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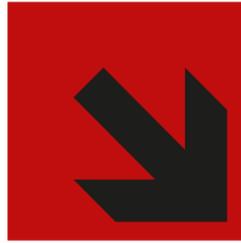
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Celebrating SPIRIT

Hi ☺,

We have a special double cover for this issue, featuring the SP Dragonboat and Cheerleading teams. Besides being the champions in local competitions, the two teams have also proven their mettle overseas and brought back glory for SP. The cover photos brings to my mind two Chinese idioms: 力争上游 (*li zheng shang you*) and 顶天立地 (*ding tian li di*).

Idioms are just a few words used to express a bigger idea. Literally, 力争上游 means swimming ahead with might. This aptly describes the SP Dragonboat team which rowed furiously in the waters to win the championship title at the POL-ITE Games and also in a Hong Kong tournament. On the other hand, 顶天立地, whose literal meaning is supporting both heaven and earth, fits perfectly into Gusto!, our Cheerleading team. They came in tops at the National Cheerleading Competition and some of them went on to Japan to represent Singapore at an international meet.

Essentially, both idioms have the similar meaning – the indomitable and mighty spirit in a person or a team. Flipping through the pages of this issue, you will find stories of SP students and alumni who live up to the spirit of these two idioms.

Our engineering students put together a solar car that sped to first position at an Asian eco-marathon race. At several infocomm technology competitions, the I.T students brought back glory. The design students scored a gold medal at the Crowbar Awards. Business students put up impressive proposals and plans that won them the right to compete on the international arena. Our alumni continue to hold the torch for SP. Former student and national sprinter Gary Yeo ran a personal best at the Olympic Games in London. Tanya Chua, who was from the Diploma in Business Administration, became the only artiste to win the Best Female Singer award three times at the Golden Melody Awards, the Chinese equivalent of the Grammys.

We have so many students and graduates clinching scholarships from various organisations. We gave out SP scholarships to 80 outstanding students this year. Our students took the lion's share in the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (15 out of 40), the Building and Construction Authority Scholarship (32 out of 45), and the LKY-STEP Awards (8 out of 15). At the university level, 15 recent graduates clinched the inaugural Singapore-Industry Scholarship that will lead them to future employment with renowned employers like Boustead, Charles and Keith and Singapore Technologies. For the first time, two female aerospace electronics graduates won the SAF Academic Scholarship to pursue a four-year direct Masters in Engineering programme in Avionics at the University of York in United Kingdom. You will read more of these success stories in this and the next issue.

Happy reading!

Tan Hang Cheong
Principal, Singapore Polytechnic

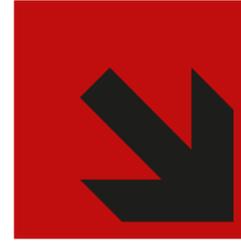
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POWER

ROWERS

NEWSFLASH!
 SP Dragonboat (Men) clinched the championship in the Tertiary (Men), Open (Men) and the Premier (Mixed Team) at the SAVA Games 2012.



The best Dragonboat Team among the polytechnics two years in a row and champion in Hong Kong too!

Row, row, row your boat. Slowly but steadily, these boys graduate to almighty dragonboaters that are now the best among the polytechnics and ITEs. This year, they even powered themselves to victory at an international meet. **SPiRiT** speaks with the SP Dragonboat boys and girls to find out what motivates them to perform.

Every Sunday morning, a team of tanned SP hunks could be spotted flexing their arm muscles at Kallang Basin. After some warming up exercises, they would climb into a boat and row up and down the waters towards Marina Barrage and back.

This is the Singapore Polytechnic (Dragonboat (SPDB) team in action. Under the hot sun, the training routine could be a mental and physical torture. However, with the team's motto, One Stroke One Heart, not a single complaint is uttered. They are doing it as one united body.

Besides the water training on Sundays, they are put through weekly land training that comprises endurance exercises like running, weight lifting and chin-ups. When a competition draws near, both water and land training become almost a daily routine.

Hard work and perseverance during these gruelling training sessions have paid off handsomely for them. Besides being the reigning champion two years in a row at the POL-ITE Games, an annual competition for the polytechnics and ITE, they are also

crowned a regional champion. Not too long ago, the boys rowed in first at the 8th Club Crew World Championships held in Hong Kong for the 200m event. They competed in the 18-23 Racing Class open division, against formidable teams who are older and more experienced.

Team captain Daryl Ng, from the **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** and a former student of Temasek Secondary, credits success to the collective sacrifices each member has made. "Dragonboat depends very much on

team spirit. If all of us can't agree on a common goal, there is no way that we could achieve success. We have conditioned ourselves to be very focussed on our goals," says the 19-year-old.

Vice-captain Ling Hsih Hwa, 20, from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** who joined SP from Commonwealth Secondary School, adds: "Even outside of training, we would hang out together to eat, study and play. We might have missed out on the other fun things that others do but there's no regret. We can indulge in what we missed out after we graduate from SP. It's only three years, so why not make the best out of it?"

Both Daryl and Hsih Hwa joined SPDB when they were in their first year. Hsih Hwa, who has put on pounds of muscles ever since he became a dragonboater, joined the sport because he was influenced by his brother who was a dragonboater.

For Daryl, he was almost a reluctant member. He leaned more towards track and field, as he was a sprinter when in secondary school. He was persuaded into the sport by course mate Dominic Tan, who joined SPDB first. He had heard that the training was tough and both wanted to see if they were fit enough to pull through. Soon, he was hooked into it and even displayed leadership ability that saw him rise to the rank of captain in his third year. Dominic became the team's treasurer.

Both Daryl and Hsih Hwa plan to study either business or engineering after their national service. With just one more semester to go before they graduate, and two key competitions lined up, they, together with the rest of the graduating senior team members, are all geared up to do their best and create for themselves a legacy in SP.

Training can go up to six times a week if they are preparing for a competition.

Otherwise, the regular routine is three sessions of land and one session of sea training every week. Land training is divided into strength and endurance sessions. Endurance consists of running up to 3km, 20 minutes of pull-ups and weightlifting in five stations. Strength training is similar except that the focus turns to building up, well, strength in core muscle areas. On Wednesdays and weekends, they are at Kallang Basin for sea training, usually for about two hours including warm ups.

When a competition is round the corner, training takes place daily except on Friday for about two months. It starts in the morning for an hour from 6.30am and resumes in the evening for another hour.

Daryl admits that the toughest part about dragonboating is keeping the commitment to training frequency. "To be present for every single session is already not an easy feat for normal people. Therefore, we conditioned ourselves to be committed and sacrifice our social lives. We try not to kick people out and will try very hard to help everyone up to level." No one understands this better than Daryl because, as he lets on, he was quite behind in training during his first year. "In the end, I couldn't bear to leave them because I will think about the training. I think of the team."

The members that go for competition are seniors from the same year. They have been together since first year and have built up a solid team spirit. They consider the POL-ITE Games as more pressurising because it is "the race" in dragonboat calendar, even though the Hong Kong tournament is more competitive. The next important race for this year is the SAVA Games taking place this month.

If you think the punishing schedule for SPDB guys will affect their studies, think again. Daryl is proud to announce that most of the members have consistently good GPA scores. "It all goes back to training again. We train and study in a very disciplined manner. We don't procrastinate," reveals Daryl who, like many of the senior members, plans to advance his studies in the universities after his national service. Baring no distractions, they are keen to continue paddling for the university they are in. "This means we might be competitors in the future," laughs Daryl.

For now, they are savouring every moment of camaraderie soaked in their blood.

