team manager Ng Shu Ling disclosed that her DEPM team got involved in almost every part of the process. They sourced for props, planned the event structure, made presentations to clients and even conducted casting in SP to find suitable actors for the event. They also played a huge part in the creative design of the event. "Most of the highlights that visitors saw were ideas that we gave to the Flyer Board," says Shu Ling. "For costumes, we picked out popular figures from horror movies such as Sadako and The Exorcist."



Months of intensive preparation finally culminated with visitors entering the dark forested passageways of the event enclosure and getting the scare of their lives as creatures with warped, rotten flesh crawled out of TV screens and burst out of boxes all around them.

It was hard work pulling together all the necessary items and keeping things from falling apart. "Planning is easy. Execution is tough," says Shu Ling. "We can throw in big ideas but must also face up to the reality of not meeting expectations." However, the aftermath was more sweet than scary. The team felt rewarded when they saw parents and children laughing and screaming together. Shu Ling says: "Many families came dressed in their own Halloween costumes. It was great seeing the visitors having fun because it meant all our hard work was well worth it."

Spellbinding Pieces

When it comes to authentic learning, SP walks the talk. The launch of a new fashion collection by SPELL – a retail living lab at Changi Airport T3 managed entirely by students from the SP Business School – is a fine example of walking (almost literally!) the talk. With charm and verve, SP student models set the fashion runway on fire as they catwalked their way to showcase the Verve Avenue Fall/Winter collection.



Dancers from the SP Dancesport club spiced up the stage with a cha-cha number at the launch.

In November, the Singapore Polytechnic Entrepreneurship Living Lab (SPELL) at Changi Airport Terminal 3 celebrated its first anniversary with a fashion show that showcased a new collection exclusive to the retail outlet – the Fall/Winter collection from Verve Avenue, SPELL's in-house fashion label. The entire event was conceptualised and executed by SP students.

The collection was created together by SP students and local fashion designer, Michelle Wong. According to



Student models Maisie Chew and Tham Wan Ni made an impression with icy cool glares and unflappable confidence.

Michelle, the collection was inspired by Grey Gardens, an American movie starring Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore which is about two upper-

class socialites. The collection is influenced by the movie's wardrobe that contains rich and bold jewel tones such as emerald green and ruby red.



The formal wear collection – SP student models paraded the formal wear collection with masks to enhance the aura of mystery and class.

A Show of Charm & Verve

Twelve students were involved in the collection in several ways. Final-year **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** student Kenlia Ang says that "even coming up with a simple T-shirt needs many things such as market research, industry suppliers and a comprehensive design process." The students conducted all these activities and more. Each of them was put in charge of a part of the design process for several pieces of clothing. To make informed decisions, they studied both local fashion trends and seasonal changes in fashion styles. Based on the information they gathered, the students put forth ideas to Michelle who used them as inspirations for her designs.

The completed collection made its debut in style at a launch event at SPELL, in conjunction with the store's first anniversary. Students modelled

the collection confidently on a catwalk outside the store front. All three styles in the collection were showcased - casual, smart and formal. The casual line consists of mostly denim bottoms and lightly-colored tops. The smart line has crisp yet striking clothes for the office. The formal line boasts a series of elegant gowns, dresses and dress shirts for formal parties and events.

Lecturer Ms Mila Lim, who supervised the students for the event, remarked that the collection was targeted strategically at working and travelling adults passing through Changi Airport. She was extremely pleased with the show, given that many of the students were modelling for the first time. She says: "I think they all have risen to the occasion. They performed splendidly, so I'm happy. And I think they're happy too!"



Business student Kylie Yuen (foreground) is also the 1st runner-up in The New Paper New Face 2012 competition. Parading with her is Yeo Kai Ling, the launch event's fashion coordinator.

MODEL STUDENTS, LITERALLY

For most of the student models who walked the runway, the SPELL fashion show was both exciting and nerve-wracking. This event was their first-ever attempt at modelling in front of flashing camera lights and a huge crowd.

Yeo Kai Ling, a final-year **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** student, was the show's fashion coordinator and also one of the models. The experience to her was both eye-opening and rewarding, if not a little scary as well. "I was really nervous!" she exclaims, "Just before I walked out on stage, I was shivering all over!" Despite her initial nerves, however, Kai Ling certainly exuded poise and confidence as she strutted out onto the runway.

For final-year **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)** student Kylie Yuen, the runway was already familiar ground. Not too long ago, she came in second in The New Paper New Face Competition. With the experience, she felt relatively more relaxed in this non-competitive setting of fashion event.

Kylie's favourite parts of the collection were the casual and formal lines: "I quite like the denim collection in the casual line. There are more chances for me to wear them in school! But the formal wear section has some really pretty dresses inside."

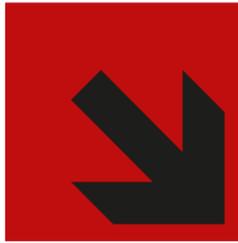
SPELL

The Singapore Polytechnic Entrepreneurship Living Lab (SPELL) is a fashion retail store in Changi Airport, Terminal 3. It is a collaboration between SP Business School and Changi Airport Group that aims to give students an authentic learning experience.

The store is manned by SP Business students taking the Entrepreneurship module. Their stint at SPELL gives them the real experience in dealing with various aspects of business that range from customer service to sales to online marketing and visual merchandising. This empowers them to put entrepreneurial thinking into practice while learning the principles of running a successful business.

SPELL has been a runaway success. Within three months of operation, its revenue hit the \$1 million mark!

Spellbinding Pieces



Co-ordination:
Candice Yam
 (Corporate
 Communications
 Dept); **Mila Lim** (SP
 Business School)
 Hair and Make-up:
Ernest Lim
 Photography:
**Luke Bartholomew
 Tan**
 Models: **SP Students
 Kylie Yuen,
 Yeo Kai Ling and
 Tham Wan Ni.**



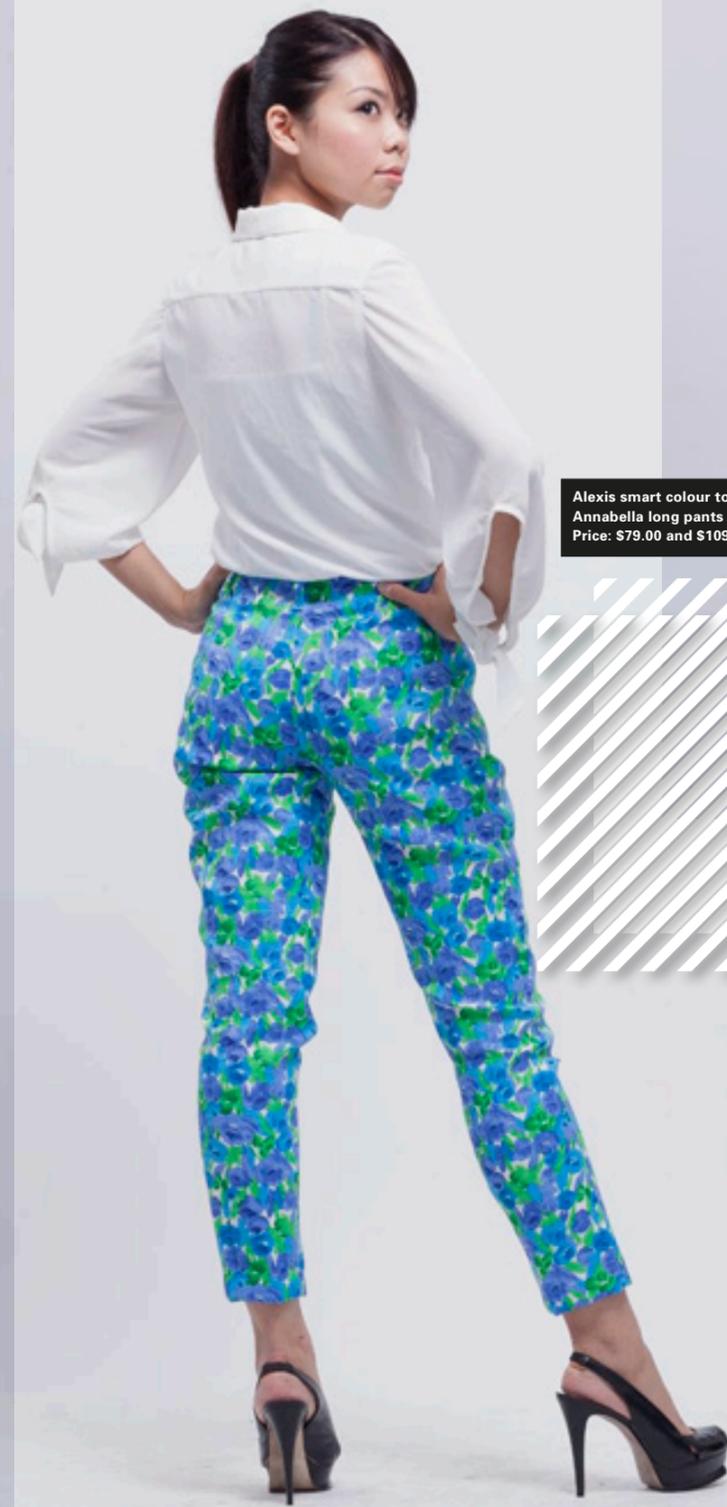
Devon short sleeve denim dress
 Price: \$79.00



Akemi Laced M Shape dress
 Price: \$169.00



Shannon woven long pants
 Price: \$89.00



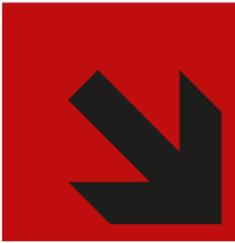
**Alexis smart colour top and
 Annabella long pants**
 Price: \$79.00 and \$109.00



**Joriya long sleeve laced
 dress**
 Price: \$109.00



**Amandina laced black top
 and Tania woven shorts**
 Price: \$69.00 and \$66.00



The Open House 2013 Event Management Team (from left): Muhd Fazli Bin Mohd Ali, Chew Wei Siong, Gerald Chee (Leader for Recruitment Team), Georgina Ng, Valerie Anne Koh, Nur Jazielah Bte Juperi (Leader for Logistics Team), Nadiah Bte Rosli, Lim Zi Yu, Muhd Irham Fathin Bin Othman, Gene Ang, Chong Jun Kiet (Leader for Sponsorship Team), Derrick Tan.

An EVENT-ful year For Them

For the second year in a row, students from the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** were tasked to conceptualise the event management aspect for SP Open House. This is by no means an easy feat because it could be a logistical nightmare if not well co-ordinated. SP Open House involves the participation of all SP Schools, secondary schools and more than 15,000 students who recently took their GCE 'O' Level exams, and their parents who want them to know more about poly education. **SPIRIT** speaks with the team on their experience in organising their biggest event ever.

This is the second year that students from the event management course students are conceptualising the event management aspect for SP Open House. How different is it from last year's?

Gerald: We have a bigger team this year. With more people, we can be more focused in our separate areas of responsibilities, such as logistics or sponsorship. Last year it was made compulsory for us to help out in Open House, so the level of commitment was different because it wasn't voluntary. This year, we had an aggressive recruitment drive to sieve out SP students who were really enthusiastic to be part of Open

House. Therefore, it is likely that we will have a more dedicated group of volunteers to make the Open House an enjoyable experience for the visitors.

Derrick: We made several changes this year, such as the bus and tour routes. There will also be a heavier emphasis on the bazaar which was popular last year. It will be bigger and more accessible to visitors as well as SP students and staff. Due to some renovation works around campus, we have to take care that visitors will still get a good experience without feeling constrained by the construction works around campus.

Are all of you from the second year? How many students are involved in total and how many teams are there?

Irham: We have six more committee members this year, which makes us a team of 12! Yup, we're all in our second year. There are three sub-committees – the event management team (Jazielah, Nadiah, Valerie and Georgina); the recruitment and training team (Gerald, Gene, Irham and Ziyu); and the Bazaar and Sponsorship team (Jun Kiet, Fazli, Derrick and Wei Siong)

What is the exciting thing about organising SP's biggest annual event?

