Top Grads from the Class of 2013

Simply the Best

• Emily Ho • Eric Ooi • Ho Keen Hoe • Nicholas Tei • Steven Ong

Hired Before Graduation: • Syahirah Nurdiyana • Ng Wan Ting

Grad Shows: Render 2013 and Edition 13.7

Suckies: A Business That Sucks and Succeeds
Get to know the top grads from the Class of 2013.

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Let me now share with you a remarkable thing that life has taught me about failure. I came into SP with two torn-up ‘A’ level result slips and shattered dreams. But SP taught me that failure is part of success too. Because you gain courage — and lose fear — and realise that you can fail, you can also recover and make every dream a reality. Fellow graduates, we may have received academic diplomas today, but do not forget that life is not all about grades. Often, we worry so much about achieving good grades and about what people may think of us, and we forget to live life itself. So go explore the world. Live every dream of yours as if each day is a miracle. Take the road less travelled if you must. But remember, whatever you do, if it’s not from the heart, it’s not worth doing. So put your hearts into your dreams and you will go places.”

“As a student, I was never fond of studying. But then, who was? Truth be told, I wasn’t the type of person who would take his studies seriously or top the class. When I was in secondary school, I had the opportunity to study all three sciences. However, I would always somehow forget to do my homework, and that’s probably because it didn’t interest me. I had a ten-year series for two years and not a single page was done. I had to drop these subjects in the end because 24 marks out of a 100 were not getting me anywhere. I didn’t have any expectation when I chose Singapore Polytechnic. However, I did ensure I studied something interesting for the next three years. I spent my first semester having fun, taking things lightly. Then, my first result slip came... I was both happy and disappointed. For a person who ignored his studies, my results were considered good enough, but I felt I could have done better. It was then I started making some commitments to myself, and it changed everything.”

Diploma in Business Information Technology
Class of 2013
Valedictorian for Graduation 2013

VAISHNAVI NAIDUD/O RAJENDRAN

Diploma in Information Communication Technology
Class of 2013
Valedictorian for Graduation 2013

JACKY LIM

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It is no mean feat finishing off the SP experience as top graduates. These eight fresh graduates clinched the coveted institutional medals that beautifully round off their holistic SP journey. Besides scoring distinctions and As for their modules, they have conscientiously made the effort to serve the less privileged communities. SPIRIT finds out more about these top grads with big hearts.
WHO AM I?
★ I’m a SP Scholar and was awarded the Model Student Award in 2013 and Outstanding Contribution Award (Individual) in 2012.
★ I love assembling robots and won several prizes including the IDC Robocon 2011 organised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where my team came in first.
★ For my internship, I did research work at the International Design Centre in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).
★ For my internship, I did research work at the International Design Centre in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).
★ I went to Harvard University for the United Nations Model Conference and returned with a great network of undergraduate friends from all over the world.
★ I was in Inner Mongolia for a community service trip where we planted 1,200 fir trees to help prevent desertification there.
★ I was the Vice President for the SP Enactus team (formerly known as SIFE) where we executed a social enterprise project for an Indian village.
★ Not many people know that I’m also into sailing and bowling.
★ My father is also a SP Mechanical Engineering alumnus and my sister is a freshie here.

MY NEXT STOP
★ I will be pursuing an engineering degree at the Singapore University of Technology and Design under the SUTD-MIT Global Leadership Programme Scholarship.
★ My aspiration is to become a product design engineer.

MY AWARDS:
★ Lee Kuan Yew Award
★ ETLA Gold Medal
★ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
★ Alfred Robert Edis Prize
★ OCBC Prize
★ The Institution of Engineers, Singapore Prize

AILETHEA
JOY HAN
HUI EN
Diploma in Perfumery
and Cosmetic Science
Alumna from Methodist Girls’ School

WHO AM I?
★ I’ve loved fragrances since young and tried to make my own rose perfume by soaking rose petals in water.
★ I was overjoyed when I found out during Secondary Four that SP would be launching the Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science. It naturally became my first choice after ‘O’ levels.
★ It’s a great honour to graduate top of the pioneer batch, after all, there is only one pioneer batch!
★ I won the Model Student Award in 2013 and received an Excellence Service Award in 2010.
★ I was in Oxford University (UK) for my lab research internship - truly an amazing experience that I would be more than willing to repeat anytime.
★ I went on a medical mission trip in Thailand with my church and it opened my eyes to a different world and made me realise how blessed I am. I will be there again this year.
★ My parents are so pleased with my achievements in SP that they are now telling their friends to send their children here.
★ Don’t you dare disturb me because I have a black belt in karate and was the Female Team Captain for SP Goju-Ryu Karate Club.

MY NEXT STOP
★ I have received scholarship offers from the local universities and also a place with the University of Edinburgh which I will most likely accept.
★ Ten years from now, I hope to be a successful perfumer and also mentor future students who want to be likewise.

MY AWARDS:
★ Chua Chor Teck Gold Medal
★ Lubrizol Gold Medal
★ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
★ Ajinomoto Singapore Award
★ Croda Singapore Award
★ Procter & Gamble Singapore Award
★ Taylors Award
WHO AM I?

I fell in love with drama and was in the pioneer batch which took it as an ‘O’ level subject. Having it combined with psychology is really fascinating.

I had a hard time convincing my parents to let me take this diploma. Looking back, they are now proud of me, and I’m proud that I stuck to my own conviction.

In my course, I could use drama as an educational, intervention and rehabilitative tool to reach out to children and senior citizens.

I co-founded the inwardBOUND Youth Theatre Collective with fellow young drama lovers. We aimed to create meaningful theatre for the community and produced “Dear Mom”, a play that explored the complexities between mother and child.

I participated in the United Nations Model Conference at Harvard University and had a great time discussing solutions to global problems with undergraduates from all over the world.

I felt really honoured to be chosen as a member of the Our Singapore Conversation main committee. Through my participation, I could feel the different aspirations of Singaporeans from different levels.

I love reading poems too. My favourites are Jack Gilbert, Sylvia Plath and local poet Cyril Wong. I also enjoy works by local scriptwriter Alfian Sa’at.

I enjoy going to concerts. This diploma has opened my eyes to all the hard work behind a concert production, and all the bolts and nuts required to put up a successful show.

I organised events for clients like Nike, H&M, and Citibank during my five-month internship. The responsibilities were heavy and there were hardships. But I’m still quite positive about pursuing a career in event management.

I was raised by my grandparents and am naturally very close to them. My heart goes out to the old folks selling tissue packs or collecting carton boxes. It makes me more determined to do more community service for senior citizens.

The community service trip in Shanxi, China, has changed me as a person. The children there had to carry their own tables and chairs to school. It made me realise how fortunate I am. They told us not to leave them towards the end of our trip; these were the saddest words I’ve ever heard coming out from little kids.

Another memorable trip was the Youth Creativity, Innovation and Sustainable Leadership programme at Stanford University, USA. I’ve never imagined myself stepping foot in one of the world’s top universities.

My lecturers were amazing. They would give us guidance not only on school work but also our other interests. One of them even helped me to strategise when I was taking part in a singing competition outside of SP.

I recently started an online business with a friend selling female apparel. This is our first try at being entrepreneurs and we are doing our best to make it succeed.

I also have a passion for acting and who knows, I might also become an actor some day!
WHO AM I?

★ My own experience tells me that early failure is not forever. I did miserably in mathematics during lower secondary but I can still do well in Accountancy.
★ I have two sisters and four cousins who studied in SP and they played a part in influencing my choice to study here. SP has certainly built a strong reputation over the years!
★ I did my internship with one of the world’s biggest auditing firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers. I was treated like a permanent staff and attended meetings with their clients.
★ Going to Dalian, Tianjin and Beijing in China for my Overseas Immersion Programme was my most memorable experience.
★ The frightening part of the China trip was presenting the SWOT Analysis to the top management of Tianjin EcoCity, a mega Singapore-China project. But we survived!
★ Through working in SPELL, the retail living lab in Changi Airport run by SP students, I had a live feel of dealing with the key aspects of running a business – such as marketing and finance.
★ I was actively involved with Onepeople.sg, a grass root organisation that promotes racial harmony among youth.
★ I practice hot yoga. Besides keeping in shape and staying healthy, I realised that it can also be applied to studies through the concept that “an uncomfortable and tough position never lasts long”.

MY NEXT STOP

• I will pursue a degree in Accountancy at the Nanyang Technological University under the Nanyang Scholarship.
• My wish is to be a professional auditor or tax consultant with one of the big four audit firms and work hard to reach the top.

MY AWARDS:
• Toh Chin Chye Gold Medal
• Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore Gold Medal
• Shell Companies In Singapore Prize
• AGD Merit Award
WHO AM I?

My dad gave me a robot car when I topped my class in Primary One. I crashed it and the broken parts made me wonder how these made the car run.

I first enrolled in the Common Engineering Programme because I couldn’t decide which course to specialise in. Thereafter, I chose Mechatronics and Robotics because I like conceptualising and drawing mechanical plans.

I was a quiet and naïve person before coming to SP. The three years here have changed me into a more confident and fun-loving person who is no longer afraid to speak her mind.

I did my internship at Leser LLP, the biggest manufacturer of safety valves in Europe. I was happy that they attached me to the marketing department during the last two weeks, so I learned about the business aspect of the company as well.

With the SP Environment Club where I was once the Vice-President, we created a new record in the Singapore Book of Records for making the largest mosaic using used banners.

I always feel that the best thing about SP is the people - from the passionate lecturers to the friendly cleaners.

My favourite spot in SP is a tree house located near InnoVillage, behind the Main Library. It’s always peaceful and a great place for me to clear my mind when I have problems.

