

# SPiRiT

VOL 2 2013



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE

# SIMPLY THE BEST

Top Grads from the Class of 2013

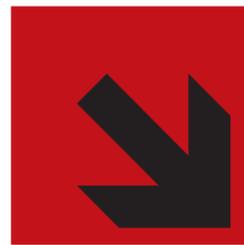


▪ Emily Ho ▪ Eric Ooi ▪ Ho Keen Hoe ▪ Nicholas Tei ▪ Steven Ong  
**HIRED BEFORE GRADUATION:** ▪ Syahirah Nurdiana ▪ Ng Wan Ting  
**SUCCESS STORIES:**  
**GRAD SHOWS:** Render 2013 and Edition 13.7  
**Suckies:** A Business That Sucks and Succeeds



# WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH WE RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Our Army is the foundation of our nation's security. Capable of performing a wide spectrum of operations at home and abroad, we constantly push our limits and stand ready to act swiftly and decisively when called upon. As a competent and respected force, we are committed to protect our country, our loved ones and our way of life. For this is our home we are defending, Our Army always rises to the challenge. Visit us at [armycareers.gov.sg](http://armycareers.gov.sg)



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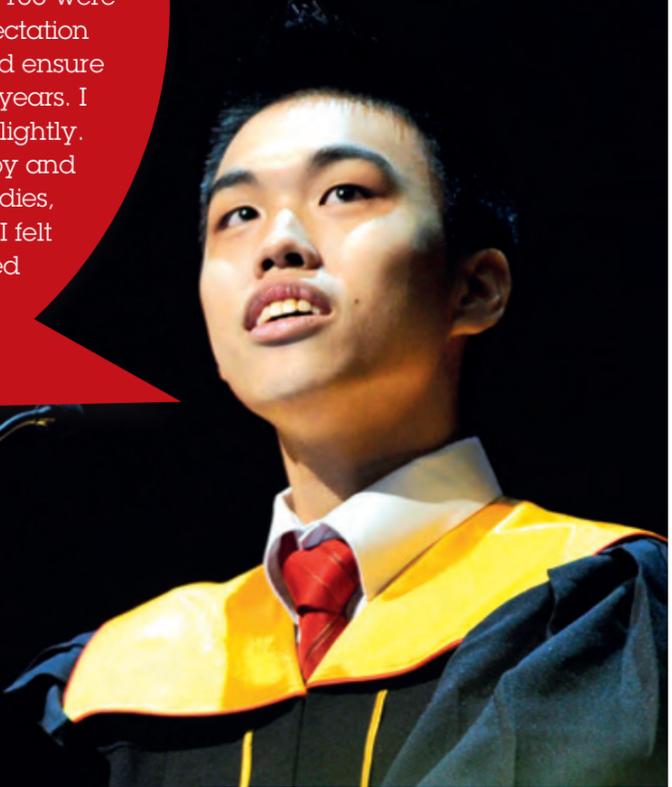
# VAISHNAVI NAIDU D/O RAJENDRAN

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



# SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

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 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."

# JACKY LUM

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

#### The **SP**irit Team

**Advisor:** Yvonne Chan **Editor-in-Chief:** Andy Kwan **Assistant Editors:** Candice Yam, Benjamin Moey  
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advertising**

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.

# SIMPLY THE BEST

Styling  
JEROME  
AWASTHI  
Makeup  
LOLENT LEE  
Hair  
ASH LOI  
Female  
wardrobe  
NEW LOOK  
Male  
wardrobe  
CELIO



# LEONG HEI KERN

Diploma in Mechanical Engineering  
Alumnus from Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)

## 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

## 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).
- ★ 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.

## 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.

# ALETHEA JOYHAN HUIEN

Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science  
Alumna from Methodist Girls' School



## 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
- Tayltonn Award

# TENG ZI YING

Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology  
Alumna from Tanjong Katong Girls' School

## 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 loved it that I could run into my lecturers' offices to talk about anything under the sun! I could consult them on my assignments or even chat with them over coffee ☺.
- ★ 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.

## MY NEXT STOP

• I plan to read Psychology at University College London. It is a brand new degree programme there and offers very interesting modules.

• I hope to work in the mental health and performing arts fields for a few years after getting my degree. Thereafter, I would like to take a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and another in Applied Theatre.

## MY AWARDS:

- Low Guan Onn Gold Medal
- Asian Women's Welfare Association Gold Medal
- Shell Companies in Singapore Prize



# WALTER TAN

Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management  
Alumnus from North Vista Secondary School

## WHO AM I?

- ★ 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!

## MY NEXT STOP

- I plan to take up a business degree with a local university after national service.
- I hope to have my own events company by the time I'm 35.

## MY AWARDS:

- Lee Kuan Yew Award
- Singapore Tourism Board Gold Medal
- Shell Companies In Singapore Prize
- Banyan Tree Global Foundation Prize
  - Division Communications Prize
  - OCBC Prize
- Sentosa 4D Magix Prize





# TOH XINNI

Diploma in Accountancy  
Alumna from Swiss Cottage  
Secondary School

## 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 practise 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



# JAMES NG JUNHAO

Diploma in Visual Effects  
and Motion Graphics  
Alumnus from Nan Hua  
High School

## WHO AM I?

- ★ I'm from the pioneer batch of this course. I was so eager to join this course that I applied for it under the Direction Admission Exercise, even before I took my 'O' level exams, and was offered the SP Scholarship from Year 1.
- ★ My family ran a photo processing and video rental business and I had the chance to watch movies since young and have seen the evolution of media forms from video tapes to laser discs to blue ray. I was often fascinated by the special effects in movies.
- ★ I was in Hollywood in USA for five months for the NUS-MDA Hollywood Attachment Programme where I learned more about film production and the latest technologies used in the film industry.
- ★ I went to USA for a second time for the United Nations Model Conference in Harvard University organised under the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Programme.
- ★ My final-year project was a short film called "Merah" which I wrote, directed and edited. The story was loosely adapted from the Legend of Bukit Merah, and the process has gotten the team, who are all Chinese, more interested in Malay culture, history and language.
- ★ Laying bricks to help build a school in an Indonesian village during a leadership camp was a memorable SP experience. It enhanced my appreciation for what we have here in Singapore.
- ★ I will miss the very strong camaraderie with all my class mates. Despite our different backgrounds, we went through thick and thin and supported each other without expecting anything in return.
- ★ In the long run, I hope to use the power of media technologies to educate future generations. Imagine using augmented reality where we could walk through the Great Wall of China while studying Chinese history.

## MY NEXT STOP

- I will be furthering my studies in a local university and have already been offered places.
- I see myself as a media professional after I get my degree, and also possibly an educator when I'm older. It will be great if I can intertwine media and education.

## MY AWARDS:

- Tan Kay Yong Gold Medal
- Media Development Authority Gold Medal
- The Stunt Production

**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 naive 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!

**CAN BEEU**

Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics Alumna from Sekolah Menengah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) (Hua Lian) (Malaysia)



**MY NEXT STOP**

- I plan to further my studies in Marine Engineering at the Singapore Institute of Technology, hopefully with a scholarship.
- I am a Specialist now and aspire to become an Officer. In ten years' time, I hope to achieve my current objectives and set myself even more challenging and rewarding goals.

**MY AWARDS:**

- Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal
- Keppel Offshore & Marine Prize
- Neptune Ship Management Services Prize
- Sembcorp Marine Prize

**WHO AM I?**

- ★ Learning is a lifelong journey. I joined SP when I was 36. When I stepped into class on the first day, the others thought I was the lecturer!
- ★ Thanks to the strong support from the Singapore Navy, I was able to join SP under a scholarship. Many of my colleagues were from SP and they only had good things to say about this institution.
- ★ Despite the age difference, I was able to forge strong bonds with course mates half my age. The understanding and trust between us was just so strong.
- ★ Actually this was not my first time studying in SP. I was enrolled in the Diploma in Nautical Studies in 1992 but had to drop out due to financial difficulties. But I promised myself that I would come back! The promise was deeply engraved in my heart and I was really grateful to be able to study here again.
- ★ I was totally lost during my first lesson and felt like giving up. Thanks to a young chap who sat next to me, he patiently taught me and continued to sit beside me for the next three years. I am really grateful to you, Elvin Ng Hock Ann.
- ★ I performed community service with the SWAMI Home and the experience gained will last me a lifetime. It taught me how to integrate with the old, the disabled and the underprivileged.
- ★ I was so thankful to be able to do so well in my course that I wrote a letter to express my gratitude to my class mates who have helped me one time or another. It was the journey of a lifetime.
- ★ I'm married with two kids who are in Primary 3 and 5. My wife is a Police Officer.

**RAJENDRAN S/O RAMACHANDRAN**

Diploma in Marine Engineering Alumnus from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School and Institute of Technical Education

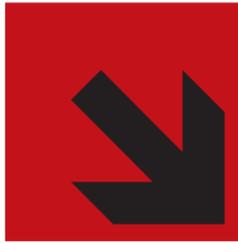


**MY NEXT STOP**

- 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
- OCBC Prize
- The Institution of Engineers, Singapore Prize



# SPIRIT

## Congratulates the Star Performers of 2013!



Tan Junhong  
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering  
Clementi Town Secondary School

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.



Gan Bee Li  
Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics  
SMJK Hua Lian (Malaysia)

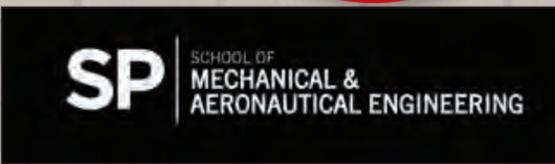


Theh Kang Ni  
Diploma in Information Communication Technology  
SMK Taman Putih (Kuantan, Malaysia)



Lim Liang Yuan  
Diploma in Clean Energy  
Nan Hua High School

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.



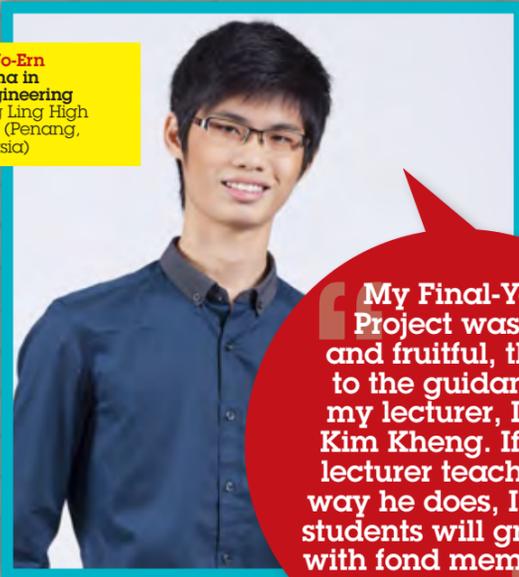
What I love best about SP is the open study spaces, how they are beautifully connected to nature.



