READY FOR THE SP JOURNEY?
DISCOVER THE A–Z OF SP

➥ NEW Course: Diploma in Business Innovation & Design.
➥ iPad learning for SP students.
➥ WORLD EXPOSURE: The SP overseas experience.
➥ How to exploit IT for easy learning.
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LILIAN LI
2nd Year, Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management
Hello again!

Now that the ‘O’ levels are over, how does it feel? Definitely a big burden off your shoulders and yet possibly having mixed feelings. You are considering taking up a diploma course at a polytechnic but not sure which course will help you to achieve your aspiration.

My advice is this: spend some time soul searching. What is your aspiration? What do you see yourself doing five years or maybe ten years down the road? Are you an engineer or an architect? A banker, or maybe even an entrepreneur? Are you donning a lab suit and working furiously on a scientific research? Or working with a giant in the IT industry, such as Apple? Or a journalist, graphic designer or even sailing on a ship?

Let me tell you - With SP, it’s So Possible! Flip the pages of SPirit and you will discover that there are so many possibilities with an SP diploma. Whatever your aspiration, SP has prepared a journey that will help you realise it. Besides classroom learning, you will gain overseas exposure via a variety of programmes from internship to community service or competition. Our feature story on the unique SP overseas experience will give you insights on these trips.

Curious about the SP environment? After reading our cover story on the A to Z of SP, you will be awed by the rapid re-developments that are taking place in Singapore’s first polytechnic. And it’s not just the physical transformation. Our learning approach will be moving fast and furious towards using mobile platforms. One day, you might just need to carry an iPad to campus!

Seeing is believing. I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to visit SP during the Open House from 5th to 7th January. Come see for yourself the vibrant campus which is located right next to the Dover MRT Station. Have a chat with the lecturers to find out more about the courses that you are interested in. Take the tours to the Hilltop and be impressed by exciting new learning facilities there, such as the Media, Art and Design (M.A.D.) Studios, The Writer’s Room and the Business Innovation Studio.

This special edition of SPirit also carries the Right Choice magazine – your guide to SP diploma courses and JAE 2012. Visit aspirations.sg to get more information on SP Open House. If you need to be convinced further after getting your ‘O’ level results, you can still visit us during the JAE week for course counselling before you submit your JAE application. We will be there to help aspire what you want to be.

Remember, with SP, it’s So Possible!

Tan Hang Cheong (The SPirited Principal)
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Magazine designed by Sirius Art Advertising Pte Ltd.
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SP grads clinch university scholarships.
Checking out new diploma courses at the polytechnics? SP is known for pioneering many diploma courses such as Aerospace Electronics, Aeronautical Engineering, Applied Drama and Psychology, Architecture, Banking and Financial Services, Clean Energy, Creative Writing for TV and New Media, Financial Informatics, Optometry, Perfumery and Cosmetic Science, among others. This year, SP is introducing a one and only business course of its kind, besides revamping two popular courses to give you more power to achieve your aspirations.

**DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS INNOVATION AND DESIGN (DBID)**

- The first course to combine business + design using Design Thinking as the basic principle in teaching. The course will tap on your inner creativity to turn wild ideas into business reality.
- Learn in an inspirational Studio! Yes, a Studio with the right mood to inspire creativity in you to develop innovative business ideas.
- Fly up to Canada for a boot camp during your final year. It will be conducted by the Rotman DesignWorks, Rotman School of Management which is under the University of Toronto, Canada. It is one of the best business schools in the world and the global leader in Business Design.
- You will be taught by lecturers specially trained by the experts at Rotman DesignWorks.
- Get real! You will be involved in real innovation projects through SP’s Design Thinking Strategy Labs – DesignWorks Singapore and Live Well Collaborative.
- A three-month internship with forward looking companies that want to transform themselves into the next Apple, knowing that somewhere inside you is a Steve Jobs type of business innovator in the making.

So if you want to make a difference, then make the Diploma in Business Innovation and Design your No. 1 choice!
DIPLOMA IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (DMC)

If your dream is to join the exciting media and communication industry, look no further than the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) offered by SP. For 2012, this diploma has undergone an extreme makeover which includes the setting up of a physical learning space called The Agency and a partnership with Starcom MediaVest Group, one of the largest brand communication groups in the world.

- Learn at The Agency, the first of its kind among the polys that allows you to experience the working of an integrated marketing communication agency. You will take on roles such as communication strategists, creative directors and event managers etc to create real communication campaigns.

- The Agency boasts studios that include a single-camera visual studio, a radio studio and editing suites, allowing you to create radio and television programmes as well as print, online and video material using state-of-the-art technology.

- Develop integrated marketing communication campaigns, from research and situation analysis to implementation and evaluation, under the mentorship of experts from the Starcom MediaVest Group.

- You will be trained in Design Thinking which uses creativity and innovation to help you gain a deep understanding of how consumers think and thereby connect better with them.

Another exciting change coming up in SP is the Diploma in Interactive Media (DiM) course. It is revamped from the previous Diploma in Digital Media to give you more power to become the real pro in interactive media creations.

- If you are an Angry Bird fan or someone who can’t stay away from Facebook for a day, this is the course for you.

- The course will train you to develop interactive applications such as apps and games and responsive websites for platforms such as the smartphone, iPhone, iPad, Xbox, tablet PCs, laptops etc.

- Learn how to design and develop interfaces (i.e. creating visual designs) and then deploy the designs onto portable and non-portable devices.

- The learning environment is designed to foster group collaboration to give you a feel of what it is like working in this industry.

- The world is your oyster! You will intern with international companies based here or overseas.
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Picture yourself carrying just the iPad or any other tablet PC to SP. No more heavy laptops, textbooks and notes in your haversack. Possible? Well, why not? If the mobile applications showcased at the SP MobFest 2011 is anything to go by, we are well on the way to a truly mobile-technology enabled campus.

At the first SP MobFest held recently, an array of mobile-technology enabled applications was unveiled for the first time. It ranges from using iPads and iPhones to create music, e-Books (textbook modules on mobile platforms) and even an app for students to exchange textbooks. These applications were created following a campus-wide call to all staff and students to put forth their ideas to take e-learning to a new level.

While academic staff developed applications that would enhance their teaching methods, students created e-modules that not only provide facts and figures but also little quizzes and jokes to break the learning monotony.

Says Teh Jing Hurng, a second-year student from the Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business who developed the abcdeBook app with his team mates: “After creating the e-Book, then we realised how tough it must have been for our lecturers to develop our lecture notes because we had to understand the textbook before we could teach it. So now, we have learnt to really appreciate what they did.”

Besides MobFest, some SP Schools have also started on their own experimentation with mobile learning. Accountancy students at SP Business School participated in an e-Book learning on Principles of Accounting using iPads. An e-Book called Fundamentals of Accounting was created to teach students about the Accounting Equation and the Double Entry Concept. These two chapters were taught earlier but the iPad session was a good time to refresh and recall what they have studied earlier. The difference is that the e-Book also contains videos and audio explanation, among other features.

SP Accountancy students experimented with the iPad for their modules.

Ryan Chua, a first-year Diploma in Accountancy student, says: “The e-book is really user friendly; the two chapters are easily accessible and there are quizzes to help us revise!’ His course mate Claire Tan echoes, “Using the iPad to learn accounting was enriching and fun and this is one of the few times that I used the I-Pad for something educational.’

More such initiatives will be rolled out across all SP Schools in the next two to three years. By 2014, SP hopes to become a fully mobile technology-enabled campus.

FAST FORWARD TO 2014:
You wake up, freshen up, grab your tablet PC and hop on to the MRT to Dover Station for your lessons. Possible? Yes, it’s so possible at SP.
As the first polytechnic in Singapore which has produced 165,000 graduates, SP knows what can motivate students’ learning. Learning facilities are important to inspire and motivate thinking. There has been no let up to continuing investing in new facilities, whether it’s building new facilities, renovate existing ones or create new learning spaces. From 2012, students enrolled in SP Business School, School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences and School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology will boast new ultra-cool facilities. We let you take a peek at some of them.

**THE AGENCY**
Students taking the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) will experience the pulse and pace of a real-life integrated marketing communication agency here. The Agency boasts specially-configured furniture for brainstorming and meetings, a pitch room for client presentations, and studios for creating audio and video collaterals.

**THE WRITERS’ ROOM**
If you intend to take up the Diploma in Creative Writing for Television and New Media (DTVM), this will be the space for you to find inspiration. In The Writers’ Room, mobile furniture replaces conventional tables and chairs. Stack blocks to make your own ‘fortress’ - the possibilities are as are endless as your imagination.