It might seem strange to some people but I love to hug trees!

MY NEXT STOP

• I have been accepted by the Nanyang Technological University to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering with Business Minor.

• At this point, I am not very sure what I hope to be; but I am sure that I want to be the very best that I can be.

MY AWARDS:

• Lee Kuan Yew Award
• ST Kinetics Gold Medal
• Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
• OCEC Prize
• The Institution of Engineers, Singapore Prize
Congratulates the Star Performers of 2013!

The internship at Pratt and Whitney in Beijing was a real eye-opener as I got to work on real aero-engines while immersing in a foreign culture.

What I love best about SP is the open study spaces, how they are beautifully connected to nature.

My memorable moment was being a team member of the SUNSPEC Solar racing team that came in first at the Shell Eco-Marathon race held in Malaysia.

My Final Year Project was fun and fruitful, thanks to the guidance of my lecturer, Dr. Lee Kim Kheng. If every lecturer teaches the way he does, I'm sure students will graduate with fond memories of their SP journey.

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I aspire to be a medical doctor in future and it is this goal that kept me going through all my years here in SP.

Designing and building a toilet for villagers in Cambodia was an unforgettable experience!

My class would organise surprise birthday parties to celebrate each other’s birthdays!

My secondary school counsellor asked me what I see myself doing in 10 years’ time. My reply was: “Still studying”. She was overjoyed to hear this coming from someone who was once hot-tempered, notorious and mischievous.
From the China community service trip, I’ve learnt that education is hard to come by, and I should treasure my educational opportunities and make the most out of them.

The biggest motivators are my clique, my girlfriend and Ms Alison Ho, my course manager.

An inspirational quote that speaks volumes about my SP journey - Keep Chasing What You Want.

My passion for music grew significantly in DMAT and this keeps pushing me to perform better and better.

My brother graduated from SP in 2011 as a silver medalist. He has been an inspiration for me because of his good results.

Toh Xin Ni
Diploma in Accountancy
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

Lim Zhi Xian
Diploma in Financial Informatics
Coral Secondary School

Leong Jie Jun
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management
Nan Hua High School

Matthew Ong Ding Qiang
Diploma in International Business
Temasek Secondary School

Tan Shi Hui
Diploma in Business Information Technology
Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)

Karen Mei Jia Qi
Diploma in Digital Animation
Beatty Secondary School

Marcus Khoo Lian Kai
Diploma in Information Technology
Hua Yi Secondary School

Michelle Tan Jia Min
Diploma in Digital Media
Swansea High School (Independent)

Sim Wei Liang
Diploma in Music & Audio Technology
Anglican High School

Yang Xudong
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management
Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

Michelle Tran Du Min
Diploma in Digital Media
Swansea High School (Independent)

Sam Chee Fye
Diploma in Human Resource Management
Swing Psychology
Swansea High School (Independent)

Tan Wei Lai Ling
Diploma in Music & Audio Technology
School
My ambition is to open my own graphic design studio and happily do my work. L

I loved my internship at WOHA. I will never forget my internship there and hope my colleagues won’t forget me too! L

The caring and helpful lecturers make SP a favourable learning environment. L

The biggest motivation was seeing my friends and course-mates starting off reluctant and unwilling to continue with the course but now finally graduating with me with a burning passion in their eyes. L

My elder brother is also graduating from SP this year, and my younger brother is now a first-year student, also at SP. L

I love the food at SP! Lunch break was something that my girlfriend and I always looked forward to. L

Star Performers
Hugs, tears, flowers, leaps and plenty of camera flashes. Course mates, lecturers, parents, boyfriends, girlfriends, former teachers – they were all there to share the moment of pride. The Class of 2013 will have beautiful memories of their graduation moments etched in their minds for a long time to come. For the 5,095 who have graduated, it means they will be embarking on a new journey. So Possible! captures the exhilaration that is Graduation 2013!
So Possible!

Celebrating with the Class of 2013
A bench that lights up when you sit on it. A visual campaign to promote toilet hygiene in a village. A game app to encourage kindness that took first prize in a world competition. A modular seating system adjustable to varying heights. Architectural models of residential and commercial buildings envisioned from the viewpoint of students. The preservation of bio-diversity in an urban jungle through artistic landscape architecture.

These are but some of the really impressive final-year projects that went on show at Edition 13.7 - the annual design exhibition showcase by graduating students from the diplomas in Architecture (DARCH), Landscape Architecture (DLA), Interior Design (DID), Experience and Product Design (DXPD), Games Design and Development (DGDD) and Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD). These courses are housed within the School of Architecture and The Built Environment and SP Design School.

More than 200 outstanding designs in areas that include product, space, game, interior, landscape and visual and media designs were exhibited at The URA Centre. Using a unique pedagogy called Design Thinking that is now widely adopted in SP, the graduating students were tasked to develop concepts that are commercially viable and yet integrate elements of sensorial experience in their designs.

Woo Ming Wei, Chairperson of the organising committee, said, "Many people have a stereotyped idea that design is limited to just arts and lifestyle. But we want our students to think, design and implement ideas that not only engage people, but also influence them to do something for the greater good. Edition 13.7 is a compilation of these efforts by our graduating students who have evolved their concepts to reality."

It wasn’t too long ago that they were fresh-faced students from secondary schools. Just three years in SP was enough for them to churn out projects that won awesome praises from experts in the architecture and design business.

Don’t believe it? Take a look at these pictures. Visit www.edition.sg for more photos and descriptions of their works.
The hearts of the graduates must have swelled with pride as industry professionals, bright-eyed secondary school students and their very own parents came to view their lovingly-crafted works exhibited at Render 2013.

Held at the Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre (SPCC), the graduation show showcased the final projects (FYP) of students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) truly have the ability to do anything that they set their minds to.

Armed with a dizzying array of skills in programming languages and design software like C++, C#, ActionScript, Dreamweaver and Python, students from the Diplomas in Interactive Media, Information Technology, Business Information Technology and Infocomm Security Management proudly showcased a range of apps, digital games, computer security programmes and online market research tools. Their projects attracted industry partnerships with groups like the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), DSO National Laboratories and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Some of these creations have been sold to several industries, such as MedJournal, a medication reminder app that was the first prize in the Now You Can Leadership (NYCL) Series and at the SP Mobfest 2012 Student App Developer Category. Notably, it also clinched the Best Presenter Award at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation (SITF) Awards.

Last but certainly not least, the musicians, composers and sound engineers from the Diploma in Music and Audio Technology blew audiences away with their rich, layered melodies. The graduating students stirred listeners’ hearts with a vibrant and eclectic mix of pop rock classical, rock and roll, jazz, J-pop and mandopop songs.

*“Dreams*” is the keyword that represents the School. Our young DMIT graduates began their journeys chasing wild, almost impossible dreams. Now they’re the ones creating the sounds, stories and digital possibilities that inspire new dreams and might be the game changers in the digital world. Visit www.render.sg for an online display of their projects.

Lights, Cameras, App-tion!

Director of action movies, creators of animated sci-fi flicks, composers of stirring melodies and master weavers of computer programmes, digital games and apps – the graduation show Render 2013 proved that students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) truly have the ability to do anything that they set their minds to.

The Diplomas in Interactive Media (DIBM), Digital Animation (DDA), Business Information Technology (DBIT), Infocomm Security Management (DISM) and Information Technology (DIT) provide all the creative skills and technical know-how students need to make their dreams a reality.

A series of short animated films and movies caught the eyes of the crowd. The Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students used sci-fi, crime thriller, fantasy and martial arts movies to showcase their strengths in areas such as filming, set production, editing and directing. Shirayukihime, a love story and murder mystery, had completely hand-sewn fairy tale costumes created by the students. This was similar to hit shows like Game of Thrones where costumes are made from scratch to achieve deep levels of detail.

Another film, Turquoise, was an action-packed animation about a bounty hunter who accidentally gets into a fight with a powerful alien. This FYP so impressed the judges at the Autodesk Panorama 2012 Competition that the team members from the Diploma in Digital Animation were declared finalists and allowed entry into a four-day boot camp to meet and network with renowned industry experts.

Another app, Lifeline 2, showed great potential as well. It is a communication tool for medical personnel (e.g. paramedics and doctors) that allows for the quick and effective transmission of key patient data such as photos of injuries and their vital statistics. Lifeline 2 was created in partnership with the MHA and the SCDF. Its predecessor, Lifeline, won several awards including the STIF Gold Award (Tertiary category) and the Merit Award at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICA) held in Brunei.

For their heartrending story about a young boy who is ostracised because of his inability to cry, the team Iridescent Scope Pictures was honoured with the prestigious prize. Their short film, The Tear Catcher, won them a $1,000 Sony Style voucher.

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Team member Wesley Chan also received an additional individual award. This earned him an all-expenses paid trip to Las Vegas to attend the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show, an annual exhibition attended by top broadcasters and movie studios from around the world. During his time in Las Vegas, Wesley will produce a short documentary on the exhibition for Sony.

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I.C.E COOL PROS

Each year, the Sony I.C.E Award is given out to a team of graduating Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students to recognise their abilities in storytelling and visual effects. Qualifying projects were judged by officials from Sony Singapore, acclaimed filmmaker Royston Tan and award-winning DMIT alumnus and budding filmmaker, Alvin Lee.

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The SP journey is trudged on with determination and perseverance, as SPIRT finds out from these fresh graduates who are like phoenixes who rise from the ashes to become outstanding work-ready, life-ready and world-ready individuals.