Choi Lai Hin  
Diploma in Aerospace Electronics  
Compassvale Secondary School



Leong Hei Kern  
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering  
Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)



Yeoh Jo-Ern  
Diploma in Bioengineering  
Chung Ling High School (Penang, 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.



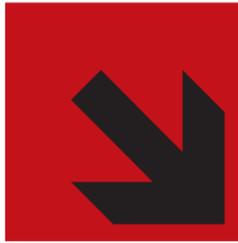
Nur Faatihah Bte Mohd Amin  
Diploma in Engineering with Business  
Anderson Secondary School



Winston Seetoh Zit Yang  
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Tanglin Secondary School

Lim Guo Wei  
Diploma in Computer Engineering  
Clementi Town Secondary School

# Star Performers



**Meetra d/o Seyher**  
Diploma in Biomedical Science  
Tanjong Katong Girls' School

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.



**Koh Huann Rong**  
Diploma in Food Science & Technology  
Chua Chu Kang Secondary School



**Alethea Joy Han Hui En**  
Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science  
Methodist Girls' School



**Kyaw Thee Tin**  
Diploma in Nautical Studies  
Private G.C.E. 'O' Level candidate



**Ooi Chong Yih**  
Diploma in Materials Science  
SMK Permas Jaya (Malaysia)



**Ho Jia Zhen**  
Diploma in Optometry  
Canberra Secondary School



**Fou Zi Xuan**  
Diploma in Marine Engineering  
Malaysian School



**Jezlyn Wee Jia En**  
Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness  
Kent Ridge Secondary School



**Ng Pey Ling**  
Diploma in Chemical Engineering  
Bukit Merah Secondary School



**Tan Yu Hui**  
Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science  
Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School



**Leow Wen Hao**  
Diploma in Biotechnology  
Hai Sing Catholic School

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

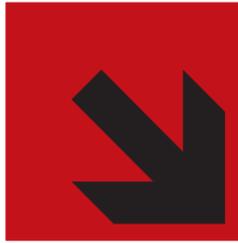
My class would organise surprise birthday bashes to celebrate each other's birthdays!

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.



**Eugene Lim Jun Liang**  
Diploma in Maritime Business  
Boon Lay Secondary School

# Star Performers



**Lim Zhi Xian**  
Diploma in Financial Informatics  
Coral Secondary School

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



**Yap Jun Yuan**  
Diploma in Business Administration  
Evergreen Secondary School

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



**Karen Mei Jia Qi**  
Diploma in Digital Animation  
Beatty Secondary School

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



**Michelle Tan Jia Min**  
Diploma in Digital Media  
Cedar Girls' Secondary School



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



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



**Toh Xin Ni**  
Diploma in Accountancy  
Swiss Cottage Secondary School



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



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



**Matthew Ong Ding Qiang**  
Diploma in International Business  
Temasek Secondary School

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



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



**James Ng Junhao**  
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics  
Nan Hua High School



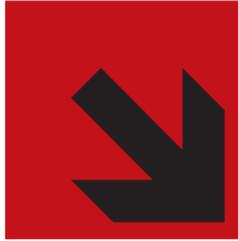
**Edwin Lim Wei Heng**  
Diploma in Banking & Financial Services  
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

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.



**Sam Chee Fye**  
Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology  
Ghim Moh Secondary School

# Star Performers



**Priscilla Tan Jia Jia**  
Diploma in Experience & Product Design  
Westwood Secondary School



**John Tan Wei Liang**  
Diploma in Games Design & Development  
Teck Whye Secondary School



**Heng Cheng Sin**  
Diploma in Architecture  
Presbyterian High School



**Lim Zhi Yuan**  
Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business  
Admiralty Secondary School



**Qurratu 'Ain Bte Aminurashid**  
Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management  
Teck Whye Secondary School



**Sophia Lim Suet Min**  
Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology  
Compassvale Secondary School



**Walter Tan**  
Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management  
North Vista Secondary School



**Mitch Goh Jie Chern**  
Diploma in Landscape Architecture  
Saint Patrick's School



**Darius Ou Dahao**  
Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design  
Orchid Park Secondary School

My ambition is to open my own graphic design studio and happily do my work.



**Nicole Loh Voon Voon**  
Diploma in Media & Communication  
SM Sultan Ibrahim (Malaysia)

I love the food that SP has! Lunch break was something that my girlfriends and I always looked forward to.



**Cai Deshun**  
Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media  
Orchid Park Secondary School



**Teng Zi Ying**  
Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology  
Tanjong Katong Girls' School

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

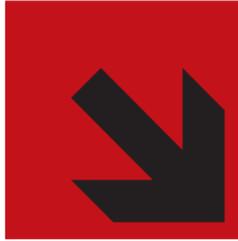
I loved my internship at WOHA. I will never forget my internship there and hope my colleagues won't forget me too!

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.

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



So Possible!



# Celebrating with the Class of 2013



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. **SPiRiT** captures the exhilaration that is Graduation 2013!

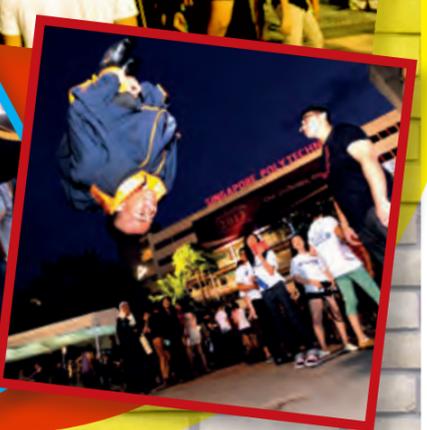
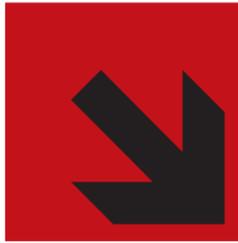


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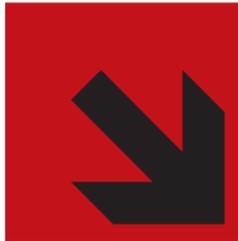


So Possible!

# Celebrating with the Class of 2013



365



# Showroom Perfection

## EDITION

# 13.7

# Engaging Designs on Show

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.

The Bonfire Bench by Zhou Yang will encourage conversation with strangers sitting on it.



Kota Wash by Melissa Zee (left) and Kezia Kong sends a message to get better water and sanitation facilities.



Project Dharma by Ian Aaron Chia provides portable toilets to slum dwellers while creating awareness to raise funds.



Darius Ou and his branding campaign for Qian Hu, one of Singapore's biggest exporters of ornamental fish started by an SP alumnus, Kenny Yap.

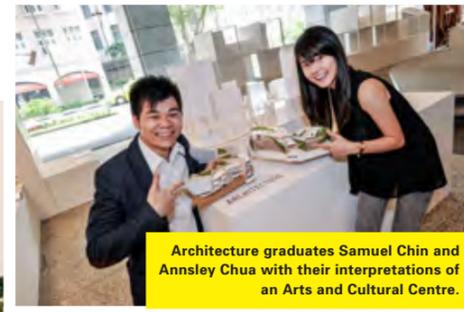


These are but some of the really impressive final-year projects that went on show at Edition 13.7 - the annual design exhibition showcase by graduating students from the diplomas in **Architecture (DARCH)**, **Landscape Architecture (DLA)**, **Interior Design (DID)**, **Experience and Product Design (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,



Jeanette Tan's project uses lush tropical landscaping with water features.



Architecture graduates Samuel Chin and Annsley Chua with their interpretations of an Arts and Cultural Centre.



They developed Tomorrow's Mourning, an online game (from left): Abel Lim, Benedict Lee, Dai Wei and Joel Teo.

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](http://www.edition.sg) for more photos and descriptions of their works.



Interior Design graduates and their works (from left): Wilbert Koh, Leung Jia Jun, Delores Lim, Tay Lu Yee and Lu Yanjie.



These are the creative minds behind SP Open House campaign 2013: (from left) Foo Kai Ling, Chloe Ong, Sng Jia Rong and Eng Sui Kee from the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design.



Global Atelier - dwelling spaces for a growing population - by (from left) Matt Siew, Clara Wong, Chong Ee Ming, Alvin Ng, Joan Chua, Guo Cheng Long, Jamie Marda Chen, Brandon Ong, Jazzmine Ang and Poh Hui Shan. Not in picture: Stephanie Nah.



Lester Liao's mammoth exhibit - the interchangeable Da Vinci Landscape.

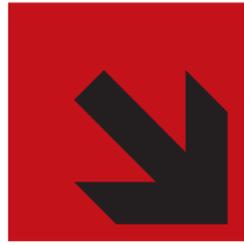


When a door becomes origami. Leung Jun Jie's Door Atelier project gives new twists to the door.

The Sound Machine designed by Ellvixson Yap is an installation that produces atmospheric sound when a person walks on it.



# Spectacular Performance



## Lights, Cameras, App-tion!

Directors 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 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 year projects (FYP) of students from the **Diplomas in Interactive Media (DIXM), Digital Animation (DDA), Music and Audio Technology (DMAT), Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG), Business Information**

**Technology (DBIT), Infocomm Security Management (DISM) and Information Technology (DIT).**

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.



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 also won several awards, such as MediJournal, a medication reminder app that won the first prize at the Now You Can Leadership (NYCL) Series and at the SP Mobfest 2012 Student App Developer Category. It also clinched the Best Presenter Award at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF) Awards.

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 SiTF Gold Award (Tertiary category) and the Merit Award at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) held in Brunei.

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 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](http://www.render.sg) for an online display of their projects.



(From left): David Wee from Sony Singapore; winning team Iridescent Scope Picture members Nicole D’Cotta, Hafiz Yusri, Vivien Lau, Gan Chuen Yew and Wesley Chan; and DMIT Director Georgina Phua.



### 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.

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.

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.

## Star Performers



The SP journey is trudged on with determination and perseverance, as **SPiRiT** 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.

# Re-Igniting The Flame For Science

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 Hai 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 cloned cells.

During each semestral 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



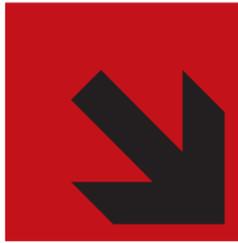
Doing lab work at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard Medical School.

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.



Taking a break while interning at Harvard Medical School in Boston





# Running The Race, Keeping The Faith

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.

Emily together with Wesley.



Emily (second from left in a tank top and shorts) with her course mates at a photography field trip at Marina Bay.



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



The poster art for Emily's final year project, *Once Upon A Dead*.