**BUSINESS & INNOVATION STUDIO**
This studio will inspire you, the future entrepreneur, to think up successful business innovations. The state-of-the-art facilities will showcase SP Business School’s pioneer and premier status in this exciting field of business design, design thinking process and innovations.
SP Business School also boasts advanced facilities like the Dealing Room and the Hospitality Learning Hub. The Dealing Room is the only one in the poly-tertiary educational scene where you will learn from online real-time financial information from Thomson Reuters and simulation software which will power-up your aspirations. The Hospitality Learning Hub features the sophisticated Opera computer hotel reservations system complete with tastefully-designed dining layout and décor to develop our students into polished graduates for the hospitality industry.

THE M.A.D. STUDIOS
The M.A.D. (Media-Art-Design) Studios is a cluster of home-based, fully-equipped production studios that will provide students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology with a personalised workspace for sculpting, production design, animation and visual effects classes. It truly simulates a real-world production pipeline that calls for unbounded creativity.

THE VISUAL EFFECTS STUDIO
If you aspire to be the next Steven Spielberg, check out the Visual Effects Studio. This is a sound-proof professional movie studio will let you develop Stereoscopic 3D/2D video production works, multi-camera live production and live video streaming. It boasts an impressive green screen cyclorama and a full-length Chromatte backdrop that can be used for live chroma-keying.
If you have siblings or friends who graduated from SP a few years ago, they might not recognise the campus if they visit again. They would have thought that the Transformers came and gave the campus a major facelift! The 40-hectare campus, equivalent to about 40 football fields, has undergone major re-developments to offer an unbeatable learning environment.

Gardens have morphed into learning spaces using sustainable technology. Lecture theatres are retrofitted with new comfy seats and ambient lightings. Pockets of learning and interaction spaces are so well spruced up that students are spending longer hours in campus.

These pictures will tell you why.

**ECOASIS**
The ECOasis is designed as an integrated ecological system which simulates water collection, filtration, retention and recycling. Located next to SP’s Foodcourt 2 and the newly-renovated Concourse study hall, this new park-and-pond in SP brings nature closer to the students.

**SANCTUARY**
The design concept for the Sanctuary provides students with a natural study environment that comes with a butterfly habitat. The iconic showpiece is shaped like a snail and the study pavilions take the shape of leaves. Railway tracks are...
recycled into decorative stepping boards and nectar plants are specially selected to attract butterflies to the park.

LECTURE THEATRES
Colour co-ordinated seats, ambient lightings and latest audio-visual equipment will give our students a comfortable environment that will stimulate learning.

eleven
The mirror image of T11A, this is the newest building in SP and it houses the School of Chemical and Life Sciences. The open space separating the two blocks is converted into an open space for alfresco activities.

AEROHUB AND BUSINESS SCHOOL
Hold your breath for the completion of the AeroHub and the new Business School located just steps away from the MRT. It will boast the latest facilities for aeronautical and aerospace students as well as house avant garde learning facilities for Business students.

SPECTRUM
Older study areas are given a new lease of life with a complete makeovers, such as The SPectrum. Located next to McDonald’s and adjacent to the MRT, it is now one of the most popular SP hotspots.

SIT-STUDENT HUB
The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will set up a satellite campus in SP to conduct specialised degree courses hosted by SP. So if you love SP so much, there’s now another reason to enrol in the degree programmes offered by SIT. Right next to it is a new Student Hub which will be the focal point for all SP students in the pursuits of their passions, be it music, arts or sports.
Every SP student has the opportunity to travel overseas to broaden their horizons and gain new perspectives that take them closer to their aspirations. SPIRIT tracks down some SP students who embarked on these meaningful overseas exposures.

**Global Orientation**

WHO: Lincoln Benjamin Yeo and Boey Chee Siong, Final Year students, Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering

WHAT: Six-week attachment at the Pratt & Whitney Training Centre

WHERE: Beijing, China

Lincoln says:

The Beijing internship with Pratt & Whitney was amazing. There we were, at the training centre of the world’s biggest aircraft engine maker. It was the closest that any aeronautical engineering student could get to a real plane engine. We learned about repair and maintenance of aircraft engines and practised on the real stuff – a P&W 4000 series engine for Boeing planes. I’m aspiring to be a pilot and this training is certainly a big plus towards my dream. The people at P&W Beijing were really nice. There were 30 of us there and when our birthdays fell during the six-week period, they would get a cake and celebrate with us! This is a privilege that only SP aeronautical students get 😊. And oh yes, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to practise my dusty Mandarin!
Sixteen of us went for this trip and it was the first time to China for most of us. Our main task was to improve the lives of the villagers, some of whom were badly affected by the massive earthquake in 2008. Most of their activities took place at an old folks' home, a Centre for the handicapped and a primary school. Some of the kids are orphans whose parents were killed in the earthquake. We taught simple handicrafts to the old folks and painted a mural that symbolised the link between Singapore and Dujiangyan. My biggest lesson was adaptability to an unfamiliar environment. During the home visits, the living condition was a far cry from what we are used to in back home.

Yan Chang says:

The moment that left an indelible impression on me was the visit to the Bei Chuan Earthquake Zone, a the first time for all of us. Buildings destroyed during the earthquake were left as they were to show the magnitude of the disaster. For young people like us, it was a sight that would make us cherish living in Singapore, an earthquake-free zone. I’ve learnt to be grateful for even the most simple of things. In Singapore, we always complain about everything. After this trip, especially visiting the rural areas, I’ve learnt not to take for granted the good life we have.

Lydia says:

Interview by writer Esme Khoo, Diploma in Media and Communication.

WHO: Chua Yan Chang, Second Year student, Diploma in Accountancy and Lydia Lim, Second Year student, Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management

WHAT: Overseas community service

WHERE: Dujiangyan, an earthquake-affected zone in Sichuan, China

Shattered building in Dujiangyan, a first-time sight for SP students

Yang Chang and Lydia painted a mural in an old folks' home to symbolise relationship between Singapore and Sichuan.
SIFE stands for Students in Free Enterprise. It is an international non-profit organisation that works with business leaders and tertiary institutions to engage students in social enterprise projects and nurture them into socially responsible leaders.

The SP SIFE Team scored victories at the SIFE Singapore Competition in 2008, 2009 and 2011. It gave them participation rights in the SIFE World Cup held in Singapore, Berlin and Kuala Lumpur respectively.

In 2011, the SP SIFE Team initiated revenue-generating activities for an organisation in India that looks after needy children.

**WHO:** SP SIFE Team (Students in Free Enterprise) Team

**WHAT:** Participate in SIFE World Cup Finals 2008, 2009 and 2011

**WHERE:** Singapore, Berlin and Kuala Lumpur

**Sp Team at the SIFE World Cup 2011 in Kuala Lumpur.**

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The SIFE journey has opened my eyes to the world of social enterprise. I might not get this experience anywhere else if I did not join SP. You would never realise the amount of impact and change you can bring to others through the simple means of setting up a system for them, teaching them the necessary skills and thereafter letting them run everything on their own. Being exposed to other countries was a priceless experience. I begin to realise that going out of Singapore makes the world seem smaller. Countries are more inter-dependent on one another. I benefitted from being exposed to entirely different environments, meeting people from entirely different backgrounds and learning and applying what I've learnt in school to help the communities.

*Says Patrick Tay Yan Sheng, Final Year, Diploma in Biomedical Science and a member of the SP SIFE Team 2011:*

SIFE has opened my eyes to a world of opportunities that is within our grasp to make the earth we live in a better place. The journey has made helming my own social enterprise or at the very least, being part of one, one of my future ambitions.

*Says Vaishnaivi Naidu, Second Year, Diploma in Business Information Technology and a member of SP SIFE Team 2011:*
WHO: Leong Hei Kern, Second Year, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

WHAT: Robocon, an annual overseas robotics competition organised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Tokyo Institute of Technology

WHERE: Shanghai in 2010 and MIT (Boston) in 2011

Twice in a row, SP Engineering Scholar Leong Hei Kern was sent by the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) to take part in the International Robot Design Contest Robocon, organised since 1991 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Tokyo Institute of Technology. It was held in Shanghai last year and this year in MIT, Boston. Hei Kern was the only poly student among the Singapore team.

Hei Kern says:

Because Robocon is an international competition where we were put into groups with people from various nationalities, our approaches to solve problems were slightly different. With two years of Robocon, I got to work and network with the world’s future engineers! In our globalised world, being able to work with an international team is of paramount importance; a skill which I am lucky to have gained through two Robocons. Even till this day, I kept in contact with my Robocon team mates. One of them from China is currently pursuing his Master's in Japan! Who knows maybe I would be able to work with them on projects in the future.

I hope to be a research design engineer in future. I believe future products will be based on technical innovations and good designs. I would really love to study in SUTD as it would provide me with exactly the kind of education I need to fulfil my dreams. I have a particular interest in transportation. I feel that current transportation methods have much room for improvements and I would want to be the change that makes future transport, faster, safer and more efficient, not to mention greener!