THE MEDALS

- ★ 1st in 800m (Men) at POL-ITE Games 2011 & 2012.
- ★ 1st in 800m (Mixed) at POL-ITE Games 2012.
- ★ 2nd in 800m (Women) in POL-ITE Games 2012.
- ★ 1st in Under 23 200m (Men) in 8th Club Crew World World Championship 2012
- ★ 2nd in Under 23 500m and 2,000m (Men) in 8th Club Crew World Championship 2012.



SP Dragonboat captain Daryl Ng (right) and Vice-captain Ling Hsih Hwa.



NEWSFLASH!

SP Dragonboat (Women) clinched the championship in the Tertiary (Women), Premier (Mixed Team) and 1st Runner Up Open (Women) at the SAVA Games 2012.

GIRL POWER



The SP Dragonboat women's team. Team captain Tan Hui Yim is standing in the middle, back row.

Although it was not a gold medal, it certainly justifies a big celebration when the SP Dragonboat women's team clinched a silver at the POL-ITE Games this year. A win has been eluding them for as long as the team was around.

Like the men's team, Team Captain Tan Hui Yim from the **Diploma in Optometry (DOPT)** credits the win to the feisty team spirit that spurred them to give their best. However, the team insisted that without the guidance from their coach, John Goh, it might not have been possible. John took over the coaching of the 23-strong women's team only this year.

"Coach John has a very strong presence. He not only guides us in dragonboat matters but also life issues. He counsels us when there are discipline problems and I learn a lot from him in managing the team," says Hui Yim. To the team, John is almost like another father. "He is always there during our most difficult hard days to encourage and motivate us. He not only trains how to row well but also teaches us personal skills like self-discipline and how to develop a strong mentality."

Recruiting members is an uphill task, she admits. "We are often portrayed as tanned and muscular. Most girls don't want to join dragonboat as they are worried of being under the sun for long hours.

Therefore, it will be hard to persuade the very feminine type who hates the sun to join us. Those who are with the team have a genuine interest for dragonboat and their personality suits that of a dragonboater," says Hui Yim. After getting them on board, retaining members can be a tough job too. Hui Yim shares that when trainings get tough, some of them will leave the team. Like the boys, training sessions are conducted three to four times a week and alternate with land and sea training and the frequency increases when a competitions looms near.



"That's why team bonding is very important. When we recruit, we don't sell dragonboat but the teamwork, team spirit and team bonding. Our spirit is "All for one and one for all!" declares Hui Yim, a water sports lover who was in the canoeing team during her days with Damai Secondary School.

Coming up next for the girls is the IVP Games where they will compete not just with the poly and ITE teams but the stronger ones from the universities as well. Their goal for 2013 is to retain a medal and bring up the name for the

SP women's dragonboat team.

The team is also thankful for the strong support and encouragement from the men's team whom they regard as brothers. With both teams seeing each other so frequently, it's not unexpected that love blossoms. There's already a dating couple among them.

If you wonder how guys look at female dragonboaters, Hui Yim offers this answer:

"I know there are also guys who think we are not feminine... haha...I think it all depends on the individual's taste. There are definitely guys who think we are tanned and muscular but there are also those who think we are hot!" she quips. "But if the guys look into our personalities, they will realise that we are different from the other girls out there!"



THE DISCIPLINE MASTER

John Goh has been the coach for SP's men's dragonboat team for about four years and only started with the girls' team this year. In no uncertain terms, he played a significant role in leading the men's team to win the POL-ITE Games championship two years in a row (2011 and 2012). Not only that, the team also won three medals, including a Gold, at the 8th Club Crew World Championships, an international meet held in Hong Kong where they competed with stronger and more and experienced teams such as Canada.

A former national canoeist and dragonboater, John has nothing but praises for his charges. "The boys are very committed. They trained and pushed themselves very hard to win the POL-ITE championships. The team has good sportsmanship; I consider them a dream team. One advantage they have is that a big team of rowers are from the same year. Generally, a team will do pretty well if they are from the same batch of training, as they progressed from year to year together, therefore maintain the same exacting standards," says John.

The girls' team came in second at the POL-ITE Games, a major achievement considering that they had never won a single medal in the past. So grateful are they to John that they nicknamed him "Papa". "Luckily for the girls, they have a team of ten from the same year, so that was an advantage," says John.

The affable coach, who is stern-faced at training, stresses that team commitment is key to a success. "If they are able to commit, then they can go through strength and endurance training. Such team commitment will be useful even when they go on to university or start work; it's a value that will work well for them."

HISTORY OF DRAGONBOAT

Dragonboat is a human-powered watercraft traditionally made of wood in various designs and sizes. It has its roots as part of religious ceremonies and folk customs in Southern China but has emerged in modern times as an international sport, beginning in Hong Kong in 1976. Dragonboat races are traditionally held as part of the annual Duanwu (or Dumpling) Festival, which is celebrated in many Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hongkong and Taiwan.

The standard crew complement of a contemporary dragon boat is typically 22, comprising 20 paddlers in pairs facing toward the bow of the boat, one drummer at the bow facing the paddlers, and one coxswain at the rear of the boat. Dragonboats vary in length and the crew size will change accordingly,

from small dragon boats with 10 paddlers up to the traditional boats which have upwards of 50 paddlers, plus drummer and coxswain.

The pulsation of the drum beats produced by the drummer is considered the heartbeat of the dragonboat. He leads the paddlers throughout a race using the rhythmic drum beat to indicate the frequency and synchronicity of all the paddlers' strokes. Commands are given through a combination of hand signals and voice calls. The coxswain navigates and steers the dragonboat with a sweep oar rigged at the rear of the boat.

The paddlers sit facing forwards and use a specific type of paddle. The leading pair of paddlers, called "pacers," "strokes" or "timers," set the pace for the team. It is critical that all paddlers are synchronised. Each paddler should synchronise with the stroke or pacer on the opposite side of the boat.

The Singapore Dragonboat Association (DBA) is the national body that organises, promotes and co-ordinates all dragon boat activities here. At the international level, dragonboat racing is organised by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF). It recognises two types of dragonboat racing, namely sport racing and festival racing, which are the more traditional and informal types of races.

Sport racing distances are normally over 200m (or 250m), 500m, 1,000m and 2,000m. A festival race is typically a sprint event of several hundred metres, with 500 metres being a standard distance in many international festival races.



NO PAIN NO GAIN



SPiRiT writer Nicholas Lam checks out the raw truths behind the smiles and the reality of sweat, bruises and sacrifices of Gusto!, SP's Cheerleading team.

SP Gusto! Winner of the Singapore National Cheerleading Championship 2011 and 2012. Some of them are also members of Team Lions, the national cheerleading squad that won three medals, including a first for Group Stunts, at the Cheerleading Asia International Open Championship.

Cheerleading Is

Think cheerleading and the image of beautiful girls with pom-poms and Colgate smiles comes to mind. They dazzle the crowd and cheer on their team. They will flip, drop and practically fly in all directions to wow the crowd. The guys are all hunky-

dory and always arms-stretched to catch the falling girls. The choreography seems amazing. It also seems all too easy, carefree and even fun to be a cheerleader. But the reality couldn't be more wrong. Gusto!, SP's Cheerleading Team, tells you why.

The Rough Reality

Pop culture, movies and modern media in general have portrayed cheerleaders as a group of smiling, happy people (mostly girls, of course) who would do seemingly simple stunts and tricks, and wow the crowd with uncanny ease. However, the hardships during training and even dangers that these cheerleaders have to endure are often unreported. To get an idea, cheerleaders are as active as any sportsmen. Yes, this means they are not just pretty faces or handsome hunks. They endure the same amount of rigorous training as you would expect a sprinter, swimmer or mixed martial arts fighter; from physical conditioning to the dangers of twisted ankles, torn ligaments and bruises.