Wei Siong: We get first-hand knowledge about the event. We love seeking challenges which makes it even more exciting as there are some critical skills to

be learnt and applied throughout our whole Open House journey. We had to make presentations all the way from the main Open House committee to the Principal which is really cool.

Ziyu: As this is one of the biggest events under our module "Integrated Project", it is a great opportunity for us to apply our knowledge and skills that we learned in our course. This event acts as a platform for us to express our ideas on how Open House should be run so as to convince potential students that SP is the right choice for their future. At the same time, we get to experience every step along the way such as holding responsible positions which will be useful for our future endeavours.

Georgina: Organising SP Open House gives us the experience to understand all the behind-the-scenes work that makes an event successful. It also widens our experience and network as we have to liaise with outside parties such as vendors.

What are some of the frustrating moments?

Valerie: One of the frustrating moments is not getting replies from vendors and sponsors and facing rejections about our concepts and sponsorships.

Fazli: Frustrating moments are definitely inevitable. As each and every one of us has different thinking, it's really frustrating sometimes when things do not go according to what you have planned. There's bound to be miscommunications within the team. Besides the communication issue, commitment also plays a big part throughout the whole project. Some group members are not available on certain dates which makes it hard for the whole team to complete the work on time.

After going through this project for a few months already, what are some precious lessons learned?

Gene: Teamwork

is the key to our success. We learned how to work together and be open to a variety of ideas from group members. We've grown to be more patient and accepting of one another's faults and weaknesses, give in and guide each other in times of need. More importantly, we learned that communication is the key to identifying problems and rectifying them. The experience gives us a lot more confidence in our work and the heavy responsibility has shaped us into better individuals.

If you were given the chance to organise an important Singapore event, which one would you choose and why?

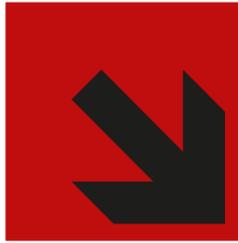
Jun Kiet: A concert would be awesome! Getting to work with our favourite bands and artistes would be a great experience. Like seriously, who wouldn't want that?! As most of us are rather musically-inclined, we would prefer to organise a concert more than any other big events.

Jazielah: Something like the National Day Parade would definitely be exciting and honourable because it is the most important event in our country's calendar and also a way to show our patriotism to the nation.

So, what's good about the DEPM course?

Nadiah: We get to meet a lot of people and get hands-on experience in organising real events on our own. To me, DEPM is one of the more unique courses among the polys and we have the chance to venture out to other areas in the industry, even the business and financial sectors instead of events management alone.





The Creative Gang

From 2008, The Student Agency (TSA), an advertising and branding agency under SP Design School has been steering the creative campaign for SP's biggest annual event – the Open House. From developing the theme to talent spotting to creating ambient messaging throughout the campus, the team has executed, albeit under immense pressure, successful campaigns year on year. **SPiRiT** chats with this year's team and their mentor, lecturer Noor Azhar, to find out more.

What were some of the fun times while working on the creatives for SP Open House?

Jiarong: The whole creative process was really fun. Seeing how our works started from some sketches, then to some composites, and finally a final artwork.

Kai: The moment when you get a tingly feeling at the back of your neck and you know you've got a potential good piece of work in your hands.

Sui Kee: Coming up with attention-grabbing crazy ideas was definitely a part of our development that I had fun with.

Surely there were moments too that you guys got angry?

Jiarong: The amount of changes can be grueling, especially so after the several layers of approvals that we have to seek. Sometimes it's frustrating to have to change something after settling down on what you feel is right. Also, time is really not a luxury anymore. It can be quite tough sometimes to juggle between school assignments and this project.

Kai: When I put out an idea that I thought had potential to my team, it doesn't always get a good reaction. The idea is critiqued

and rejected. It is frustrating, but it isn't a bad thing because at the end of it, I know I've got a good creative team that has my back, to pick the plums from the lemons.

Chloe: At the moment, my limit has yet to be broken. But what worried me were the constant changes of the contents and visuals.

Sui Kee: As an account executive, I act as the buffer between clients and creatives. As such, it is excruciatingly frustrating when either side expects me to be answerable for the opposite side when something unexpected happens.



The Open House 2012 creative team from The Student Agency - Front row: lecturer Noor Azhar, Chloe Ong (Designer), Eng Sui Kee (Account Executive), Sng Jia Rong (Art Director), Foo Kai Ling (Copywriter), Kelvin Gan, lecturer Sarah Michelle Lee; Back row: Wu Yipeng, Yuri Kwan, Victoria Koh, Tan Xuan Hui, Mandy Lee, Michelle Chong, Tay Qiyan



One of the print creatives developed by The Student Agency.

What has been the biggest takeaway from this project – working on tight deadlines or gaining a real feel of agency work?

Jiarong: This being the second time on the SPOH team, the process isn't exactly very new to me. However, it's definitely a new feeling because I'm leading the team for the creatives this time round. I definitely have to be more responsible than before, in terms of settling the creatives and even managing the team. It can be quite intimidating at times because the leaders for the previous campaigns - my seniors – have set high standards. Those are some big shoes to fill!

Kai: For me, it is the experience of working on such a large-scale 'live' project. Not that we never did real-world work before, but this is really different in scale and genre.

Chloe: I would say it is the experience of working on a 'live' project, a huge and relevant one since it is a project for SP, my school.

Sui Kee: Definitely working on tight deadlines and having to handle constant changes, even after working hours.

How did you guys come up with the copywriting for this year's theme?

Kai: We didn't want to stray away from last year's creative direction - Aspirations. That's why this year's theme was centred around the relationship built between SP and the students, and how SP will prepare you for the future.

If you do work for a big ad agency in future, what clients would u like to have?

Jiarong: I would love to work with big, commercial clients. I believe there are so much more possibilities with them, especially when they are willing to pay good money.

Kai: I would like to do work for SMRT. I can see a lot of potential in rebranding or building a campaign for such a diverse and influential client.

Chloe: Clients who trust me and are willing to work with me to achieve the same goals. I want a win-win situation. It would be a bonus to get projects that I find interesting.

Sui Kee: Fun brands that let me go crazy with ideas, like what Mother London (a British creative agency) did for Ikea.

Which recent print or TV ad / branding campaign caught your eye?

Jiarong: The Ray Ban's Never Hide campaign was brilliant.

Kai: My fave ad right now is Coca Cola's hands print advertisement. Its simplicity and originality is just brilliant. Ha, I wish I came up with it.

Chloe: Mine's a bank's ad campaign – NAB's The Break Up.

Sui Kee: The Imperial War Museum's new logo and brand experience by Hat-trick is amazing and inspiring.

SPiRiT also chats up Noor Azhar, Senior Lecturer for the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) to get the insights on The Student Agency (TSA) where he is also the Strategic Planner.

How many student team members are there working on the SP Open House 2013 project?

We have a team of four final-year and eight second-year members, mentored by two lecturers. Sarah, another DVMD lecturer, mentors the students in creative direction while I look into strategic planning and client servicing.

TSA has been developing the creatives for SP Open House campaign since 2008?

Yes, since 2008. So this makes it our 6th campaign. How did the opportunity come about? Back in 2007, the idea surfaced that it would be a great idea to have our Open House campaign developed and conceptualised by SP students themselves. We hope that it would be that way for a long time to come, so that the campaign becomes extra special when it is conceived from inside out. The first three years saw us defining the SP voice and strategy for the long run. That has provided the foundation of the campaigns that we see now.

What other projects does TSA undertake?

TSA has somewhat become the in-house creative agency for SP. We get requests coming from within and outside SP as well. Of course, requests coming from within SP take priority over the others. TSA is set up to give the students alternative avenues to stretch their creativity and possibly experiment with new techniques for their crafts. So it is important that the creative brief we receive enables the students to explore out of their comfort zones, and not turn them into churners in a sweat shop. For SP-level projects, we have worked on several Open House campaigns, branding for the Graduation Ceremony, a brand uplift of the various schools several years back and also collateral designs. We have also worked on a couple of mural projects for the Library and the Estates Department.

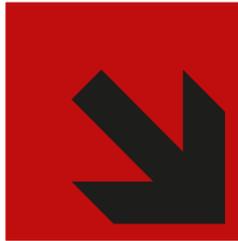
Outside of SP, we have worked on branding campaigns for clients like *SCAPE, video projects for the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, and also design and communication projects for several SMEs.

What do you hope to get out of this for the students?

That the experience for them in the Agency is firstly enjoyable, and then also enriching. I truly believe that you need to enjoy the process of creating your work to truly come out with remarkable crafts. We want to continue to provide experiences that the students cannot get in the classroom.

What do the other DVMD students who are not involved in TSA do?

TSA is just one of the various outlets for students in DVMD to gain invaluable experience. Our students are also engaged in projects by real clients like DKNY Jeans, Levi's Cleo, Feiyue and Denizen, which adds on to the realism of their training. Currently, our second-year students are working on their integrated campaign proposals for Lee Cooper and Everlast brands. The students' works are often exhibited outside of SP. Most recently, our new media project was featured at Bugis+.



Designing My Future

When you are a primary school kid, it's not uncommon for you to doodle on whatever you set your sights on. The blackboard when the teacher isn't around, on your desk, the covers of your textbooks and the pages inside (when the lessons become boring..... yawn). But when Darius Ou started to draw from a very young age, he was already drawing his future.

One fine day, Darius saw a senior school mate doing what he thought was a really beautiful sketch work. He asked if he could have it and the senior just tore out the page and gave it to him. That was a piece of inspiration that sealed Darius' journey to the world of design.

He started buying sketch books. In fact, he drew so fast and furiously that he used up a book a week! All the way from primary to secondary school, he

drew and drew. His art teachers saw his talent and encouraged him to take up Art as a subject. But alas! as with all obedient children, Darius took his mother's advice to do maths and science subjects instead. He passed his 'O' levels – not

The design talent in Darius could be seen from his early sketches.



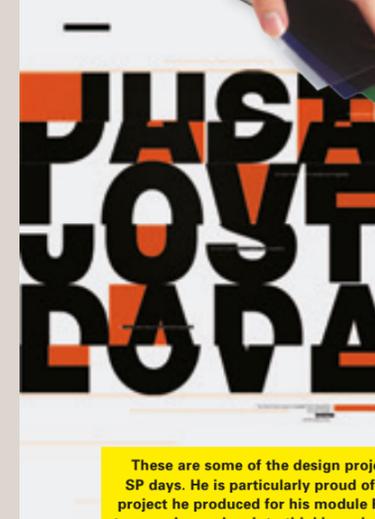
bad – but he thought he could certainly do better if he had done Art.

“Can I study design in Singapore Polytechnic?” he asked his mother after getting his 'O' level results. SP was his first choice because the modules offered appealed to him. Mrs Ou agreed. Phew! She must be feeling very proud now. Darius, now a third-year **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** student in SP, is one of the top students for

the course, and has an impressive cumulative GPA score of 3.9 (out of a maximum of 4.0). GPA stands for Grade Point Average, or simply the average marks for his modules taken so far.

Not only did he excel in his exam-free diploma course at SP, his talent for drawing also raked in some extra pocket money. Through his internship with PHUNK studio, an award winning design studio, he got referrals to do some freelance projects such as logo design. Not only that, the studio also invited him to exhibit his illustration at an exhibition called 100 Friends 100 Artists 100 Dreams that puts together the works of 100 artists. Not bad for a 19-year-old poly student!

Darius, whose fave modules at SP include Branding Design Studio and Video and Audio Fundamentals, stresses that studying design is not entirely stress free, even though there are no exams. He puts it this way: “The stress of exams over a few days is spread out over a year. But if you can sustain the passion for design or creative works, you won't feel any pressure at all. I believe that if you have the



These are some of the design projects done by Darius during his SP days. He is particularly proud of This Is Black (above) – a book project he produced for his module Publication Design. It is meant to provoke readers into thinking what is black to them as well as a curation of the works by local design firm. BLACK DESIGN.

passion, half the battle is won! Someone once said if you love what you do, you don't have to work a single day.” Well said!