In 2009, Steven Ong sank into depression after he failed his exams and tests in his first junior college exams. The blow was made more intense when he scored only an “S” pass for Biology, his favourite subject, which he scored A1 for in his O levels at Hoi Sing Catholic High School. “I felt that I was falling off from a cliff. I was depressed to the maximum because I did not live up to my expectations,” recalls Steven, who brands himself as a perfectionist.

Fast forward to May 2013. Steven graduated from SP with an impressive GPA of 3.987, scooping up an astounding 22 distinctions and 14 As for his Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT) course.

For the amazing turnaround, Steven is grateful to four people who helped him make the right decision to switch to SP from a JC. The first was his JC teacher, Mr Owen Tan, himself a DBT graduate, who told him to check out SP’s established diploma courses in science. Another teacher, Mr Benjamin Choo, introduced him to his former university professor, Professor Mary Ng Mah Lee, who showed him the Flavivirology laboratory in National University of Singapore (NUS) and explained to him the kind of research work done there. Finally, there was his JC’s Vice-Principal, Mrs Pang Lay Har, who counselled him and helped him sort out his thoughts on joining a poly.

The three years in SP, which he joined with an aggregate score of just five points, brought out the best in him. He realised that he was more suited to an experimental environment for learning science. He scored distinctions for all his modules during his first semester and the stellar results re-ignited his love for biology and chemistry. “I dare say that the first experiment I did in SP is still applicable up to today. We do experiments to verify theories we learn from books,” says Steven, who is also a SP Scholar.

His SP journey included a 12-week internship with an Ivy League university – Harvard. Together with three other course mates, he was attached to the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard Medical School. He trained under a research assistant, Andrew Younger, in molecular biology techniques and performed flow cytometry to identify successfully claimed cells.

During each semester break, he would volunteer himself at Prof Mary’s lab which studies mosquito-transmitted dengue and West Nile viruses and designs anti-viral strategies to combat infection. Steven did so in order to gain relevant skills and learn more about science academia and the industry.

The SP experience goes beyond absorbing science knowledge and lab works. The gym-fit Steven also earned himself a life guard certification in SP. Under the SP Outstanding Talent programme, he improved on his presentation skills and gained confidence in public speaking. He also gave his views on current issues that Singapore students face at dialogue sessions with cabinet ministers.

“Who I think really helped me do well in SP are the very approachable and knowledgeable teachers. They help us understand and appreciate the beauty of scientific knowledge. Lecturers like Dr Ong Chye Sun and Ms Adeline Koh gave me a lot of encouragement and opportunities. All my DBT lecturers taught me how to process and view scientific facts from different angles, and to always have an inquisitive mind,” says Steven.

You would think Steven would naturally continue to pursue his love for biology in university. Surprisingly, he wants to get a degree in chemistry instead. His reasoning: “There are vital links between biology and chemistry. Now that I have a strong foundation in biology, I reckon it would be good to develop my strength in another area to get a more holistic view of the intricacies of science.” His choice of university would be either NUS or a reputable one overseas that would offer him a scholarship.
In primary school, Emily Ho had great difficulties doing simple sit-ups and completing her 1.6km run smoothly. When she moved on to secondary school, she found herself falling, tripping over things and losing balance very often for no apparent reason.

Her physical education teacher became concerned and advised her to consult a doctor. After a series of check-ups and blood tests, Emily was diagnosed with Pompe Disease, a permanent condition that was causing her muscles to deteriorate and weakening her respiratory system.

Because of this, her first year in the Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) course was marked by challenges. Her school (Digital Media and Infocomm Technology) building was located atop a hill. Emily’s legs were weak and couldn’t handle the stairs, so each day she made a painstaking climb up a slope leading to her school. As a shy and quiet person, she also found it hard to share with classmates about her sickness or get help.

Letting your life be defined by problems is easy. But as a student known by her lecturers to be persevering and passionate about her work, Emily’s three years in SP are characterised not by an illness but by what she’s accomplished. Her projects include Once Upon a Dead, a dark comedy musical film (with zombie dancers); filming and production for Corporate Fight Night, an amateur boxing event; and visual graphics produced during her internship at CNBC, an American business news channel. She also made it onto the Director’s Honour Roll of 2011 for her course. Emily’s colourful range of experiences reflects her passion for creative work, which was part of the reason why she joined DVEMG in the first place.

When asked about what motivated her studies, Emily pointed not to some inspiring ideal or experience she had, but to the people who supported her. One of them was her lecturer, Mr. Christian James Sethmohan. “He would always make sure that I was coping well and gave me opportunities for external projects,” she said, “I thought I couldn’t do a lot of stuff, but because he was helpful and understanding, I learned I could actually do a lot more.” Another pillar of support to her was Wesley Chan, one of her first friends in her course. When Emily shared her problem with him, he told her he was willing to accompany her up the slope. For two and a half years, they met at the bus stop outside school and walked the slope together.

Still, even with a strong support network of classmates, teachers and family, life isn’t easy. Living daily with her illness is frightening. “It definitely scares me,” Emily said. “Eventually I’ll lose my ability to do certain things, especially milestones I’ve achieved such as running or walking... But as much as I am afraid, I won’t let this fear bring me down. It doesn’t just revolve around me, but about all the people who love me. This journey isn’t easy, but I will learn to embrace each day with thankfulness and with everyone who stood by me.”

Now that her journey with SP has come to a close, Emily aims to serve her church by working in its publicity department as a designer.
There was a time when Nicholas Tei felt that no one loved him anymore. That was around 10 years old when he was a primary four kid. He felt that his parents only loved his brother who was eight years younger. Before that, he was the king in the family. This made him hate his younger brother, and his family altogether.

The journey astray was easy for him, and he actually enjoyed turning bad. He played truant, threw chairs and markers (sometimes at teachers!) and even got caned in school. He did these just to gain attention. Things became so bad that even his friends who had a role in helping him become a bad boy started to abandon him. No one believed him anymore and he was blamed for things that were not his doing.

One particular day – 27 June 2003 – was unforgettable for him. He was accused of a wrongdoing committed by someone else. From that day, he told himself: “Nick, you have to change!” He started writing daily journals from that day to chronicle his about-turn.

After P.S.L.E., he was posted to Yuhua Secondary School – not even within his six choices – but he decided to make the best out of it. He got actively involved in the Student Council that he hoped would be a platform to groom future leaders like him. “I strongly believe that leaders of tomorrow need not wait till ‘tomorrow’ to rise up,” says Nicholas.

After ‘O’ levels, he initially wanted to take up the International Baccalaureate programme but didn’t make the grade. After some consideration, he finally made the Diploma in International Business (DIB) at SP his first choice because he felt that being a pioneer would give him more influence to improve the course through feedback.

May 2013. Nicholas is graduating from SP with an almost perfect GPA of 3.984. He is also the Silver Medallist for DIB, which marks the graduation of its pioneer batch this year. To be doubly sure that SP is the right choice, he made several visits and sat around in food courts to “eavesdrop” on students. “I didn’t hear anything negative, so it must be positive,” he reckoned. His parents went with his decision.

Nicholas became a SP Scholar during his second and third year. Besides excelling academically, he also participated in overseas programmes in Indonesia, Inner Mongolia and the United States to widen his vision of the world. One of his modules required him to market OCBC to the digital natives, a practical experience he treasured.

He is grateful that the SP Business School lecturers always kept their doors open. He is thankful that he has course buddy Yong Yong Zhi who would encourage and motivate him. He treasures even the moments that he argued with his course mates because it helped to bond them closer.
It’s often said that a Singaporean’s mind fires up with mentions of words like cash, car, and condominium. Top graduates from the Diploma in Materials Science (DMLS) - Eric Ooi and Ho Keen Hoe – definitely light up when they hear those words. Not that they’re greedy money-grubbers, mind you. Rather, they see both material wealth and the wealth of materials knowledge that created the plastic polymers used in Singapore dollar notes and the carbon fibres of high-speed cars.

As pioneer graduates of the DMLS course that was launched three years back, Keen Hoe and Eric scored impressive Grade Point Averages (GPAs) of 3.96 and 3.98 (out of a maximum 4.0) respectively. This means that for almost all of their modules, they scored full marks.

Many things motivated them to perform so splendidly. Surprisingly though, the beginnings of their drive to succeed were rooted in negative emotions. Keen Hoe, for example, joined SP because his ‘O’ level results had fallen far below his and his parents’ expectations. “I was very stressed when I first arrived, and worried that I would fail again,” he said. Eric, too, felt pressured when he first stepped into SP. He was aware that his parents had made sacrifices to pay for his education, and he also felt a deep desire to prove wrong some people who had looked down on him.

Although fear and pressure spurred them on initially, those feelings melted away as the days passed. What remained to motivate them was their original reason for joining DMLS: a compelling passion and curiosity about the world around them. “I thought about it a lot and I realised that everything around us is made of materials,” said Keen Hoe. “Without special materials, you can’t even use a plastic keyboard or a lightweight badminton racket.”

Diploma in Materials Science top graduate and Course Medallist, Eric Ooi. During his three years in SP, he has received the Model Student Award, the Green Challenge Silver Award and the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold).

Eric (left) and Keen Hoe at the Excellence Awards 2013 ceremony.

How does it feel to complete a three-year exploration of the world and its scientific mysteries?

“I feel relieved. Now I have the chance to sleep a lot. Like eight hours a day.” Eric said, laughing.

“I feel like I’m being redeemed. I’ve finally met people’s expectations, and I’ve proven to myself that I can do well.” said Keen Hoe.