The Strength Of Gusto!

The captain (President) of Gusto!, final-year student Loh Ming Yao, reveals the team's routine - training sessions are held every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and sometimes even Saturday. They would start with the basics - physical conditioning. To get an idea of how strong an average cheerleader is, you take into account that each girl weighs at least 40kg, and that is already on the lighter end of the scale. Otherwise, it is closer to 50kg. This simply means someone, usually from the guys, has to support that weight for a certain amount of time. The guys usually get to toss the girls, called 'flyers', up to complete a stunt. Then, others will form a base, called a 'basket', to catch a falling 40kg girl!

The Guts In Gusto!

Gusto! members are the brave ones. Imagine being the flyer. Her squad mate tosses her up in the air, and she has to rely on him and her own skills to land on top of a pyramid. Scary? How about being part of the basket? The flyer needs to land into stretched-out arms to get down safely. The responsibility itself of those forming the basket is crippling. There has to be 100 per cent trust in each other. The girls start from low heights, gradually gaining more confidence to be tossed into higher levels.

The Gusto! Stamina

If that is not enough, these crazy but fun-loving folks have to do the same routine for extended periods of time, all the while keeping a smile firmly planted on their face. They act as if their arms are not burning, their legs are not wobbly even though they are perspiring crazily even with the setting sun. Top-form physical condition is a must before executing difficult stunts. Strength is an advantage but more important is the proper use of it.

What Goes Up Must Come Down

Is cheerleading a dangerous sport? Put it this way - every sport has its own dangers. But there are always safety precautions to minimise or prevent possible dangers. Strained muscles are common occurrences. A little bruise here and there is proof that they attended trainings. The



show has to go on, especially when all eyes are on them to keep the championship title won in 2011. And they did - at the Singapore National Cheerleading Championship 2012.

The Extra Mile

Like all true sportsmen and women, cheerleaders will go the extra mile to improve their performances - to be faster, smoother, and more precise. The satisfaction of perfectly nailing a stunt or pulling off a difficult routine is enough for them to go against the hardship and persevere through the pain, fears and exhaustion. They work together as a single unit and have created strong bonds of trust between themselves. They train together, work together and play together. Outside of training, they are like your normal group of everyday friends. They watch movies, stuff their faces at buffets, chill out and gossip.



Pulling, stretching and tossing - the basics in cheerleading training.



The Glory Beyond Singapore

Cheerleading has become a competitive sport worldwide, especially during the past two decades. Gusto! has numerous awards under its belt. They were the champions in 2011 and 2012 at the National Cheerleading Championship organised by the Singapore Sports Council. Members from the various tertiary teams in 2012 were grouped together to form Team Lions. They were tossed to Japan for the Cheerleading Asian Invitational Open 2012, with Gusto's Captain, (Sen Poh Kang who graduated this year), selected to lead the national squad. They returned with three medals from the Land of the Rising Sun.

Gusto! has earned a reputation for itself for their stunt-work among the Singaporean cheerleading circuit. Invitations pour in frequently to perform, such as the recent show at Gardens By The Bay on National Day.

Meet The President

Cheerleading was not even his first choice of CCA but he ended up becoming its captain (President). Loh Ming Yao, a final-year student from the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DAE)** reveals that he did not want to join Gusto! at first. A friend nudged him to go for the training and he went after a few rounds of persuasion. The former Nan Hua Secondary (High) School student liked what he saw and got hooked.

As leader of the top polytechnic team in cheerleading, he shoulders a heavy burden. "I have to lead and motivate the team. This is very much a team sport; if I can't motivate, that's it," says Ming Yao. He took over the previous President, Sen Poh Kang, who has graduated and now in national service. "He has set very high standards and I have to maintain it. My target for the team is to win the championship again next year," he adds.

Gusto! is now almost 70-member strong. When he first joined three years back, it had only around 30 members. He believes the limelight given to Gusto after winning the POL-ITE Games last year and the frequent performances at SP events helped to boost up the numbers. They are a closely-knitted bunch, especially those from the same year. "The fun part of cheerleading is executing the stunts in front of an appreciative audience. It feels so good after having gone through months of hard training."

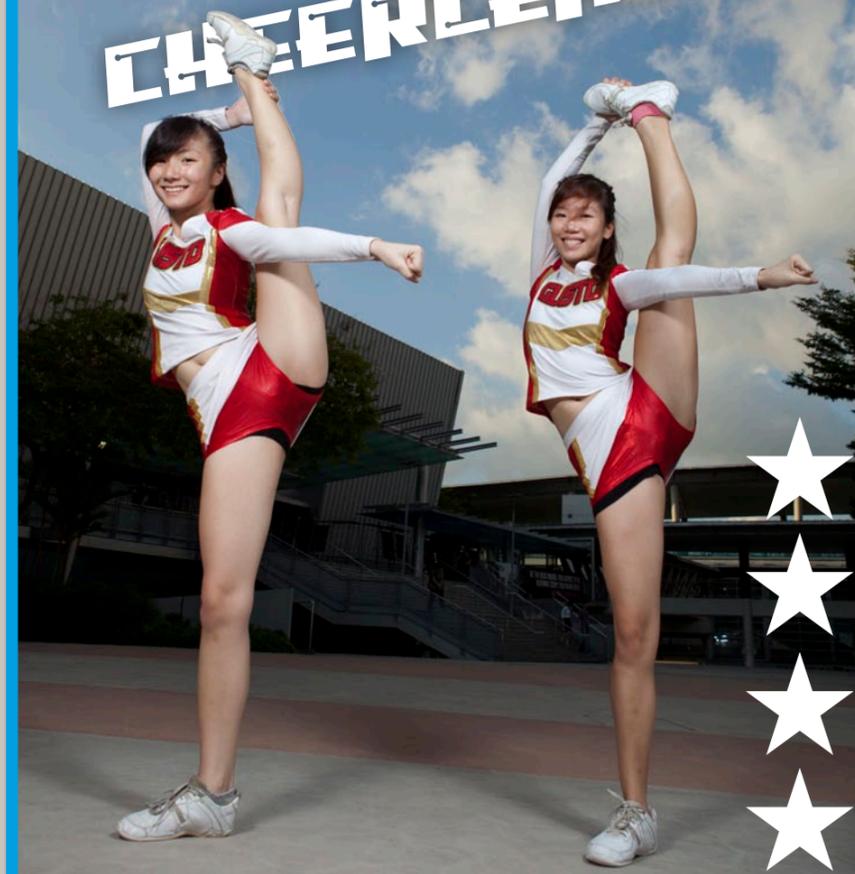
His message to those who want a part of the action: "Cheerleading is a fun sport; it's good for bonding. We are not out to kill our competitors," says the 19-year-old brawn-and-brain chap who has amassed an almost perfect GPA score to date. After SP, he plans to study engineering in the university and hopes to become a pilot in the future.

This month, 20 Gusto members will be in Taiwan to train with Monsters, the number 1 team there. Spirit will bring you a report of the trip in the next issue.



Update: The new President for Gusto! is Terence Yew, second-year student from the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services. New Captain for the team is Kenneth Huang, second-year student from the Diploma in Event and Project Management.

HISTORY OF CHEERLEADING



Cheerleading is a physical activity and sometimes a competitive sport. It is based on organised routines, usually ranging from one to three minutes, which contain the movements of tumbling, dancing, jumping, cheering and stunting to an audience to cheer on sports teams at games or to participate in competitions. The participant involved is called a cheerleader.