It’s hard to put into words how these overseas exposures have benefitted me. There is nothing like experiencing it yourself. Trust me, you will never regret an overseas trip with SP!!!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Besides Robocon, Hei Kern also went to Boston for the Harvard United Nations Model Conference. This is a special trip for SP students under the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme where, together with university students from around the world, they played diplomats to discuss world issues. That was not all. The socially conscious Hei Kern also went to Inner Mongolia to plant trees so as to stop the desert from gaining new grounds.

Hei Kern (5th from left) and Team Singapore at the famed MIT Dome.
For three weeks, Darren Ong attended business lessons in University of Washington, an arrangement made possible under the overseas credit transfer programme for SP students. Besides classroom knowledge, he benefitted also from the company trips arranged by the university. Among them were Starbucks and Microsoft.

Darren says:

A typical day starts at 8.30am. We stayed in a nearby hotel and walked 10 minutes to the uni. The lessons usually lasted one and a half hours with small breaks in between. We learned about creativity and innovation in the first few days, how to develop new business ideas. The module covered aspects like marketing, finance, human resource and American law. We had to do a project as well.

There was time to go sightseeing. We visited the Space Needle, the must-see observation deck in Seattle; Pike Market Place which had an amazing range of seafood; and watched the Washington Seattle played California in an American football match. What was most interesting to me were the visits to Starbucks headquarters. We could see the staff working on new product designs. Did you know the girl in the Starbucks logo is a character from Moby Dick called Siren? We learned that! Starbucks staff are called partners, that’s very motivational for them. There was an extensive Q&A session and we asked all that we always wanted to know. I asked them how they fire their staff; the reply was “we promote them to customers”.

We also visited Microsoft. I asked if the staff are allowed to carry iPhones. The answer was “Yes, but the boss wouldn’t be too happy”. We found out that the Xbox Kinect was developed there. There was also a gallery that showcased all the PC technology – from the first computer, the old phones to the latest. The trip has given me a lot of ideas on how to start my business. When I returned, I actually started writing out my business plan.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Darren, together with course mate Lee Qi Ni, was also the champion team at the Fedex International Trade Competition 2011 opened to poly and junior college students. They marched into the world finals held in Bangkok, came in second and took home US$3,000.
The overseas trip includes an immersion programme at Politecnico di Milano, a university established in 1863 and known for its programmes in architecture and design.

WHO: 30 Final-Year students from the Diploma in Architecture
WHAT: Two-week overseas experiential architecture study trip
WHERE: Milan, Turin, Rome and Venice in Italy

Italian architecture, old and new, became study objects for SP’s Architecture students in this overseas programme.

SP’s Architecture students have read from textbooks about the Colosseum and the Piazza del Duomo, both famous architectural landmarks in Italy. But seeing the real thing was an awesome experience and definitely one of the highlights of this overseas learning trip.

Jawara Alba says:

Now I know that buildings there are designed closed-up because of the cold weather whereas in Singapore we need more ventilation. The Italians are good in aesthetics and their suburbs are prettier though they are mostly only five-storey high. It's not possible to hand-craft the entire side of a 20-storey building in Singapore.

Jemina Poh says:

Italy has a long history but Singapore is just half a century old. We try to mass produce buildings to meet accommodation needs but the Italians aligned their designs to their culture. We are monotonous though contemporary and inclined to having renowned architects on our projects. Things are a little dreamy in Italy. Their modern buildings blend in nicely with their older buildings and don’t stick out like sore thumbs.

Interview by writer Kylie Chia, Diploma in Media and Communication.
Se Eun is also the Captain of SP's Women Volleyball team and has led her team to championship at this year's POLITE Games. Her sporting genes are probably inherited from her father, Jang Jung, who was a famous footballer playing for the Singapore team during the 90s.

WHO: Jang Se Eun, Final Year student from the Diploma in Biotechnology

WHAT: Six-weeks overseas industrial attachment programme

WHERE: Seoul Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea

Interview by SPRI writer Shamus Lee, Diploma in Biotechnology.

Se Eun says:

This internship is memorable to me because I sourced it myself. I was looking for an international exposure in life sciences; and since I'm from Korea, so why not return home for this one in a lifetime experience? It wasn't an easy task. I had to contact several universities before getting a place in the laboratory. But the experience was worth the trouble.

"I was attached to the Seoul Women's University's Biotechnology department and participated in their therapeutic research project to differentiate stem cells for curing diabetic patients. I also conducted tests on rats to evaluate the effectiveness of research drugs. The lab experience was invaluable and amazing as I also learned new techniques and approaches in life science research works. That was not all. I also had to review scientific journals and gave a presentation to the heads and professors from my lab in Korean!

"My parting gift was a special lab-coat from a professor. I'm feel really proud each time I put it on."
WHO: Jonathan Tan Ze Sheng, SP Scholar and Graduate from the Class of 2011, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

WHAT: Worldskills Competition 2011 where he won a Medal

WHERE: London, United Kingdom

Jonathan says:

“I joined SP under the DPA (Direct Polytechnic Admission) Programme and was introduced to Mr Leong Teng Boon, who became my WorldSkills coach. He showed me different engineering drawings they captivated my attention. Honestly, I never thought of making it this far and bringing home a medal from an international competition.

“I took part in the Mechanical Engineering Design – CAD category and won a Silver Medal. I trained for this for three years. Winning the Gold Medal at the local leg was a big confidence booster. It was an amazing feeling to be able to compete at my age on the international arena with more than 1,000 competitors. It’s definitely something I’m very proud of. At the same time, it was an eye-opening experience to see so many like-minded youths competing together. The high level of skills in this competition could literally blow off your mind!”

The peak was definitely standing on stage to receive the medal, the overwhelming feeling of seeing the fruit of my labour paying off. It was indescribable. I’m now doing national service, and plan to take up the DSTA Overseas Scholarship offer and study at Cambridge University.

EDITORS NOTE: In the October issue of SPirit (Story: My SP Scholar Journey, pg 34, Jonathan’s surname was incorrectly given as Lim instead of Tan. We are sorry for the error.
We are a hungry bunch of student creatives, armed with a passion for design and diving head first into the creative industry. Our recent foreign adventure: LONDON.

Along with quaint architecture and cobbled back alleys, London is absolutely charming. Think arts, entertainment and fashion. It’s London alright, a bustling metropolitan developed from its once medieval core.

You would feel as though you have always belonged there, even though it had only been a week. London’s vast learning opportunities will leave you in awe, yet feel totally at ease in its beauty.

The London Design Festival was the main event of our entire trip, and its takeaways were bountiful.

SKEW STUDIO
THE CURIOUS WORLD OF SKEW

Is there a warmer welcome than one from Skew? It is a cozy design studio and all the staff seem like family.

They held a branding clinic and print workshop for kids and adults alike. We had a fun learning experience at Skew Studio with activities like screen printing and shadow puppet demonstrations.

MIND OVER MATTER:
ALAN FLETCHER’S THE ART OF LOOKING SIDEWAYS

A book is never just a book, it is a sum of years of refining and thinking, obsessions and ideas. Ten years into the book’s success, Alan goes into exhibiting a visual documentation of his raw thought processes and observations. With an almost random selection of articles, sketches and anecdotes seemingly straight out of his mind, Alan comes off as a warped genius.
We were given a rare opportunity to visit one of London’s most iconic advertising agencies, and it did not let us down. Alex West, Head of Talent & Partnership at Mother gave us a guided tour of the agency and a run down on their most successful advertising campaigns and the attitude they adopt, that has led to their overwhelming success.

Every 3-4 weeks, their seating arrangements are shuffled around on a massive table and no one has an exclusive office to his or herself. This simple idea has led to good communication and exposure between colleagues.

"We don't have barriers. Even if you're in finance or illustration, the ambition is all the same; to get good work out."

- Alex West
Head of Talent & Partnership, Mother London

We were able to speak with course director, David Phillips and Head of Marketing and Admissions, Jamie Hobson. David showed us their students’ past works and gave a quick tour around the campus. Through our dialogue, we also gained valuable insights on the design industry outside of Singapore.

Tate Modern was arguably one of the most riveting visits in our trip. We were able to view iconic works by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. We are pretty sure that everyone went back inspired and with a wider knowledge of various art movements, from Cubism to Minimalism.

If only we had more time to soak up all the creative juices of Nobrow. We all had a great experience leafing through their publications and it had all in all, a different kind of takeaway.

Down at the basement of Nobrow, lies Ben Newman’s solo exhibition, “Masks”.

Inspired by ceremonial masks, it is a series of tactile illustrations and vivid prints combined with 3D pieces of geometric masks. In a culture where modern art and design thrives, Ben’s work showed us that tradition can be as powerful and stimulating when shown in a different perspective.

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Head of Talent & Partnership, Mother London

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Tate Modern was arguably one of the most riveting visits in our trip. We were able to view iconic works by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. We are pretty sure that everyone went back inspired and with a wider knowledge of various art movements, from Cubism to Minimalism.