Both have been accepted into Nanyang Technological University. Eric will pursue a Degree in Chemistry and Biological Chemistry and Keen Hoe will take up the Degree in Materials Science and Engineering.
Hired in a Flash

Two recent graduates from the Diploma in Digital Media (DDM) have already started their professional careers, even before graduation.

Syahirah Nurdiyana and Ng Wan Ting were hired by Onezine Pte Ltd, a digital publication and media consultancy company. Syahirah was employed right after her internship with Onezine as an e-magazine designer. Wan Ting was offered a job as an interface designer by the company during Render 2013, the graduation showcase of project works by students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology. Sprint spoke to Alvin Lee, Onezine’s Managing Director, to learn why he hired not one but two DDM graduates:

Hi Alvin. How did you get to know Syahirah and Wan Ting?

Syahirah started off as an intern here and had a good portfolio of magazine layouts. So naturally, I assigned her to SP’s Sprint e-magazine, and eventually I saw that she was responsible and serious about her work.

Wan Ting is a quick learner and has a creative mind. I thought he could contribute to the magazine.

She is a natural in layout and typography so I hired her after her internship ended.

As for Wan Ting, I only recently met her at the graduation show. She did a Kinect project that was prominently displayed at the show’s entrance. I offered her a job on the spot.

Do you remember what was in your mind when you saw Wan Ting’s project?

What caught my attention was that she was using the latest style in the industry, 3D icons, rather than going with what was easy, standard or safe. Every element of the user interface was nice and attractive on its own and that was what caught my eye.

When I found out that she had pretty good results as well, I thought it would be ignorant of me not to grab a talent. These days, it’s the talent that makes the company.

What qualities do you appreciate in your employees?

Syahirah’s great with publications and art, and Wan Ting is great with user interface design. Both these qualities are critical for my business. They also have cross-specialty training so they support each other effectively as well.

I like Syahirah for her initiative and leadership quality. She also has a passion for her design ideas but yet is flexible and can adapt to change. She also has a take-charge personality which is a good leadership quality.

Wan Ting is able to speak out to fight for her design ideas but yet is flexible and can adapt to change. She also has a take-charge personality which is a good leadership quality.

What I like most about them is their speed of delivery with projects. She is always about people. It’s not about money and get a job, please remember that it’s about passion. (As, "When you work on anything and you go and get a job, please remember that it’s always about people. It’s not about money or a car. It’s about people. Even when your job has to do with production in technical areas. When you ground yourself in that, you’ll never lose your way.”

Briefly, what did you study during your three years in DTMV?

I learned how to tell stories and how to tell them really well. And also why people don’t always do it so well, which is why we have this course.

Which did you end up loving more: writing or screenplay production and filming?

Until now, I find it hard to fully identify with being a writer. If I can put it in an idealistic way, I identify with creating for producing the “whole thing” from start to end, not just filming or writing alone.

Can you share a favourite memory about the course?

During our final year, our batch took a trip to Kawasaki in Japan. We were dropped into a village and we had to come up with a story in one to two days. That was crazy. It’s hard to explain how it feels – the whole process of finding a story from “nothing”. One highlight was that we went to this abandoned house once owned by an explorer called Russell Wallace. To others, it’s just an old house, but to me it was the house of a guy who discovered many things and had a great journey in this region. Hearing that he lived there made me go, “WHAT?! This is a piece of history, man...” (Editor’s note: To watch the shows and find out more, visit Channel NewsAsia’s new YouTube channel on “The whole thing” from start to end, not just filming or writing alone.

What was life in school like, and what was your course mates like?

The journey was like a rollercoaster ride. It moulds your character. A friend of mine once said that because we’re creators, we get emotional as what we make is born out of us. It’s a part of who we are. When we’re critiqued, there can be some real, volatile emotions. But I always say, “If this critique helps me, then why not hear it out?”

As for my course mates... they’re weird people. (laughs) They are weird to the core. But that’s what’s good, because when we’re around each other, we’re around fellow weird people who can do stupid things together.

What will you miss most?

I’ll miss being able to make mistakes without fear in a safe environment. I’ll also miss hanging out with friends, people who do what you want in front of without fear of being judged.

And what are you looking forward to?

I came into the course with the intention to do what I want to do, which at this point in time is being a journalist. And that’s what I’m doing right now! We spent all these years learning things, and now we can finally put them into practice. That’s amazing! (Editor’s note: Try interned with Channel NewsAsia and continues to do reporting for them even after his attachment).
It is not difficult to be a good student. But it takes a lot more to be an excellent SP student. The ones that take the cake are not only good scorers in academic grades but have hearts that go out to the lesser communities too. Some of them could even win sports medals while mugging for their modules. No wonder they were present at Gardens by the Bay to receive awards for their achievements.

Since joining SP, Jacqie Poh (Diploma in Clean Energy - DECE) wasted no time to get the best out of her SP journey. In between scoring distinctions and As for her modules, she travelled to Germany for her internship at the renowned Technische Universität München (TUM) and returned with a zest to learn German. She also played for the handball and tchoukball teams in SP and helped trounce opponents to win at the POL-ITE Games.

Athea Joy Han managed a “pharmacy” in a Thai village and accompanied doctors on house visits to administer medical treatment. The pioneer Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPICS) batch recent graduate flew to Oxford University for her industrial attachment. She was also a karate champion and captain of the SP Karate Club. And she could still find time to do competitive ice-skating and dance ballet. All of this, and she still got a perfect Grade Point Average (GPA)!

Noticing that his classmates had difficulties with maths, Amaran s/o Sukumaran tutored them and led them to pass their module. The Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) recent graduate was also elected as President of the SP Student Union (53rd Council). Under his leadership, he initiated several student welfare events that benefitted the student community.

Jacqie, Athea and Amaran received awards for their holistic SP experience at the Excellence Awards 2013. The awards, given out in five categories, salute SP students who achieved excellence in both academic and non-academic pursuits. The categories were: Outstanding Class Leader Award, Outstanding Contribution Individual Awards, Outstanding Contribution Group Awards, Sports Awards and Model Student Awards.

At the award ceremony held at Gardens by the Bay, parents, principals and teachers from their secondary schools shared their proud moments. SP Principal and CEO, Mr Tan Choon Shian, said in his speech that the awards were an affirmation of their roles in making SP a vibrant campus, maintaining the SP CORE values (self-discipline, personal integrity, care and concern, openness, responsibility, and excellence) and upholding the high standards of achievement that SP aspires to maintain.
February and underwent a two-month preparatory programme. (laughs). But it's also because DNHW is a Because it's really near my house!

Why SP? aspiring to be a dietitian for the ill. and eat healthily, and that's gotten me I think it's important to learn how to live 40 years old who have many illnesses.

I've always had an interest in health, especially since I have many friends over Fun Fact:

DNHW First-ever National B Division title! her team won Crescent Girls' School's It was nice! And why DEEE in SP? I heard that it's better to go to SP if you want a degree after polytechnic. I also heard from others that engineering here is just better than other places. What made you apply through DPA? I wanted to secure a position in DEEE, and my whole family was supportive of it, so I just thought, "Why not? Let's go for it."

SEKÓ AIKO Crescent Girls' School

Fun Fact: Aiko loves softball and played on her secondary school team. She and her team won Crescent Girls’ School’s first-ever National B Division title!

What got you interested in DNHW? I’ve always had an interest in health, especially since I have many friends over 40 years old who have many illnesses. I think it’s important to learn how to live and eat healthily, and that’s gotten me as a dietitian for the ill. Why SP? Because it’s really near my house! (laughs). But it’s also because DNHW is a course that is more focused on nutrition and it caters a lot to my interest. And why apply through the DPA programme? Mostly because of the Polytechnic Preparatory Programme (PPP) that we get to participate in. My friends made the course say DNHW can be challenging, so if I can get a head start in studies by beginning school earlier through the PPP, I think it’s much better.

What did you know about SP before you came here? Honestly, it’s the first poly! And it has Starbucks! (laughs). Well, I know a few SP friends through softball. I also think it’s cool that SP has a special gym and a yoga room!

CHUA XIN RUI Zhenghua Secondary School

Fun Fact: Xin Rui is a multi-talented musician who can sing, play the piano and drum the guitar! Course: Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) What’s interesting to you about DMAT? I joined a competition organised by DMAT, so I got to know the course through the event. I like music a lot, and in DMAT, people compose music using professional music studios and software like Sibelius. I think it’s very interesting.

What’s a typical day like at your school? I think the facilities here are really good. I showed the interviewing committee my portfolio and my drawings. I enjoy sketching whatever characters or images come to my mind.

Why DPA? I really wanted to secure a position in this course and DPA helped me to do that! And it’s safer for me as I was a little scared that I wouldn’t be able to get in! What did you know about SP before coming here? Well, I made a list of friends who are seniors here through the Music Fiesta event and they shared with me about the nice school environment. There’s a karaoke room here too. That’s really cool! (laughs).

JEEVAN SÕ MANI MARAN Greenview Secondary School

Fun Fact: Jeevan has been taking break-dancing lessons for the past two years! Course: Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) Why DEEE, Jeevan? I started off wanting to do engineering in general. I had a few choices, but I liked DEEE best. I liked it from seeing the many options I have in terms of career choices and the technology I can play with. I also want for an underwater robotics competition in secondary school, where we built submersable robots and had a race. It was nice!

And why DEEE in SP? I heard that it’s better to go to SP if you want a degree after polytechnic. I also heard from others that engineering here is just better than other places. What made you apply through DPA? I wanted to secure a position in DEEE, and my whole family was supportive of it, so I just thought, “Why not? Let’s go for it.”