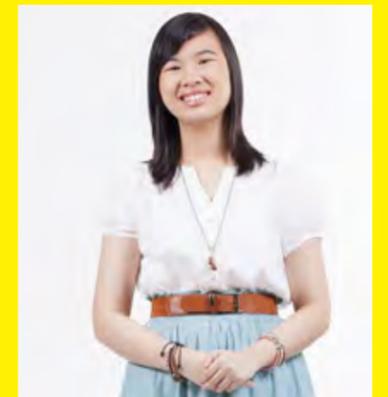
and a half years, they met at the bus stop outside school and walked the slope together.

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 around 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."

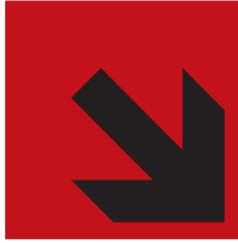
Now that her journey with SP has come to a close, Emily aims to serve her church by working in its publicity department as a designer.

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



The **Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA)** and **Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** were launched as brand new courses in 2010. Karen Mei topped her DDA course and is currently freelancing as an animator. She plans to continue her studies at Digipen after building up her impressive portfolio of works. During her SP days, she went on study trips to Korea and France to learn from the experts there. The top graduate for DVEMG is James Ng Junhao, featured in page 11).



# Bad Boy Then, Role Model Now

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.



Nicholas riding a white horse in Mongolia.

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. Nicholas moved on to Primary Five, disliked by his classmates. But some one stood up for him – his form teacher who



Nicholas (middle) with fellow SP students at the Harvard United Nations Model Conference.

told him: "I don't care what you did before." She made him the class monitor. The fact that someone believed in him paved the way for him to change for good; his determination strengthened further through a renewed faith in God. He talked to his parents who reassured him of their love for him. Months later, he was made a school prefect.

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.

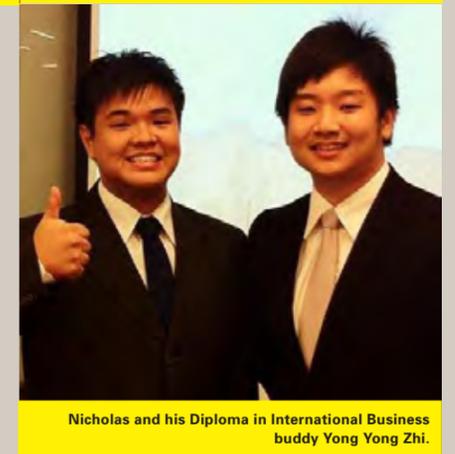
After 'O' levels, he initially wanted to take up the International Baccalaureate programme but didn't make the grade. After some consideration, he finally made the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** at SP his first choice because he felt that being a pioneer would give him more influence to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

"Realness is what DIB offers. We have to do projects that meet the expectations of real life companies."

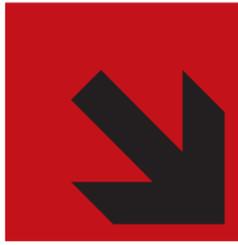


Nicholas and his Diploma in International Business buddy Yong Yong Zhi.

Determined to be a leader who can influence others, Nicholas wants to pursue a degree in Public Policy after his national service. He has high aims for universities and would apply to top-notch universities like Harvard and the Australian National University.

"I would like to experience a different educational system. There should be one stage in my life where I should be independent and live as a minority," he says. He hopes to be a public servant in future as he wants to contribute to society and influence youth to become leaders.

Now who says bad boys can't be leaders? Talk to Nicholas.



# Material Wealth

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 greasy 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.



Diploma in Materials Science outstanding graduate, Ho Keen Hoe. During his three years in SP, he has received the Model Student Award, the SP Scholarship Award, the Green Challenge Gold Award and the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold).



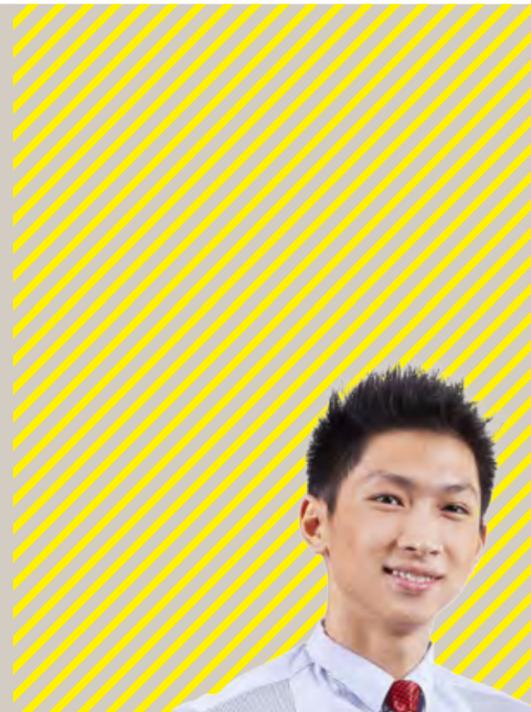
Eric (left) and Keen Hoe at the Excellence Awards 2013 ceremony.

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).



Keen Hoe (bottom row, second from left) and Eric (bottom row, extreme right) with their fellow Green Challenge Award winners. The Green Challenge is a competition where students vie to create the best environmentally-friendly research project or technology prototype.

"We learn how to create everything around us," said Eric. "We can make foam from purely liquid chemicals, or a plastic cup out of resins; we can make phone casings, bulletproof vests, bottles, films and just about anything you could imagine. I chose DMLS because I was curious about all these things, as well as everything else around me." The fact that DMLS was a new course at the time did not deter either of them from joining. Keen Hoe had heard that DMLS was simply the revamped version of a previous well-established course - the Diploma in Chemical Process Technology. Eric had simply felt sure that there would be no problems since SP had the confidence to declare the opening of the new course.

Neither their passion for science nor their drive for success made them narrow-minded or obsessed with results, though. Both graduates took the time to explore the world and broaden their horizons. For

his internship, Keen Hoe went to the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland, where he worked on a luminescence solar collector, a next-generation solar panel. Eric travelled to East Timor for a community service initiative to teach the locals handicraft skills that would help them earn money. Both graduates also went to Sri Lanka for community service trips as well.

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.

## Star Performers

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

# Hired in a Flash

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. SPirit 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 SPirit e-magazine, and eventually I saw that she was responsible and serious about her work.

Ng Wan Ting (on getting hired): "I felt shocked, excited and happy. I never knew I would be so lucky to have such a good and rare opportunity, and so quickly too!"



Syahirah Nurdiyana (on her goals at Onezine): "I hope to have a few e-magazine publications under my name, become a manager and give creative directions to juniors in a few years' time."



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 resourcefulness. During one of her projects, she showed this quality to me by learning on her own instead of waiting for me to train her—she even completed the project before I could tell her what to do next! She is also a great team player.

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.

\*The Diploma in Digital Media has been revamped as two separate courses – Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA) and Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG).

## Supportive People

# A Writing Family

The second batch of **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)** students has graduated and will be going on to bigger things. Graduate Try Sutrisno Foo shares his thoughts about the past, the future, and how he thinks his course mates are "weird to the core":



Glitz, glamour, razzle-dazzle—the 2013 graduates of DTVM ended three years of study with a classy and unforgettable graduation show. SP Principal and CEO Tan Choon Shian (wearing a light brown jacket) also graced the occasion.

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

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 (or 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 Kuching in Sarawak. 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 made in Kuching, search for the "dtvmosp" channel on YouTube.)

### What was life in school like, and what are 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 really volatile emotions. But I always say, "If this critique helps me, then why not hear it out?"

As for my course mates... they are 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.

### How about your lecturers?

I remember in Year 1, a lecturer stayed till 10pm to keep the classroom open for us



Try Sutrisno Foo (centre) raises a glass to... himself? Fellow graduates Elsa Chan (left) and Jedidah Neo (right) don't seem bothered though. It's graduation night, after all. And they've already put up with him for three years (kidding, of course).

because it had the software we needed. And I think any lecturer in my course would do that. They really care for us. They go the extra mile. And when you feel burdened with something, they'll drop what they're doing and listen to you. I guess that makes them very special.

### 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 you do what you want in front of without fear of being judged.

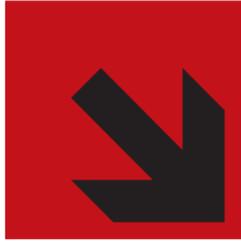
### And what are you looking forward to?

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.)

## PARTING WORDS

During their graduation dinner, lecturer Gamar Binte Abdul Aziz had one last lesson for her students:

**"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 or technical areas. When you ground yourself in that, you'll never lose your way."**



# Crème de la crème



Front row from left: Eugene Lim, Gan Bee Li, Jacqqie Poh, Teng Zi Ying, Esther Subramaniam, Koh See Hui, Clarie Teo, Janis Ng, Brigitte Ong, Alethea Joy Han, Sophia Lim, Rebekah Toh Lin, Toh Jia Yi, Vaishnavi Naidu d/o Rajendran  
Back row from left: Amaran s/o Sukumaran, Ooi Chong Yih, Tan Xin Yi, Ho Keen Hoe, Herman Wee, Pang Shun Toll, Rifat Hidayat Bin Ja'afarino, Kingston Wong, Leong Hei Kern, Mervin Ng, Yang Xudong, Sukarno, Ng Hiang Teck, Chiu Po Heng, Liu Shisong. Absent: Gabriel Hoe

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, Jacqqie Poh (**Diploma in Clean Energy - DCEG**) 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

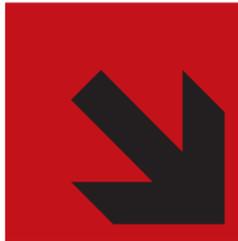
helped trounce opponents to win at the POL-ITE Games.

Alethea 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 (DPCS)** 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.

Jacqqie, Alethea 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.