During his two-and-a-half years in SP, he has travelled with his course mates to Australia and Malaysia to study the design culture in these countries. “What's interesting in Melbourne is that even insignificant things like road signages have very sound design. In Malaysia, the trip was for a coffee table book project. We had to take pictures, draw and write about the place and compile them into a book.”

Now in his final semester at SP, Darius is preparing for his final-year project (FYP) – drawing up an integrated branding campaign for a real company. When he graduates in May next year, he hopes

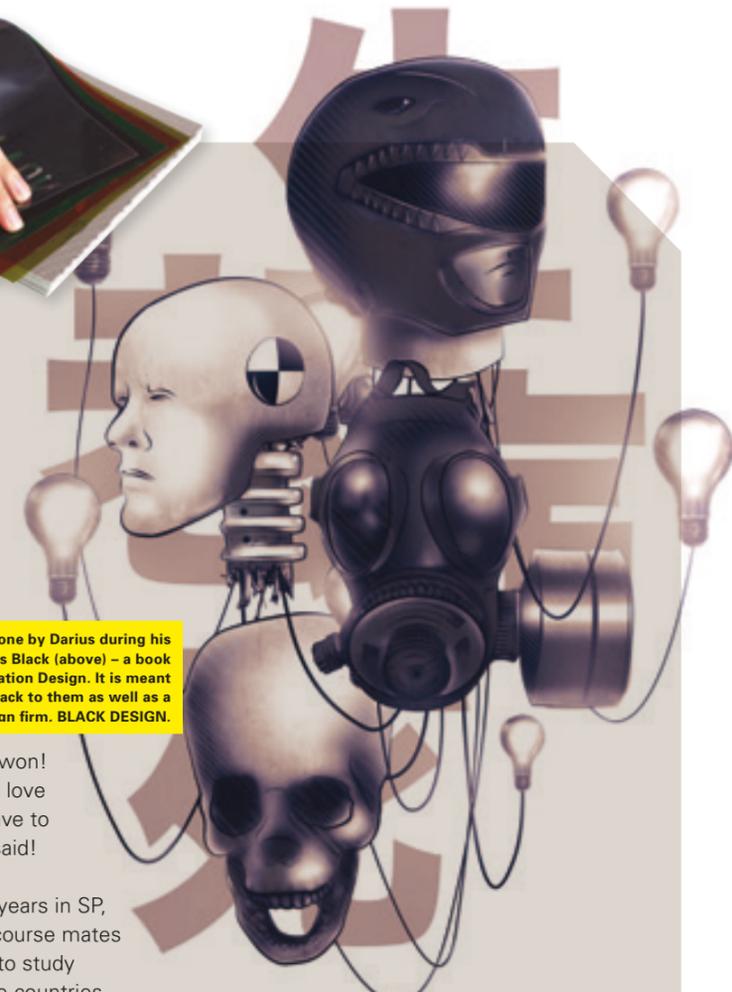


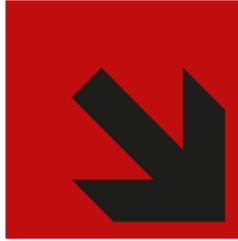
Darius and his work at the 100 Friends 100 Artists 100 Dreams Exhibition.

to build up his design portfolio by doing freelance work before doing his national service. Thereafter, a two to three year stint with a reputable design agency before he pursues a degree programme, hopefully under a scholarship, would be ideal, says Darius. Prior to his FYP, he and a course mate developed the branding for Escapade, SP's annual iconic event for GCE 'O' level students.

His words of advice to his juniors who are, like him, captivated by the world of design: “Besides having a liking for nice designs, you must also have a passion. Design courses seem easy but we work very hard. It's good if you are an observant person because we need to see things in different ways. But at the end of it, the sense of achievement when you see your works in print or in video is immensely gratifying.”

Darius' portfolio can be viewed at www.dhesign.sg





Awesomely New!

As the most established polytechnic in Singapore, SP is committed to providing the best learning facilities for its students. A slew of new facilities has been built and rolled out, with more to come in the next couple of years. Last year, we launched the M.A.D Studios – the digital playground for students at the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology. The Writers' Room, a fun and unique set-up to inspire writing was opened to students taking the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media. There was The Agency, a learning space modelled after a real-life integrated marketing agency to brainstorm creative branding and marketing ideas. The Optometry Centre also went through an extensive makeover. These are just some of them.

Major works in the pipeline are the AeroHub, Business School building, Design building and the Sports Hub – all due to completion within the next two to three years.

SPiRiT takes you on a sneak preview of some of the new facilities that will enhance your SP learning experience.



Accounting Collaboration Studio

What do you need to do and say to clients during the first audit engagement meeting?

Welcome to the Accounting Collaboration Studio – an exclusive space for the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** students. In this facility, you will have the chance to master the soft skills that will give you the added edge to excel in your professional accounting career. You can review the simulated interview sessions through video playback function, and engage in fun and collaborative learning activities with your classmates in

this colourful, vibrant, and artistic learning studio. Who says learning and fun cannot co-exist? At this studio, you can express yourself on what it means to be an accountant. At this special learning space, you will build up your technical and EQ competencies which



will give you a strong foundation for your accountancy career. This very space will also give you the chance to create Instagram moments that will define your fondest memories with friends and lecturers from the DAC course.

iBALL (International Business Active Learning Lab)

The name already piques your interest, doesn't it?



The iBALL is a home-based facility for **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** students. It provides the invigorating atmosphere that is required to tackle the challenging scenarios in business simulation activities. Here, you will truly gain from the rigours of an innovative business curriculum.

DIB students at iBALL can access breaking news, assess the impact of time zones and appreciate geographical distances. There are also features that will help you to facilitate business decision making at the international level. The specially-created "war rooms" provide the right environmental condition to increase your sharing and engagement with your



team members, peers and tutor. Other interesting features in iBALL include writable walls and LED monitors.

Perfumery and Cosmetic Science Centre

The blue ambient lighting is put in place to inspire the creation of new scents. Get ready to be captivated by the Perfumery

This space also showcases classic fragrances that have captivated men and women alike, such as Chanel and Calvin Klein. Successfully commercialised in-house creations are also on display. Bubble scent chambers and perfume organs will excite your sensory system. Get into this space and be the envy of others.



and Cosmetic Science Centre, specifically designed for students to invent fragrances, cosmetic, skin and hair products. Here, the **Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS)** students will spend time creating the next best-selling perfume or hand cream.

This Centre, possibly the only one in Southeast Asia, is equipped with re-configurable furniture and special booths to support group work and presentations. State-of-the-art scientific instruments, such as the Multi-Dimensional Gas Chromatography, Skin Analyser and Rheometer, are in place for students to carry out analyses to build formulations for the products that they are developing.

Cyber Wargame Centre

Just as soldiers are trained in the firing ranges before going onto the battle field, students taking the **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** will soon get to practise cyber intrusion and protection within a new suite of learning facilities.

Called the Cyber Wargame Centre, the cyber war-gaming approach will be used to train DISM students to deal with real-world security scenarios such as intrusion detection, incident response, forensics analysis, and conduct remedial actions to mitigate the risks. The objective is to create a realistic and integrated environment in

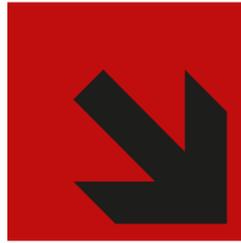
different scenarios for students to learn how to solve real-life cyber problems in the virtual world.

The Centre is divided into four unique spaces, each equipped with the latest technology to give students a realistic environment to test their skills. The Cyber Range lab will let students practice their ethical hacking skills through the use of customised software. It is capable of emulating a large network in different scenarios, thereby giving students a realistic environment for testing their skills. The Cyberwatch Competency Centre, set up in partnership with e-Cop,



will give students direct access to the latest defensive technologies. The Malware Analysis Lab will let you play with malicious software such as viruses, worms, spy ware or trojans and teach you how to tackle them. At the Forensics Investigative Lab, you will learn the process and techniques of conducting proper forensics investigation.

Besides these new facilities, a slew of other new facilities is also in place to provide our students with a unique learning environment. Among them are the Writers' Room, the Design and Innovation Studio, the M.A.D. Studios and the Visual Effects Studio.



The View From The Top



Welcoming Nan Hua Secondary School students at the start of the tour.



Hanging out in The Writers' Room.



CASS lecturer Mr Mario leading the hands-on session at The Agency.



What some of our participants say about the SP Hilltop Experience.

You could call it an uphill task for a newly-formed group of SP students united for a special purpose – to provide secondary school students with a unique experience that shows what the three schools on the hill are all about. In case you are wondering, the three schools on the hill are the SP Business School, the School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology (DMIT) and the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS).

They have risen to the challenge and can now lay claim to being “Experience Designers” for their role in creating a unique taste of life up on the hill – the SP Hilltop Experience. Together with their lecturers, they designed a programme to showcase the innovative facilities to the secondary school students and give them a taste of the different diploma courses offered by the three schools.

Applying the principles of Design Thinking, they put themselves in the shoes of secondary school students to better understand their target audience and how best to engage the students and provide an experience that would satisfy their needs.

The result: A very engaging experience.

SPirit tagged along on some of these SP Hilltop Experience sessions to find out about the programme and what is in store for secondary school students. What we found was an exciting tour, led by the Experience Designers and lecturers. The students got to experience life at the M.A.D. Studios where DMIT students work and study. They also got to literally climb into The Writers’ Room (they had to slide down too) to find out more about the new learning spaces at CASS.

Along the way, we could hear “oohs and ahhs” from the visitors. As he left The Writers Room, a visibly impressed young man enthused about the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM): “This is the course for me!”

The classrooms they visited didn’t look like regular classrooms. Instead, they seemed like real offices where designers, agency executives, studio directors and animators work. They were also impressed with the learning spaces in SP Business School, enjoying the tales of how ideas are pitched

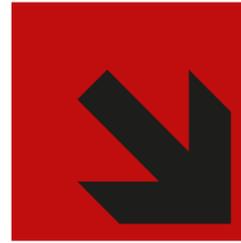
at the Business Design and Innovation Studio and marvelling at the professional equipment at the UOB Kay Hian-SP Dealing Centre, a fully functional facility for students to learn about stock and share trading.

After the tour, there were hand-on sessions to give students a taste of poly education. CASS lecturer and former DJ Mario Lajarca, better known as Super Mario, was on hand at The Agency to lead the activities at one of the sessions. We tried to follow him as he showed how the right and left brain work. Be warned, the conflict between right and left brain can be confusing!

If you join us at one of the Hilltop schools, you could even end up organising and running such events for other students as well, and maybe even for your juniors at your alma mater! And if you are currently from any of the three schools at the hilltop, and are interested in being an Experience Designer, please contact Ms Shirley Tham at 6870 8350 or email at sphilltopx@ichat.sp.edu.sg.

The Singapore Polytechnic experience is not just about books and studying. It is about working with people, reaching out and having new experiences!

The SP Hilltop Experience tours are on-going for secondary school students. Do visit www.sp.edu.sg/sphilltopx/ for more information.



All in the family at A*STAR

Four graduates and a current student from different cohorts in the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** are now working hand in hand at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology under the A*STAR Agency. Lead by award-winning DBT graduate Dr Jonathan Loh, they are now doing scientific research work.

They are Delon Toh (Class of 2006), a PhD student under scholarship at the NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering; Goh Hui Tong (Class of 2008), a research officer with A*STAR Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology; Tan Yong Si (Class of 2009), an honours student in Biological Sciences at NTU; Nazreen Bte VM Abdul (Class of 2010), a NUS Life Science undergraduate working on her third year project; and Tan Tze Kai, a final-year SP student from DBT.