Cheerleading originated in the United States. The growing presentation of cheerleading as a sport to a global audience has been led by the 1982 broadcast of cheerleading competition by the ESPN channel in the United States. The worldwide release of the 2000 film Bring it On popularised it further. There are now an estimated 100,000 cheerleaders around the rest of the world in countries including Australia, Canada, China, Finland, France, Japan, New Zealand and of course, Singapore.

The birth of cheerleading is closely tied to the history of sports in the United States (i.e. American Football, Basketball and even Rugby), its sporting venues, as well as the historical development of overall crowd participation at many

athletic events. During the 1880s, students at Princeton University formed an all-male student "pep club" to lead "cheers" (unified chants and yells) in order to provide support to their team, as well as create a high energy sport environment.

Although women participated as cheerleaders in various parts of the USA, it wasn't until the 1940s that women became the majority of cheerleading's athletes during an era when the university men students left the country to fight in World War II. Today, women comprise of more than 90% of the world's cheerleaders.

The 1920s saw cheerleaders adding enhanced techniques and skills to improve their ability to lead and energise the crowd at games, witnessing the addition of various athletic skills, some tumbling, fight song team dances with arm movements and acrobatics to their routines.

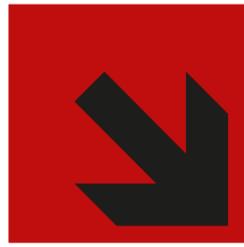
In 1961, the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) was formed in the USA and hundreds of thousands of cheerleaders were trained. During the 1900s, cheerleading could be found in virtually every high school and grade school across the USA. In 1974, the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) was formed and this marked the beginning of modern day cheerleading. Cheerleading specific skills such as partner stunts and pyramids were introduced to make cheerleading more entertaining. The following year, UCA combined cheerleading skills with music. This marked the birth of the cheerleading routine.

In 1982, UCA hosted the 1st Cheerleading National Championship which was shown on ESPN. Five years later, the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) was formed to teach, as well as safe-test cheerleading coaches around the world. In 1988, UCA introduced cheerleading to Japan.

Today, cheerleading is seen not just at sports events but also at other activities such as New Year celebrations. In 1996, cheerleading was a highlight at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games held in Atlanta, USA.

In 2009, the non-profit United States All Star Federation (USASF) and the International All Star Federation (IASF) were formed to support International Club Cheerleading and the World Cheerleading Club Championships. The following year, the USASF/IASF hosted the 1st World Cheerleading Championships at the Walt Disney World Resort.

In 2007, the IASF formed the International Cheer Union (ICU) to enhance efforts in supporting world championships for national teams, world recognition efforts by international sports authorities, and to support the safe development of cheerleading around the world. ICU has since grown from 19 to 35 member federations. By 2009, the number ballooned to 76 member federations.



Freshly Minted SP Scholars

One of the highest honours that an SP student can claim is being named an SP Scholar. Each year, an outstanding group of students will be awarded the SP Scholarship and the SP Engineering Scholarship. The qualifying criteria include excellent grades for their GCE 'O' level results and CCA records, strong leadership potential and exemplary character. They also have to prove their mettle at the test and interview rounds.

This year, 65 of the 80 scholars are freshmen, while another 15 second-year students who have proven themselves during their first year made the grade too.

A percentage of the SP Scholarship is also awarded to outstanding graduates from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) who had joined SP. In addition, another group of students are awarded the SP Sports Scholarship and the SP Music and Arts Scholarship for their significant achievements in sports, music or arts.

Membership has its privileges. The SP Scholars and SP Engineering Scholars will receive a bond-free sponsorship of \$2,500 per year. To earn a renewal, they have to maintain good academic and CCA records. There's also a one-time

subsidy of \$1,000 to buy that coveted laptop. Best of all, they get to attend special programmes organised under the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) scheme. The SP Sports Scholars and SP Music and Arts Scholars will receive an annual sponsorship of \$2,000.

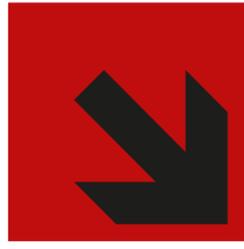
SPOT is a talent development and enrichment programme designed to groom our students into well-rounded leaders. Besides taking up a customised module on current affairs, they will also work on social innovation projects and participate in high-key events such as the annual Poly Forum and dialogue sessions

with our key government leaders.

A much coveted programme that is special to SPOT, and SP, is the United Nations Conference held at either Harvard or Princeton universities in the United States. At the conference, which is attended by undergraduates from all over the world, participants will undertake the role of a government leader of a country to debate on relevant issues.

All of these programmes will sharpen their skills in critical thinking, public speaking, decision-making and presentation.

Scholarly Performance



Congratulations SP Scholars 2012

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Hu Anni
Samantha Tan
Wong Chi Khay
Natalie Phoon
Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi
Agnes Lau
Nick Koh
Chew Junling
Poh Tian Han

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL

Ivan Chan
Chia Wei Hao
Glenn Fang
Lee Shu Hooi
Oh Bing Quan
Sheena Lee
Suan Yechin
Jasmine Yeo
Loh Zhiwen

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Erica Lee
Neo Feng Yi
Pavittar Kaur
Syafiqah Bte mohd Shahril
Tan Fong Xin
Tan Xiu Zhen
Toby Tan
Wong Si Yuan

Yeo Yi Ping
Danial Said Abdat
Hariz Bin Mohd Yousuf
Hussein Ahmad Madhni Bin Ali
Liu Yizhao
Dickson Soon
Lim Xue Ting
Phoebe Germaine Tan
Rachel Tan
Miko Yeo

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Andrea Kee
Prisia Ong
Poh Jek Kee
Sim Xi Zhe
Yuan Ye
Lim Zhao Yi

SP DESIGN SCHOOL

Casper Chua
Tan Kai Li
Beatrice Cho

SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA AND INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY

Bryan Mitchell Chia
Chen Jianliang
Lim Yizheng
Ong Jin Jie

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Caleb Foo
Chua Shao Wei
Daniel Goh
Ikhwana Muzzammil Bin Muhd Azni
Kenneth Cheng
Lee Jian Wei
Muhd Syafiq Bin Abas
Timothy Tang
Yoong Jia Hui
Jerry Quek

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Ang Wan Ling
Boo Kwok Ying
Chin Guan Wei
Xavier Chu
Samuel Do
Eugene Gwan
Goh Jia Hui
Jason Ang
Joshua Goh
Lee Hong Wei
Lim Boxian
Lim Wei Heong
Muhd Fahmi Bin Zakaria
Ng Han Rong
Ng Li Ting
Wallace Tan
Divesh Singaraju
Nicholas Look

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY

Leong Wan Shan
Nery Koh
Sun Bowen

SP SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

Basil Low – **Diploma in Banking and Finance**
Ernest Chua – **Diploma in Biomedical Science**
Abel Lim – **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering**
Timothy Lee – **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering**
Audrey Yong – **Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management**

SP MUSIC AND ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Gabriel Hoe – **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology**
Jacob Koh – **Diploma in Information Communication Engineering and Design**
Wong Wai Huin - **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology**
Beth Yap - **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology**

At the SP Scholarship Award Ceremony, Jessica Lee, a fresh graduate from the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** and former SP scholar, delivered an encouraging speech to the new batch. She is now pursuing her degree in Accountancy at the Nanyang Technological University under the Nanyang Scholarship.

"It is indeed my privilege to be able to join you at this joyous occasion. Let me congratulate all our scholars on receiving the various SP scholarships. With these awards, you are about to walk the path of countless opportunities that will help you unlock your true potential.