If only we had more time to soak up all the creative juices of Nobrow. We all had a great experience leafing through their publications and it had all in all, a different kind of takeaway.

Down at the basement of Nobrow, lies Ben Newman’s solo exhibition, “Masks”.

Inspired by ceremonial masks, it is a series of tactile illustrations and vivid prints combined with 3D pieces of geometric masks. In a culture where modern art and design thrives, Ben’s work showed us that tradition can be as powerful and stimulating when shown in a different perspective.

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SP is the first polytechnic in Singapore. Being the oldest poly doesn’t make it less hip. In fact, SP is a very happening place. Step into the Dover Road campus and you will be awed by its lush greenery and awe-inspiring learning and social spaces. The makeover is not just cosmetic. It goes beyond the physical to transform the way we teach and learn. It’s our passion. **SPRIT** writers Nicholas Lam and Shamus Lee give you the rundown on the A to Z of SP.
The typical timetable is not chock-a-block that leaves you breathless. There are the occasional breaks to let you recharge yourself on campus after lectures. There are no classes on Wednesday afternoons. So, you can chill-out, play tennis or loose yourself jamming in the studio. For longer breaks, look out for the mid semester breaks and vacations! Nothing beats a well-deserved break. Woo hoo!

For those of you who are new, you might just find SP a maze. Fret not. SP has an amazing suite of apps – SP Buzz on the latest happenings. SP Timetables to manage your lessons and exams. My personal favorite is the SP Cam. It provides live feeds of the human traffic at different hotspots in SP like the foodcourts! Cool ya! What’s more they were developed by our very own students and staff. Way to go!

Apps

Ever heard of “Clubbing for Character?” Weird as it sounds, it’s probably true. SP believes sports, clubs, and societies complement your academic training. It will help you build character and live well. With more than 130 CCA Clubs, I’m sure you will find one that suits you.

If not, march to the Department of Student Development office and tell them you want to start your own club. Just make sure you find enough buddies who share your interest. By the way, we have the best Cheerleading and Dragonboat teams among the polys. No joke, SP’s number one and we intend to stay on top.
Design Thinking (DT) is a new, game-changing approach to teaching and learning. It’s meant to equip you to look at wicked problems with new eyes and to tap on your imagination to generate user-centric solutions. SP partnered the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, a world leader in Business Design, to train our lecturers. The team has since developed a new Diploma in Business Innovation & Design and introduced the tool all SP students. Yippee!

For those who live to eat and not eat to live, SP is your haven. With six food-courts, four cafes, one restaurant and even a School of Coffee, there’s no lack in variety to fill your growling tummy. The only poly to have a Starbucks is SP, and you get 10% discount some more. Burger King, Kentucky, McDonald’s, Subway, Ya Kun… we will continue to grow the list. Sorry if we make you burp during lectures.

Let’s face it, many people think poly students are unfit. That’s why we rolled out the Sports for Life programme. But don’t worry, it’s not a run-of-the-mill PE lesson and we won’t ask you to run round the field five times. You can choose to take up golf, swimming, and even lessons in kickboxing. Cool, isn’t it? With a fully-equipped gym, Olympic-sized pool, exercise stations and many more opportunities to make sports a part of your life, you will be kept fit in mind, body and soul.

Poly education is not just about absorbing knowledge from textbooks. In SP, we offer authentic learning, meaning you will experience doing the real thing. You will create a new engineering invention. You may start and run a business. For scientific research, we even send out students to top universities like Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale to learn from world-renowned professors. This is how SP makes it possible. Really!
Facilities

Most of your classes are conducted either in the lecture theatres (LT) or classrooms. And now we even have a suite of studios on campus. Many of our LTs have been given a major facelift. Imagine a cinema with brighter lights! Pop by our libraries and study corners. Borrow Avatar DVD or Blue-ray and watch them with your friends. Alternatively, bond with your new found friends over a board game. Yes!

Green

Did you know that SP is the only tertiary institution to win the President’s Award for the Environment? Ahem! Indeed, we have one of the greenest campuses in Singapore. We have trees that are more than 100 years old and you can check them out via a Heritage Trail! Enjoy the new social spaces such as the EcOasis and Sanctuary. They are there for you to rest, relax, chat or simply chill. Just remember to keep them clean ;)

Journey

At SP, learning is not a routine but a journey. In your first year, SP meets you where you are – whether you are strong or struggling – to help you reach out and search for what motivates you. Acquire the passion to do and work will no longer be work but a joy. Once you hit second gear, stretch yourself. Dream and aspire to be the best you can be. When you hit third gear, life would be meaningless if there is no purpose. Challenge yourself to go beyond and serve with heart. Simply go M.A.D. and Make A Difference. By then, you would have grown from being a freshie to a confident and accomplished young adult ready to take on the world.

Knowledgeable Lecturers

SP has a pool of cool and dedicated lecturers. They are more than the Masters and PhD degrees they hold. What's more important is they care - sometimes, more than you and I think. They seasoned their breath of knowledge with many years of experience to teach and spur you to acquire character, competence and chemistry. They will help you to become T-shaped – one who is versatile and demonstrate mastery in your chosen discipline. Besides giving you a listening ear, they are also fun-loving and you can even add them to your Facebook.

Library

Our two libraries are not just big rooms with rows and rows of books. At Colours in the Main Library, you can borrow the latest DVDs, play board games or read up on the latest magazines while sipping your favourite drink from Hotshot Café. The Hilltop Library has cool and colourful furniture for you to study comfortably. And of course, there are plenty of quiet study areas for you to get some serious work done.
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With a long history of almost 60 years, SP has the strongest network of more than 165,000 alumni. Our Alumni Relations Office organises regular events for you to learn from fellow alums who have since become industry captains. Many of our alumni contribute actively. They believe in the glad-to-give spirit – sharing success stories, giving scholarships and bursaries, or providing internships. They are truly SP’s pride.

We want our SP students to work hard and play hard. Besides the fantastic recreational facilities in campus, there are several quiet places for you to do your school work or discuss projects with your course mates. Study areas such as the SPectrum, Sanctuary and the newly renovated Concourse next to the ECOasis are excellent places for doing school work. During exam periods, more spaces are open to you if you prefer to study in campus.

This is an important word for SP students. During your three years here, we will train and groom you to be life ready, work ready and world ready. Whether you plan to further your studies in the university or start work, the SP diploma will hold you in good stead.

Want to be an SP Scholar? Do well for your ‘O’ levels and you can apply to be a scholar when you get into SP. There are several scholarship types for you to choose from. And there’s also the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme where SP grooms you to be the well-rounded leaders of tomorrow.
Every SP student has the opportunity to go overseas. It could be a study trip in London or a sports competition in Hong Kong. What about a credit transfer programme in the United States or a competition in Egypt? Perform community service in Vietnam? Yes, these meaningful overseas exposure experiences are all there for you to exploit. Didn’t we say we want you to be ready for the world? We take this seriously!

Say Hi to the super friendly and approachable SP Principal when you meet him on campus. He is often spotted chatting with students and staff. If you want to know him better, add him to your Facebook.

With the Dover MRT literally at our doorstep, getting to SP is a breeze. Now, with the Circle Line in full operation, you can change train at Buona Vista interchange which is only one stop away. Rain or shine, you can move around campus easily. Other than the MRT, the SP campus is also connected with three bus stops serviced by many bus routes.

Besides Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University and the newly-set up Singapore Institute of Technology and the Singapore University of Technology and Design, SP graduates have also made it to famous overseas universities like Cambridge, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Our graduates have also been accepted into Law, Dentistry and Medicine. You can be one of them too!

Lecture notes and academic documents are hosted on Blackboard, SP’s e-learning platform. All SP students are also provided with a personalised campus email address for communication purposes. Oh, did you know that blackboard has an application for your mobile devices? With a smart phone, you are well connected with your learning in SP. Learn how to exploit technology for your learning journey on page 31.

The entire SP campus is wireless. You can stay connected via our high speed, state-of-the-arts wireless infrastructure through your notebook, iPads or smart phones! You can tweet or Facebook everywhere, even when you are in the toilet! But please pay attention during class.

At SP, it’s So Possible!

The SP campus is full of zest! There’s just so much vibrancy from the studios to the labs, the food courts to the skate park and the gym. So if you are looking forward to a fun and vibrant learning environment for the next three years, hop on to the SP Experience. It’s zany too.
Special Percolation

Is it ever possible to convert a coffee hater to coffee lover? Some students from the Diploma in Food Science and Technology became new caffeine converts after a series of experiments to develop new coffee blends, the first among poly students here.

A Coffee Class Act

According to tales of yore, an Arabian shepherd named Kaldi found his goats prancing delightedly around a dark green-leaved shrub with bright red cherries. He soon determined that the source of all the commotion was the cherries. After he took a bite, Kaldi felt an overwhelming well of power springing forth inside him. Henceforth, humans learned about this humble bean.