# Winners of Excellence Awards 2013

## MODEL STUDENT AWARDS

### School Of Architecture & The Built Environment

- Chiu Po Heng
- **Ng Hiang Teck**
- Rebekah Toh Lin
- Sophia Lim Suet Min



- ### School Of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences
- **Esther Subramaniam**
  - Teng Zi Ying

### School Of Chemical & Life Sciences

- **Alethea Joy Han Hui En**
- Ho Keen Hoe
- Koh See Hui
- Ooi Chong Yih



### School Of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology

- **Gabriel Hoe Keen Loon**
- Kingston Wong Zhen An
- **Vaishnavi Naidu D/O Rajendran**
- Yang Xudong



- ### School Of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- **Amaran S/O Sukumaran**
  - Herman Wee Ding Xian
  - Jacqqie Poh Chao Yan
  - Mervin Ng Wei-Jian
  - Tan Xin Yi

### School Of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering

- Gan Bee Li
- Leong Hei Kern
- Liu Shisong
- **Pang Shun Toll**
- Rifat Hidayat Bin Ja'afarinoe
- Sukarno



### SP Business School

- Brigitte Ong Yu Shan
- Janis Ng Yi Xin
- Toh Jia Yi

### Singapore Maritime Academy

- Clarie Teo
- Eugene Lim Jun Liang

## SPORTS AWARD

### Honours With Gold

- **Abel Lim Wen Yi (Shooting)**
- **Ernest Chua Wee Kun (Fencing)**
- Ho Puay Ling (Hockey)
- Leow Meng Hao (Chinese Chess)
- Nadzrie Hyckell Bin Hamzah (Rowing)
- Nico Quek Ping Yang (Tchoukball)



- (Dragonboat)
- Soh Xinghao (Volleyball)
- Tang Choy Ting (Basketball)
- Timothy Lee Han Kuan (Diving)
- Yim Ka Hao (Dragonboat)



### Sportsman Of The Year

- **Basil Low Eng Howe (Bowling)**

### Sportswoman Of The Year

- **Audrey Yong Pei Lin (Windsurfing)**



### Sports Team Of The Year

- **Dragonboat (Men) Most Improved Sports Team**



- Netball
- Road Race
- Soccer (Men)

## OUTSTANDING CLASS LEADER AWARDS

### School Of Architecture & The Built Environment

- Lionel Wong Jun Yi
- Tay Ming Wei
- Walter Tan

### School Of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences

- **Try Sutrisno Foo Bin Abdul Rahman**



### School Of Chemical & Life Sciences

- Daniel Ker Sheng Rong
- **Edrea Phua Yan Ru**
- Koh Tian Luck



### School Of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology

- Lim Yi Yan

### School Of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

- **Austen Cheah Wei Khai**
- Benjamin Chia Jin Kiat
- Tan Xin Yi



### School Of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering

- Aprilia
- Michael Kiong Jienyi
- Tan Kok Heng



### SP Business School

- **Ng Siew Xian**
- Shahirah Binte Abdul Rahim



## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- **Cassidy Lee (SP Magician)**
- Chia Jin Kiat (Strictly Dance Zone)
- Muhd Azfar Syafiq Bin Abdol Ghafar (Malay Language Society)
- **Muhd Azrul Shukri Bin Azmi (Strictly Dance Zone)**



- Chua Ming Hong (Community Service & Cultural Club)
- Ding Wei Sheng (Infocomm Club)
- **Emily Lim Hui Si (Students' Union)**
- Glen Lim Rui Qiang (Ambassadors)
- Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi (Comperes)
- Lee Xiang Ying (Photography Club)
- **Liew Lu Yi (Community Service & Cultural Club)**



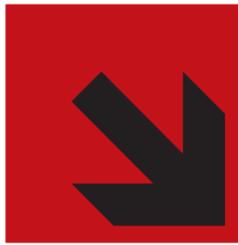
- Lim Jun Ming (Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Club)
- Low Hong Jun (Community Service & Cultural Club)
- Mohd Imran S/O Mohd Basheer (Students' Union)
- Muhd Danial Hannan Bin Mohamed Rashid (Design School Club)
- Muhd Ridhwan Bin Mahadi (Videography Club)
- Ng Ke Qin (Design School Club)
- Samuel Song Hon Fah (Community Service & Cultural Club)
- **Syazalina Bte Mohd Ghazali (Students' Union)**
- Tang Minjie (Chemical & Life Sciences Club)
- Timothy Christian Lin Tsiu Chuen (Design School Club)
- Beatrice Ho Hui'en (Enactus)
- Elaine Sam Hui Xian (Environment Club)
- Loh Zhiwen (BP Mentoring Club)
- Maynard Chua Wen De (Community Service & Cultural Club)
- Sufianto (Community Service & Cultural Club)
- Tan Hwee Fen (BP Mentoring Club)
- Chan Bao Sheng (Taekwondo Club)
- Fam Wai Cuan (Wushu Club)
- **Loh Ming Yao (Gusto)**
- Lok Xin Yii (Sports Club)

- Nur Su'aibah Binte Ngaiman (Sports Club)
- Sim Xin Wei (Kenjutsu)

## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION GROUP AWARDS

- SP International Students Club
- SP Jazz Band
- SP Strictly Dance Zone
- Chemical & Life Sciences Club
- Community Service & Cultural Club
- Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Club
- Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union
- SP Ambassadors
- SP Aviation Club
- SP Comperes
- SP Dee Jays
- SP Infocomm Club
- SP Photography Club
- SP Sports Club
- SP Stage Management Club
- SP Videography Club
- SP BP Mentoring Club
- SP Enactus
- SP Environment Club
- SP Welfare Services Club
- SP Archery Club
- SP Gusto
- SP Tae Kwon-Do Club
- SP Wushu Club

# Superior Position



For this group of freshies, there was no doubt in their mind that SP is the number one choice after the 'O' level exams. In fact, they were so eager to join Singapore's first polytechnic that they applied under the Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) scheme. **SPiRiT** hears from four of the nearly 100 freshies who joined SP ahead of others in February and underwent a two-month preparatory programme.

## We Got Here First

### SEKO 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!

**Course:** Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW)

**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 aspiring to be 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 inside 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?**

Hmmm. 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!



### JEEVAN S/O MANI MARAN Greenview Secondary School

**Fun Fact:** Jeevan has been taking breakdancing 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 went for an underwater robotics competition in secondary

school, where we built submersible 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."



### CHUA XIN RUI Zhenghua Secondary School

**Fun Fact:** Xin Rui is a multi-talented musician who can sing, play the piano and strum 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!

**Why DPA?**

I really wanted to secure a position in this course and DPA helped me to do that! And it felt 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 lot 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).

### 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 think the facilities here are really good. I was really impressed with what I saw when I came for the Open House. I also know that DDA's animation works have won a lot of awards.

**Did you have any past accomplishments that helped you get in through DDA?**

I showed the interviewing committee my portfolio and my drawings. I enjoy sketching whatever characters or images come to my mind.

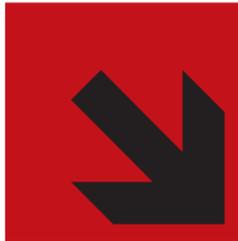


### ABOUT DPA:

Under the Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) scheme, you are admitted primarily based on your abilities, relevant talents and interest in the course of study you want. You must prove your passion for the course at an interview session where, if possible, you can show your works or achievements related to the course. Academic results are also considered and you must also meet the cut-off-points of the course that you are applying for.

If selected, you will be offered a place in your chosen course, even before you sit for your 'O' level exams. You will join SP two months ahead of the rest and spend the time in a specially-tailored seven-week Polytechnic Preparatory Programme (PPP). After the PPP, you will continue your studies together with the others who joined via the Joint Admissions Exercise. DPA applications usually start in July. For more information, visit [www.sp.edu.sg/dpa](http://www.sp.edu.sg/dpa).

# Selling Profitably



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.



## Budding Entrepreneurs!

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!

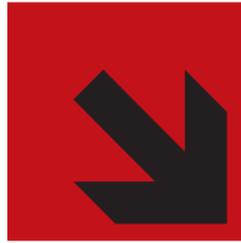
The compulsory element of starting one's own business is part of the SP Business School's (SB) philosophy of giving its students real-world, hands-on experiences. These experiences build up their confidence and equip them with all

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.



## Soybean Professionals



"Work hard, Suck harder." This is one of many hilarious taglines coined by the creators of Suckies, a daring, creative bean-curd-in-a-cup business that will revolutionise the idea of consuming bean curd dessert. **SPIRIT** gets to the root of this creative enterprise.

# 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 stabs 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 poking fun at bean curd stalls, saying, 'Look at Lao Ban. They're only selling dao huay (bean curd pudding) but they're doing it so big. Why can't we just sell dao huay and be as big as them?'"

Ironically, this unfocused horsing 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 150 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



"We prefer to suck it." Caramel bean curd, that is. The Caramel Suckies is Suckies' all-time best-selling brand!

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!**



(From left) Suckies co-founders and recent graduates Lee Zhen Yang (Diploma in Business Information Technology), Alwin Citroen (Diploma in Business Administration) and Leon Thor (Diploma in Business Information Technology). Co-founder Joel Chiam is not in the picture.

## Special Project



# T Investigation

What is the difference between a good business and a bad business? This timeless question could be approached in many ways, but for Saadiq Manzir, there is simply one answer: market research. Before graduating this year, the **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** alumnus spent eleven months aiding a new local t-shirt business in understanding their consumers' innermost desires and needs.



Saadiq Manzir (fifth from left) and his teammates Lam Yee Kuang and Eng Yee Cheng (fourth and third from left, respectively), wearing MooTees T-shirts and posing with MooTees employees and co-owners Dherry Brandon Lee (second from left) and Jason Ho (extreme right).

This business, MooTees, is an exciting new local start-up that sells t-shirts for men online. Saadiq and his Final Year Project (FYP) team, Dreammakers, were responsible for conducting an FYP research project to understand the desires of MooTees' target audience: 16 to 35-year-old males.

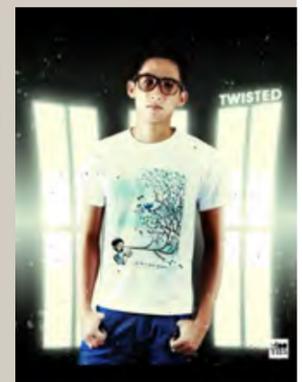
Together with team mates Lam Yee Kuang and Eng Yee Cheng, the trio surveyed about 400 respondents in various polytechnics and public areas. They asked about things such as the respondents' frequency of online purchases and the amount they would willingly pay for one shirt. They also observed the demographics of the respondents to understand which age, race, and socioeconomic groups had the strongest online shopping habits.

Because the results are reserved for MooTees, Saadiq could not openly discuss his more interesting findings. He could however, share with us about the benefits

of a market research project. "Research is not just about spending habits or demographics," Saadiq said. "You can use it to learn about things like what kind of base shirt colours people like, or what colours are in trend right now. There's also genre – do they prefer anime characters or graphic tees? Or do they go with a brand like Abercrombie & Fitch?"

Why pay for market research, however? Why not just go with a "gut" feel or impression of what your target audience wants? To this question, Saadiq replied: "T-shirts are subjective, and the trends change. A few years back, no one knew about a thing called Gangnam style, but now it's something amazing. Market research is a great checkpoint for figuring out the styles and colours that are in trend."

However, while he champions the value of good research, Saadiq admits that there are many more things required to create a good business. Considerable funding and manpower is needed, even for an online



A shirt from MooTees' "Twisted" series. "Twisted" designs are twists on traditional fairy tale images.

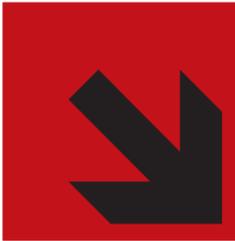
store. Reliable suppliers who can deliver good quality shirts and design printing must also be found.