GREGORY TAY AN JUN Assumption English Secondary School

Fun Fact: Gregory enjoys drawing fantasy-themed images and sketches of things he sees in real life! Course: Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA) Why DDA, Gregory? I love drawing and I want to go into it as a career. I really admire shows produced by Lucasfilm and graphic designs like those in Diablo 3. I’ve been drawing since kindergarten and I’m quite sure I want to take it up as a job.

What made you pick SP? I really wanted to secure a position in DEEE, and my whole family was supportive of it, so I just thought, “Why not? Let’s go for it.”

Why DPA? I really wanted to secure a position in this course and DPA helped me to do that! And it’s safer for me as I was a little scared that I wouldn’t be able to get in! What did you know about SP before coming here? Well, I made a list of friends who are seniors here through the Music Fiesta event and they shared with me about the nice school environment. There’s a karaoke room here too. That’s really cool! (laughs).
If a cute, pastel pink Hello Kitty looks at you with gentle eyes as you pass by, would you resist taking her home? What about a box of beautifully wrapped chocolates with cute love notes? That could be the perfect gift for someone you’ve admired from afar. These attractive gift ideas made their appearance at SP recently through the efforts of driven young student entrepreneurs who showed off their great eye for business at the Entrepreneurship Bazaar 2013.

With as little as $100 that came from their own pockets, budding entrepreneurs kick-started their lean but adventurous businesses and experienced the excitement of building, managing and crafting one’s own shop, albeit a makeshift one. The bazaar featured a dazzling variety of goods put on sale by both SP and secondary school students. There were unique and refreshing gift items like chocolates with sweet love confession notes and tiny Domo-kun and Hello Kitty figurines with hidden USB drives inside them. Ever popular custom jewellery and stationery were in abundant supply. There were even original products such as SP’s very own student-invented brand of bean-curd-in-a-cup, Suckies! (Read about their success story on page 48.)

To take part, they had to undertake some training in business fundamentals. Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) and Outram Secondary School students at the bazaar learned their business 101 through Introduction to Enterprise Development, an ‘O’ level subject taught by SP lecturers from SP Business School.

Our own students learned a lot more. They had taken either the Entrepreneurship Option or other business-related modules. The Entrepreneurship Option is possibly the most exciting part of business studies in SP. Those who choose this option must draft a proposal to start their own business and use their own money for the start-up. Any profits or losses they make are theirs to keep or suffer! The amount of money they invested ranged from $100 to $2,000. If you think this is small-time stuff, think again. Suckies started with a $2,000 investment but earned a five-figure sum in sales revenue after nine short weeks of operation!

The compulsory element of starting one’s own business is part of the SP Business School’s (SB) philosophy of giving its students real-world, hands-on experiences. These experiences build up their confidence and equip them with all the skills they need to be world-ready, work-ready professionals.

Organised by the SP Business School, the bazaar is a yearly event for students to apply their knowledge and skills to a real retail environment. It also aims to cultivate a spirit of giving amongst the young ones by getting them to pledge part of their earnings to charity. This year, part of the proceeds went towards helping a fellow student who is recovering from a serious traffic accident.

Budding Entrepreneurs!
Sucking Hard, Working Harder

Suckies co-founder and recent Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) graduate, Lee Zhen Yang, says that building a good business means taking risks. Suckies must be a risky affair then, because business there is definitely good.

It all began a few days before an assignment deadline. Zhen Yang and three friends were sitting together in the Hilltop Library, taking blind stubs at creating a business proposal for their Entrepreneurship module project. The proposal had to be a good one, because the module required the building of an actual business based on what was proposed.

But they were out of ideas. So Zhen Yang and his friends did what most typical guys would do: lose focus on the matter at hand and start making light-hearted fun of others. “We just joked about things like, ‘Why are our classmates thinking so hard and stressing out about their business idea?’” Zhen Yang said, smiling slightly. “Then one of us started picking fun at bean curd stalls, saying, ‘Look at Lao Ban. They’re only selling dao huay (bean curd puddings) but they’re doing it so big. Why can’t we just sell dao huay and be as big as them?’”

Ironically, this unfocused horseing around gave birth to a highly organised business venture. The team thought up an idea for a bean curd in-a-cup product that could easily be consumed on the go. They also came up with the name Suckies because the idea was to suck up bean curd from a straw. After a few months of preparation, Suckies was born on 18 July 2012. Within three weeks of operation, Suckies broke even and its founders earned back the $2,000 of personal savings they had spent to finance it. By the ninth week, they had accumulated a five-figure sum in sales revenue. “I would say we sold an average of about 190 to 250 cups a day,” he said.

The biggest challenge their team faced was their tagline. “The name is crude, the tagline is crude,” Zhen Yang said, smiling, “everything about Suckies is politically incorrect. So the challenge for us was to keep thinking of humorous lines that were politically incorrect, but wouldn’t get us in trouble with the school.”

Starting Suckies wasn’t all about dealing with problems, however. Zhen Yang has a lot of fun watching people talk about Suckies online. He also feels glad to have skilled teammates who share a common vision. His DBIT background gives him the skills to implement online marketing effectively, while the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) training of his friends makes them great at accounting and building a good business plan.

When asked what advice he had for entrepreneurial hopefuls, Zhen Yang said this: “The most important thing is being able to take risks. You must know how to take risks and be willing to take them. Also, you must communicate well with your teammates and hold your team together with discipline but manage them with kindness.”

Suckies is currently planning a big move to set up their business outside of SP. You can support these gutsy entrepreneurs by liking the Suckies page on Facebook and keeping tabs on their developments!
Many join the Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) because they love drawing, design and, of course, buildings. Two years ago, Chey Yi Ting applied to DARCH for all these reasons and more. However, she could never have known that DARCH would also give her a rare and amazing opportunity: the chance to design a new public library.

The library@orchard project is a design collaboration between the National Library Board (NLB) and Singapore Polytechnic (SP) for an upcoming library on Singapore’s premier shopping street – Orchard Road – coming up next year in Orchard Gateway, a new mall. Final-year student Chey Yi Ting and 22 other DARCH students, along with six other DARCH students, along with six Final-year student Chey Yi Ting and 22 other DARCH students, along with six Final-year student Chey Yi Ting and 22 other DARCH students, along with six Final-year student Chey Yi Ting and 22 other DARCH students, along with six Final-year student Chey Yi Ting and 22 other DARCH students, all in Orchard Gateway, a new mall.

The surveys collected revealed that people wanted a library that went beyond just books. They wanted a place to escape from the realities of city life and engage with like-minded people. They also wanted knowledge to come to them through multiple media platforms instead of books alone.

library@orchard’s designs reflected these desires. One example is the Cocoon, an enclosed, pod-like structure. “We wanted to make an enclosed wooden space where people could enjoy videos or books by themselves,” said Yi Ting. “Inside there is a screen for videos and a sound system for music. In this Cocoon, there is a serene feeling. It’s like a womb that makes you feel protected. It acts like a time-out space that lets you get away from the city.”

This closely tied combination of designing and user research is known as Design Thinking, a creative design process that focuses heavily on seeing through a user’s eyes. SP’s position as the first and most experienced teacher of this creative style was a key reason that the NLB decided to partner SP in the library@orchard project.

The process, while productive, did challenge the team’s endurance. Yi Ting admitted that sometimes the work was painful. “There were times when the project vanished, however, on the day of the prototype’s public launch at Orchard, the sense of satisfaction was just really shiok!” She exclaimed, laughing. “In DARCH, we usually only build mini-models, but for this, it’s 1:1 scale. We can actually sit in our Cocoon and use it. I can really experience it as something very real.”

Fellow final-year DARCH student Barcoma JBrien Cezar felt the same way. He said: “It’s not every day that you get to have one of your designs get built, be used by the public and create history. I’m very happy and satisfied that all the hard work has turned into something that will be used for many years.”

Now that their work is done, these 28 students can proudly put on their resumes, “I helped to design the interior of a public library when I was 18.”

**The Library Design Team Comprises:**

- Final-year students: Germaine Tan Chu Min, Barcoma JBrien Cezar, Olivia Teng, Evangelina Ong, Chew Zi Yuan, Pan Bin, Jawara Earl Santos Alba.
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**From DARCH:**

- Final-year students: Germaine Tan Chu Min, Barcoma JBrien Cezar, Olivia Teng, Evangelina Ong, Chew Zi Yuan, Pan Bin, Jawara Earl Santos Alba.
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Salt in the breeze and oil in the engine room will soon be familiar smells to the second-year cohort of the Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS). Generally, they want to have a diverse skill set and an adventurous yet rewarding career. The choice of a career path seems to be influenced by family and friends. Students also want to have a life of experiences, both personal and professional. They love adventure and variety, and they are often interested in travel and exploration. Many students are drawn to the idea of working on a cruise ship because it provides opportunities to live and work in different countries and interact with people from all over the world. However, the work can be mentally and physically draining, with long hours and a lot of stress. It's important to have a good work-life balance and to be prepared for the challenges that come with working at sea.
First, they were in the midst of the action when they got to the official website to download the app. The game was called "Kindly Ever After." The players, who were all from the Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) and Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM) programs, spent a lot of time playing the app and trying to figure out how to win.

"We want to create a game that reflects real situations that Singaporeans face in different social settings today. Through this game, we hope to remind everyone that many unpleasant situations can be easily alleviated. All it takes is for everybody to play a part," said team leader Yang Xu Dong.

Their journey did not end there. The team submitted the app for an international competition—the Nokia Game Programming Contest 2012 in Finland. There were more than 500 entries from 70 countries that included Spain, New Zealand and the United States. The judging panel even boasted names such as Rovio Entertainment (the creator of Angry Birds) and Unity Technologies. Their jaws dropped when they found out that the app won the first prize as well as the special student category prize, earning them a Nokia N97 and a free trip to Finland to visit top gaming studios. Way to go, kindly guys!