From the coffee cherries of Africa to the grinders of 17th century Viennese Kaffeehausen, and canned coffee now in convenience stores, the history of coffee has had a rich and bitter tang. It has become a commodity valued and revered in present ages for its miraculous properties of reviving senses.

Perched on a hill in SP where InnoVillage stands, there is a School of Coffee started by Tony Tang, the owner of Coffee Culture who is also an artisan roaster and supplier of coffee beans. Despite the relatively low profile, the School of Coffee has been doing a brisk business ever since its launch in 2010. It has also quietly roped in final-year students from the Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) to develop new coffee blends which were finally unveiled to the media in November.

The first two new blends to be launched were Sing Kaffee and Love Letter Latte. The former has a strong flavour and leaves behind a bitter but pleasant aftertaste; whilst the latter is possibly the first latte blend with a local twist – love letter flavouring!

Student Lim Zi Xi, who was involved in the project, said, “Working with Tony exposed us to the world of coffee. We began as students drank iced mocha or frappuccino without second thoughts. Some of us even disliked drinking coffee. However, we gradually became connoisseurs who would nit-pick at the smallest detail like the temperature of a latte.”

Tony also taught them how to appreciate coffee from different regions and the various methods of brewing, while coaching them to develop the new blends.

Another group of students, who formed themselves into the Pairing Department, worked on developing suitable desserts and food that would pair well with coffee. Their creations, like the coffee blends, wowed the visitors at the launch who unanimously gave the thumbs-up for the cheese, black sesame and salted mandarin chocolate flavoured macaroons.

Interview by writer Bernard Lim, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media.
For at least four months, I was running a long marathon with this amazing group of youth and mentors. Way back in July, we were unsure of how we were going to pull off this event, let alone be able to find help. One thing for sure though - we were determined to organise TEDxYouthDay Singapore 2011.

During the early stages of planning and preparation, our weekly meetings seemed more like hangout sessions with a bunch of friends. We had no idea what was in for us. Everything was all hunky-dory. We had meetings, came up with ideas and then cool off for the day - smooth and easy.

Then it got closer to the event day. The initial pitch for the theme that we spent weeks planning was quickly rejected. It was back to the drawing board for us. Within weeks, one worry followed with another. Firstly, we wondered if we could get speakers. Secondly, could we secure a good venue? Thirdly, we worried about getting attendees. So we had to find solutions for these worries. And it was bad enough that most of us had other commitments.

With perseverance, we fought on! We managed to secure fine speakers. We got a great venue - the Microsoft Auditorium at One Marina Boulevard. Best of all, the event was over-subscribed! YES!

As the Head of Curatorial for the TEDxYouth Singapore team, my responsibilities included taking care of the speakers and rehearsals. I had the pleasure of co-heading the curatorial team with fellow SP student Abdul Rasyid from the Diploma in Media and Communication. Without him, I would probably be crushed out by the immense pressure of liaising and communicating with contacts under our curatorial considerations.

The experience of being on the organising team of TEDxYouthDay Singapore 2011 is like no other. Although made up of youth from various disciplines, we had a good chemistry. It did not take long before we started making jokes with one another. Getting to know the speakers too has shaped this amazing experience. Having to work around their busy schedules, I have learnt that it takes patience and clear communication to keep them updated and enthuse them on being a part of the TEDxYouth Singapore family.

It was a roller-coaster ride for us but I am sure we would love to take another shot if given the chance. I mean, TEDx is a world renowned platform for showcasing ideas. Being able to be a part of organising TEDxYouthDay is already a big honour. Hoping and praying… TEDx will come to Singapore soon.

Try Sustrino is a second year student from the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media.
Teenagers like you will squeal in delight when you know that SPELL stocks an interesting range of street wear including fashion apparel and accessories. Since the range of clothes and accessories are brought in by the students themselves, you bet they know what you want. Prices are affordable. You can get a leather purse form just $7 or $99 for a jacket. And that’s before the discounts when there are promotions!

SPELL is the combined effort of about 100 students taking various courses in SP, ranging from business administration, communications, accountancy and even electrical engineering. The students are wholly responsible for the operations of the 54sqm outlet – from product sourcing and determining the retail mix, to preparing to get the store up and running, and sustaining its business in the long run. In short, this means getting the real entrepreneurial experience!

A unique experience at SPELL is the Magic Mirror created by Motorola. If you hate the hassle of trying on different dresses in a tiny changing room, this innovation makes fitting a breeze. You can see how you look like in the dress that you like without actually trying them on.

Gavin Ting, a recent graduate from SP’s Diploma in Business Administration, counts the practical experience as the highlight of his three years at SP. “I gained invaluable experience in areas such as enterprise development, sourcing, risk taking, and even building relationships with suppliers and customers. Setting up SPELL has given me a taste of what to expect once when I get into the real world,” says Gavin who will be pursuing a double degree in accountancy and business at Nanyang Technological University after his national service.

SPELL IS LOCATED AT B2-52/53
SPELL is located at B2-52/53, Terminal 3, Singapore Changi Airport. Opening hours are from 10 am – 11 pm. For enquiries, email info@spellverve.com. Join SPELL on Facebook www.facebook.com/spellverve
Technology is changing so fast that it will become a bane or boon to you if you don’t exploit it to your advantage. SPIRIT resident techie Terence Yeo from the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services shows you how to maximise learning on campus using your gadgets.

Before joining SP, you probably thought that it would be so hip and cool to carry a laptop to school. Soon enough, you will realise that lugging a device weighing 2kg or more is not as fun as you had thought. You also wished that your smartphone and tablet devices could do more for you. Well, you can if you want to. Here are some applications that you can use to make learning a breeze!

**SP mobile applications**
Life in SP has is very much simplified. There is a range of mobile and tablet apps to keep your timetable, library notices and the campus map in your pocket.

**Notepad**
Using the notepad application on your phone is a good way to take down quick notes in class. You can also sync these notes and reminders with your laptop to make sure you don’t forget any of these things.

**Email**
All SP students are given a school email. You may find it a hassle to have another email account since you already have your own Hotmail or Gmail. But the SP account is where you official get your mails from your lecturer and other departments. It also allows collaboration through an online suite to share documents and calendars. With the large inbox size, you need not delete any important mails anymore.

**DropBox**
Project work normally involves multiples files to be shared with your group mates. And it’s definitely messy with all the updates and revisions to your power point and spread sheet presentation. Use the Dropbox. Just drop files into the Dropbox, and voila! the latest file will be synced to your group mates. But always remember to rename your new files to avoid confusion.

**Google Docs**
Looking for a way to collaborate with other users using the same platform? Check out Google Docs which allows users to upload files to Google’s server. It enables live editing and you can also conduct surveys using Google Docs’ Spreadsheet, where a form can be created and results are available in Excel format or charts.

**Facebook**
This has gone beyond socialising and connecting with your good old secondary school pals or finding new friends. Many SP lecturers have a FB account and you can join in to post questions on your modules. Sometimes, other course mates would also pitch in to give you solutions. Cool huh? The official SP FB is updated so regularly that you won’t missed out on the latest SP happenings.

**Twitter**
Whenever you need to get the latest update or blast for your project, you can stay on Twitter to get the latest news tweets! If your your class rep is on twitter, he can also instantly update everyone on any school related updates! Even more efficient than SMS, some would say.

**Video**
Some things can’t be explained with mere words. Why not make a simple video with your smart phone and share it as a video file or upload it to Youtube if it takes up too much space on your phone. There are some Do It Yourself and tutorial videos on Youtube where you get step-by-step guide how on how to edit videos.
Our Graduates
In 2011, SP graduates clinched prestigious scholarships for their

ASMI - MARINE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
- Foo Seok Hwee • Siow Zi Wei
- See Xue Bing • Teo Teck Wee

A*STAR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OVERSEAS)
- Lim Yok Zuan

A*STAR PRE-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OVERSEAS)
- Yanwei Noel
- Tan Yang Yi Sean
- Teo Chengxu Delon

CHARLES A. AND JACKIE SWENSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
- Xu Junjie Kevin

DESIGN SINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP
- Justin Tan Wei Yang

DSTA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OVERSEAS)
- Tan Ze Sheng Jonathan

GOH CHOK TONG YOUTH PROMISE AWARD
- Izzaty Binte Ishak

LKY-STEP AWARD
- Kareen Thian Pei Yee

NAGOYA UNIVERSITY / JAPAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATON OF SINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP
- Khoo Yong Jian

MDA MEDIA EDUCATION SCHEME
- Koh Wen Xin Stephanie • Low Jun Feng Evan • Lye Siew Hong James
- Tan Mingwen Mandric • Yeo Wei Ming Gavin

MDA MEDIA EDUCATION SCHEME (OVERSEAS)
- Vicki Lau

LTA OVERSEAS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Laught Thomas • Shawn Christopher

MOE TEACHING AWARD
- Vihasini Gopakumar

MOE TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP
- Low Wei Qian Clement