Observing respondents taught him the value of research, but it was working with MooTees' owners Brandon Lee and Jason Ho that caused him to see another side to business altogether. Saadiq said: "Both of them took a lot of risks by starting this business and they've encouraged me to have faith in what I do. Textbooks don't teach that. To do business, we have to put everything we have in what we do, and then get the world to have faith in it too. That's something I treasure from this experience."

### GET A MooTee

MooTees [www.mootees.com](http://www.mootees.com) is offering all SP students a 10% discount on every second item purchased at its online store! Simply enter the code CGWRJVYNGEFD when at checkout in the online store.

## Special Project



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.

# We Read Your Mind



(Back row, from left) Young library designers: Diploma in Architecture alumni Pan Bin, Chew Zi Yuan and Jawara Earl Santos Alba with final-year students (front row, from left) Evangelina Ong, Chey Yi Ting, Yam Wei Jian and Barcoma JBrien Cezar.

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 students from the **Diplomas in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** and **Media and Communication (DMC)**, were tasked to design the library's

interior spaces. They were supervised by lecturers Dennis Goh and Gareth Lai who have many years of architectural design experience behind them.

The team was told to design a library that would meet the needs of users effectively and enhance their library experience.

This request boiled down to two challenges: creating a library that would provide a refreshing new experience,

and understanding the needs of many different groups of potential library-goers.

"Because Orchard is a very "new" and happening place, we felt a typical library design would be ... too mainstream," Yi Ting said, smiling with twinkling eyes. "We wanted to try something new and fun that would also meet the needs of a lot of different people." This focus on novelty and freshness resulted in four unconventional prototype designs for spaces in the library: Cocoon, Memory

Bank, Trend Gallery and Book Tree.

The unique shapes of these designs were no mere product of fanciful sketches or scrawls, however. They were also influenced by detailed research on potential library-goers. Besides visualising and drawing, Yi Ting and her friends spent hours interviewing people of all ages to understand their attitudes and preferences.

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



The Cocoon is a reader's hideaway. It shuts out the outside world and allows a reader to escape into the world offered by his book or other media of choice.

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 Book Tree is a series of special shelves for user-recommended books. Readers take books from any part of the library and place them here to recommend them to others. Through such acts, interaction is created as readers attempt to share and pass on the stories that moved or inspired them.



I needed to spend days and days on my work, and I really felt like giving up," she shared.

Any angst she felt over the project vanished, however, on the day of the prototype's public launch at the National Library.



The Memory Bank is a showcase of stories and artefacts that presents historical narratives in a rich and interactive multi-media format.

"When I saw the prototype displayed at the library, 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 29 students can proudly put on their resumes, "I helped to design the interior of a public library when I was 18."

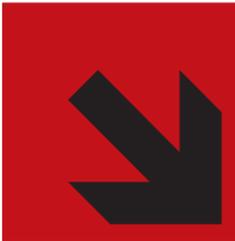
### THE LIBRARY DESIGN TEAM COMPRISES:

#### From DARCH:

**Final-year students:** Germaine Tan Chu Min, Barcoma JBrien Cezar, Olivia Teng, Evangelina Ong, Chey Yi Ting, Marilyn Teo Bao Xin, Ruth Ng Zhi Xin, Yam Wei Jian, Ong Yi Ying, Xaerl Goh Phae Chen, Ken Lin Ken Yin, Martyn Chan Jia Hao, Krista Yeong Shi Lin, Jason Ong Xiang An and Derrick Chua Jin Xing.

**Alumni:** Au Man Fung, Yong Chao Qin, Ng Shao Liang, Esther Chong and Liw Yi Kuan, Chew Zi Yuan, Pan Bin and Jawara Earl Santos Alba.

## Seafaring Professionals



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)**. Recently, they went on a learning trip aboard the Ullswater, a merchant offshore vessel. DNS student Nurizewan shares his experience.



The second-year students in the Diploma in Nautical Studies will soon be sailing off to different parts of the globe. Nurizewan is third from the right, backmost row.

these thrusters fire off at precise strength levels to prevent it from shifting.

The students also got to hear about the highly respected divers of the offshore industry. These divers receive handsome salaries, but in exchange, their work lives are incredibly demanding. Their eyebrows rose when they heard that new divers must spend one whole month cooped up in a pressurised diving chamber, only leaving to do pipe-laying or surveying work underwater.

Life on a ship isn't a bed of roses, though.

Sailors may go for months without seeing their families, and fresh cadets are assigned rooms that pack them in like sardines. Nonetheless, Nurizewan remains keen on a life at sea. He says: "I live in the north area of Singapore so I used to look at the sea a lot. It's always brought me peace and calm. And I like ships no matter what, so being on board for the first time was great for me."

The starting pay is also a good draw, as junior officers start out with a monthly salary of around \$3,000.

Nurizewan will soon begin his seafaring journey on a ship owned by Pacific International Lines, a shipping company that makes trips to areas such as Southeast Asia, Australia, Africa and South America.



The bow of Hallin Marine's Ullswater.

## Journey Aboard the Ullswater

Owned by Hallin Marine, the Ullswater is an Anchor Handling Tug Supply vessel that provides support services to oil rigs and ships. According to Nurizewan Bin Abdul Majid, it is about "one and a half football fields long, and four to five storeys tall."

He said: "I got this feeling that offshore vessels are very strong—like muscle vessels, because of all the rough conditions they have to work in. Very sturdy and quick." The vessel also contains a helipad and special pressurised living chambers for diving crews. By boarding it, the students learned more about life at sea and became more prepared for their upcoming one-year journey.

For their entire second year, students are assigned to a shipboard placement on one of two types of ships: ocean-going vessels and offshore vessels. Ocean-going vessels travel

to ports in far-off places such as Europe and Australasia. Offshore vessels sail closer to home, making trips to regional countries such as Indonesia and Thailand.

Nurizewan shares what influenced him to join DNS: "It's partly from family influence. My uncle used to sail as a marine engineer, and my god-grand-dad was a third officer on board sea-going vessels. My grand-dad still gives me moral support with regards to my academics in this field, along with my parents."

On board Hallin Marine's Ullswater, the students witnessed the professional operations required to sail the ship. The Ullswater's crew explained that unlike smaller ships, offshore vessels are equipped with special thrusters that stabilise the ship during bad weather. When the ship is battered by crashing waves or heavy rain,

## Seafaring Professionals



Madeira, Venice and Barcelona were some of the exotic destinations visited by second-year **Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS)** student Ahmad Sufyan. Sufyan is currently completing his one-year internship aboard the Norwegian Spirit, a passenger cruise vessel that sails around Europe. He pens a journal on the experience for **SPIRIT**.

## Letters from Madeira

"Hello,

My name is Ahmad Sufyan. Currently, I'm serving as a Deck Cadet on the cruise vessel, Norwegian Spirit. Istanbul, Barcelona, France, Venice, Rome, Greece and Madeira – these are just some of the ports I have visited.

I've posed with the Leaning Tower of Pisa, visited the Blue Mosque in Istanbul and rode on a Venetian boat. It was all an amazing experience, complete with amazing views of the world.

As a Deck Cadet, I am a junior officer of the watch (a crew member responsible for the safe navigation of the ship). As assistant to the officer of the watch, I help oversee various operations on the bridge (the room from which the ship is commanded and controlled), including navigation, sea traffic monitoring and emergency procedures like collision avoidance. There is a lot of pressure to perform and mistakes are a no-no for many procedures. Much time is spent simply assessing various risks from weather and sea conditions.

Work on board is mentally and physically draining, but there is a plus point. There are always parties every night. If you love fun events and getting to know new people, this is the place for you. In addition to that, there is also entertainment like magic shows and dance recitals.

Being on board a passenger vessel also means that I have the chance to interact with people from around the world. Everyone is friendly and easy-going; they also come from places I never knew existed, such as Macedonia, Latvia and St. Lucia.

Being away from home is definitely not easy. Mostly, I cope with it through my daily routine on board. I spend a lot of time on my duties, along with assignments from school. If I'm not working, I'll be in the gym or at events with passengers and senior officers. There are also satellite

phones and a satellite internet connection priced at a reasonable rate. Thus, I can pretty much call my parents and friends every other night for short moments just to get updates about home.

In spite of this, work in an office with an ever-changing sea



The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is just one of the many wonders Sufyan has experienced during his travels.



Sufyan at a lake in Santa Cruz, the capital of Tenerife (Spain's most populated island).

view is amazing—something I never want to let go.

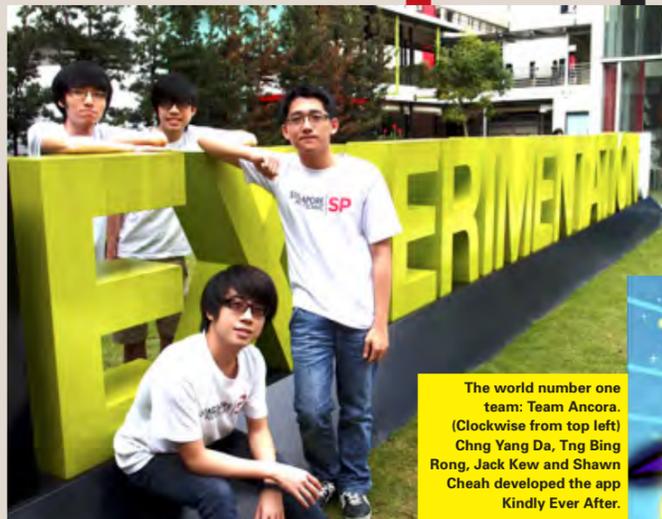
If you are in the process of discovering yourself as a better person and you wish to discover the world along with it, DNS is the course for you."



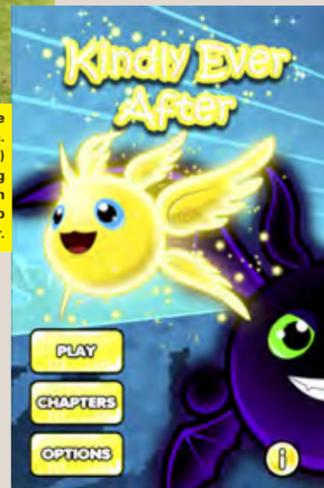
Sufyan overseeing the Norwegian Spirit's course with first navigation officer Dennis Reddy from the United States.

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## Kindly Guys Finish First



The world number one team: Team Ancora. (Clockwise from top left) Chng Yang Da, Tng Bing Rong, Jack Kew and Shawn Cheah developed the app Kindly Ever After.



first be engaged in the tales of graciousness before embarking on their quest to eradicate ungracious acts committed by characters in the game. The app was launched by the SKM at Orchard Xchange recently and attracted lively participation from commuters.

"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 easily be alleviated. All it takes is for everybody to play a part", said team leader Tng Bing Rong.