"Now: Kindly Ever After is available for free download on the iTunes App Store."

SNIFFing and Sharing Prizes

They were the youngest out of the seven teams that took part and they were also the only student group. Yet the four final-year students, collectively known as Team SP, from the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DVNM) emerged runners-up in the inaugural News App Challenge 2013 at Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Team SP competed against young working professionals such as journalists, writers, programmers and designers to develop an idea for a news app. After listening to a series of talks on apps and journalism, the team was privy to less than two hours to think of an original, attractive app idea that fulfilled at least one of these functions: provide a journalistic solution, promote or deliver news, increase personal productivity, and introduce fun elements or serious games.

What resulted was SNIFF, an app concept for student journalists below the age of 25. The app offers a range of features from standard news syndicates feeds to the ability to take part in exclusive photojournalism opportunities provided by the app. Based on criteria of overall potential, innovation, feasibility and utility, SNIFF was awarded the second prize which was a trip to the Google office in Singapore. Visiting Google’s office seemed too good to be true and it led to the winning team, comprising fresh NUS graduates, offering half of their cash prize for the chance to tag along for the trip. The more the merrier and Team SP readily agreed, so both teams shared the top cash prize of $1,000 and the trip to the office of the world’s biggest internet search engine.

Team member Shazliih Adrauna Tahir said: “We didn’t really prepare anything before the competition. Being journalism students studying new media, we were already familiar with the situation. We’ve had similar activities, like creating apps, in class before. All we had to do was directly apply what we learnt in class to a real-world situation.”

Changing Technology

Under the guidance of experts from SP and professors from local universities, two SP teams have invented ways to improve on existing technology that will result in higher efficiency. Their projects were showcased at the annual Polytechnic Student Research Programme (PSRP) 2013 Award Presentation ceremony organised by A*STAR. The programme was launched in 1997 and aims at fostering students in research and development through immersion in a scientific and engineering research environment.

One team, comprising recent Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) graduates Lim Ying Jin and Aliffah Chee Xiong, came up with a unique approach to design a voltage reference integrated circuit for low voltage applications. This temperature-independent voltage reference circuit is capable of providing constant voltage and meeting the growing market demand for power-efficient electronic devices. A second team also comprising fresh DEEE graduates (Qu Xu and Caroline Beghetti Das) came up with an Image Analysis for Medical Diagnosis and Environmental Monitoring solution. This is a fast, cheap and efficient system that identifies abnormal health conditions by capturing images of a patient’s body for analysis. A long with winning teams from the other polytechnics, both teams won PSRP Award certificates and a $500 cash prize.

Climate Champions

Three students and a fresh graduate from SP’s School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology recently came third in the inaugural National Climate Change Competition (NCCC) 2012 under the Technology Project Challenge category. They took home a cash prize of $2,000 plus a great deal of pride and satisfaction. For the competition, teams had to create innovative technology that could easily be used in the real world. The winning team of students who attended the competition was the only polytechnic in the finals, competing against others from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). SP took home the third prize, while NUS took the top cash prize of $1,000 and a plaque each. Organised by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, the competition aimed to develop students’ IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) skills, stimulate interest and promote creativity around this technology.

Team Socializer’s idea of socially-networked teddy bears won the hearts of the judges. Tander Bear is a pair of teddy bears that allow loved ones to communicate non-verbal affections while they are at different locations.

The teddy bears are linked together over the IPv6 Internet and hugging one bear will produce a response from the other bear which can be anywhere in the world. When one of the teddy bears is hugged, its partner teddy bear will receive a signal that causes it to display a hugging gesture and say “I miss you” using a pre-recorded voice. This tells the receiver that the sender is in need of a hug, thus enhancing the non-verbal, emotional aspect of long-distance communication between them.

The students found it challenging to build Tander Bear. Besides learning the new IPv6 technology, they also had to learn networking and Adhoc programming. When asked about what inspired them, team member Melvin Ng said: “Nowadays, there are lots of ways to communicate, but we feel there is a lack of emotional communication. Our Tander Bear expresses non-verbal communication through actions like hugs. We also chose teddy bears because most kids love them and can’t resist their cuteness. They can reach out to most people.”

Team Socializer consists of final-year students Lai Qing Hui, Melvin Ng Jia Le, Tay Cheng Juang Daren and Tan You from the Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCEP), and Ngo Young Kit from the Diploma in Info-Communication Engineering and Design (DIED).
A&RTs and Engineering

Engineering students from SP are well-versed in both science and the A&RTs – Assistive & Rehabilitative Technologies. A&RTs are technologies that have societal benefits and improve the quality of living for the elderly and the disabled. Over the past 20 years, SP students and staff have been involved in over 200 of such projects, which have been used by organisations such as Saint Andrew’s Community Hospital and the Spastic Children’s Association of Singapore.

Their prowess was put to the test at the A&RTS Challenge 2013 organised by Singapore’s Therapeutic, Assistive & Rehabilitative (START) Centre, a provider and promoter of A&RTs technology. The SP teams competed with about 80 teams that came from universities, ITEs and other polytechnics. And they did not disappoint.

Three of the top awards at the A&RTs Challenge were matched by SP engineering student teams:

- Rio & Friends for their creation of the Posture & Fall Alert System.
- Team SPAVC for their E-Lite Power Add-On.
- Team iFly for their Starobot.

Young Scientists in the Brewing

Their passion for science has earned them awards at the 6th Young Scientists’ Symposium held recently. Students from the School of Chemical & Life Sciences clinched four merit awards at the annual competition organised by the Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB) and Science Centre Singapore. Besides providing an opportunity for polytechnic students in the life sciences to present their final year research projects to a wider audience, the competition also allowed the participants to interact with like-minded peers and learn from senior scientists and science entrepreneurs who delivered keynote speeches. Among the 68 submissions from the poly’s Science On from the DBS to the POSTER Presentation category, three were BSc fresh graduates Tan Tze Kai, Sheryl Ong, Carmen Lee and Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) graduate Neo Shi Yong won in the Poster Presentation category. The merit awards come with a $100 cash prize each.

For their commendable effort, they walked away with a trophy and $1,000 cash. A second team from SP, also comprising fresh graduates from DME (Lim Soon Ji and Tay Cher Ling), made it to the preliminary round and clinched $1,000 cash and a certificate.

SP’s News

Excellence Award

Winners: Recent graduates Max Tay, Jun He (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering – DEEM), Chia Wen Feng (Diploma in Engineering Management – DREM), John Joo-Er (DBEN), Ho Quan Ci (DBEN) and Makal Muslimin Bin Mohd Razali (DBEN)

Project Name and Description: Novel Robotic Arm Brace, a device that helps people rehabilitate injured arm muscles by supporting their movements

Best Presentation Award

Stevano Monsen, Bin Rohmah (Diploma in Computer Engineering – DCPG), Safitri Budi Zainal Abidin (DCPE) and Alyous Kasri Fa Loo (Diploma in Clean Energy – DCEG)

Project Name and Description: Portrait & Fall Alert System, a back-up device that detects bed posture. It lights up and vibrates to warn when users’ posture is poor, and it also sends an emergency call for help when a user collapses suddenly.

Prototype Award: Recent graduate graduates Alex Yao Wei Hoe (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering – DME) and Lu Hong Xiang (DME)

Project Name and Description: E-Lite Power Add-On, a portable, light, easy-to-use device that can be attached to a manual wheelchair to customise it into a motorised wheelchair.

Formidable HR Challenges

Two teams of SP Business School students from the Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) scored first and third in the Polytechnic/Junior College Category at the Singapore HR Challenge 2013 organised by The Singapore Human Resources Institute (SHRI).

The event was a platform to showcase innovation and creativity to promote progressive HR to students. The theme for this year’s challenge was “A Shrinking Workforce and Better Work-Life Practices in Singapore What should be our National Agenda”.

One of the winning teams, The Mentalist, received a $1,000 cash prize and an interview feature in Human Capital, Asia Pacific’s foremost human resources magazine. Its members are recent graduates Ng Ai Poh, Ho Hui Ping, Hilda Tan, Nur Sadrina, Nash Fiqdhar and Kevin Lee. Team HRC Ladies won third place. Its members are recent graduates Jori Tay, Soon Wee Ni, Eunice Goh, Sim Yan San, Teh Jia Yi and Koh Ke Xin.
Over a two-month period, students from the SP Primers Club raised a record 1,326 food hampers from SP students and staff. This hamper-raising activity was for the Boys’ Brigade Share-a-Gift (BBSG) event which has become a yearly ritual for the Club. Each hamper contained food essentials such as rice, cooking oil, coffee, tea and milo sachets, seasonings, biscuits and canned food. The items were packed and delivered to cancer patients supported by TOUCH Community Services, a not-for-profit charitable organisation. The record number of hampers raised was made possible by the hard work of the Primers’ members and the generosity of staff and students who contributed to the drive.

SP Primers is a Boys’ Brigade company club that focuses on community service and on the leadership and character development of its members. BBSG is an annual Boys’ Brigade charity event that organises the collection of food items for needy families.

This trip is one of many programmes under Go Serve, SP’s community service initiative which aims to inspire students and staff to be socially responsible and engaged in helping others.

Rice, Concrete and Early Mornings

Twenty-three SP students spent two weeks in Na’ang, an agriculture-based village in Laos, experiencing a different lifestyle and culture under a community service effort to help the villagers hosting them.