The opportunity for Tze Kai to do

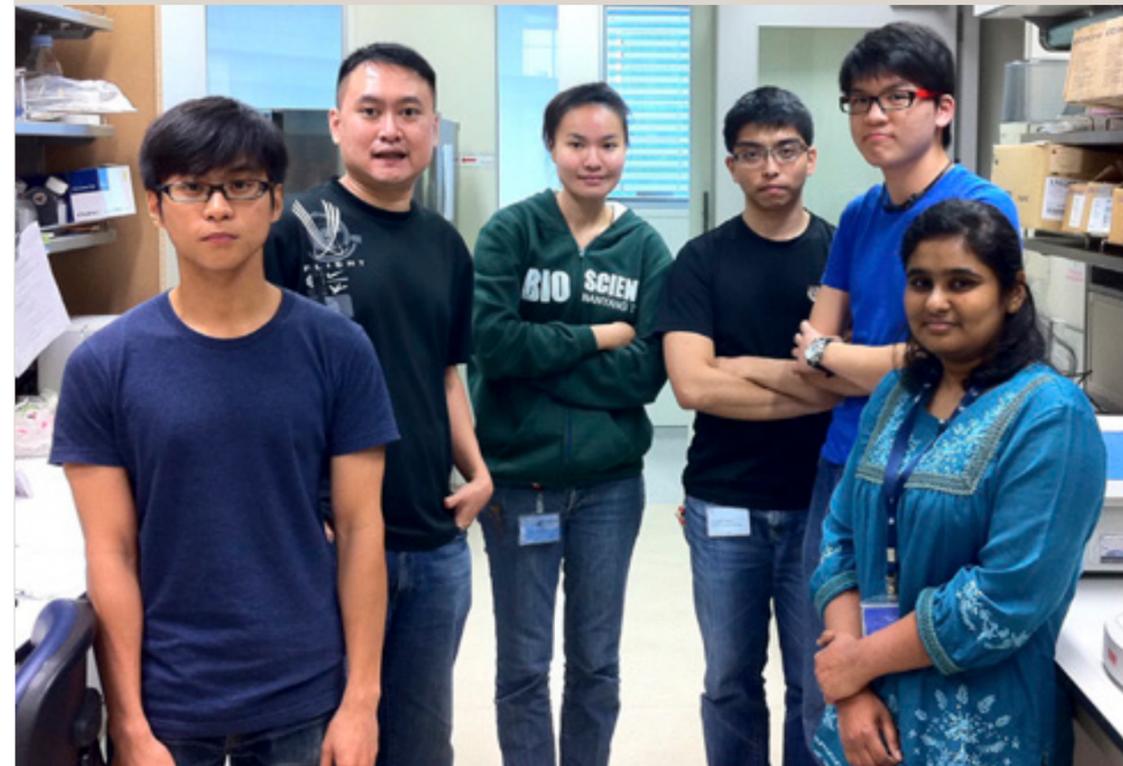
research studies at A*STAR came about after his industrial attachment which was also at Dr Loh’s Epigenetics and Cell Fates Laboratory. The latter spotted Tze Kai’s interest in stem cell research and offered him the chance to conduct his Final-Year Project (FYP) in his laboratory. Tze Kai’s FYP involves dissecting the genetics and epigenetic mechanisms that regulate pluripotent stem cells. His DBT seniors are working alongside this research interest too.

“Working with my SP seniors gave me a sense of familiarity. I learned the various aspects and techniques of stem cell research under their guidance and mentorship. Dr Loh and my seniors are role model scientists that I aspire to become. My research experience in Dr Loh’s lab has further sparked my interest in stem cell research and I hope to play a prominent part in this dynamic and

exciting field of scientific research,” said Tze Kai who plans to further his studies in a local university after SP.

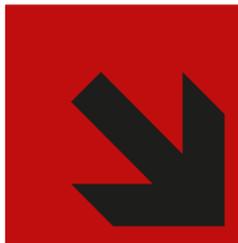
Dr Loh has this to say of his DBT juniors: “I find DBT alumni hardworking and well-trained for lab work. They are from different DBT batches but the common background provides a supportive network with a very strong bond amongst them. The seniors help the juniors in their learning journey while the juniors look up to the seniors as role models.”

NUS undergraduate Nazreen commented that working with different DBT alumni makes her feel at home. “It’s nice to know that we all come from the same place which sparked our interest for the life sciences and in research. We may have gone to different universities but the SP spirit will remain no matter where we venture into in the future.”



From left, Tan Yong Si (Class of 2009), a NTU Honours Year student; Dr Jonathan Loh (Class of 1997), principal investigator of the laboratory; Goh Hui Tong (Class of 2008), research officer; Delon Toh Cheng Xu, (Class of 2006), a Ph.D student; Tan Tze Kai, a current Year 3 DBT student working on his final year project and Nazreen Bte VM Abdul (Class of 2010), a NUS undergraduate working on her third-year project.

SOCIAL PROGRAMMING



It's not glitzy, glittery or glamorous. Nevertheless, SP Mobile, Singapore Polytechnic's collection of mobile apps, can provide you with loads of useful features that make the SP journey a lot more fun! They also make learning in SP a whole lot easier. This year, SP Mobile introduces eight new apps. SPirit spills the details. (Note: If you already have the SP Mobile App, you have to download the latest update to see these new features).

APPsolutely Useful



All apps in SP Mobile are clearly displayed to provide quick access to their useful features. They are categorised under Work, Learn and Play. The Learn category, in particular, has useful apps such as Exam Results, Exam Timetable and Lessons Timetable.



YPages

What it does:

Gives you the numbers of every school department, service desk, academic school office, and commercial store in SP.

Strengths:

Very well-planned and laid out. You no longer have to save any school phone numbers in your phone. This feature can get you to any number you need in just two or three button presses!

What we want to see more of:

Nothing! It works well!



Videos

What it does:

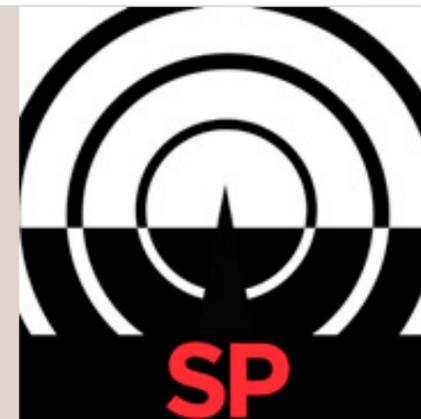
Connects you to SP's videos on Youtube.

Strengths:

Links you conveniently to video content created by the SP community.

What we want to see more of:

Perhaps a shortlist of SP's most popular and impactful videos on the Internet!



Buzz

What it does:

Gives you a selection of the latest happenings in SP! You can take a peek at creative student business ventures such as "Suckies", a new start-up by Business School students; or dive into stories of the adventures or achievements of fellow students!

Strengths:

A good, clean layout allows you to look at the latest headlines with a single glance!

What we want to see more of:

The occasional layout change to keep SP Buzz fresh.



Qwatch

What it does:

Gives you minute-by-minute video feeds of queuing lines at key service desks like SPICE Service Desks and the Finance Department.

Strengths:

Helps you to find the best moment to head down to service areas and cut down your waiting time significantly.

What we want to see more of:

An even wider range of video feeds at areas like the Hilltop or Main Library could help students plan their schedules even more effectively!



Social

What it does:

Brings you a directory for all of SP's official social media sites on Twitter and Facebook!

Strengths:

The layout is clean and doesn't overload you with visuals or information.

What we want to see more of:

Perhaps small picture icons that would make the page more eye-catching without becoming too saturated visually.



SPICE Booking

What it does:

Allows you to book a timeslot at a SPICE Service Desk for computer maintenance or installation of new software.

Strengths:

A quick and easy alternative for booking SPICE service timeslots.

What we want to see more of:

Nothing. It's exactly what it says on the label!



Graduation

What it does:

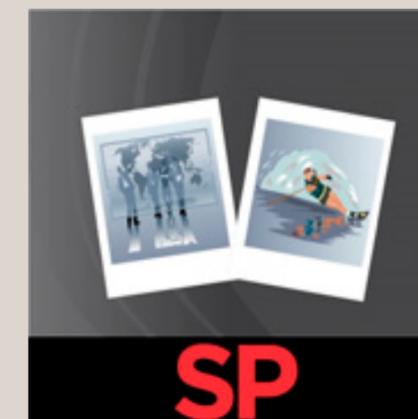
Provides direct access to graduation ceremony pictures and information, as well as links to useful Alumni and Career pages.

Strengths:

Satisfies your nostalgia by allowing you to revisit one of the biggest moments of your life!

What we want to see more of:

Currently the app does not allow you to download the photos displayed. Making the pictures downloadable would be a big plus for this app.



Gallery

What it does:

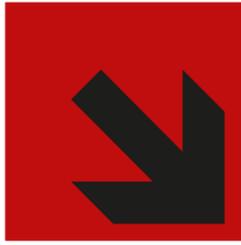
View photo albums of various SP events.

Strengths:

A wide collection of photos from different events and time periods (even photos from as early as 1950 are available!)

What we want to see more of:

A shorter and more selective list of only the very best photos for our viewing pleasure!



So Proud!

With SP, it's So Possible

SP graduates are well prepared for work and further studies. After their three-year SP journey, some embark on their dream careers while others choose to further their studies in Singapore or overseas. In 2012, many of our graduates have clinched university scholarships* while continuing their pursuit of academic excellence.

ASMI Marine Technology Scholarship

- Abdul Hadi Bin Abdul Bashir • Kelvin Choo Zhen Tao • Marcus Goh Jie Jun
- Christopher Lim Cher Yee • Victor Tan

BCA-Capitaland Built Environment Undergraduate Scholarship

- Alvin Foong Guowei

DSTA Undergraduate Scholarship

- Lee Wei Jian
- Jeff Ying Jie Hao
- Yee Zheng Kang
- Boon Le Tang

Energy Market Authority Scholarship

- Amy Goh Shue Ying
- Alan Yeo Jun Xiong

Far East Organisation (Architecture) Scholarship

- Ong Li Yen

HDB Undergraduate Scholarship

- Anderson Ang Wei Jian • Tan Hwee Ting

Jurong Shipyard Scholarship

- Teo Chang Meng

Kho Teck Puat Scholarship

- Jasmine Leong Seok Mun • Wei Linyun

LKY-STEP Award

- Desmond Thiam Wei • Koh Shi Min • Tan Keng Hwee

Maritime-ONE Scholarship

AVRA-MaritimeONE Scholarship

- Adeline Astra Rusli

China Navigation-MaritimeONE Scholarship

- Chea Wei Peng

Eastern Navigation-MaritimeONE Scholarship

- Mark Onn Ying Hui

Lloyd's Register Educational Trust-MaritimeONE Scholarship

- Joshua Lin Kai-en

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Scholarship

- Fanny Ng Ching Yee
- Ong Clinton

Media Education Scheme

- Kenson Tan Kian Seng • Wendy Wong Shumin

MDES Study Award (Degree)

Sponsorship

- Ang Kwan Zheng

Ministry of Health (Health Science Scholarship)

- Song Shang Qian

Ministry of Health Holdings Health Science and Nursing Scholarship

- Ang Jian Wei • Charlotte Goh See Yuen
- Ngai Guo Hui • Tan Ying Xin
- Clarissa Tang Yoke Leng • Filzah Bte Andul Rahim

National Arts Council Scholarship (Postgraduate)

- Michael Tan Koon Boon

National Infocomm Scholarship

- Tan Jun Hao
- Chi Kok Pin
- Kelvin Khoo Kuok Yao
- Tan Wai Kiat

National University of Singapore Scholarship

Kent Ridge Undergraduate Scholarship

- Lim Wei Zhen
- Muhd Haikal Bin Razman

NUS Graduate School Scholarship

- Lim She Yai

Nanyang Technological University Scholarship

ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship

- Cheng V-Jin • Herlina Makmur
- Lee Qi Ni
- Loh Yi Yan
- Shim De Jac • Tania Setiawati

College Scholarship

- Ang Wei Lin • Lim Hui Yin
- Loo Pei Yi • Ong Yong Lin
- Sharlene Lee Chet Ling

Nanyang Scholarship

- Joel Lee Jun Zhi
- Jessica Lee Meng Hui
- Mak Jia Feng
- Matthew James
- Joanne Tan Li Ling
- Tan Sze Rae
- Wong Yan Ting