Their journey did not end there. The team submitted the app for an international competition – the Viope 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 an Xbox 360 with Kinect and a free trip to Finland to visit top gaming studios. Way to go, kindly guys!

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

They say nice guys finish last. But in SP, niceness and kindness go a long way. A team of four recent graduates from the **Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD)** was tasked to develop a game app for the Singapore Kindness Movement 2013 (SKM). Calling themselves Team Ancora, they developed a puzzle game called Kindly Ever After where players are reminded of the importance of being kind, gracious and friendly in communal spaces through a series of tightly-woven storylines. It features four animated stories that are real-life depictions of ungracious acts often seen onboard public transport, at hawker centres, on public roads, and in cyber space. Players will

## Climate Champions

Three students and a fresh graduate from SP's School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology recently came in third at the 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 save the environment. Their inventions were judged by panellists who assessed and constructively critiqued their work. SP's team 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 first and second prizes.

Called the Green Centre, their project consists of a mobile app, a computer programme and a specially designed "smart" power socket extension. Together they allow a user to wirelessly switch off almost any household appliance in his home. This convenient method of managing appliances helps in the effort to cut back on energy usage and, by consequence, carbon emissions.

The team's members are recent graduates Yang Xu Dong (**Diploma in Infocomm Security Management – DISM**) and Vaishnavi Naidu D/O Rajendran (**Diploma in Business Information Technology – DBIT**), final-year student Goh Jin Qiang (**Diploma in Information Technology – DIT**), and alumnus Teo Jin Yuan (**Diploma in Information Technology – DIT**).



The winning team: (from left) Yang Xu Dong, Goh Jin Qiang, lecturer and coach Low Jin Kiat and Vaishnavi Naidu D/O Rajendran. Teammate Teo Jin Yuan is not in the picture.

## 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 to nurture 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 Yong Jie, Alfred Chan De Xian and Nandar Htet, came up with a novel 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 (Qiu Xu and Caroline Brigitte Dass) 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.

Along with winning teams from the other polytechnics, both teams won PSRP Award certificates and a \$500 cash prize.



(From left) Bright young minds Alfred Chan, Lim Yong Jie, Qiu Xu and Caroline Brigitte Dass with SP Principal and CEO, Mr Tan Choon Shian (centre).

## SNIFFing and Sharing Prizes

They were the youngest out of the seven teams that took part and they were also the only all-student group. Yet the four final-year students, collectively known as Team SP, from the **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)** 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, lawyers, programmers and engineers to develop an idea for a news app. After listening to a series of talks on apps and journalism, the teams were given 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 synopsis feeds to the ability to take part in exclusive photojournalism opportunities provided by the app. Based on criteria of overall potential, innovativeness, 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 Shahidah Adriana Tahir said: "We didn't really prepare anything before the competition. Being journalism students studying new media, we were already quite 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."



(From left) Lou Mei Jun, Ong Wai Meng, Shahidah Adriana Tahir and Natasya Amalina Ismail with lecturer Gamar Binte Abdul Aziz at Newsplex Asia, NTU's high-tech newsroom and learning centre for the future.



(From left): Team Socializer members Tay Cheng Jiang Darren, Lai Qing Hui, and Melvin Ng Jia Le. Teammates Tan You and Ngo Young Kit are not in the picture.

## Beary Lovely

Congratulations to Team Socializer for winning the first runner-up prize at the IPv6 Innovation Challenge 2013! The team from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering earned themselves a \$2,000 cash prize 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 IPv6.

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 being 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 of the signal 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 Arduino programming. When asked about what inspired it, 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 have 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 Jiang Darren and Tan You from the **Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE)**, and Ngo Young Kit from the **Diploma in Infocommunication Engineering and Design (DICD)**.

## The Flying Wonders

It was another amazing year and déjà vu of sorts. SP students and recent graduates from the **Diplomas in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)**, **Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)**, and **Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** - Bonnibelle Hoo, Damian Cheng, Jonas Hii, Liew Rong Wei and Yap Feng Wei - once again clinched the Category E Overall Champion title in the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition (SAFMC). This category was open to the public and called for the design of a flying machine using unconventional air platforms that could fly within a confined outdoor area. Calling themselves Bonnibelle and Friends, each team member took home an iPad each and a total cash prize of \$3,000.

The SAFMC, organised by DSO National Laboratories, is the largest flying machine competition in Singapore and is known as the nationwide hunt for a flying wonder! It challenges anyone who dares to dream and design a flying machine like no other. Fun activities and dedicated clinic sessions gave participants a boost in

creativity and problem solving while developing their flying machines.

Bonnibelle and Friends were not the only winners from SP. Our engineering students made a great showing at the competition overall. Four other teams won awards:

**Team SPAVC** (3rd place for Performance and Best Video in Category E): Chua Yong Chun, Mohd Azman Bin Ahmad Said and Ryan Tan from DARE, and Lau Shing Hin from DASE.

**Team Starobot** (Silver for Best Presentation in Category D2): Gerald Heng, Choi Lai Hin, Yi Hong, Ker Kay Chin and Seow Chen Jiat Denis from DASE.

**Team iFly** (Gold for Theory of Flight in Category D1): Pyae Phyo Tun, Loh Jin and Chew Shu Jun from DEEE.

**Team UAViator** (Silver for Most Creativity and Best Video in Category E): Stevano, Chan Kai Wen, Ang Chu Yi Beverley, Pheh Ying Hong (alumnus) and Lim Wei Rong from DASE.



Creators of the amazing flying machine (from left): Damian Cheng, Jonas Hii, Yap Feng Wei and Bonnibelle Hoo. Absent in picture: Liew Rong Wei.

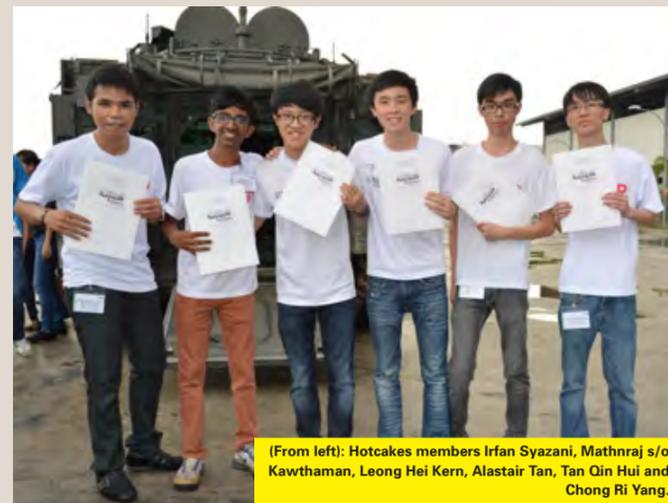


(From left): Team Starobot members Gerald Heng, Yi Hong, Choi Lai Hin and Denis Seow, together with Team iFly members Chew Shu Jun, Pyae Phyo Tun and Loh Jin. Starobot member Ker Kay Chin is not in the picture.

## Designing Military Applications

They have yet to be enlisted for national service, but that did not make them ineligible to design for the army. A team of students who just graduated from the **Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering (DME)** and **Computer Engineering (DCPE)** landed as one of the top three finalists at the Design and Build Ruggedised Computer Competition organised by the Defence Science and Technology Agency. Calling themselves Team Hotcakes, DME graduates Leong Hei Kern, Mathnraj s/o Kawthaman, Irfan Syazani and Alastair Tan, together with DCPE graduates Tan Qin Hui and Chong Ri Yang, made full use of their SP-taught Creative-Design-Implement-Operate pedagogy to develop military grade computers that could withstand dust, heat and water.

The team worked on the idea of encasing the computer in a protective shield machined from a single aluminium block. This novel choice of design provides a hard and compact case, and guards the computer against water and dust from the environment. Vapour cooling technology, which was more effective than a fan system, was used on the computer that sat atop four military-grade shock and vibration isolators. This enabled the computer to withstand hard bumps and jolts.



(From left): Hotcakes members Irfan Syazani, Mathnraj s/o Kawthaman, Leong Hei Kern, Alastair Tan, Tan Qin Hui and Chong Ri Yang.

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.

## 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 social 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 the Singapore Therapeutic, Assistive & Rehabilitative (START) Centre, a provider and promoter of A&RTs technology. The SP teams competed with about 60 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 snatched by SP engineering student teams:



Saiful Hilal Bin Zainal Abidin (left) and Aloysius Koh demonstrating the Posture & Fall Alert System.



Alex Yeo explaining the many advantages of the E-Lite Power Add-On.

### Excellence Award

Winners: Recent graduates Max Tay Jin Ho (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**), Chia Wen Feng (**Diploma in Bioengineering - DBEN**), Yeoh Jo-Ern (**DBEN**), Ho Qian Ci (**DBEN**) and Muhd Muslimin Bin Mohd Samat (**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

Winners: Recent graduates Musa

Bin Rahamat (**Diploma in Computer Engineering - DCPE**), Saiful Hilal Bin Zainal Abidin (**DCPE**) and Aloysius Koh Jia Lun (**Diploma in Clean Energy - DCEG**).

Project Name and Description: Posture & Fall Alert Systems, a backpack-like device that detects bad posture. It lights up and vibrates to warn users when their posture is poor, and it also sends an emergency call for help when a user collapses suddenly.

### Best Prototype Award

Winners: Recent graduates Alex Yeo Wei Hua (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering - DME**) and Liu 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.

## 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 polys, Steven Ong from the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** clinched a merit award in the Oral Presentation category, while fellow DBT 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 came with a \$100 cash prize each.



Recent DBT graduate Steven Ong receiving his merit award from Dr Thilo Hagen, President of the SSBMB.

## Formidable HR Challengers

Two teams of SP Business School students from the **Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP)** course finished 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".

The first place winners, 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



Members of The Mentalist (from left): Ng Ai Poh, Ho Hui Ping, Hilda Tan, Nur Sadrina, Nash Fiqdhar and Kevin Lee.

Ping, Hilda Tan, Nur Sadrina, Nash Fiqdhar and Kevin Lee. Team leader Nash Fiqdhar also clinched the Best Speaker Award.

Team HRC Ladies won third place. Its members are recent graduates Joei Tay, Soon Wei Ni, Eunice Goh, Sim Yan San, Toh Jia Yi and Koh Ke Xin.

# Share-a-Gift for the Needy

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.



(From left) Second-year students Marcus Yeo (Diploma in Chemical Engineering) and Chen Jia Ying (Diploma in Optometry) sorting through mini-mountains of food donated by SP students and staff.

# Freshies Raise Funds at Flag Day

Close to 5,700 SP freshies hit the streets during their orientation week to raise funds for the needy at the annual SP Flag Day. For the first time, the pioneer batch of close to 200 Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) students, participated in this annual ritual of giving back to society. The PFP draws in outstanding 'N' level students who join the polytechnic one year ahead to take a foundation programme before moving on to their full-time diploma programme.