On most days, they woke up at 7am, ate breakfast, and then started on construction works for the village primary school. Na’ang Primary. They built a concrete pavement from the main school building to its new multi-purpose hall, which was constructed by previous teams of SP students. Teaching English to the village primary school, Na’ang Primary, was one of the many activities in which the students engaged.

Dancing Babes

Some of the coolest dancers out there have a link with SP. At the All-Babies Cineleisure Dance Battle organised by Calthar Organisation, the first and second prizes in the solo category were won by an SP graduate and student respectively. Carol Kue, a final-year student from the Diploma in Digital Media (DDM), charmed the judges with her cool moves and took home $1,000 in cold cash for claiming the championship. Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) alumnus Leo Shie Yar, who goes by his stage name Lam Lam, went home with $500 as first runner-up. Both of them also won a camera and dance workshops with the judges, two of whom are respected choreographers Kelly Manning and Meredith Kerr. Carol and Shie Yar, incidentally, were members of Strictly Dance Zone (SDZ), a SP dance club that performs regularly at SP events. So if you want to show off your dance skills or get into the groove, get involved with SDZ.

Students were spoilt for choice at the CCA Fiesta, the annual showcase of over 120 CCA clubs in SP! Almost any interest group imaginable could be found. Art lovers could choose anything from mainstays like dance, drama and theatre, and music to out of the ordinary clubs like deep sea fishing, photography and videography. People with a heart for the community could pick SP Environment Club, SP Welfare Services Club or SP Enactus, a club that serves needy local and overseas communities through entrepreneurial activities and the setting up of sustainable business models.

For those who were keen on adrenaline-pumping action, there is a huge range of sports clubs. Dragonboat, cheerleading, softball, netball, handball and badminton clubs are just some of the groups that emerged champions in their respective categories. Clubbing is a huge passion for many students. For those with a heart for the community, there is the SP Primers Club, the SP University Services Club (USC) and the SP Welfare Services Club. Students were spoilt for choice at the CCA Fiesta, the annual showcase of over 120 CCA clubs in SP! Almost any interest group imaginable could be found. Art lovers could choose anything from mainstays like dance, drama and theatre, and music to out of the ordinary clubs like deep sea fishing, photography and videography. People with a heart for the community could pick SP Environment Club, SP Welfare Services Club or SP Enactus, a club that serves needy local and overseas communities through entrepreneurial activities and the setting up of sustainable business models.

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Cooking Up Chemistry Lessons

The Singapore Polytechnic Centre for Applications in Rehabilitation Engineering (SP CARE) celebrates 20 years of serving the needy and the less fortunate this year. The centre is dedicated to helping caring and passionate students create technologies that assist the elderly and disabled. Since 1993, it has produced over 200 customised solutions for over 30 different organisations and individuals, ranging from software training kits to assistive or rehabilitative equipment.

This year, SP CARE donated 14 inventions to various healthcare and social welfare organisations that requested its services. One of the projects is Learning Vocabularies from Multimedia, a computer game designed by three recent Food Science graduates that teaches English vocabulary to help young children who are affiliated with cerebral palsy. It was donated to the Spastic Children’s Association of Singapore.

The kit will be used in the SP-Amdon Food Science Programme, Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) at SP Polytechnic, to develop a new food science learning kit for secondary students.

A multi-national provider of interactive learning resources, to develop a new food science learning kit for secondary students.

A glamour shot of the 26 Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students producing documentaries on Singapore’s top young artists. Video editor Hadziq bin Kuzairi is in the bottom row, extreme right.

Muhd Hadziq bin Kuzairi, video editor for artist Zaki Razak, working experiences and had many chances to interact with the clients. It was kind of intimidating at the start. We kept wondering what our artist was going to be like. But Zaki turned out to be a very friendly and also philosophical person.” said: “The experience taught me how to work together with real-life clients. It was kind of intimidating at the start. We kept wondering what our artist was going to be like. But Zaki turned out to be a very friendly and also philosophical person.” The students worked in teams and did all the filming, production and editing for the videos. They also gained invaluable real-world working experiences and had many chances to interact with the artists. Muhd Hadziq bin Kuzairi, video editor for artist Zaki Razak, said: “The experience taught me how to work together with real-life clients. It was kind of intimidating at the start. We kept wondering what our artist was going to be like. But Zaki turned out to be a very friendly and also philosophical person.”

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) recently engaged the services of 26 final-year students from the Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) at SP Polytechnic. The Art Museum for Singaporeans (SAM) recently engaged the services of 26 final-year students from the Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) at SP Polytechnic. The new food science learning kit for secondary students. A glamour shot of the 26 Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students producing documentaries on Singapore’s top young artists. Video editor Hadziq bin Kuzairi is in the bottom row, extreme right.

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You can catch the videos and the artists’ works at the President’s Young Talents exhibition which is showing until September at the SAM.

20 Years of Giving

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Music Matters

To Them

More than 50 students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology got into the thick of the action at Music Matters Live (MML), a three-day music festival in Singapore featuring international and local music talents. They were there to film and provide technical support to the performers and musicians. The festival brought together more than 50 bands from over 15 countries such as Hong Kong, Australia and the United States. These included bands like The London Souls (US), Pony Pony Run Run (France), New Canetees (UK) and Electroto (Singapore). Local musician and singer-songwriter Inch Chua also performed for MML in 2012.

Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) students were roped in to film, produce and edit performance footages on the spot for YouTube’s live broadcast of the event. They also got to test the latest Hewlett-Packard (HP) computer technology, the HP Z1 and Z620 Workstations, for their work. The Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) students provided audio and technological support for the live broadcast.

Golden Engineers

Eleven bright young minds with a flair for engineering recently claimed the coveted Young Engineer Gold Awards (YEA) given out by Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Science Centre Singapore (SCS). The programme, developed jointly by the two institutions, aims to help secondary school students appreciate the link between science and engineering. It also helps them discover if they have a passion for engineering, and draws out their hidden talents in this field.

The award has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. At each level, students are given tasks and challenges to complete. Bronze participants must create a multiple-choice question on science and the applications of science (e.g. engineering). Silver participants must complete an engineering workshop on topics such as clean energy or aeroplane engineering. Gold participants have to create an actual engineering research project and present it in a public event.

In order to win the Gold Award, they must first attain the Bronze and Silver Awards. But those who manage the tough climb to the top are rewarded richly. Gold winners receive a one-year membership from the Singapore Academy of Young Engineers and Scientists (SAYES), as well as a bonus point for application to SP under the Direct Polytechnic Admission Exercise taking place in July. And the four will be selected to receive either the SP Young Engineer Scholarship or a book prize. All winners get a profile-brochure certificate from SP, the leading engineering institution.

Can’t wait to start on your YEA journey? You can email chungmingtop@spsg or ask your school teachers about the programme! To learn more about YEA, visit www.sp.sg/yea.

Mastering Earth and Water

Two teams of students from Henderson Secondary School came out tops in the recent Clean Water Challenge (CWC) and National Earthquake Competition! (NEC) 2013 organised by the School of Architecture and the Built Environment. The CWC team won $500 cash and a trophy, while the NEC team won $3,000 cash and a trophy.

The CWC had 27 secondary schools competing. The participants were given components to assemble a water filtration kit. The team that managed to filter the cleanest and largest quantity of water was declared the victor.

The NEC encourages students to learn about all aspects of water and environmentally-friendly technology. The award has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. More accurately, Mental is the song that won SP alumnus Reyza Hamzah the top spot at the MDA MediaCorp Call for Theme Song Production Proposal (CPP) in 2012. CPP is a yearly invitation for musicians to submit theme song proposals for MediaCorp drama series. Written and composed by the Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) graduate, the song became the theme music for Bingit, a Malay drama series produced by Suria channel about youth and mental illness. It was Bingit’s serious storyline that inspired Reyza to enter CFP. “I aim to use music as a medium of inspiration by imparting values and morals through the lyrics and lifting up the emotions of the community,” he said.

Reyza, who graduated in 2009, is also the winner of the 2008 National Malay Songwriting Competition (Alunan Kasih) and a Best Vocalist award in the 2007 Yamaha Asian Beat National Band Competition. Since winning the CPP, he has received offers to produce music for renowned Malaysian artists such as Sarah Ashiq and Rahayu Ribawan (the winners of Anggorah, Suria channel’s reality singing competition). “I gained valuable knowledge and skills from my SP journey which are valuable to what I’m doing today. Learning from experienced industry players such as Mr Jimmy Ye and Ms Babes Cone from the course was crucial. Currently, he is producing theme songs for more Suria shows as well as local Malay recording artists. He is also a part-time music educator and teaches music composition and singing at Music Solutions, a music education company. You can listen to Mental on YouTube (search “MTV - Mental OST for Bingit”).

When he’s not composing music, Reyza discovered another passion for acting. He went on to study acting at the National Institute of Performing Arts (NIPA), which deals with all things related to water and environmentally-friendly technology. More accurately, Mental is the song that won SP alumnus Reyza Hamzah the top spot at the MDA MediaCorp Call for Theme Song Production Proposal (CPP) in 2012. CPP is a yearly invitation for musicians to submit theme song proposals for MediaCorp drama series. Written and composed by the Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) graduate, the song became the theme music for Bingit, a Malay drama series produced by Suria channel about youth and mental illness. It was Bingit’s serious storyline that inspired Reyza to enter CFP. “I aim to use music as a medium of inspiration by imparting values and morals through the lyrics and lifting up the emotions of the community,” he said.

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Young Robot Prodigies

The Singapore Open of the world’s most prestigious robot and artificial intelligence event, RoboCup 2013, has been hailed a success, with participation from over 100 competing teams with close to 400 students from primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges as well as countries such as China, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia.