Singapore Armed Forces Study Award

- Ivan Tang Qi Hui
- Loh Wen Jie
- Dominic Chua Han Tong • Liao Zuliang

Singapore-Industry Scholarship

- Boay Chong Zheng
- Alvin Chan Baixian
- Chua Xin Pei • Goh Yi Feng
- Hoong Seng Keng
- Cherilynn Hsia Chih Xian
- Jeremiah Chen Congfa
- John Ser Kok Weai
- Le Beier • Jordan Lee Yong Ming • Lim Jun Da • Loi Yong Hwee • Low Zheng Hua • Peh Jiale
- Tan Jee Yang • Justin Tan Yong Li

Singapore Institute of Technology Scholarship

- Aaron Jeremiah De Silza • Nurzahidah Bte Mohd Yusoff
- Suzanna Teo Wei Shan • Wong Kai Xian

SIT-KKH Scholarship

- Bhuvaneshwaran S/O Shanmugam
- Chan Ka Yam

University Engineering Scholarship

- Kew Kok Wen • Sun Weiyang

Ng Bok Eng Renaissance Engineering Scholarship

- Thomas Tham Ting Hoi

OCBC Scholarship

- Chia Li Qing • Mandy Wong

Singapore Armed Forces Academic Scholarship

- Foo Inn Funn
- Foo Inn Peng
- Liong Chun Hoong

Singapore Management University Scholarship

SMU Scholars Programme

- Sheryl-Ann Lee Xuanli • Terence Long Sji Jie

SPRING Singapore Executive Development Scholarship

- Tony Yeoh Chong Lin • Nicholas Ng Chun Keong

ST Engineering Local Scholarship (Kinetics)

- Sunardi

Singapore University of Technology and Design Scholarship

SUTD Scholarship

- Amanda Yeo Qian Yu
- Chee Yiliang • Ching Tsz Him • Sean Lim Shao Hua • Ng Tsu Kian • Tan Kwan Fu
- Toh Hui Ping • Daniel Tong Keng Cheong

ASEAN Scholarship

- Ng Zu Da • Kyi Hla Win

SUTD-Zhejiang University Exchange Programme

- Lee Bo Xian • Stacey Ng Zhimin
- Raymond Yeong Wei Wen • Soh Chin Yih • Samuel Teo Siang Boon • Randolph Wong Wai Kit • Nicholas Ng Chun Keong

University of New South Wales Golden Jubilee Scholarship

- Charles Nate Chow • Lee Yi Sam

Women Incentive Scholarship by Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

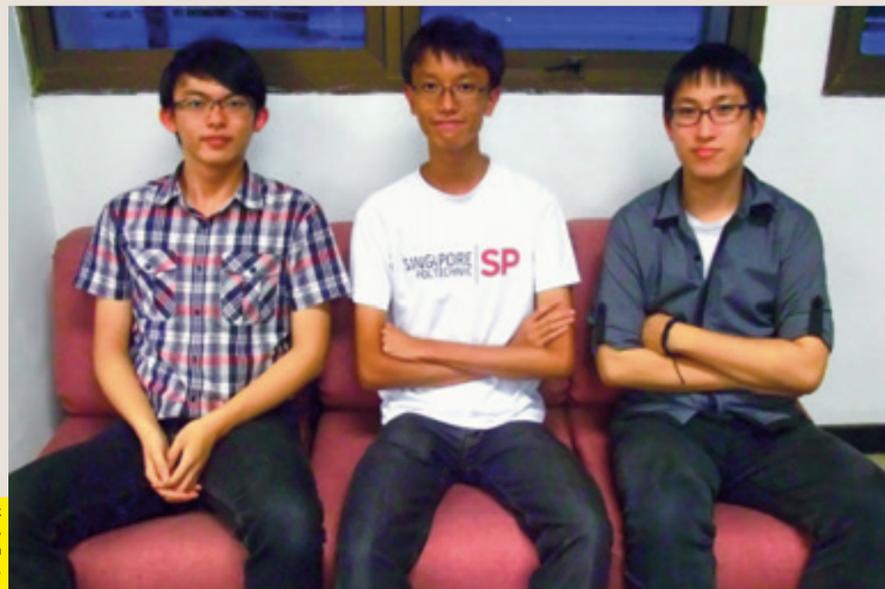
- Pwint Kay Khine



* This list is by no means exhaustive. It is compiled based on notifications received from the graduates and the awarding universities / organisations.

All-RITE, You're A Winner

An SP robot team named ALL-RITE clinched the third place at the National Junior Robotics Competition (NJRC) in the Best Robot Performance Award category. Three of the members were also invited to represent Singapore at the World Robot Olympiad held in Kuala Lumpur recently. The annual NJRC is organized by Science Centre Singapore and A*STAR to encourage students to develop problem solving skills, entrepreneurial skills, creative thinking skills, and teamwork. The team was one of two that was formed in a collaboration between SP Library RoBoPod and SP-RITE (SP Robotics, Innovation and Technology Enterprise). The former was set up to interest and inspire students in engineering topics, in particular robotics; whereas SP-RITE focuses on organising talks, workshops and other activities for SP students in the area of robotics.



The SP team at the World Robot Olympiad (from left): Tan Kok How from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Christopher Tay and John Sebastian Seet, both from the Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics.

Science Students Make Videos Too



They are students from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, but this does not mean they don't know a thing about video production. Six second-year students taking the diplomas in **Chemical Engineering (DCHE)**, **Food Science and Technology (DFST)**, **Materials Science (DMLS)** and **Optometry (DOPT)** have proven that they can produce a winning video too. They took the third prize at the inaugural video competition organised by the National Fire & Civil Emergency

Preparedness Council (NFEC). The competition aimed to promote fire safety and civil emergency preparedness amongst students, while giving them a platform to express their creativity via video. Armed with their combined technical knowledge in science and safety, the team picked up techniques of video filming and editing and even acted in the video! For their dedication, they took home a trophy and a \$500 cash prize.

Hacker Wannabes

Three Singapore teams participated in the international cyber-hacking competition held in Kuala Lumpur, in conjunction with the Hack-In-The Box Security Conference. Of the three teams, two were from SP, formed by first and final-year students from the **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)**. Despite intense competition from countries like the Netherlands and Japan, they managed to secure 3rd and 7th positions. Their prizes include a bespoke serial-numbered T-shirt each, a precious piece of evidence of their participation in a world-class competition.



World No. 2

They won the local leg of ThinkQuest 2012, a competition organised by technology giant Oracle that challenges students to solve problems using technology. Then they packed their bags for a fully-paid five-day trip at the international finals in San Francisco. The team of four recent graduates from the diplomas in **Information Technology (DIT)** and **Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** did not disappoint. They fought opponents from countries like France, India and China to win the second prize in the Application Development category and came home with a laptop each. The first prize went to a university team from Serbia.



The SP team in San Francisco (from left) Jason Sim, Kenneth Ho, lecturer and coach Low Jin Kiat, and Chua Si Hao – 2nd runner up at the ThinkQuest 2012 international finals. Left picture: Taking in the sights of San Francisco after the competition.



Their winning app, called Frevol Friends, is one that harnesses social media technology and peer influence to connect volunteers with organisations and provide a convenient way for friends to encourage other friends to participate in charitable work together.

After the intense competition, the guys took in the sights of San Francisco and visited the must-see landmarks in the city. These include the Golden Gate Bridge, Twin Peaks, California Academy of Science and the Bay City area.

Chemical Champs

A 110-strong team comprising fresh-faced first-year students from the **Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE)** clinched the coveted champion trophy at ChemEx 2012 after beating their competing seniors from other Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). Organised by the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC), this annual event was strongly supported by chemical companies based on Jurong Island and aimed to increase student awareness of the chemical industry. Held on Jurong Island itself, the half-day event also included a chemical plant tour, a visit to the Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences (ICES) and a trip to the ChemGallery. The DCHE students have been supporting this event since its inception five years ago.





The WSC team (from left) Kyle Ngo, Hadi Muhsin Bin Mohd, Jenette Mak, Beatrice Cho, Ang Wei Li, Lee Pei Ying, lecturer Leslie Neo, Vivian Quah and lecturer David Tan

A Design Mark At Orchard Rd

Word has gotten out that some SP design students are not doing their school projects. But they're also getting away with it, because they're outside school doing the real thing. One of the real projects that **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** students recently undertook was doing the mall branding for SCAPE Underground, a new extension of the popular youth hangout at Orchard Road.

This was not the first collaboration with SCAPE. After the students completed the mall's wall mural design back in July, they were invited back to design the interior branding of SCAPE Underground, which includes two wall murals, six pillar wraps, an interior glass panel, the main entrance glass doors and floor art. All of these were completed in six months and opened with a bang in October by Mr S Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry.

Calling themselves WSC (Wednesday Shockwave Cannon), the students were

given a framed artwork, presented by Mr S Iswaran as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the overall successful branding of the new SCAPE's shopping area. This event was a proud moment for WSC as they had left a mark of SP Design School in a very prominent area of Orchard Road.

WSC is formed by a talented bunch of students who are inspired to work on creative and innovative live projects as well as design competitions beyond the classroom. They were initially formed to take part in the Worldskills Competition but have since evolved dynamically to take on challenging projects and design competitions.

Besides SCAPE, WSC also did the mascot design for the Singapore National Games Competition mascot, vinyl wrap design for Singapore Power E-vehicle, branding for the Singapore Sports Institute, backdrop design for Tokiobike's 1st anniversary and branding for SP's iconic outreach event Escapade. Now, who needs school projects?

Sculpting Waste Materials

Two teams of students from the **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB)** and **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)** won two prizes at the Living aRRRt from Urban Waste Competition 2012. Their submissions, SpiraGreen and Questioning Technology, won the second prize of \$400 and a merit award of \$100 respectively. Going on the theme "Youth: the Text Wave for Change", they had to express their creativity and environmental awareness by building sculptures with unwanted or recycled materials. The competition, organised by the National Environmental Agency and Woodgrove Secondary School, received more than 70 entries this year.



The winning teams of students from the School of Architecture and The Built Environment and their winning sculptures.



Pengcraft members (from left) Liu Shi Song, Jonas Hii, team captain and pilot Jonathan Liew and Anthony Jhoni, all form the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering.



Photos by Puan Chuan Yee, SP Aviation Club's Vice President.

The Flying Penguin

Billed as the get-together of the craziest flying machines without engines in the world, the Red Bull Flugtag event finally came to Singapore this year. The participants, many of whom were tertiary students, spent weeks toiling over their man-made aircraft in an attempt to put Singapore on the world map for creativity. A team of students from the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering put on their wacky hats and attempted to capture the top prize. Alas, they did not! But their creativity, which came in the shape of a flying penguin inspired by the movie Madagascar, was greeted with loud cheers. Called Pengcraft 2000, it had to take off from a six-metre ramp into the lagoon at Sentosa. Team captain and pilot Jonathan Liew, who gamely put on a Hawaiian girl costume for the event, said: "It was a really awesome experience jumping off from a six-metre ramp in front of 35,000 people! This was really a once-in-a-lifetime experience man! I mean, it's not like every day we get to dress up like that in Singapore yea? I told myself that I was not going to look back and say 'I wish we had done this', so we just went all out for it. Overall, although we didn't really manage to achieve our target distance, seeing the smiles of all the people at Siloso Beach having a good time and enjoying themselves made it all worthwhile. After all, the whole point of Red Bull Flugtag is to show the crazy side in all of us!"

Flugtag, the iconic Red Bull event with a 20-year history, made its debut in Singapore and South East Asia for the first time this year.

Recycled Christmas Trees At City Square Mall



This Christmas tree designed by Landscape Architecture students (from left: Syahirah M Shirhan, Nur Aziemah, Nur Amirah and Nur Atiqah) was commissioned by City Square Mall to be built into a five-metre tall tree that became one of the highlights among the mall's festive decorations.