SP held its first Flag Day in 2002 where about 4,500 students raised around \$60,000 for the Society for the Physically Disabled and the Asian Women's Association Special School. The aim of this annual event is to involve every new student in community service and develop in them a desire to serve.

A gracious act by some students at this year's Flag Day prompted a member of the public to write in a compliment. Two students offered their help to carry some documents belonging to a stranger that were falling out of his hands. SP freshies - we are proud of you!



Dance champions Carel (left) and Shie Yar.

# Dancing Babes

Some of the coolest dancers out there have a link with SP. At the All-Babes Cineleisure Dance Battle organised by Cathay Organisation, the first and second prizes in the solo category were won by an SP graduate and student respectively. Carel Kate, 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)** alumna Lee Shie Yar, who goes by her stage name Lum Lum, 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. Carel and Shie Yar, incidentally, were members of Strictly Dance Zone (SDZ), a SP dance club that performs regularly at ticketed as well as SP events. So if you want to show off your dance skills or get into the groove, get involved with SDZ.

# 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 children and helping out with farming and harvesting were others ways in which the students repaid the community that hosted them.

The students also had plenty of opportunities to experience Laotian culture. They interacted frequently with the family that provided accommodation and food for them. During their free time, they visited tourist spots such as Talat Sao Market, Patuxai and That Luang Golden Stupa.

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.



(From left) Nurul Ayu Nafisah Bte Hussain (Diploma in Biotechnology), Nur Humaira Binte Azhari (Diploma in Chemical Engineering) and Joanne Tay (Diploma in Chemical Engineering) helping to transport logs for the villagers in Na'ang.



It takes courage to be lifted high by the amazing SP Gusto Cheerleading Team.



The hip hop boy dancers from SP's Strictly Dance Zone and their high-energy performance.

# It's Clubbing Time!

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 deejaying, beatboxing 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 various local and overseas competitions in recent years. Wushu, kenjutsu, muay thai and wing chun are open to anyone who wants to develop their martial prowess.

So what are you waiting for? Check out [life.sp.edu.sg](http://life.sp.edu.sg) cca for SP's list of CCAs and start clubbing!



Down and out! Brazilian jiu-jitsu focuses on fundamentals of grappling and ground fighting for self-defence.

# Cooking Up Chemistry Lessons



Recent Diploma in Food Science and Technology graduates Jeevithra Gunasegaran (extreme left) and Koh Huann Rong (extreme right) showing two Beatty Secondary School students how chemical tests can reveal surprising information about food.

SP students and staff from the **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** worked together with Amdon Consulting Pte Ltd, a multi-national provider of interactive learning resources, to develop a new food science learning kit for secondary students.

The kit will be used in the SP-Amdon Food Science Programme, which aims to introduce students to scientific principles behind food and how these principles play an important role in revealing the sensory, biological and chemical natures of food. It consists of teaching materials and a booklet of food science experiments for students to try out. For example, after learning about protein structures during their regular chemistry curriculum, students will be taught how to make a meringue cake which is made with egg whites. They learn through baking how protein structures in the whites change when heat is applied. Prior to this, all they got was mainly text book knowledge without practical applications.

Besides adding a lot more relevance to science lessons, the new

programme also teaches critical thinking skills that will help students to tackle food science problems effectively. So far, the booklet has been brought to more than 100 students in pilot programmes in Beatty Secondary, Shu Qun Secondary and Bukit Panjang Government High and will be expanded to more schools.

# The Artist Depicts The Artist

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) recently engaged the services of 26 final-year **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** students to produce documentary videos on six Singaporean artists who are candidates for the President's Young Talents Award 2013. The videos explore the works, personalities and artistic approaches of these young artists who have made great contributions to the local arts scene.



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.



A screenshot of President's Young Talents Award candidate Zaki Razak's documentary video. Zaki requested a character in a mask to be in the video to symbolise that his art represents not just one person (himself) but the voices of many.

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."

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

The Singapore Polytechnic Centre for Applications in Rehabilitation Engineering (SP CARE) celebrated 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



The inventors of Learning Vocabulary from Multimedia are (from left) recent Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics graduates Zhang Di, Vivian Yeong and Gary Lim.

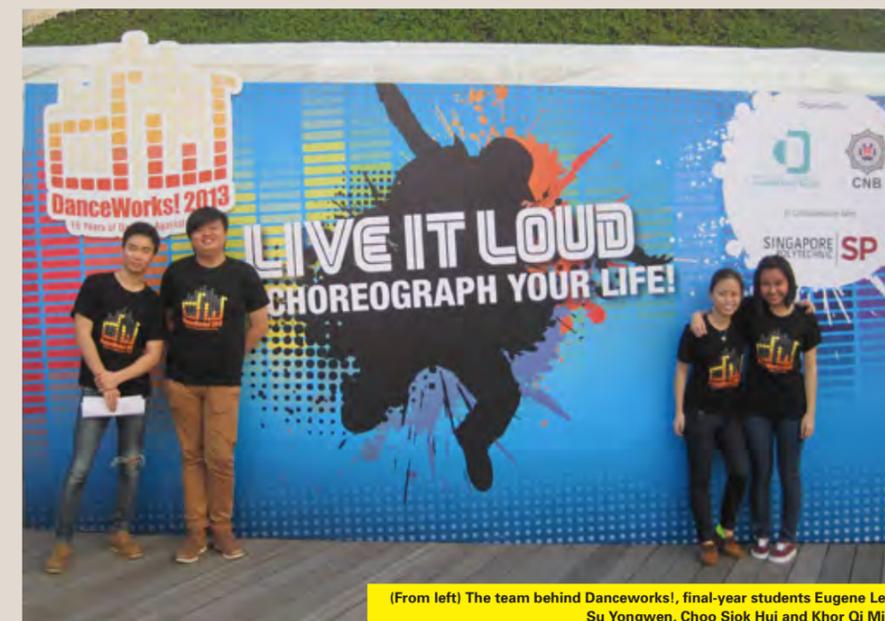
graduates that teaches English vocabulary to help young children afflicted with cerebral palsy. It was donated to the Spastic Children's Association of Singapore. Another project is the Passive Bike, a tool that helps patients with weak legs



The brains behind Passive Bike are (from left) Cao Minfeng, Muhammad Azfar Syafiq Bin Abdul Ghafar, Haziq Bin Mohamed Yusuf and Shaiful Iskandar Bin Zainee, all from the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering.

or leg injuries perform rehabilitative exercises to strengthen their muscles. This project was requested by Saint Andrew's Community Hospital to help with the physiotherapy of its patients.

# Dance Works Against Drugs



(From left) The team behind Danceworks!, final-year students Eugene Lee, Su Yongwen, Choo Siok Hui and Khor Qi Min.

Four final-year **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** students worked together with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) to organise DanceWorks! 2013, a nationwide anti-drug-themed dance competition and showcase. Over 700 youths aged 25 and below participated or competed through team dances while both spreading and learning about the anti-drug message.

The SP team was involved in almost all aspects, from marketing to the actual running of the event. They also created one of DanceWorks!' marketing campaigns, DanceWords. DanceWords was a public event where passers-by on the streets were invited to create their very own unique anti-drug slogans in line with DanceWorks!' message. Choo Siok Hui, one of the four students involved, said that working on DanceWorks! was an extremely engaging experience: "I think our group really got to bond closer together through the event. We were basically involved in every part of the project, and it made us feel really strongly that we were a part of everything going on. The process itself was just really enjoyable."

## 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 Cassettes (UK) and Electrico (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 use 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.



First-year Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics student Muhd Fuad Bin Zulkifli capturing the action at Music Matters Live.



Second-year Diploma in Music and Audio Technology student Lynus Cheng doing sound mixing for YouTube sensation Boyce Avenue's live performance!

## 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 NEC had 27 secondary schools competing. Students had to design sturdy and structurally sound building models using super glue, wooden sticks and steel weights. Once completed, the models were placed on a vibration-generating earthquake simulator and were shaken at increasing intensities till they fell. The team with the strongest and most effective model was crowned champion.



Wesley Tan, Chermaine Low, Wei Yi Leong and Syed Muhammed Aseel did their school proud by winning the National Earthquake Competition!



The winning team members from Henderson Secondary – Jefanie Teo, Truong Nguyen Quynh Anh, Jiase Tang and Yeo Ruo Teng – displayed their talent for water purification in the Clean Water Challenge!

The CWC had 10 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 principles behind the construction of man-made structures such as buildings, roads and dams. These are but a few of the things learned in the **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB)**. The CWC introduces students to the science of water purification covered in the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)**, which deals with all things related to water and environmentally-friendly technology.

## Golden Engineers



(From left) Young Engineer Gold Award winners Tey Kyzer (Greendale Secondary), Jayler Goh (Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary), Vincent Htoo (Queensway Secondary), Jolyn Chan (Unity Secondary), Yeo Shan Kun (Unity Secondary), Samuel Phua (Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary), Wan Jie Che (Queensway Secondary) and Tessa Chua (Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary). Winners Foo Junhao (Hua Yi Secondary), Nicholas Soh (Manjusri Secondary) and Tan Wei Chiong (Hua Yi Secondary) not in picture.

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 complete a multiple-choice-question quiz on science and the applications of science (a.k.a. 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 to a panel of judges.

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. Among them, four will be selected to receive either the SP Young Engineer Scholarship or a book prize. All winners get a profile-boosting certificate from SP, the leading engineering institution.

Can't wait to start on your YEA journey? You can email [chungmeng@sp.edu.sg](mailto:chungmeng@sp.edu.sg) or ask your school teachers about the programme! To learn more about YEA, visit [www.sp.edu.sg/yea](http://www.sp.edu.sg/yea).

## He Went Mental

More accurately, *Mental* is the song that won SP alumnus Reyza Hamizan the top spot at the MDA-MediaCorp Call for Theme Song Production Proposal (CFP) in 2012. CFP 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 shown on 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 CFP, he has received offers to produce music for renowned Malay artistes such as Sarah Aqilah and Rahayu Ridwan (the winners of *Anugerah*, 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... The three years made me mentally prepared for the road ahead. Learning from experienced industry players such as Mr Jimmy Ye and Ms Babes Conde from the course was crucial." Currently, he



Reyza during a performance at the Esplanade library.

is producing theme songs for more Suria shows as well as local Malay recording artistes. 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").