Jointly organised by Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Science Centre Singapore (SCS), the RoboCup Singapore Open has been the strongest educational platform for youths to advance their skills in robotics, artificial intelligence and engineering. It allows students to exercise and combine their creativity with scientific knowledge, and to innovate technological advancements in robotics that will have an impact on people's quality of life.

The RoboCup 2013 Singapore Open also serves as the national selection platform for teams who will keep Singapore's flag flying high at the RoboCup World Championship 2013 which will be held in the Netherlands. After two days of intense competition, the following winning teams in their respective categories will stand a chance to represent Singapore on the international stage:

ROBOCUP JUNIOR SOCCER LIGHTWEIGHT LEAGUE
Individual Team Primary
- Team Nanyang 6 from Nanyang Primary School
- Team Chromo from Nanyang Girls High School

ROBOCUP JUNIOR SOCCER OPEN LEAGUE
Individual Team – Team iRIsians from Raffles Institution

ROBOCUP JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
Individual Team Primary
- Team Tema 61 from Temasek Primary School

ROBOCUP JUNIOR DANCE LEAGUE
Original Performance Primary
- Team Dahl Gold from Ju Yang Primary School
Original Performance Secondary
- Team Mosch, Choo and Chilli Pepper from Raffles Institution

ROBOCUP JUNIOR COSPACE RESCUE LEAGUE
Individual Team Primary
- Team Happy Treasure Bot from Nanyang Primary School
- Team Matrix from Victoria Junior College

ROBOCUP JUNIOR COSPACE DANCE LEAGUE
Original Performance Secondary
- Team iOja from Raffles Girls School

If you are a poly graduate going to university, start playing with scientific calculators because junior college (JC) students are already very experienced with this important tool. When you're in university, make full use of the time. Study mathematics or get a driving license on your off days to get a head start in your future.

This was some of the down-to-earth, practical advice given by SP alumni to current students during talks arranged by the Alumni Relations Office (ARO). ARO also worked hard to arrange for several alumni to celebrate, reunite and catch up with their batch mates.

The advice on practicing with scientific calculators and the tip about national service were given by Angie Ong and Suresh Kumar. Angie graduated in 2009 from the Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT). She recently graduated from the Nanyang Business School in Nanyang Technological University and is currently working as a business development executive in Elux Technology. Suresh graduated from DBIT in 2010 and is currently studying business in the National University of Singapore.

Together, they encouraged their juniors in DBIT to always be ahead of the curve. In university, for instance, poly grads and JC grads have different strengths. The latter usually have a stronger foundation in theory for subjects like science and math, therefore it is important for poly grads to read up in these areas to gain a more well-rounded set of skills. This would complement their already considerable hands-on experience and know-how which put them ahead of their JC mates.

Dressing one’s best was another topic touched upon at a separate talk. The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) Leadership Dialogue Series Distinguished alumni Mr Chan Chee Pong and Mr Leonard Youe were invited to this talk to give advice to top students and class representatives. Mr Chan is a 1978 Diploma in Electrical Engineering graduate whose exploits include serving as the Vice President of Facilities Management & Engineering at Resorts World Sentosa. Mr Youe is a 1981 Diploma in Electrical & Computer Control Engineering graduate and founder and Chief Executive of The Eminius Group, a specialist search and consulting company.

These two accomplished SP alumni shared their life experiences with their young engineering juniors. They also discussed how greatly times have changed, pointing out how students today had much greater freedom in polytechnic than during their time. Mr Chan pointed out that many students now wear flip flops to lectures. He expressed his concern regarding this trend and advised his young audience to dress up a little more for school. In his view, one never knows when he might meet someone potentially important to his future. Thus, it is wise to always dress well to make that crucial good first impression.

Besides sharing advice with students, our alumni also gathered together to enjoy each other's company and reminisce about the past. More than 100 alumni and staff members from the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering gathered for the School’s first-ever Alumni Homecoming Dinner to catch up on lost time and share their stories of yesteryears.

The Model of Youth IT

Luc Jun Hua, a class of 2012 graduate from the Diploma in Information Technology (DIT), has a new title to his resume – the Youth IT Award presented by the Singapore Computer Society. During his SP journey, Jun Hua got involved in several IT developmental projects. This includes a final-year project where he and his team improved the emergency handling systems for crime and fire cases, done in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF). The project won several awards, among them the 2011 STF Award (Tertiary Student) and the first prize at the SIA Spatial Challenge 2011 (Tertiary Student Category). Now a pioneer undergraduate at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), he is researching on designing an interactive learning experience for IT education, sponsored by the SUTD-MIT International Design Centre (IDC). Looking for a poster boy for information technology? He is it!
A Treaty of Composites

SP and ST Kinetics have rolled out a programme to develop workforce with skills and knowledge about the latest composite technology. The programme will cover products such as carbon fibres and advanced materials. Participants will delve into topics such as the latest developments in composite materials technology and the regulatory framework. The programme will be open to individuals keen on developing a career in the share market or interested to improve their knowledge. This marks the first time that SGX's own school, SGX Academy, is working with a polytechnic in Singapore to bring investment training to a Singaporean and international audience. The programme will cover products such as shares, exchange-traded funds, bonds and structured warrants. Participants will delve into topics such as financial analysis, regulation and compliance, and customer service skills. Participants can earn continuous education points that feature in the stockbroking industry and regulatory framework, dealing ethics and customer service skills. Participants can earn continuous education points that feature in the stockbroking industry and regulatory framework, dealing ethics and customer service skills. Participants can earn continuous education points that feature in the stockbroking industry and regulatory framework, dealing ethics and customer service skills.

A Charity

Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) students will benefit from an agreement inked between SP Business School and the Shared Services for Charities (SSC). The collaboration will allow DAC students to gain in-depth knowledge on the auditing and accounting processes for various charitable organizations during internship placements that will last 12 weeks. SSC will conduct necessary on-the-job training to enable the students to apply what they have learnt in their course to real-life situations. Students and staff who are interested in assisting SSC to provide professional services for charities can also volunteer at SSC for up to three weeks. "This meaningful platform will empower our students to assist charities in raising their governance and trust standards. Working hand in hand with SSC, we hope to instil a greater sense of voluntarism and responsibility among SP students who will be joining the workforce upon graduation," said Mr Reginald Wee, Director of SP Business School.

Maritime School Wins Prestigious Award

SP's Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) was presented with the Excellence in Training Development Award at the Singapore International Maritime Awards (SMA) 2013 ceremony held in April. This award was presented to an organization or institute of higher learning that has demonstrated commitment and excellence in training and development.

SP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two Indonesian universities, University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) and the University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta (UMS), to launch a new Cross-Discipline-Implemen-Operate (CDIO) training programme for UMS and UMY teaching staff and educators. CDIO is an innovative educational framework for producing the next generation of engineers. As the CDIO Regional Centre for Asia, SP will play a key role in providing expertise to assist UMY and UMS faculties in the adoption and implementation of the CDIO framework. This programme is largely funded by a $63,700 grant from the Temasek Foundation (TF).

A Charity

How To Run
A Charity

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A Charity

New Ties with Indonesian Universities

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Elson fresh SP graduates from various diploma courses recently received the HOME Award for polytechnic students and are on their way to pursue a career with either the Home Affairs Uniformed Services or the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority. Two of them received the HOME Merit Award (Poly) whilst another nine received the HOME Merit Award, “I was exploring various career options and looking at something that would be rewarding and yet make a positive impact on others. I hope to serve well with the HOME Team and later on earn a scholarship to continue my studies at a university.”

The HOME Award (Polytechnic) was introduced in 2009 and sponsors successful polytechnic applicants for a three-year full-time diploma course in the polytechnics. Upon graduation, the recipients will embark on a career with one of the Home Team Departments that include the Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Central Narcotics Bureau and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority. For details on the award scheme, visit www.mha.gov.sg/homeaward.

More Doctors To Be

They’ve received one of the highest honours — an invitation to enter one of the world’s noblest professions. Meetrra Seyer Rajoo and Darren Goh are recent Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) graduates who have been accepted into the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore.

Both of them got interested in health and healthcare in their youth, and it was during their time in DBS that their desire to enter medicine grew. “It has always been a dream of mine to pursue a healthcare-related career, but I was only certain that medicine was the right choice sometime in early Year 4 of my poly education,” said Meetrra. “I believe that medicine was the right choice — I also enjoy helping and interacting with people. To me a doctor is a truly noble job that allows me to help people in their darkest times and try to make them feel better,” he said.

Both of them strongly believe that DBS has given them a truly complete educational experience. Darren said, “I have definitely enjoyed my time here in SP. Being in DBS has given me many opportunities to help me prepare for my life ahead. Not only has the course given me knowledge, it has also provided me many opportunities to grow in character as well.”

To Meetrra, Darren, and all the 2013 graduates of DBS, congratulations, and may you go on to achieve your dreams of making a difference in the lives of others!

For Darren, he has always been fascinated with the body works and why humans fall ill. “I also enjoy helping and interacting with people. To me a doctor is a truly noble job that allows me to help people in their darkest times and try to make them feel better,” he said.

Says Muhd Firmans who just graduated from the Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) with an impressive Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.759 and received the HOME Merit Award, “I was exploring various career opportunities and looking at something that would be rewarding and yet make a positive impact on others. I hope to serve well with the HOME Team and later on earn a scholarship to continue my studies at a university.”

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Are the students here all so crazy? I want to be a part of all this!

More Doctors To Be

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THE JAM AND HIP HOP WAS AWESOME! IT ROCKED MY NIGHT AWAY
DARIUS OU
Fresh Graduate and Course Medallist
Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design