Like most of you, I was very excited then to receive this scholarship as it not only helps us to cover our tuition fees, but also provides some pocket money for various study or training activities. But the real value of our scholarship goes beyond the monetary sum that we are receiving. It lies within the opportunities for exposure and development we get over the next three years, either through the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme, leadership training programmes or competitions – locally and overseas.

Communication, Leadership and Teambuilding – these are a few very important soft skills that these developmental programmes have equipped me with. And I am very thankful to SP, as well as my lecturers for imparting me with such skills.

By now, most of you would have attended the Leadership Training Camp at Telunas, Indonesia. I recall how I laid in a hammock in the jungle that night, trying very hard to fall asleep. I know I needed rest to prepare my body for the challenges of hiking down the next day, but I was wide awake as scenes of how I nearly lost my balance and fell into a waterfall earlier that day made me worry that I would not be able to get down the mountainous track the next day. Fortunately, my worries proved to be unfounded as I eventually overcame that obstacle. And how did I do that? Simple, I learnt to trust, not just in others, but also in myself. So here's what I have learnt at that SPOT camp - Believe that you can, and you will. Seize every opportunity you have over the next three years to build your inner confidence, determination and perseverance. With that, I am sure you will find great satisfaction in your achievements.

My life in SP has been a colourful one. I had two core CCAs, the DAC Chapter and the SP

Archery Club, of which I was the President and Treasurer respectively. I have to admit that it was rather demanding to maintain my grades while I juggled between my responsibilities in the CCAs. A particularly stressful period I had was when I started joining competitions as well as an overseas community involvement project (OCIP) when I was in my final year – the busiest year of all. I broke down for the first time in my life as I felt overwhelmed by the various responsibilities, deadlines and expectations that I had to meet, especially the high expectations I had of myself.

I remember how I had to stay back late almost every day for trainings, CCA camp meetings, pre-OCIP-trip activities and night lessons, on top of my usual lessons. Many things were on my mind throughout the day and when these activities became more than I could handle mentally and physically, I finally collapsed.

Fortunately, I managed to pull myself together, with great determination and the support of my friends as well as the people around me. It was through such an experience that I learned how to better manage problems. Sometimes, we need to take a step back and tackle problems one at a time, rather than look at them as an overwhelming whole.

My advice to all of you - if you ever feel that you cannot go on further, take a break but don't give up. Go get a breather to refresh and recharge. Always remember that when there is a will, there is a way – stay strong.

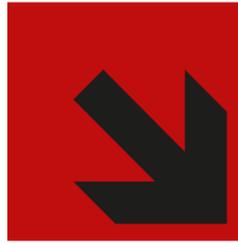
Always remember to appreciate the people around you and the things that you have. Build up a network and treasure the relationships that you have forged, as they can become mutual pillars of support to fall back on in times of need. Be grateful and remember to thank and acknowledge the people who have helped or supported you in any way.

Let me share with you my life motto. "First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do." Looking back, this was what kept me driven throughout my three years in SP - the goal of furthering my studies in a university. Goals are important in life. So set a goal, work hard towards it and enjoy that feeling of achievement when you have attained your goal.

Once again, congratulations on receiving the scholarship. I wish you the best as you embark on your journey as an SP Scholar.



Scholarship Partner



Fifteen out of 40 IIS scholarships were clinched by SP students.

Lion's Share Once More For IDA Scholarships

History is repeating itself several times over. SP students have once again taken the lion's share of the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (IIS) offered by the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA). Of the 40 scholarships offered to polytechnic students, 15 went to SP first-year students, all from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology. They are pursuing diploma courses in **Business Information Technology (DBIT), Digital Music and Audio Technology (DMAT), Infocomm Security Management (DISM) and Information Technology (DIT)**.

The scholars are: from DBIT: Sally Chin; from DMAT: Chew Jun Wern, Cassandra Chng and Xavier Lee; from DISM: Cheong Ren Hann, James Edward Teoh, Issac Lee, Ngoh Guang Wei, Nikolas Tay,

Reuben Tan and Santhosraj, from DIT: Evan Tay, Shaun Lim, Tan Wei Xuan and Terence Lam.

The IIS scholars will pursue a polytechnic to university path under IDA sponsorship, paving the way for them to pursue a career in the digital media or infocomm-related industry. The scholarship package includes fully-sponsored tuition fees, an annual allowance, laptop allowance, and a local or overseas attachment of up to six months with a company related to their course of study that comes with a monthly attachment allowance.

IDA has also awarded the National Infocomm Scholarships (NIS) to four SP graduates to pursue their degree programmes at local or overseas universities. Under this scholarship

scheme, they will be groomed by leading global companies, local companies and government agencies during their course of study, and thereafter employed by their sponsor companies upon graduation. The recipients are Chi Kok Pin (**Diploma in Information Technology**), Tan Wai Kiat (**Diploma in Aerospace Electronics**), Tan Jun Hao

(**Diploma in Infocomm Security Management**) and Kelvin Khoo (**Diploma in Computer Engineering**).

All the IIS and NIS scholars received their scholarships at the MICA Scholarship Awards 2012 ceremony. At the same ceremony, SP graduates Wendy Wong (**Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media**) and Kenson Tan (**Diploma in Digital Media**) received the Media Education Scheme Awards sponsored jointly by the Media Development Authority and sponsoring companies. Both of them will embark on careers with Channel News Asia and StarHub respectively upon graduation from the National University of Singapore.

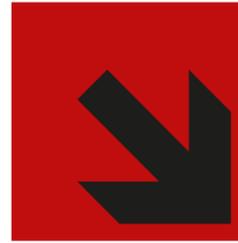


Wendy and Kenson received the MDA Scholarships.



NIS Scholarship recipients (from left) Kelvin Khoo, Tan Wai Kiat, Tan Jun Hao and Chi Kok Pin.

Scholarship Partner



The jubilant winners of maritime scholarships.

Future Maritime Players

Just when SP received news that the Digital Media and Infocomm Technology students clinched the lion's share of the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (IIS) offered by the Infocomm Development Authority (see story on left page), then came the news that we also took a big share of the LKY-STEP Awards for polytechnic students (see page 18). The good news did not stop there.

At the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2012, organised by the Singapore Maritime Foundation, SP students and graduates from the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) were awarded 30 of the 40 scholarships offered! The scholarships are grouped in three categories: MaritimeONE Scholarship (open to all qualified applicants), the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Scheme (TMSS) and the Seafaring Alternative... An Investment for Life (SAIL) Scholarship opened to SP students taking maritime courses at SMA. The scholarships are sponsored by the most reputable international brand names in the maritime industry such as "K" Line, Port of Singapore Authority and Swire Pacific Offshore, all of whom have pledged their commitment to nurturing the youth by providing the funding for these scholarships and offering great career opportunities in their companies.

Of the 25 MaritimeONE scholarships for university studies that are worth between \$12,500 to \$38,000, SP graduates clinched 15 of them. Most of them will pursue their degree programmes at reputable maritime

universities such as the Maritime Institute William Barentz in the Netherlands and Plymouth University in United Kingdom. SP students also laid claims to all three MaritimeONE scholarships for those pursuing a maritime course at the polytechnic.

Another 11 students from the Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR) and Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) were awarded the TMSS Scholarships that come with a sponsorship of up to \$50,000. To top off the celebration, a first-year student received the most prestigious SAIL Scholarship which offers sponsorship and bounty payments of up to \$100,000.

Congratulations to all the winners!