Did you notice a Christmas tree that looks like the real McCoy when you visited City Square recently? It was conceptualised and designed by four first-year **Diploma in Landscape Architecture (DLA)** students, in association with the mall's festive celebration bearing the theme 'Eco-tastic Christmas'. All 37 first-year DLA students were invited by City Square Mall, Singapore's first eco mall, to design and build environmentally-friendly Christmas trees. Done as part of their course work, the students were divided into groups and tasked to design one-metre tall tree sculptures using recycled plastic bottles. In addition, the mall also organised a carnival where the students were roped in to facilitate workshops that taught shoppers how to transform recycled materials collected by the mall into handicrafts.

The mall commissioned the building of a five-metre Christmas tree for the winning design which was displayed at the Fountain Square. The group wanted to build a tree that would still look like the real pine or fir Christmas trees as it would bring about the right festive mood. Along with another group whose design was named Shoppers' Choice, they won for themselves shopping vouchers from the mall.

All the designs were also displayed at the mall during December for shoppers as references and inspirations for them to recycle their plastic bottles. The students had fun interacting with shoppers and spreading the eco message.

Last December, students from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** represented Singapore at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) held in Brunei. Kugan Kobalakrisna, a fresh graduate from DIT, represented the team that created Lifeline, a mobile app that improves a paramedic's ability to deliver medical care. Normally, paramedics in Singapore transporting patients would communicate key information like patient status, patient information and ambulance arrival time to the hospital by radio. However, this method would become unreliable in several situations, for instance when the signal was unclear or the hospital staff got distracted by other cases. The Lifeline app allows paramedics to transmit key information and photos of patients from their phones to the hospital in a quick and reliable manner.

Their app won the Merit Award in the Tertiary Category, where they competed against 21 finalists from universities all around the Asia Pacific region. SP's team was the only polytechnic that represented Singapore at this regional competition.

Lifeline was created by a team of five DIT graduates: Kugan Kobalakrisna (team leader), Lau Huiting, Jayaprakash Amresh Kumar,



Creators of Lifeline (clockwise from top left): Jayaprakash Amresh Kumar, Kugan Kobalakrisna, Muhammad Izzat Bin Ridzwan, Lau Huiting and Muhammad Nazrul Nizam Mohd Khamis.

Muhammad Izzat Bin Ridzwan and Muhammad Nazrul Nizam Mohd Khamis. The app also won two other awards: the SiTF Gold Award (Tertiary category) at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation Awards 2012, and the Commendation Award at the Ministry of Home Affairs Innovation Festival – SAFE Programme 2012.



Kugan (team leader for Lifeline) received the Merit Award on behalf of his team at the APICTA Awards 2012 held in Brunei.

IBM AND SMRT Support SP's Brand New Diploma



SP Principal and CEO, Mr Tan Choon Shian, gives the welcome address at the launch of the new diploma.

Top leaders and executives from IBM and SMRT gathered at SP to launch the newest diploma - the **Diploma in Engineering Systems (DES)**. This diploma is a collaboration between SP and the two companies, who feel that SP has great potential to produce talented students who can meet the growing need for skilled professionals in large-scale technology systems.

DES is the first-of-its-kind engineering course in Singapore. It is a multi-disciplinary programme that trains students in the fields of engineering, management, and social sciences. This wide range of skills is taught so as to groom professionals who can handle large-scale technology networks (a.k.a. engineering systems) such as city-wide energy distribution grids or transportation networks. Such huge networks require the expertise of people who have a wide range of technical, administrative, and analytical skills which DES provides. Says Mr Foong Sew Bun, Chief Technologist and Distinguished Engineer of IBM ASEAN: "DES graduates will be able to develop their professional career in a wide range of industrial sectors."

The new diploma received strong backing from IBM and SMRT. Both corporations worked closely with SP to design the course curriculum to be industry-relevant. The two companies will also offer industrial attachment and scholarship opportunities to DES students. The pioneer batch of students will join SP in April.

Digital Media Students Worked At Top Events

Students from SP's **Diplomas in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** and **Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** provided their expertise at two prestigious events recently: Licence2Play and the 12th Global Chinese Music Awards.

Licence2Play, a gaming event held at Marina Bay Sands, introduced new digital games and hosted various gaming and cosplay competitions. DVEMG students took charge of multi-camera operation, photography and off-line editing of footage. They also assisted with on-camera interviews. DMAT students did a series of amazing live performances and provided broadcast standard audio feed for video recording. Music entertainment was provided by three bands also formed by SP students. That's not all – students from the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences were the emcees for the event.

At the 12th Global Chinese Music Awards (GCMA), an annual award show organised by seven major Chinese radio stations in the region, DMAT students came really close to megastars such as Eason Chan, Show Luo, JJ Lin, Tanya Chua, Joey Yung and Rainie Yang. They were roped in to handle the event's audio-visual arrangements, guided by DMAT graduate Reuben Raman whose company, SoundFarm Production Studios, clinched the job from the organiser.

Says Johann Tan, a second-year student: "From the event, I got to know terminologies used in the music and sound business that I've never heard of. Then there was equipment like coaxial cables, optical cables, MADI interface and other equipment that I saw for the first time. These are all new to me. I also had the chance to interact and network with professionals from Mediacorp who showed us around in the Mediacorp broadcast van!"

Besides the GCMA, DMAT students also get many other opportunities to be involved in live show production. They have worked on events like Music Matters Live, SingaPop!, and the Youth Olympic Games. Judging from the stream of compliments our DMAT students have received, there will definitely be bigger music events coming their way!



Diploma in Music and Audio Technology students assisted in sound production at the 12th Global Chinese Music Awards. (Clockwise, from top left): Tan Kay Ann; Kong Wye Chang; Tan Chee Ian; Lin Lu Hong; Sharon Lee; and Reuben Shaun Raman (2010 DMAT graduate and owner of SoundFarm Production Studios).



Daniel Toh (right) and Charles Looi, first-year Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students, handled the visual and audio aspects of capturing the live event, respectively. Personnel who handle microphones for audio recording like Charles are known as Boom Operators.

Voices Behind Japanese Manga



Digital Animation students had a draw-each-other session with the Japanese students where they drew manga versions of each other.

SP students from the **Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA)** got an incredible treat: the chance to watch the latest, unaired episode of the hit anime show, One Piece. This was made possible by a troupe of student voice actors from Nihon Manga Geijyutu Gakuin, a renowned Manga and Voice Acting school in Japan. These young voice actors and actresses made a stop at SP as part of their cultural visit to Singapore. They performed for our students, dazzling right from the start with an energetic opening dance choreographed to a Vocaloid song, Butterfly on Your Right Shoulder. (Vocaloid is a singing voice synthesizer programme that creates songs using specially pre-recorded voices of famous voice actors and

singers.) Right after that, the students voice-acted the characters in the newest episode of One Piece.

Enrica Ong, second-year DDA student, was spellbound by their voices. "When you talk to them, they sound very normal — very soft, gentle and nice. But when they start voice acting, especially for the very fierce parts, it's just like 'Bam!' Their voices become really powerful and pitch-accurate."

The lucky DDA students also took part in a gift exchange. They received mementoes such as manga concept art books and Gundam model kits from their newfound Japanese friends!

Though their encounter was short, our students were definitely impressed by their charm and talent. Enrica added: "They seemed really quiet and shy at first, but they ended up being really good and outstanding on stage. I think that they're very serious and very enthusiastic about what they do."



Digital Animation student Enrica Ong (left) with her newfound friend Takami from the Nihon Manga Geijyutu Gakuin school.



Feeling the breeze along the 40-km night ride organised by SP Cyclist Club.

A Night Ride

Eighteen SP Cyclist Club members took to the roads for a leisurely ride that took them from SP campus to scenic spots across the island, including MacRitchie Reservoir, Seletar Aerospace and Marina Bay. They were joined by 25 SP students and 45 members of the public who signed up after reading about the event on the Club's Facebook page. The entire route spanned almost 40km. This was the second of the Fix A Night Ride series by the Club which aimed to bring together cycling enthusiasts, both from the Club and members of the public, for a night of fun and safe riding. The 40-km distance was certainly not an easy task for those who have not cycled on a regular basis. Nevertheless, it was a satisfying experience for those who completed the route. Like the saying goes, no pain, no gain! The event was made possible with kind sponsorship from the 17th Stop bike shop.



The SP Videography Club (left) and DMC teams received their 1st and 2nd place prizes from Mr S Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs & Trade and Industry.

Energy Videos Win Top Prizes

Our students are not clueless when it comes to churning out ideas to save energy. At the Youth for Energy Video Competition organised by the Energy Market Authority in conjunction with the Singapore International Energy Week, SP teams swept the top two prizes. The first prize went to the SP Videography Club's team comprising first year students Ow Wai Kian (**Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology - DEWT**); Peh Ting Yong (**Diploma in Biotechnology - DBT**); Eugene Ho (**Diploma In Food Science and Technology - DFST**) and Lee Ming Rong (**Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology - DHRMP**). Second prize

went to a team of first-year **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** students: Gloria Kho, Wayne Gwee, Toh Jiangnan and Danial Salim.

The teams were challenged to creatively express themselves and articulate how the city-state can address current energy challenges and help make a difference in Singapore's sustainable energy future. They were judged on their articulation of the theme "Shaping a new energy landscape", as well as their creativity and originality and how entertaining the video was. For their great efforts, the first and second prize SP teams took home \$3,000 and \$2,000 cash respectively.



Leon (in orange) and friends from the Project Paint And Create Study Area ready to clean up the mess in a flat.



Cleaning Job For Scuba Divers

Having fishes swimming around them is a common occurrence for the SP Scuba Diving Club members. But during a home-cleaning mission, they had cockroaches swimming all over them instead. The Club had joined Project Paint And Create Study Area (PACSA), a community service group set up by local youth to help needy families with home needs.

Said Leon Ng (**Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business - DCEB**), who was assigned to clean up the messy flat of an elderly man: "My initial thought was that the house would be slightly packed with rubbish and we just needed to clear it. When we stood at the entrance, a mild pungent odour lurked out and the thought, 'Oh man, there's a lot of cleaning to do...'" was on everyone's mind. The flat was filled fully with junk!" They spent two hours to clear the junk before the living room became bright and spacious again.

However, there was a second shock – the kitchen. It was another mess

filled with empty medicine and alcohol bottles and mouldy bread, and with cockroaches and lizards roaming freely. The smell was so strong that they had to wear masks to ward off the pungent odour. They had a mild shock when the lid of a box was opened and an army of cockroaches came running out in all directions. The boys were demoralised but they continued with their task. After all the cleaning, the house was filled with new furniture donated by kind sponsors.

The boys picked up an important lesson about family love and how lucky they were to live in clean and happy homes. Leon said: "It is great to have a family that cares for us; this uncle is not as lucky as we are. The sweat and pain is nothing compared to using our own hands to help others to improve their living conditions and bring them joy."

Gifts From The Heart

Students from SP's Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team were roped in for the Connecting City Hearts, Re-igniting Kampung Spirit project organised by the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC). Under a special collaboration by both parties, the SP-Gifts from the Heart social enterprise was set up to teach CDAC beneficiaries how to make a living using their own skills. The picture shows SP students teaching Mdm Ong Bee Sin how to make greeting cards using recycled materials. Sale proceeds from these handmade cards go back to the creators themselves.



Smashing Victories!

It was the season to get tough in the sports arena! While some SP teams fought hard to retain their championships, others worked relentlessly to nail their first victory at the POL-ITE Games, the sports meet between the polytechnics, and ITE colleges; the Inter-Varsity Polytechnic (IVP) Games, the sports showdown between the universities and polytechnics; and other regional competitions.



Victory was most precious to the Netball team as this was the first time that they ever got a medal, and a golden one to boot! They managed only a 5th placing last year. Hugs and hearts to their coach Ms Annie Lim.



The SP Canoeists put up a great show at the POL-ITE Canoeing Championship. Both the men and women teams came in second overall.



They took the third position at the POL-ITE Rugby but for the rugged boys, it was nevertheless a very good show of sportsmanship and team spirit that surpassed even their own expectations.



SP Softball Team travelled to Chiang Mai, Thailand for the Chiang Mai Softball Competition and returned as champs, beating Thailand's University 11-0 in the finals. It was a sweet revenge as the team lost to Mahidol last year in the quarter finals.