NATIONAL INFOCOMM SCHOLARSHIP (IDA)
- Ang Ming Yi • Chew Yan Chong
- Quek Jie Ping • Teh Qin Chuan
- S Jai Kishan

NTU ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Boey Kai Ming • Chia Pei Shan • Gan Ting Sheng
- Kelvin Khoo Kuok Yao • Lim Cha Sheng • Nicholas Chan Kit Joo
- On Ching Mun
- Tan Wen Hao • Tung Yit Xiang
- Wong Lan Li

NTU COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
- A Saravanan
- Chong Tianji • Goh Khoon Kwee
- Ho Jun Yi • Kan Lei Kuen May • Kok Yi Zhi Lendi • Lim Yong Mei
- Low Wan Ping • Lynette Liew Sin Yee • Nim Jing Xiang
- Quek Jian Hong Joel
- Tan Shu Jio • Sharon Tan Wei Ping • Woo Zhi’er Tornoko

NTU NANYANG SCHOLARSHIP
- Chiang Yu Siang
- Sean Lee Teik Ren
- Kareen Thian Pei Yee
- Thenmugilan A/L Gandhy
- Ng Yi Ming

NTU NANYANG PRESIDENTS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Tan Yang Yi Sean

NTU UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP
- Ng Chek Yong • Ng Shi Ya

NTU WEE KIM WEE LEGACY FUND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Sarah Marlena Binte Malik

NUS KENT RIDGE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Ang Qing Zhong • Kuah Bee Chin
- Li Yan • Vivian Leow Hwee Teng • Sim Yi Han • Kuah Bee Chin • Wu Caishi • Valerie Leow Hwee Teng • Low Qiu Mei • Ang Qing Zhong • Boon Le Wei • Lim Jin Shun • Christina Quek Mei Ling

NUS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
- Steven Jude Peeris

NUS UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP
- Sandy Chew Yuan Li • Tan Tat Heng • Daniel Sim Rui Qiang • Calvin Neo Wei Lun

NUS YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
- Huang Pei Linde • Lai Jin Kun
Our Graduates   Our Pride 2011

In 2011, SP graduates clinched prestigious scholarships for their university degree and post-graduate programmes.*

• SCHOLARSHIP SIT-KEPPEL OFFSHORE & MARINE LTD
  • Ang Pei Yi

• SAF SCHOLARSHIP (AIR FORCE)
  • Wong Kok Keong
  • Mason See Jun Hong
  • Ho Hong Han

• SAF SCHOLARSHIP
  • Chua Wei
  • Zheng Lloyd

• SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
  • Mustafah Kamal

• SIT-TH/STHE LLOYS REGISTER EDUCATIONAL TRUST - MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Chew Yin Yi Clara
  • Choy Kam Loon

• SIT-MEDIA EDUCATION SCHEME
  • Yeo Wei Ming Gavin

• SIT-MINDEF - AIR FORCE
  • Ong Lian Hao William
  • Wong Jie Wei

• SIT-MINDEF - NAVY
  • Tan Wei Sheng Wilson

• SIT-SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD - MARINE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
  • Johnrin Kang Jon Keat

• SIT-ASMI MARINE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
  • Teo Teck Wee
  • Foo Seok Hwee
  • See Xue Bing
  • Siow Zi Wei

• SIT-SIT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
  • Yuliana

• SIT-OUE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Jane Ong
  • Siti Halimah Saadiah
  • Melissa Binte Mustaffa

• SMA-MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Ang Li Ern
  • Farhana Binte Samat
  • Hu Wenjia
  • Lim Hwee Ting Belinda
  • Nur Ashidah Binte Hisham
  • Nur Shahila Binte Mohamed Shariff
  • Ratna Tripathi
  • D/O Sant Prasad Tripathi
  • Sim Jing Xuan
  • Tan Yong Hui James

• SIT-FAIRMONT SINGAPAR & SWISSOTEL THE STAMFORD SCHOLARSHIP
  • Yuen Tong Ri

• URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP
  • Choo Pei Jing Charlotte
  • Lim Hao Wen

• SPRING EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP
  • Shen Weiping Herman

• ST KINETICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Hendri

• SUTD SCHOLARSHIP
  • M Sabareesh Nair
  • Yau Hin Meng Cedric
  • Leong Wei Heng Nigel
  • Lim Chen Pin Kenneth

• UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES GOLDEN JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Aggie Susanti Lawer
  • Daniel Lie Khin Ei Maung
  • Win Min Hein

• SIT-THE LLOYDS REGISTER EDUCATIONAL TRUST - MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP
  • Chen Yi Qian
  • Lim Jia Hui

• SMRT RENAISSANCE ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP
  • Chee Pei Nen

• SMU SCHOLARSHIP
  • Terence Lee
  • Koh Zhi Gang
  • Lian Hui Qin
  • Lim Jia Hui
  • Lim Zui Young
  • Daniel Pang Zhi Yuan
  • Sophia Lin Shufei

This list is by no means exhaustive as it is compiled based on notifications received from the graduates and the awarding universities / organisations.
Lloyd Chua Wei Zheng, a graduate from the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME), is all set to be a military leader with him clinching the SAF Merit Scholarship recently. The former student of Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road) will be heading to the prestigious University of Birmingham to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering, with an option to do a Master’s degree in his fourth year.

“I feel extremely proud to have been able to attain something I would have never thought I could achieve,” said Lloyd. His family’s connection to SP spans two generations. His father is also an SP alumnus who took the Diploma in Production Engineering which was the predecessor of the DME course. “So it might have been a subconscious influence back then for me to do mechanical engineering at SP,” he says with a smile.

It was his passion for engineering and a very fulfilling National Service (NS) experience that made him believe that the SAF Merit Scholarship would be a good step in his engineering career. “Having such a great experience in the engineering domain during my time in SP, I strongly believed that being an engineer in the SAF would help me serve both my personal interests and that of the country.”

Another SP alumnus, Kingsley Boey Qi Yi from the Diploma in Business Information Technology received the SAF Merit Scholarship last year. He will pursue a degree in Computer Science at University College London.

Lim Bing Xian from the Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Yi Hong from the Diploma in Aerospace Electronics have clinched the bond-free Motorola Scholarships for the current academic which come with a $2,500 award. They also have an edge when seeking employment with Motorola as their achievements are captured in the company’s Talent Search Database. Besides their excellent academic results, both are also active in CCAs. Bing Xian is now busy overseeing SP Engineering Show 2012 for the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Yi Hong is an active member of the Changi Youth Ambassador (CYA), besides volunteering at old folks’ homes and performing the Guzheng at charity events.

Said Yi Hong, “This scholarship will motivate me to maintain my GPA and pursue further studies after SP. I look forward giving back to the community once I begin my career. Now as a poly student, I will use my knowledge to help other students in their studies and share my experiences with them. I hope that one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals in the same way that SP has helped me.”

Bing Xian added, “I am all ready to share my experience with my juniors in EEE club and guide them on how to achieve excellence in both their studies and CCAs.”
The Dramatic Scholarship Winner

When Izzaty Binte Ishak chose the newly launched Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology diploma course three years ago, it was her mere passion that helped made her decision. Now, the bubbly 20-year-old is thankful that she made the right choice. She recently received the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award (Distinction) given by the Yayasan Mendaki. She also clinched the one and only Distinction Award for Overseas Study and is now furthering her studies in Applied Theatre at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London University.

Izzaty’s interest in applied drama started in secondary three at Kranji Secondary when created a play for a community service programme for a boy’s home. “From that project onwards, I knew very much that I want to combine both my interest in drama doing work for communities. The DADP course gave me many opportunities to work with different communities and organisations such as The Necessary Stage, Health Promotion Board and MINDS.”

When she completes her degree, Izzaty will return to start applied drama programmes for the Malay community as a channel to solve their problems.

Awards for Chemical Engineering Students

The Singapore Chemical Industry Council has given Awards to seven Diploma in Chemical Engineering students to recognise them for their academic excellence in 2010/2011. The top students from each year received $1,000 and the second and third top students from Year 2 and 3 each received $500. The recipients are: From Year 1 (in 2010) – Ng Pey Ling, Joaquin Tsu and Brandon Marc Boudville; Year 2 (in 2010) – Matthew James., Gavin Wong and Adin Sucipto; Year 3 (in 2010) – Tan Kian How.

Fast Track To Become Accountants

SP students taking the Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) can now become full-fledged chartered management accountants just three years after graduation. This is made possible under a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

This collaboration with CIMA, which is the largest professional body of management accountants in the world, will see DAC students graduating with an additional world-recognised diploma - CIMA Diploma in Management Accounting – if they complete CIMA’s Enterprise Operations paper. In addition, they will gain as many as nine exemptions from the CIMA professional exam even before they graduate. Thereafter, they can take up the advanced levels of the CIMA Professional Qualification in Management Accounting and work towards becoming chartered management accountants after working for a minimum of three years.