MaritimeONE Scholarship (for university studies)

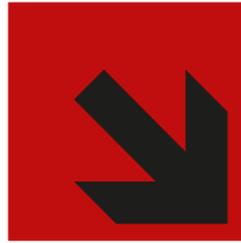
Adelina Astra Rusli
Joel Chew
Pamela Koh
Joshua Lin
Lin Mingling
Lu Zhi Wei
Natalia Bte Azmi

Ong Xiu Ling
Onn Ying Hui
Puah Li Lin
Tan Bing Guang
Cherlynn Tan
Kent Tan
Yeo Wei Vynn
Sabrina Wah

MaritimeONE Scholarship (for polytechnic studies)

Benjamin Lew
Makoto Miyahara
Noor Shafiq Bin Jalal
Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Scheme (TMSS)
Ahmad Taqiyuddin bin Ahmad Ghozali
Robin Ho
Nery Koh
Lim Kang Wen
Daniel Lin
Marcus Low
Marc Wayne Jacob
Muhd Hafizi bin Johari
Muhd Suhaimi Ammar Khan Bin Yusoff
Sim Jin Leong
Kenneth Yap
Seafaring Alternative... An Investment for Life (SAIL) Scholarship
Loy Xing Lu

Scholarship Partner



SP students receiving the LKY-STEP Award are (front row from left): Ivan Chan, Yvonne Goh, Darshini, Muhd Asraf Bin Mohd Amin, Chen Jianliang, (back row from left) Goh Jia Hui, Ang Bo Jia and Kenneth Cheng.

The Next Step to Success

No doubt about it. SP is the most popular polytechnic among outstanding Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates. Among the 15 who were recently awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award, eight of them are now with SP. The Scholarship comes with a one-off cash quantum of \$3,500 and waiver of tuition fees for the duration of the course of study.

Of the eight, four of them also received the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Book Prize. This prize recognises LKY-STEP recipients who

have achieved the most outstanding academic results at ITE. Up to six awards are given out each year and SP students clinched four of them.

The outstanding eight are Ang Bo Jia*, Kenneth Cheng*, Chen Jianliang*,

Muhd Asraf Bin Mohd Amin*, Goh Jia Hui, Yvonne Goh, Ivan Chan and Darshini (*those in * are also recipients of the SHOAS Book Prize*). They received their awards from Minister of State for Education Mr Lawrence Wong at a ceremony last month.

ITE GRADUATES SHINE

Five outstanding graduates from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) now studying in SP are among 11 polytechnic students who recently received the Tay Eng Soon Scholarship (TESS). They are Nguan Jia Hui (**Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering**), Mohd Fadhil Bin Mohd Sofie (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering**), Eric Pui (**Diploma in Infocomm Security Management**), Diaz Shirannie Barquilla (**Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management**) and Aldric Fong (**Diploma in Maritime Business**). They will receive a one-off cash award of \$3,000.

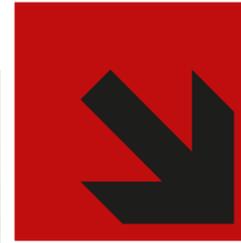
The TESS was established in 1993 from donations received from companies, individuals and staff of ITE and the polytechnics, in memory of the late Dr Tay Eng Soon, former Chairman of ITE and Minister-in-Charge of polytechnic and technical education.



Recipients of Tay Eng Soon Scholarships: (from left): Aldric Fong, Mohd Fadhil, Diaz Shirannie and Eric Pui. Not in picture: Nguan Jia Hui.

Note: The Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award was established from donations received from the former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew through the sale proceeds of autographed editions of Volume 2 of his Memoirs. The objective of the award is to encourage upgrading and lifelong learning.

Scholarship Partner



Scholarships For Business Design Thinkers

Pioneer students from the Diploma in Business Innovation and Design students receive the MND (from left): Vivian Ang, Valetta Teo, Aaron Lim, Kao Hwee Ling and Michelle Lim.

In a first of its kind collaboration between a polytechnic and a ministry, five SP students from the pioneer cohort of the **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** will receive a total scholarship sum of \$75,000. This is made possible by a generous grant from the Ministry of National Development (MND) which recognises the importance of infusing Design Thinking as the new approach to improve business processes for the future.

The scholarship will pay for their three-year tuition fee at SP and expenses for the two-week long Boot Camp at Rotman DesignWorks in University of Toronto, Canada – which is one of the highlights for this new diploma course. Rotman School of Management is one of the world's best business schools and a global leader in business design. The scholars will in turn serve a 15-week internship and two-year bond after graduation at a MND agency of their choice.

The five students – Vivian Ang, Kao Hwee Ling, Aaron Lim, Michelle Lim and Valetta Teo were selected from among the pool of applicants after two rounds of interviews and a paper

submission with the topic, "What are key challenges Singapore faces and how it should respond to the challenges".

The scholarship deal was inked between Mr Tay Kim Poh, Deputy Secretary (Development) of MND and Mr Tan Hang Cheong, SP Principal. Said Mr Tan: "The Diploma in Business Innovation and Design course is the first of its kind in the tertiary arena and it takes a radical approach to business education. We want to inculcate SP students with a mindset for innovation in the fast-changing economic environment."

The ministry hopes to attract young talents from the inaugural batch and tap their knowledge of Design Thinking to help improve services to the wider community.

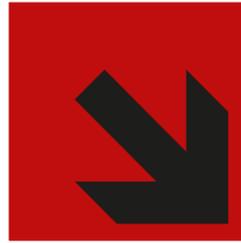
The scholars will also be given internship and work opportunities at

MND and its statutory boards and agencies that include the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, Building and Construction Authority, Council for Estate Agencies (CEA), Housing and Development Board, National Parks Board and Urban Redevelopment Authority. The five of them received the scholarships from Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for National Development, at the MND-EDGE Business Innovation and Design Scholarship Ceremony held in July.



SP Principal Tan Hang Cheong (right) and Mr Tay Kim Poh, Deputy Secretary (Development), Ministry of National Development signed a deal that paved the way for SP students to receive scholarships and internships from the ministry.

Strategic Partner



SP students packing punches at the launch of FRANK Store at SP.



FRANK Store is conveniently located at Foodcourt 5, a popular student haunt at SP.

test, implement and review their marketing and sales ideas, together with the Frank by OCBC team and their mentors.

Mr Ching Wei Hong, Chief Operating Officer of OCBC Bank, said: "FRANK by OCBC is a banking programme based on relevance to the youths. With this internship programme, the youths from Singapore Polytechnic can shape the FRANK by OCBC experience that is unique and relevant to the entire student population."

Mr Tan Hang Cheong, SP Principal, is delighted to have a FRANK Store within the campus. He said: "FRANK by OCBC is a great concept. As a strategic collaboration, it is more than just a store. Through a series of engagement initiatives, we want to educate our students about money management. We believe they will be able to apply what they have learnt in class and most importantly, be armed with practical skills that can be applied when they start their career. This collaboration will certainly value-add to SP's internship programme and will align well with our emphasis on providing the authentic learning experience."

OCBC FRANK Store in SP is located at Foodcourt 5, a popular convergence area for SP students with Starbucks, Cheers, Popular, Kentucky, Subway, swimming pool and the gym all located in the same area. It offers an array of banking services with a special focus on youths' banking needs. Besides counter services such as deposit account opening and loan application, you can also apply for debit and credit cards and drop off your cheques.

FRANK Store at SP's opening hours are from 9am to 4.30pm (weekdays) and 9am to 11.30am on Saturdays.

You will check FRANK out, won't you?

FRANKly Speaking, This is Excellent!

A new internship programme along the line of SP's authentic learning approach is in place for students interested in a banking career. In an exclusive tie-up, OCBC Bank and SP jointly launched the FRANK by OCBC – SP Internship Programme, in conjunction with the opening of its fourth FRANK Store at SP campus in July. This is the first FRANK Store in a polytechnic.