SP female athletes raced to the top at the POL-ITE Road Race competition to clinch their first ever team title. Three out of six runners also finished in the top five positions. The team was unable to get into the top three spots for the last couple of years but under their new coach, Mr Lim Kien Mau, they turned in a spectacular show.



Despite starting off with consecutive losses, the women team did not give up and rebounded strongly enough to win the third placing at the POL-ITE Floorball Championship. This is the first time that the team got a medal finishing!



Both the men and women's Bowling teams won the overall third position at the POL-ITE Games. In addition, Benjamin Cheng took the third position for Men's Single and the boys also snatched the second position for the Men's Quartet.



SP Wushu Club clinched four Gold, one Silver and 5 Bronze medals and the 3rd Overall Position at the ITE Invitational Wushu Championship 2012. A magnificent performance by the team which had to put up with temporary training grounds as the Sports Hall underwent renovation.



The SP women shuttlers retained their No. 1 position for the second year at the POL-ITE Badminton Tournament. The men leaped up to second position, their best showing in recent years.



Cheers to the boys who fought hard to retain the crown while the girls performed exceptionally well too and clinched second place at the POL-ITE Handball Championship.



SP boys and girls squashed their opponents at the POL-ITE Squash tournament! This was the third time that the teams came in first. Special thanks to SP staff Wong Swee Chan who was a great mentor to the teams!



The men and women's Tchoukball teams scored first and second positions respectively at the POL-ITE Games. A great team job by these relatively young teams!



Steven Ong is one of 14 students from SP to receive the inaugural A*STAR Science Award (Polytechnic) from Dr Lim Khiam Wee, Executive Director of A*STAR Graduate Academy.

Polytechnic students will now have another avenue to pursue their interest in science and research with a new initiative launched by A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research). The A*STAR Science Award (Polytechnic) seeks to nurture and engage a pipeline of young Singaporean talent towards R&D. This Award will also enable Singaporean polytechnic students in science and engineering courses to explore their interest in research through research internships and / or final year projects at A*STAR research institutes.

Fourteen SP students are the pioneer recipients for this Award which comes with tuition fee waiver and an allowance of \$2,000 per year for two years. They are also required to take up a full-time research attachment at one of the A*STAR Research Institutes as part of the industrial attachment or Final Year Project. The A*STAR Science Award recipients are:

Ong Xi Chun from **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology**; Victor Chua, Koh Hong Zheng, Rachel Tan, Lim Yi Xiang, Marcus Seah and Sng Yi Jing from **Diploma in Biomedical Science**; Lim Lin Xenia, Steven Ong and Tan Tze Kai from **Diploma in Biotechnology**; Pisigan Carlo Adrian Rectra from **Diploma in Clean Energy**; Yeo Wei Le from **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering**; Ravin Nicholas s/o Kunalan from **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering** and Leong Hei Kern from **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**.

Tan Tze Kai, who is now working on his final year project with A*STAR scientist and SP alumnus Dr Jonathan Loh, said he believes the Award will spur him on to continue in his stem cell research when he joins the university.

Ear-marked For Singapore Industries

Peh Jiale, a recent graduate from the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management - DEPM**, enjoyed her internship at Universal Studios Singapore theme park so much that she hopes to clinch a scholarship with Resorts World Sentosa. She said, "I was looking for a scholarship that would lead me to where I want to work." Her dream came true.

Together with fourteen other SP graduates, Jia Le clinched the inaugural Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) launched by the government this year. This scholarship was launched with support from some of the finest local enterprises and organisations that include Charles and Keith, Resorts World Sentosa and Singapore Power. It aims to nurture a strong core of Singapore talent with the requisite skills and capabilities to steer and contribute to strategic sectors. SgIS scholars will have opportunities to acquire knowledge of their industries early even while they are studying in university. Upon graduation, scholars will embark on exciting careers with their sponsoring organisations. The scholarship covers tuition fees and other expenses such as book, computer and hostel allowances and overseas exchange programmes. All recipients have to sign a three to four year bond with their sponsorship company which will tailor development programmes for them during their studies and as soon as they embark on their careers upon graduation.

The SP graduates receiving the SgIS are now pursuing their degree programmes at the Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University. They are:

- SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:** Boay Chong Zheng (sponsored by Boustead); Peh Jia Le (sponsored by Resorts World Sentosa); Justin Tan (sponsored by Boustead).
- SP BUSINESS SCHOOL:** John Ser (sponsored by Charles and Keith); Cherylynn Hsia (sponsored by Resorts World Sentosa).
- SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES:** Jeremiah Chen (sponsored by Keppel Group); Chua Xin Pei (sponsored by Singapore Technologies Engineering).
- SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA AND INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY:** Le Beier (sponsored by PSA).
- SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING:** Hoong Seng Keng (sponsored by Micron); Jordan Lee (sponsored by Singapore Power); Lim Jun Da (sponsored by Singapore Power); Loi Yong Hwee (sponsored by Singapore Power); Alvin Chan (sponsored by Singapore Technologies Engineering).
- SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING:** Goh Yi Feng (sponsored by GE); Tan Jee Yang (sponsored by Singapore Technologies Engineering).



Peh Jiale had a great time interning at Universal Studios Singapore and hoped to get a scholarship from its management, Resorts World Sentosa. And she got it!



John Ser, receiving his scholarship from Mr Dicky Koh, Chief Financial Officer of Charles & Keith Group, will embark on a career in retail management with the award-winning local enterprise upon his graduation from SMU.

Ten Receive PCF-Poly Awards

Third-year **Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness (DNHW)** student Nurul Atiqah Bte Rusli is among 10 SP students who received the PCF-Polytechnic Study Award this year. The Award, worth \$2,000 each, is given out annually to deserving students from the polytechnics. They received the Award from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the PCF Family Day 2012. Said Atiqah, "Getting this award will make me more determined to work even harder and reach for greater heights. I hope to pursue a degree in Sports Science and Management at Nanyang Technological University after graduating from SP."



Nurul Atiqah receiving the PCF-Polytechnic Award from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Scholarship For Creative Minds

The branding legend behind the Singapore Girl – the former Batey Ads team – is donating, with a matching grant from the Ministry of Education, \$250,000 in endowment fund to nurture deserving students to pursue a global education at SP.

Bond-free scholarships, named as the Batey Scholar Award, will be given to students taking the **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** from 2013. The bond-free award covers three years of tuition fees as well as participation in overseas internship and study programmes. In the first year, three awards will be given - one for each cohort from Year One to Year Three.

Retired Chairman Ian Batey, whose agency Batey Ads was responsible for branding Singapore global icons such as Raffles Hotel, Tiger Beer and Singapore Airlines, said, "We, that's all the old Batey team, are delighted to make this contribution. It's an expression of our deep appreciation for the extraordinary opportunities given to us over three decades by Singapore Inc. We have a dream of seeing Singapore as the most exciting creative centre in Asia-Pacific for creating and developing global power brands, and for creating



Ian Batey will personally mentor SP's Diploma in Media and Communication students under the Batey Scholar Award.

outstanding global advertising campaigns. We hope the Batey Scholar Award programme will help attract more talented young people to a career in marketing communication, and that Batey Scholars, together with their colleagues, will grow our dream into a dazzling long-term reality."

Key to the scholarship is the personal mentorship of Mr Ian Batey who was honoured with the first Lifetime Achievement Award by the Institute of Advertising Singapore in 1999. He will share his insights and networks to support the protégés.



Dr Jonathan Loh, the first Singaporean citizen elected to the prestigious World Technology Network.

Top Award For SP Scientist Alumnus

Dr Jonathan Loh, an SP alumnus from the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**, has become the first Singaporean citizen to be elected to the prestigious World Technology Network (WTN), an elite club whose members are all focused on the business and science of bringing important emerging technologies of all types (from biotechnology to new materials, from IT to new energy sources) into reality. The WTN membership comprises approximately 1,000 members from more than 60 countries, judged by their peers to be the most innovative people in the technology world.

Dr Loh, 35, is best known for his research work on stem cells which has been published in science journals. He also helped to invent a new and safer method to create the cells which was ranked as one of the top 10 breakthroughs of 2010 by Science, a prestigious journal. He was a member of the team at Harvard Medical School that became the first to convert human blood cells into stem cells.

Now a Principal Investigator with the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) at A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research), Dr Loh current work involves developing new tools to create clinical-grade cells and tissues for medical use. Among the team assisting him are four SP graduates and a current student, all from the Diploma in Biotechnology (see story on Page 43).

The SP (Service Performance) Star

Like all the other young ones who joined SP, she has hopes of doing well and securing a place in the university. She did just that. Christina Ong graduated top of her class in the Diploma in Property Development and Facilities Management (now renamed **Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management – DHLFM**), and moved on to National University of Singapore to pursue a degree in Project and Facilities Management and even got her name onto the Dean's List. Upon graduation, she decided to head straight for one direction in her career path – get into the service line, despite having two other job offers. At McDonald's, she found her calling. She loved her job so much that it even earned her the highest award for the service industry in Singapore – the Super Star Award for Service Excellence.

Now an assistant manager at McDonald's Harbourfront branch, Christina told The Straits Times in an interview: "In the service line, you have to be sincere and serve from the heart, and build relationships with people. So no matter how busy I am, I make the effort to chat with regular customers when they come." The burger joint is not a totally new environment for her. She was a part-timer with McDonald's since her school days. Her job has good perks too – she flew to Orlando in the United States to attend a convention by her company and also to the Philippines for a restaurant leadership programme.

She is not at all bothered by comments that she deserved a cushy job in the office. In another media interview, Christine said matter-of-factly: "If they don't buy it (my decision to work at McDonald's), I don't try too hard to convince them. I enjoy it. If you're always so concerned about what people think, your life will be very difficult."

Christine is considering opening her own café, maybe five years from now. In the meantime, say hello to her the next time you are at McDonald's Harbourfront!



Christina does SP proud by winning the highest award for Service Excellence.

Military Honour For Business Graduate

Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) graduate Cheong Ting Wen scored a military honour recently when he was awarded the Sword-of-Honour (Infantry) at the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) commissioning parade recently. He was among 297 officer cadets who were commissioned as SAF officers. The parade marked the completion of 38 weeks of rigorous training at the Officer Cadet School. The newly commissioned officers will go on to assume command, instructional or staff appointments in the SAF.

Said Ting Wen, "At the end of the day, my responsibility as an officer is to ensure that all of my men come back safely, no matter how tough the training may be." He credits his family for their unwavering support that helped him achieve his stellar performance in Officer Cadet School (OCS). His father was an officer in the Singapore Civil Defence Force and his elder brother is also an infantry officer in the SAF. "They told me to do my best, and above all, to enjoy my time in national service," added Ting Wen, who is now with the 3rd Battalion, Singapore Guards.

On top of learning military and leadership skills, his time in OCS strengthened his character, and made him a more disciplined and independent person. He added that to be given a chance to lead at such a young age was "a privilege and an honour".



Photo courtesy of PIONEER magazine

SP Alumnus Boosts Student Entrepreneurship



Budding entrepreneurs and final-year Diploma in Business Administration students Li Zhuoxian and Gabriel Tham (second and third from left), receiving the cheque from Mr and Mrs Gary Kwang (far right). Looking on is Director of SP Business School Mr Reginald Wee (extreme left).

Three student entrepreneurship teams each received a \$2,000 funding kindly donated by Gary Kwang, a SP alumnus who graduated in 1995 with a Diploma of Electronics, Computer and Communications Engineering. Gary was an active musician during his SP years and also a recipient of the SP Music Scholarship. Upon his graduation, he furthered his studies in the University of Birmingham and graduated with first-class honours, and clinched the prestigious Gordon Tucker Award which is given to the top final-year project and thesis for each year's graduating course.

Over the years, Gary has made significant strides in the corporate world. He eventually started his own business ventures by co-founding, starting, investing and managing a few start-ups as well as mature companies. Recognising that business start-ups sometimes need a financial boost, he decided to pay it forward by helping budding entrepreneurs at his alma mater. The \$6,000 donation was contributed from one of his companies, INFRACOMMS. Through his action, he hopes that other SMEs would be inspired to contribute too so as he believes it is never too early or late to start a business.