In Singapore, CIMA partners FTMSGlobal Academy to provide tuition on CIMA subjects. In supporting the collaboration, FTMSGlobal Academy also gives out two scholarships to DAC students.

Peter Lim Scholarships

Five SP sportsmen and sportswomen received a boost when they were awarded the Peter Lim Sports Scholarships. Established in 2010, the Scholarship aims to help promising young athletes achieve their goals in sports performance and support outstanding young athletes in their pursuit of sporting excellence. Four students received the scholarship under the Secondary / Tertiary category which comes with sponsorship of up to $2,000 per year. The recipients are: Ernest Chua, Diploma in Biomedical Science (Fencing), Gerann Ngiam, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Softball), Nur Fazlin Bte Juma’en, Diploma in Information Communication Technology (Silat) and Shaun Toh, Diploma in Engineering with Business (Rowing). National sailor Audrey Yong who is from the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design, received the High Performance Category scholarship which comes with sponsorship of up to $20,000 per year. She is taking a one year break from studies to concentrate on her sport.
Personal Rapid Transport Wins Multiple Awards

The young SP engineers who developed DIY-PRT (Personal Rapid Transport) took their invention a step further by winning the Student Design Challenge @ iCreate 2011 which was held in Bangkok.

It was invented by recent graduates from the Diploma in Computer Engineering - Kelvin Khoo Kuok Yao, A Saravanan and Cong Jianliang. Their invention won the Best Prototype and Peer’s Choice awards, besides gaining attention from the local media that includes the local TV news giving commentary and interviewing them. There was even an interested party who wanted to get exclusive rights to distribute the product!

This was not the only award that they got. The invention also clinched the Bronze Award at the IES (Institution of Engineers Singapore) Design Award 2011 and a Merit Award at the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors Award 2011.

The DIY-PRT, which has two wheels positioned laterally, serves as a pedestrian enhancement device to reduce travelling time primarily in urban settings over short or long distances. Users can move the device simply by leaning forward slightly while seated. You can check out the videos on this invention, just google DIY-PRT on Youtube.

A team comprising 2nd Year Diploma in Architecture and Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering students did SP proud by winning the Most Innovative Award and the Top 20 Finalist Award at the Philips’ Future Living Spaces in Singapore - Student Contest. Organised by Philips Singapore to celebrate its 60th anniversary, it was opened to students from local tertiary institutions to project their ideas on how to improve our lives 10 to 15 years from now.

The collaboration between the students form the two schools was seamless. There was cross-fertilization of ideas from differing but connected minds that spanned across design and practical considerations – from unconventional environmental built forms to ubiquitous daily products, with sustainable technology as a key element.

The Most Innovative Award, named ‘G-Float Residences, was submitted by architecture students Ho Wing Hong, Nur Syafiqah Masnor, Soh Zheng Xun and electrical and electronic student Khoo Ru Jun.

Their entry showcased technology that could provide hope for the increasing occurrence of natural calamities such as flash flooding, while relooking at how specific built forms can tap from and contribute to the environment.

The Top 20 Finalist Award was submitted by architecture student Bryant Lau Liang Cheng who revived the once-distinctive kampong spirit in our community. His idea was a system of Eco-Cubes that can be freely agglomerated to various housing configurations suited to the diversified needs of contemporary urban dwellers. This gives the inhabitants the freedom to define their domestic boundaries that might help to build up a social communal spirit.

The Most Innovative Award won a cash prize of $1,500 plus a Philips Sound Bar Home Theatre worth $1,399 while the Top 20 Finalist Award winner brought home a cash prize of $50 plus a Philips Headband headphone.
Best Performance Robot

SP continues its winning streak at robotic competitions. SP Team E3xcite from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering won a Gold Medal for Best Robot Performance (Tertiary Level) at the recent National Junior Robotics Competition (NJRC) organised by Science Centre Singapore and the Agency for Defence, Science Technology and Research (A*STAR). They competed with 48 other teams from the ITEs, Junior Colleges and Polytechnics.

SP sent four teams which comprised first and second year students. They had to build robots to retrieve, deliver and put in place coloured blocks in the correct locations on the competition board. Team E3xcite comprised students Chow Wei Yang from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Tan Shi Jie from the Diploma in Clean Energy and Tan Qin Hui from the Diploma in Computer Engineering. As the winning team, they get the chance to represent Singapore at the World Robot Olympiad in Abu Dhabi.

Irritating Noise Wins Gold

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic students Logendran Sugumaran, Muhammad Qayyum Bin Abdulrafi and Padmaguha Shanmugarajah scored the Gold Award at the Security Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) Challenge 2011 (ITE / Polytechnic category) organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The boys worked with the Bishan Neighbourhood Police Centre to develop the Sound Frequency Crowd Dispersal System which serves to address the problem of youths blocking fire exit routes. The remote-controlled system emits sound waves of about 15 kHz that is only audible only to those below the age of 40. The buzzing sounds will make people feel uncomfortable and move away.

Budding Entrepreneurs

At the Singapore Youth Enterprise Awards, a team of final-year students from SP Business School walked away with $2,000 cash and other prizes for emerging as first runner. The competition, organised by the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICCI), aimed to nurture entrepreneurial spirit amongst Singaporean youth aged between 17 to 26.

The competing teams came from the polytechnics and universities as well as budding entrepreneurs. Each team had to submit a business plan, make a five-minute pitch and field questions at a 30-minute Q&A session chaired by a panel of experienced entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

The SP team comprised Diploma in Business Administration students, Nazneen Moshina and Geraldine Quek Pei Qi, and Diploma in Banking and Financial Services student, Muhammad Imran bin Ridzuan. The team also benefitted from the contributions of two other DBF students, Tan Chi Koong and Lu Shi Xin.

Said Nazneen: “It was an awesome experience for us. I’ve learnt that we should trust our instincts and just give it our best shot when we’re nervous. The experience certainly boosted my confidence level!”
Young But Impactful

Students from the Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT) went in Taiwan to participate in the Journey to Achieve the Best Oral Presentation Award at the 4th International Conference on Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering held in Taiwan. It was hosted by the Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science, under the Department of Environmental Engineering and Science, Tainan, Taiwan. There were close to 200 participants from all over the world and SP participants were the only diploma students amongst the teams from other countries that comprised mostly professors, lecturers, researchers, PhD students and Master students.

Awards were given out to teams in two categories: Poster Presentations and Oral Presentations. One of the SP Teams comprising final year DEWT students, Ong Zhi Siong, Ericsson Tan and Darren Lee won the Best Young Scientist Oral Presentation Award for their presentation Removal of Methylene Blue onto Biochar of Wood Waste. The students received many compliments with many esteemed academicians surprised that they were so young yet knowledgeable.

During the trip, the students took the opportunity to visit the Kaotan Water Treatment Plant that boasts the largest integrated membrane system for tap water supply in the world; an incineration plant at Sustainable Environment Research Centre; the National Cheng Kung University and Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science.

Another group of eight students from the Diploma in Architecture also went to Taiwan for an international competition to build earthquake resistant building models using cheap materials such as low fibre boards, rubber bands and paper. The key objective of the competition was to raise students’ awareness on structural engineering and disaster mitigation. SP teams were the only ones from a polytechnic while the rest of the 40 teams came from top universities from countries like Japan, Korea and Indonesia. Despite their young age, they clinched the third and sixth prizes in the Undergraduate Category.

Discovering Architecture In China

Twenty-six architecture students went on a study trip to Beijing. Their itinerary included attending a series of informative lectures about China’s traditional architecture, history and culture conducted by staff from the Beijing Language & Cultural University. There were also trips to historical architectural sites around the city such as the Beijing Olympic Park, Forbidden City, Great Wall Of China, Nanluoguxiang and the 798 Art District. Apart from seeing with their own eyes China’s traditional architecture, the students also had a fun time discovering Chinese culture such as eating fried scorpions and bargaining prices at street markets.
Twenty students from the **Diplomas in Chemical Process Technology and Food Science and Technology** spent five weeks at the renowned Dublin Institute of Technology for an industrial attachment programme. They were given the options to pursue a wide range of projects, ranging from the use and development of aerogels and the chemical development of fingerprints, to the development and research of food products.

On weekends, they took in the sights of Ireland and visited must-see places such as the Cliff of Moher, Glendalough (the valley of two lakes), Wicklow the Book of Kells at the Trinity College of Dublin and watched the parade on Saint Patrick’s Day. They even dropped in at the headquarters of Guinness Stout but came out sober, of course!

Besides the Dublin Institute of Technology, SP’s life sciences students also go through exclusive research attachments with world class universities like Harvard, Imperial College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford and Yale.