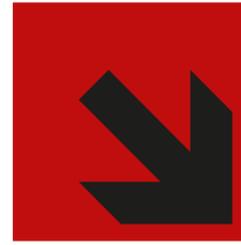
Through this 12-week internship programme, SP students will learn how to manage the FRANK by OCBC banking programme, and develop and implement new business ideas to differentiate the programme for the SP student population. The first batch of interns will start their internship later this year and OCBC expects to train up to 30 SP interns every year.

All interested students have to submit their resumes to the bank and shortlisted ones would attend two rounds of

interview. This process will give the students a real sense of what it is like to look for a job. Selection is based on their level of interest, personality, attitude and ability to strategise, plan, implement programmes and work in a team. The interns will be assigned to the various consumer banking units at OCBC Bank and work alongside the Frank by OCBC team - marketing, credit and debit cards business operations and merchant acquisition, and branch banking. Each intern will be mentored by a designated OCBC Bank manager who will provide guidance and supervision throughout the internship period.

Each cohort of interns will also be given a business objective to deliver. They can be asked to develop and implement strategies to get more Frank by OCBC bank accounts, come up with more product ideas and execute campaigns on various engagement platforms. Like a business project, the interns will have to research, conceptualise,

Smart Phone



Brandon Tan, the rising app knight.

Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) student Brandon Tan is reaping the benefits of turning what he has learnt from his course into reality. The final-year student, who is taking the Game Development Option, took part in the Nokia Knight Program and walked away with two major prizes. Operating as a one-man-team, he won a prize in the Starter Category for being one of the first 10 teams to have three apps published using the Windows 7 platform and another prize in the Hero Category for scoring the highest download rate among the published apps.

Besides Brandon, another team of 20 second-year DIT students calling themselves the La Familia Games Team, mentored by lecturer Alvin Tang, won three prizes in the same competition. In addition to winning the prize for being one of the first 10 teams to create three published apps, they also won prizes for the Team with the Most Number of Published Apps (19 created in total) and Team with the Best App (Flag Raiser).

The DIT students fought hard against competitors from other institutions like

Rise Of The App Knights

Nanyang Polytechnic, Nanyang Technological University and the Institute of Technical Education. The 20 students are Edgar Wong, Eugene Tan, Leslie Lau, Benjamin Tan, Muhd Hilmi, Jeric Yim, Cheung Wai Tung, Koo Chin Chye,

Wong Zheng Yang, Muhd Azharuddin, Mohd Nashrulhaq, Muhd Nur Randy, Khiew Jian Bin, Marcus Ho, Song Jun Quan, Ang Jun Yao, Lin Chun Yi, Dickson Ang, Lim Ta Eu and Chee Zhong Xian.

Brandon won himself a Nokia Lumia 710 smartphone and a cash prize of US\$3000. As for the La Familia Games Team, they reaped US\$6,000 and a Nokia smartphone.

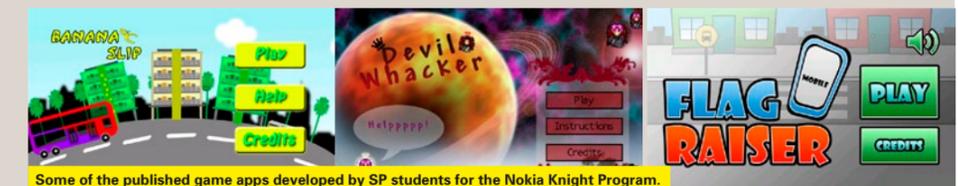
Nokia Knight Program is a competition for students and lecturers to flaunt their mobile application development and creative thinking skills by competing amongst themselves and gain recognition as a Nokia Knight.

Brandon's winning streak also extended to another competition that he took part in – the #LumiaAppsChallenge by Nokia which required participating teams to

develop three apps approved by Nokia in three months. Five SP Teams, all comprising DIT students, were among the 50 proposals accepted for this competition. The five teams were led by Brandon Tan, Nicholas Lee, Ong Jin Wen, Felix Foo and Christopher Choo – all final-year students.

The current final year cohort of 31 DIT students taking the Game Development Option is a bunch of prolific app developers. Within just one semester, they have developed and published more than 10 games. Through working in small groups, they leveraged on each other's best skills ranging from programming to art to game design. Their apps, covering a wide genre from casual games to 3D shooters, are available as free downloads on the Windows Phone Marketplace.

Kudos to lecturer Alvin Tang, mentor of these future game developers, for patiently guiding them over the years. Alvin himself is an avid developer and was amongst the first to have his app idea approved for Nokia's #LumiaAppsChallenge. His first app, Blast Bunnies! received more than 3,000 downloads in two weeks!



Some of the published game apps developed by SP students for the Nokia Knight Program.



SP student winners at the Nokia Knight Program with lecturer Alvin Tang (fourth in front row).

Solar Perfection



Team SUNSPEC from left to right: Front row: Ng Han Sheng, Lim Liang Yuan, Ng Ye Xun, Daniel Yee, Kenet Chua, Lim Xiao Ming; Back row: Sukumar S/O M Tanda Erappani, Lur Bing Hui, Ng Ye Han, Austen Cheah, Chua Bing Sheng (TSO), Lawrence Ng (Senior Lecturer), Than Keng Hwa (Senior Lecturer), Peh King Sing (Senior Lecturer) Leong Fai Choy (Senior Lecturer), Lam Yi Kee (Senior Lecturer), Lee Jie Xin, Adlin Ng, Doris Hoe, Wang Lu, Md Azizul Hakim Bin M Rusli, Dennis Tang and Abdul Hakim Bin Abdul Wahid; Inside the car: Koh Yong Tat; Not in picture: Foo Fang Siong (Lecturer), Steven Chew (Senior Lecturer) and Danny Quek (Senior Lecturer).

Vroom Vroom To Victory

They are barely 20 years olds but yet capable of designing a vehicle that roared to victory at the racing track. A team of students from the **Diploma in Clean Energy (DCEG)** and **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)**, with guidance from their lecturers, designed a solar car that came in first in the Prototype Solar category at the Shell Eco-marathon Asia 2012. The race took place in the Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur.

The annual event, which SP took part in for the first time, challenges student teams from around the world to design, build and test ultra energy-efficient vehicles that will inspire future engineers to turn the vision of sustainable mobility into reality. It is held across several continents in that include the Americas, Europe and Asia with two main categories - the Prototype Solar focuses on maximum efficiency while the Urban Concept encourages more practical designs.

There were 87 and 43 teams in the Prototype and Urban Concept categories respectively. To win the Prototype race at Sepang, the SP Team had to complete the race with the least possible amount of energy, cover a distance of 11 kilometres and clock in a time not exceeding 21 minutes. The air was tense as the circuit was filled with more than 130 student teams from 18 countries such as Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia, in

addition to other Singapore teams from institutions including Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and the Institute of Technical Education.

The SP solar car was christened SUNSPEC (Sun Singapore Polytechnic Engineering Cluster), a lightweight, energy-efficient, and reliable vehicle powered by solar panels and batteries. The development team comprised 30 staff and students from the Schools of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) and Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE). Leading the teams were senior lecturers Lawrence Ng Kiam Yam and Leong Fai Choy. Both are members of a SP solar car racing team that was formed in 2010 by the Engineering Cluster with the aim of giving students a holistic learning experience by combining cutting-edge engineering with automobiles to help save the environment.



At the send-off in Sentosa.



And the winner is...Singapore Polytechnic SUNSPEC!



First in Prototype Solar category: 8 gold medals, a trophy and US\$2,000 cash prize.



Getting ready for the race.



Post event exhibition at Shell House.



All cars raring to go...