# 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 enhance 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
- Individual Team Secondary
  - Team Chromo from Nanyang Girls High School

## ROBOCUP JUNIOR SOCCER OPEN LEAGUE

- Individual Team - Team tRItans from Raffles Institution

## ROBOCUP JUNIOR RESCUE LEAGUE

- Individual Team Primary
  - Team Temabot-61 from Temasek Primary School
- Individual Team Secondary
  - Team Tectonic from Admiralty Secondary School

## ROBOCUP JUNIOR DANCE LEAGUE

- Original Performance Primary
  - Team Jedi Gold from Ju Ying Primary School
- Original Performance Secondary
  - Team Mocha, Choc and Chilli Pepper from Raffles Institution

## ROBOCUP JUNIOR COSPACE RESCUE LEAGUE

- Individual Team Primary
  - Team Happy Treasure Bot from Nanyang Primary School
- Individual Team Secondary
  - Team Matrix from Victoria Junior College

## ROBOCUP JUNIOR COSPACE DANCE LEAGUE

- Original Performance Secondary
  - Team Olga from Raffles Girls School



Students had great fun during Robocup's many category events. For the RoboCup Junior Dance League (picture above), they had to create and programme dancing robots, as well as dress up to dance together with their creations. In almost all categories, they spent plenty of time maintaining and calibrating their amazing creations (top right picture)!

## ROBOTICS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Besides the RoboCup Soccer, Dance and Rescue Challenge categories, a new and unique feature of this year's RoboCup Singapore Open 2013 is the RoboCup CoSpace Robot Relay Challenge. This category enables special needs students from Grace Orchard School to learn about robotics as well. CoSpace is a co-existing virtual and real space which allows students to design and programme virtual scenarios and objects that can be accurately translated to, and used in, real-life. In the CoSpace Robot Relay Challenge, the special needs students teamed up with SP students in a relay race with virtual and physical components. The Grace Orchard School team members guided a virtual robot they programmed through a virtual mission, after which SP team members took over to guide a physical robot through the real-life portion of the challenge.

Acknowledging the meaningful event, Mrs Noreen Lim-Yeo, Principal of Grace Orchard School, said, "We are thankful that our students had the opportunity to be a part of such a prestigious event. The experience of competing in such a field for special needs children will boost their self-confidence and serve to fire up their interest to acquire similar scientific knowledge."



Alex (left) is a student in Grace Orchard School who is diagnosed with autism. His father Mr Chong (right) attended the Robocup Singapore Open to watch him compete in the RoboCup CoSpace Robot Relay Challenge designed for special needs students.

# Joyful Reunions, Sage Advice

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 national service, 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 practising 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 Elixir 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 Yeow 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 Yeow is a 1981 Diploma in Electrical & Computer Control Engineering graduate and founder and Chief Executive of The Eximius 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 had 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

Liu 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 SiTF Award (Tertiary Student) and the first prize at the SLA 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!



(From left) SP graduates Jacqqie Poh, Chan Chee Pong, Leonard Yeow and Austen Cheah at the EEE Leadership Dialogue Series talk. Jacqqie and Austen Cheah are recent graduates from the Diploma in Clean Energy who facilitated the event.

## Training for Investment Professionals

SP and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) have rolled out a programme to develop and enhance the skills of investment professionals. Both parties aim to train 100 professionals and individuals a year. The programme is open to individuals keen on 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 features of the stockbroking industry and regulatory framework, dealing ethics and trading offences, fundamental analysis and stock evaluation, technical analysis and customer service skills. Participants can earn continuous education points that they can use to help meet licensing requirements to become a Singapore Trading Representative.

There will be two intakes annually, in January and July, with an initial pool of up to 60 participants this year.



Key figures signing the Memorandum of Cooperation to launch the programme to train investment professionals were (from left) Mr Chew Sutut, Executive Vice President and Head of Sales & Clients, Singapore Exchange, and Mr Lim Peng Hun, Deputy Principal, Singapore Polytechnic.

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education and Dr Wolfgang Heubisch, State Minister of the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, were two of the guests of honour at the MoU signing.



## A Treaty of Composites

SP, together with the Technical University of Munich (TUM), German Institute of Science and Technology – TUM Asia and ST Kinetics recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with nine other local and international companies to promote the development of composite materials technology. Composite materials such as fiberglass and carbon fibres are becoming increasingly important in industries like construction and manufacturing and fields like engineering.

The four institutions will promote composite technology together with the participating companies through four key areas - technology transfer, workforce development, technology demonstration and promotion, and services. They aim to support local small and medium enterprises as well as start-up companies with the necessary resources to develop and build composite materials in accordance with their individual industry needs.

SP and ST Kinetics will support workforce development through a newly set-up composite technology laboratory on SP's campus. This lab will tap on the training and development skills of SP staff to equip the workforce with skills and knowledge about the latest composite technology.

## How To Run 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 organisations 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 volunteerism and responsibility among SP students who will be joining the workforce upon graduation," said Mr Reginald Wee, Director of SP Business School.



SP students and staff in the Indonesian village of Kradenan, where they worked on a better way to produce cassava crackers.

## New Ties with Indonesian Universities

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 Conceive-Design-Implement-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 \$453,780 grant from the Temasek Foundation (TF).

SP has also forged new ties with UMY and the University of Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta (UPN) to launch Learning Express, a Social Innovation project that brings together students to co-create innovation solutions that meet the needs of the local Indonesian communities.

In this programme, students from different disciplines (e.g. engineering, business, digital media and infocomm technology) in all three institutions immerse themselves in the local communities and share their domain skills and experiences to look at social issues related to earning a livelihood through the lenses of the local community.

One of the Learning Express projects involved exploring more effective and environmentally friendlier ways of making pathilo merapi, a cassava snack product innovated by ladies during the aftermath of the Gunung Merapi volcanic eruption in the Indonesian village of Kradenan to supplement their household income. The production process is physically demanding and provided an excellent opportunity for innovation. The Learning Express team from SP and the partner institutions walked in the shoes of the ladies in the production line to understand the painful or strenuous parts of the process. They then came up with a gadget to do the same job but with half the time and effort originally required.

The Learning Express programme is anchored by the Design Thinking methodology, which taps on the designer's sensibility and methods to match people's needs with what is technologically feasible and an outcome that is desired by customers. This methodology helps us to understand wicked issues - issues that are multi-faceted and complex - from a user-centric perspective, after which creative solutions tackling the issues are generated.

The SP students from the Learning Express team are now back on campus developing their ideas and will return to their respective communities to implement their projects come September.

## 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 (IMA) 2013 ceremony held in April. This award was presented to an organisation or institute of higher learning that had demonstrated commitment and excellence in training and development.

Highlights of SMA's programme include Memorandums of Understanding signed with Shell Marine Products; Oshima National College of Maritime Technology, Japan; Chung-Ang University, South Korea; and Dalian Maritime University, China. These provide SMA students with a variety of internship opportunities, overseas exchange programmes and options to complete a degree in two years after completing their SP diploma. In 2012, SMA also collaborated with Force Technology, Denmark, to build Simulation@SMARTFORCE, a state-of-the-art navigation simulation technology used for training and R&D purposes.

The Singapore International Maritime Awards 2013 is organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore with their strategic partner, the Singapore Maritime Foundation.



Director of Singapore Maritime Academy, Mr Roland Tan, receiving the award from Minister for Transport, Mr Lui Tuck Yew.

Photo courtesy of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore



Recipients of the HOME Awards 2012 are (from left) Muhd Nurhamizzan Bin Mohd Aris, Low Yuan Yi, Khairul Arifin Bin Kamal, Tutik Humaira Bte Mohd Tahir, School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Director Georgina Phua, SP Deputy Principal Hee Joh Liang, Nuraishah Rusdiah Bte Abdul Rauf, Kenneth Koh Chin Hao, Chua Yong An, Alvin Ang Guo Wei, Nuruddin Bin Ithnin and Muhd Firman Bin Malip. Not in picture: Guhanesh s/o S Jayakumar.

## A Career with HOME

Eleven 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 Study Award (Poly). The former comes with a lump sum sponsorship of \$15,000, while the latter comes with \$10,000.

Says Muhd Firman 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 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](http://www.mha.gov.sg/homeaward).

## More Doctors To Be

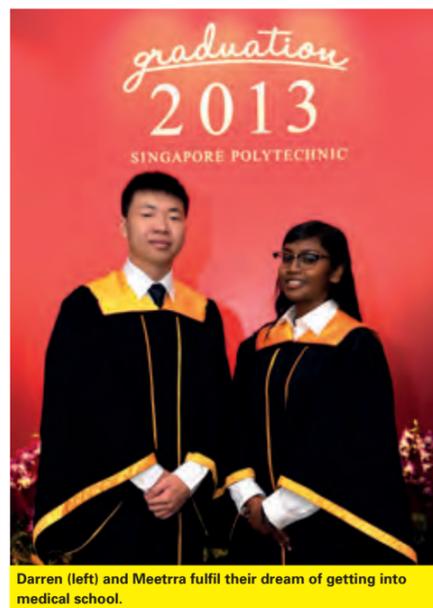
They've received one of the highest honours—an invitation to enter one of the world's noblest professions. Meetrra Seyher Rajoo and Darren Goh are recent **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** graduates who have been accepted into the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore.

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 1 of my poly education," said Meetrra. "I believe that to become a person of good character, they must have their head, heart and hand in sync. It is this continual process of the three "Hs" in the medical field that got me interested in becoming a doctor."

For Darren, he has always been fascinated with how 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.

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!



Darren (left) and Meetrra fulfil their dream of getting into medical school.



"THE JAM AND HIP HOP WAS AWESOME! IT ROCKED MY NIGHT AWAY!"

"ARE THE STUDENTS HERE ALL SO CRAZY? I WANT TO BE A PART OF ALL THIS!"

# ESCAPADE

"SPECIALLY FOR G.C.E. 'O' LEVEL STUDENTS 2013"

"I joined SP's ESCAPADE camp last year with my friends, and I didn't know what it was about. But it turned out to be memorable! I made many new friends with guys and girls from other secondary schools and the awesome SP seniors! We had lots of cool games, and even a dance party where the seniors deejayed and put up performances for us!

My favourite memory was when we dressed our team mate up with straws, aluminium foil and styrofoam cups to give him alien antennae and body parts! Our stomachs ached from all the laughing as he paraded around happily in the hall!

The camp was the first of many happy memories I've had in SP, and I'll always treasure the bonds we shared over those few days."

**EMILY KWEK**  
A current **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)** student in SP who attended ESCAPADE 2012.



ESCAPADE is SP's yearly camp where secondary four students get to chill and enjoy two days of non-stop fun and action after their exams! There are free food, games, prizes, t-shirts, performances and parties— just too much stuff to list!

If you sign up, you'll also get to explore SP's rejuvenated campus and learn all about its 50 exciting diploma courses and over 120 CCAs!

This year's ESCAPADE on **15 November (2.00pm to 10.00pm; registration starts at 1.30pm)** and **16 November (9.30am-10.00pm)** has taken a new twist and there will be a galore of more exciting activities!

Go to [escapade.sg](http://escapade.sg) to sign up and find out more!

**Don't wait! Only 500 places are available!**



"AMAZING. NO REGRETS COMING. AWESOME!"



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