New Year, New Leader

When the bells ring in the New Year, SP will welcome a new leader. Mr Tan Choon Shian, Deputy Managing Director of the Economic Development Board (EDB), will join SP as the new Principal and Chief Executive Officer. He will succeed Mr Tan Hang Cheong who will be retiring after 22 years of fruitful service in the education sector.

The incoming Mr Tan has a career spanning nearly 20 years with EDB. After joining EDB's electronics cluster in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science (Information Service) at the University of Tokyo, he was posted in 1995 to EDB's Tokyo centre as Centre Director, and subsequently became Regional Director in Japan. He was actively involved in attracting Japanese investments to Singapore's electronics and chemical industry clusters.

Recognising his strong leadership potential, EDB awarded him a Masters scholarship in 1999 as a Sloan Fellow at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University. Upon his return, he led the Electronics and Precision Engineering Cluster with the concurrent appointment as Director, Japan Operations.

Between 2004 and 2006, Mr Tan was appointed Director, Planning and Policy and Director, Marketing Communications. To broaden his exposure, he then spent a year in the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) as Director, Corporate Development.

Mr Tan returned to EDB in 2007 as the Assistant Managing Director. He strengthened EDB's operations in the Asia-Pacific, particularly in China, India and South East Asia, and the Middle East. He also supervised the development of major industry clusters. He was appointed Deputy Managing Director in 2009.

Mr Tan Hang Cheong has made significant contributions in reshaping and



Mr Tan Choon Shian,
Principal and CEO of
Singapore Polytechnic
from 1 Jan 2013.

rejuvenating Singapore's first polytechnic. Over the last five years, he has been guided by the simple idea of making the students our focus. He was instrumental in developing the SP@60 blueprint and transforming SP into a more student-centric and vibrant polytechnic.

He guided the faculty and staff to share his vision of developing graduates who are life-ready, work-ready, and world-ready. Working in close partnership with his colleagues, he led a collective effort to redefine and enrich the SP learning experience through a holistic, authentic and industry-relevant curriculum, innovative and vibrant learning spaces, enriching overseas programmes for every student, and developing staff capabilities.

Mr Tan also made significant inroads to strengthen the connection with SP's 165,000-strong alumni network. Through his able leadership and purpose-driven approach,

he has built a strong management team and a special connection with students. He has imbued in staff a stronger commitment to excellence, making a difference to SP's students and ensuring they are future-ready.

Mr Bill Chang, Chairman of SP's Board of Governors, said, "We deeply appreciate Hang Cheong's valued contributions to SP. He has navigated change well, and galvanised SP's growth over the past five years, making it a stronger education institution with a passion for advancing teaching and learning capabilities. It is evident that he has made a difference to SP in every aspect – from the students, staff, curriculum and our operations to enhancing the campus landscape. We will miss him. At the same time, we extend a warm welcome to Choon Shian as the next leader of SP. I am confident that his diverse experiences, solid industry connections and strong leadership acumen will put him in good stead to guide SP in its next phase of growth."

A Single Communication platform

SP will be the first institute of higher learning in Southeast Asia to implement a new technological platform, known as Unified Communications (UC), to enhance the teaching, learning and working experience for academia, students and staff. It will be rolled out progressively in early 2013. This was announced at SP MobFest 2012, an annual event that showcased new initiatives that harness the power of the latest technology for learning and teaching.

UC will be a first-of-its-kind, integrated technological capability deployed for education in the institutes of higher learning here. It serves to organise diverse communication systems in a single platform, and enable various SP communities to better connect, communicate and share digital content in real time, anytime, anywhere. Lecturers and students can use functions such as email, voice mail, instant messaging and audio / video / web conferencing with the phone system during their interaction.

In the near future, students out on a field study or overseas industry training programme can now connect with their lecturers and classmates in different locations, getting instant feedback through text messages, calls or video conferencing on a single, standard platform. Lecturers can also better monitor the quality and progress of their students' work regardless of location.

SP is teaming up with Hewlett Packard (HP) on this exciting initiative. It will leverage on UC Solution for Microsoft® Lync™ 2010 to facilitate the various functions. Built on an open, software-based platform that works with applications and systems that users are familiar with, the solution will eventually connect the SP communities seamlessly so that lecturers, students and staff can learn, grow and create together.



SP is the first educational institution in Southeast Asia to roll out Unified Communications, a technology that integrates multiple communication systems into one single platform.

"To be a mobile-enabled campus, we see the need to constantly be in the technological forefront. We want to create a borderless environment where we can teach, learn, work and live in a more fun and enriching manner. Through this UC solution, we are preparing ourselves for the future," said Mr Tan Hang Cheong, then SP Principal.

Mr Sanjay Vig, General Manager, Technology Services, HP Enterprise Group Southeast Asia said, "To deliver high-quality services, educational institutions need to create a unified community where staff and students can communicate quickly and effectively. We are glad that HP is able to provide transformative services that will enable SP to build a secure, reliable system that makes communications more collaborative, engaging and accessible from anywhere."



Dr Hirofumi Yamada, President of Kanazawa Technical College, and Mr Tan Hang Cheong, then SP Principal, releasing kois into the bio-stream in SP to commemorate 30 years of cultural exchange between the two institutions.

A Tale Of Two Institutions

The relationship went past 30 years and is still growing strong. Last month, SP and the Kanazawa Technical College (KTC) of Japan commemorated the 31st visit undertaken by staff and students from both institutions to each other's campuses for cultural exchange. The visits started since 1983 (with two visits in 2010) and have been uninterrupted through the years. Every year, KTC will host a delegation of one staff member and 12 students from SP as they embark on the two-week programme to Kanazawa, Japan. They will stay with host families and participate in various activities organized by KTC. Students from KTC will also visit Singapore in a similar exchange programme.

This year's visit is especially notable as it marks 30 Years of the MILE (Mobile Interactive Learning Experience) Programme between SP and KTC. The President of KTC, Dr Hirofumi Yamada, personally led the visit to SP this year.

To mark the special occasion, then SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong and Dr Yamada released 30 kois into the bio-stream located along the driveway parallel to the MRT track. This was witnessed by 30 KTC students who accompanied Dr Yamada on this visit.

Bigger, Better, Bolder



The rock wall lends excitement to the façade of the new Sports Hub building.

Rockclimbing on the façade of the new Sports Hub building will become an exciting reality when it is completed sometime in June 2014. The 30-metre high rock wall is one of the several new sports and recreational facilities available to SP students. Other facilities that will be housed in the building include courts for squash, badminton, volleyball and basketball, a multi-purpose court, roof-top tennis courts, an indoor running track and more than 30 student club rooms.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Sports Hall was held last month, followed two weeks later by a ceremony to mark the work commencement of another spectacular building for SP Design School.

A gallery space has been marked out for students to showcase their design works in this new building which will also house design studios and labs. There will also be an open landscaped deck on the third floor plus an air-conditioned food court.

Work will also start soon on the new AeroHub and the Business School building. Want to be the first users of these new facilities? Mark down SP diploma courses as your first choice during the Joint Admission Exercise (JAE) which takes place after the release of the GCE 'O' Level results.



Façade of the upcoming Design building with an open-landscaped deck.



DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

Brand New Course for 2013

8 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD STUDY ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

1 ONE AND ONLY

A unique combination of **ENGINEERING, MANAGEMENT** and **SOCIAL SCIENCES** – the key ingredients for the future.

2 A SYSTEM POINT OF VIEW

Rev you up to think and see issues from a system point of view.

3 STUDIO-BASED LEARNING

Learning is conducted through active engagement of students in a specialised studio setting. Studio learning will enable you to:

- Learn in teams
- Master the fundamental knowledge through sharing and inquiring
- Develop problem-solving skills and analytical thinking
- Apply the knowledge to the real world applications

The curriculum is developed in collaboration with Olin College of Engineering, USA.

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4 CONCEIVE-DESIGN-IMPLEMENT-OPERATE (CDIO)

CDIO learning, developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and adopted by Ivy League institutions worldwide, is applied to this course.

5 INDUSTRY ENDORSEMENT

Renowned companies such as IBM, Siemens, SMRT and ST Kinetics have given their strong support for this course. You'll get opportunities to be attached to these companies either locally or overseas during the five-month internship or capstone project in the final year.

6 SCHOLARSHIPS

Outstanding 'O' level graduates enrolled in this new course can apply for scholarships offered by SP or external organisations.

7 UNIVERSITY

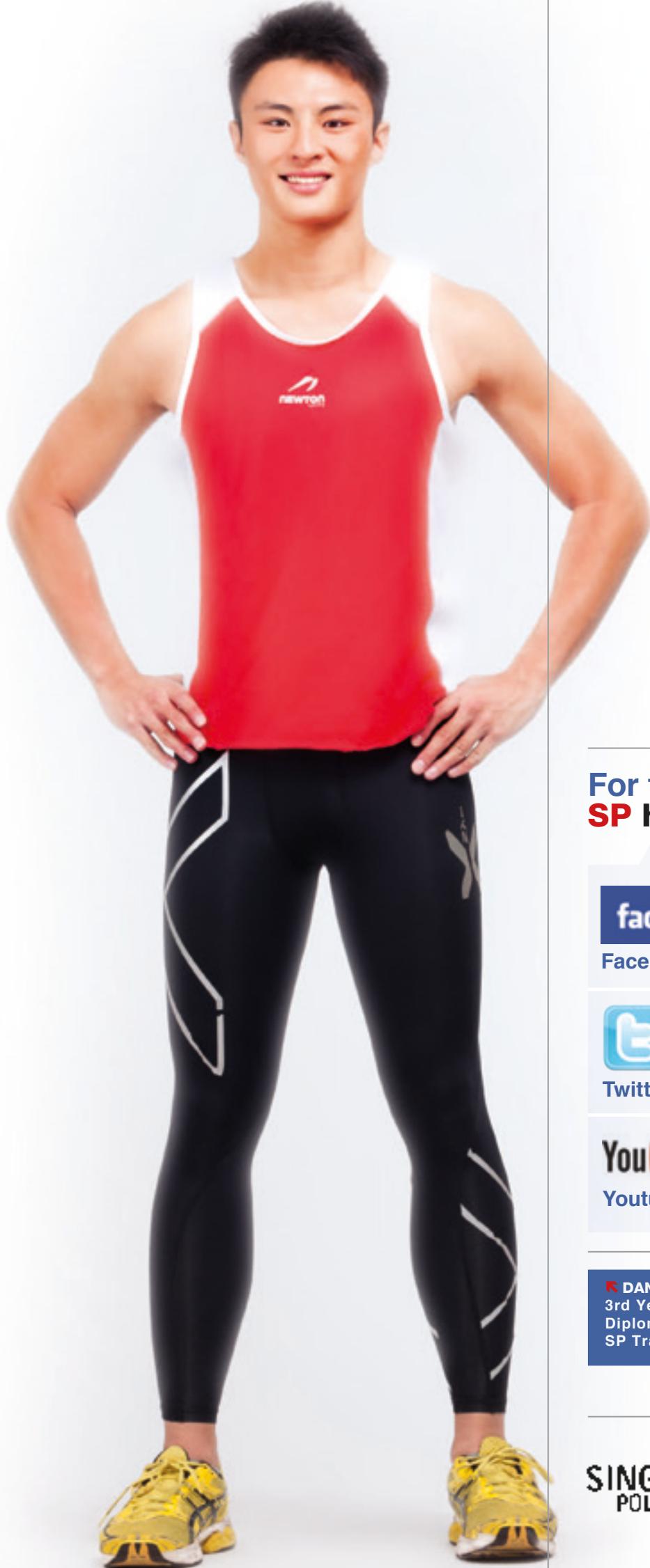
You can pursue a degree programme (engineering or other disciplines) after this course in local and overseas universities. If you do very well, you could earn a university scholarship too!

8 WORLD-READY

When you graduate, you will understand the real-world systems in their social, ethical and environmental contexts and ready to tackle system-level problems using technical and management skills.

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3rd Year
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
SP Track and Field Team Captain

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