**Sightseeing Mission**

Twenty three staff and students from the **Diploma in Optometry** went to Sri Lanka to provide basic eye care services in September. More than 400 natives were given eye screening and 105 of them received spectacles. Another team comprising 30 students and three lecturers embarked on a vision screening project for children in Batam, Indonesia where they screened more than 2,200 children.

“All of us are really grateful and thankful to be part of these community service efforts. We may have only done a small part, but I do hope that whatever we’ve done will impact the villagers in a big way,” said Danny Sim, an Optometry lecturer who led the trip.

Equipped with vision testing instrument and about 1,000 pairs of recycled glasses, the team checked on the children's eyesight in Sri Lanka. Those with poor eyesight had their prescription determined and optically corrected with the recycled glasses. For prescriptions that were not within the range of the recycled glasses, they were prepared in SP Optometry Centre and sent to them.

The students also checked for eye abnormalities, such as cataract, lazy eye, corneal scar, retinal diseases and serious cases were referred for medical attention. Despite facing a language barrier, the students were quick to adapt and found ways to communicate with the children. Other than gaining valuable and rewarding experiences in working with young children, the students also developed growth in their clinical skills.

**More Food Science & Technology Degree Grads**

The second batch of 35 students from the Bachelor in Food Technology degree programme offered by Massey University and hosted by SP graduated recently. Massey University’s Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health was chosen two years ago as the food technology degree provider for SP. It involves Massey staff teaching Singapore students, who have completed diploma studies at the polytechnic, for a two-year Bachelor in Food Technology (Honours) degree programme.

Among them were three who graduated with First Class Honours. All 29 graduates from the pioneer batch are happily employed, while one, May Wee, was awarded a PhD scholarship by Massey.

Wong Xin Yu, who is now an assistant food technologist at Nestle’s research and development centre, said she found the degree programme very intensive and well structured. “Food safety, processing technology and chemistry are useful knowledge which helped me a lot in my current job dealing with food product development work, where innovation is very important in this competitive industry.”
Cloud Learning

SP students will be amongst the first in tertiary students here to learn cloud computing, thanks to the launch of SPE³C³ (Singapore Polytechnic Electrical and Electronic Engineering Cloud Computing Centre). SP is the first educational institute in the Asia Pacific to equip its students with the latest skills in cloud computing through an operational data centre environment. Conceptualised by the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the SPE³C³ will provide academic staff and students with the capability to engage in sophisticated research and project works.

Setting up SPE³C³, which costs just over $2 million, will also enable SP to realise cost savings, energy efficiency and dynamic scalability. The Centre was developed in collaboration with technology industry leaders Cisco, Citrix Systems and NetApp. The resources will initially be available to students from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. It will later be accessible by all SP students in and outside of campus, as long as internet access is available.

“The new SPE³C³ shows SP’s commitment to innovation in education and the use of cutting edge technology to provide our students with relevant and up-to-date training to develop their skills in virtualisation, enterprise and cloud computing. SP graduates will be truly work-ready in the cloud era and could contribute immediately to the industry upon graduation,” said SP Principal, Tan Hang Cheong.

Students Abdul Haliq s/o Abdul Latiff, Tan Zhi Qiang and Adinda Ayu Savitri, all final year students from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, were one of the first to use the Centre. Haliq and Zhi Qiang are working on an Interactive Touchscreen Video Wall project that will allow social interaction among students, such as information sharing, promoting apps or media content that they have developed or publicising activities that they are organizing. Adinda and her project team are working on a Library Software Loan Portal project which will let students to check-out and test various software conveniently without modifying the files on their local hard disk as it is done on virtual machines.

New Module for Computing Engineering Students

In 2012, final year students in the Diploma in Computer Engineering course can look forward to two new elective modules – Data Centre Management and System Virtualisation - that will harness the power of the SPE³C³. These new courses are designed to educate and train them in the setup, management and support of data centres, virtualisation techniques (including server, storage and network virtualisation) and data recovery.

One Big Robotic Step Forward

SP and ST Kinetics (STK), the land systems arm of ST Engineering, jointly set up the SP-STK Robotics Laboratory to develop infrastructure-based navigation technologies for Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) applications. The collaboration will see STK and SP pool their expertise and resources together to research, design, test-bed and commercialise indoor and outdoor infrastructure-based navigation systems.

STK brings to this collaboration its core strengths in vehicle development and 10 years of experience in developing Unmanned Ground Vehicles for military applications. SP will be tapping on its expertise and experience in robotics engineering for the collaboration.

President of STK, Sew Chee Jhuen said, “The collaboration marks our commitment to research and develop advanced technologies to build innovative autonomous and robotics solutions for our customers.” SP Principal Tan Hang Cheong believes the partnership will offer SP students invaluable real-life learning opportunities. “Our students will benefit greatly from the opportunities to learn from an industry leader like ST Kinetics. It is a commitment to ensuring that our students are given the most relevant exposure in an authentic learning environment to prepare them for work in the robotics industry,” he added.

Located in SP campus, both parties are now developing three types of infrastructure-based navigation solutions: the Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and the Vision based navigation systems.
New High For Cyber Security

SP and e-Cop have jointly set up the region’s first Cyberwatch Competency Centre which will pave the way for collaboration in cyber security research and development projects between both parties. Through the Centre, students and educators from SP will work with e-Cop on real-world cyber security projects, granting them market-relevant experience that will groom the next generation of cyber security innovators and thought leaders for Singapore and the region.

Said Tan Hang Cheong, SP Principal, “The Centre will be a new learning space concept for our students from the Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM). Just as soldiers are trained in firing ranges before going onto the battle field, this new learning space will provide SP students with an authentic learning environment to train them in dealing with real-world security scenarios.”

Walter Lee, CEO of the e-Cop Group said, “Cyber security is of paramount importance to governments and corporations. This partnership with SP, which is being supported by Microsoft, will further build the cyber security capability and capacity in Singapore, increasing our resilience into the future.”

SP Recognised For Supporting NSmen

SP is one of four organisations that received the Home Team National Service Award this year. The Award recognised the achievements of employers who have over the years put in place an extensive range of schemes to enhance operational readiness, promote physical fitness and recognise the good performance of their NSmen employees.

Principal Tan Hang Cheong recently received the Award from the Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and the Minister for Home Affairs, Teo Chee Hean.

Mr Tan Hang Cheong promised that SP will continue to support and recognise our NSmen as they perform their duty to keep Singapore safe.

Published Papers By SP Graduates

Two recent SP engineering graduates Peh Ruijie and Lu Yanru, together with their lecturer Dr Kwan Wei Lek, had their paper titled “Vacuum-free processed transparent inverted organic solar cells with spray-coated PEDOT-PSS anode” published in the international scientific journal called Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells. It is a rare achievement for polytechnic graduates to be able to publish a paper in an international journal. Their success will pave the way for more SP students to work towards scientific research. Ruijie, who graduated this year from the Diploma in Clean Energy, also presented a paper at the International Conference on Materials for Advanced Technologies (ICMAT) which was attended by representatives from universities all over the world. He presented on his work which involved developing important processes to spray coat a water-based conductive ink onto a hydrophobic surface. He was the only polytechnic graduate to present his work while the rest of the presenters were either professors or PhD students from universities around the world.
With their One Heart One Stroke motto, the SP Dragon boat team swept away three major medals at the Malaysia International Dragon Boat Festival 2011 held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The boys clinched two golds for the Men’s Junior Under-23 Open (22-Crew) and the Junior Under-23 Mixed (12-Crew). A silver medal was also in their hands for the Men’s Junior Under-23 Open (12-Crew).

During the first season of POL-ITE Games played between the polytechnics and the ITE, our SP sports teams turned in astounding performances and clinched top positions which included Dragonboat, Chinese Chess, Wei Qi, Volleyball and Bowling (Singles, Doubles and Team categories). The second season of POL-ITE which ended recently saw more SP teams clinching the championship. The Squash Team came in first for both the men’s and women’s categories. In Badminton, Team SP came in first for the Women’s while the Men’s team took third place. Also in top position was the SP team in Men’s Table Tennis.

SP Teams also took part in invitation matches played against tertiary institutions. For Tchoukball, the Men’s Team took top placing while the women’s team fought courageously to take the second position. The Handball Team took the top position.
Long-running SP Legacy

Poly 50 Campus Relay has a long history that dates back to 1970 when SP was located at Prince Edward Road. The students then used to run 50 rounds along the classroom corridors and on muddy tracks and turf around the campus. The race moved to the Ayer Rajah Campus for one year in 1978 where the 50-round run was run around the workshops. It finally took place in the Dover Road Campus around the end of 1978 where secondary school students, SP students, alumni and staff ran around the Admin Block car park and workshops blocks 5 and 5A.

This year, Poly 50 was co-organised by the Department of Student Development and the Alumni Relations Office and it was more than just relay rounds. The Admin Block was turned into a carnival ground where participants and visitors helped themselves with food, drinks and games. There was also a Poly 50 Memory Wall where participants penned their thoughts on the event.