"We were really excited because this was the first time we participated in a regional competition. At the Singapore send-off event, we had comments that our solar car was impressive and it was of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) standard," said Lawrence. "After executing a smooth demo, we were confident that the car would do well at the competition."

Fai Choy added that that the students worked very hard, including over weekends, to get the car ready for competition. "Seeing the students feeling proud and excited over their car was tremendously satisfying. The project is one way for the students to build their capabilities in SP before they start work."

Participation in the Shell Eco-marathon is the second stage of a three-year project plan. The team is gearing up for the World Solar Car Challenge which will be held in Australia next year. The KL event was a good warm-up for the World Solar Challenge where teams have to depart from Darwin and compete to arrive first in Adelaide, some 3,000km away.

Winning aside, what counted was the learning opportunity. Said Team Manager Lim Xiao Ming, a final-year clean energy student: "We learned how to listen to each other's idea and opinions. Everyone should have a chance to share their thoughts and contribute to the team. One person's idea might be wrong, but many wrong answers could lead to brilliant discoveries. Therefore, every voice should be heard."

Social Programming

Infocomm Whiz Kids

An SP team from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) won the first prize at the Now You Can Leadership (NYCL) Series Season 2, a competition organised by Grid MMS Pte Ltd that encourages youth from 16 to 24 years old to develop ideas to improve people's lives or the environment. Team Storyboard, led by Jonathan Toh Jun Hong, was the champion in the Helping Humans category. The team of four, all final-year **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** students, took home \$2,000 cash.



Team Storyboard: (from left) Brandon Tan Jian Sin, Francis Cheng, Jonathan Toh Jun Hong, and Nicholas Lee

Jonathan shares his team's journey in the making of their winning project - MediJournal - a medication reminder iPhone app that is intuitive, fast and useful for all ages. It enables a user to grab their medication info from the hospital's server and automatically schedules the reminder timings with only one touch of a button.

"My team took part in five competitions, including the NYCL Series, and we made it to the finals for most. It was a long but fruitful one-year journey. MediJournal was developed based on a coding programming language that wasn't even taught in school. Nevertheless, the foundation that DIT gave us was a great advantage to pick up another programming language easily.

It was a very difficult journey that caused many sleepless nights but they were all worthwhile. In the end, what matters most to us is making a difference - helping people and making their lives easier using information technology," says Jonathan.

Another SP team, Team AWE4SOME, took the runner-up position in the Dream is Green category. The team comprised students from both DIT and **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)**: Team Leader Terence Lam (DIT, first-year), Clarence Lam (DIT, final-year), Timothy Tan (DISM, first-year) and Bernard Tang (DISM, final-year). Their project is titled Recyclops, a smartphone app to help users recognise recyclable items and nearby recycling bins, won them a trophy and \$250 voucher.

HERE'S ANOTHER WIN

Students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology reaped a bountiful harvest this year. They have scored victories in several competitions and some teams would be heading overseas to prove their mettle in the infocomm technology arena.

Besides winning a top prize at the Now You Can Leadership Series (main story), Jonathan Toh also captured the Best Presenter Award at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation Awards. This is not all. A team comprising fresh DIT graduates Kugan Kobalakisra (Team Leader), Muhd Nazrul Nizam Mohd Khamis, Jayaprakash Amresh Kumar, Lau Huiting, and Muhd Izzat Ridzuan took the Gold Award for their project Lifeline Mobile Application in the Tertiary category.

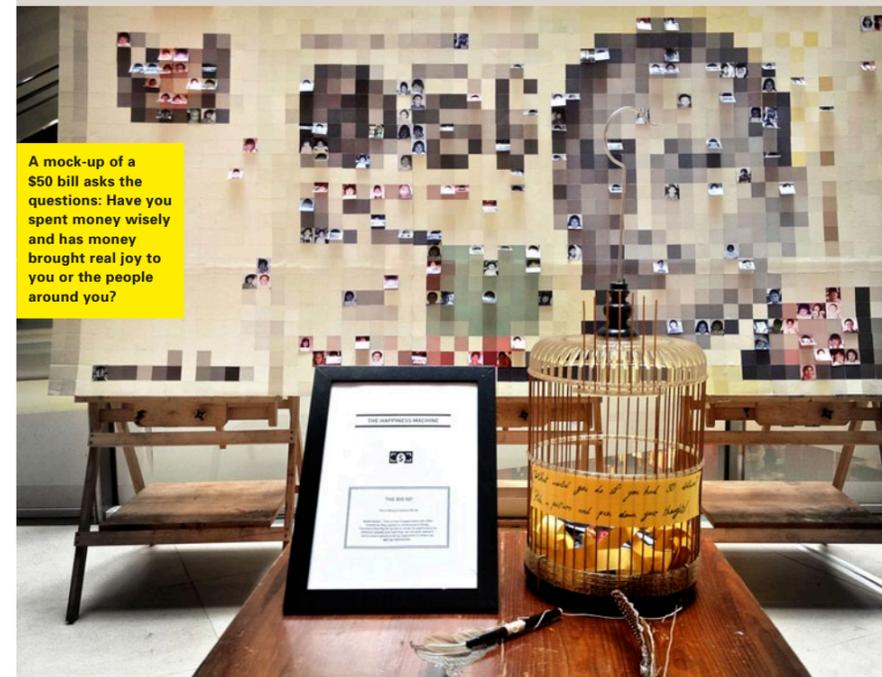
Kugan and team mates will be taking the project to compete at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards to be held in Brunei in December. APICTA is an international awards programme that aims to increase infocomm technology awareness in the Asian Pacific community.



Jonathan Toh (left) and Kugan Kobalakisra - big winners at the SITF 2012 Awards.

Sentimental Pleasures

For one week in August, visitors to Bugis+ were challenged to reassess their beliefs about happiness through nine art installations. Collectively known as "The Happiness Machine", the installations were created by 19 final-year students from the **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)**. These works were curated as part of their New Media Design module.



A mock-up of a \$50 bill asks the questions: Have you spent money wisely and has money brought real joy to you or the people around you?

Several of the installations creatively recombined imagery from familiar environments. The "Big 50!" (left picture), for example, is a pixelated image of a \$50 bill made from hundreds of small paper squares. Created by Cheryl Wong Qiao Li and Hasziela Binte Ali, it shows the difference that a \$50 bill could make in one's life. If splurged thoughtlessly, it can become a materialistic baggage. However, it can also bring real happiness if spent on something meaningful, like one's lifelong yearning or a gift for a loved one. The arduous task of joining together the pieces of paper to create the giant note gives a hint of the amount of hard work that goes into earning \$50.

Another installation named "Good Memories" focused on bygone childhoods. Created by Eng Sui Kee, Hazel Yu and Melissa Zee, it is a collection of 32 tin cans, with each containing a nostalgic childhood source of joy in the form of games, sounds or smells. The cans contain things like five stones, a childhood game; Tiger Balm ointment which emits a strong signature scent; and sound recorders that play sounds like the traditional school bell ring and shouts of karang guni. The White Rabbit milk candy is in one of the cans. Suikee said: "Our installation is like a shelter where people can relive their childhood memories, look back, be happy and remember joys of the past."

Lecturer David Tan Yang Tow from SP Design School shared about the exhibition's aim: "Through this project, we hope to get the visual communication design students to probe into the hearts of our residents and rediscover the rich heritage and cultures of old or contemporary times. From there, they can develop interactive artefacts to remind the public of what makes them happy and even proud to be a homegrown Singaporean."

Don't Worry, Be Happy 😊



Photo courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings.

From left: Hazel, Sui Kee and Melissa bring back old memories under their Good Memories umbrella.



Interactivity: visitors at the Happiness Machine exhibition pen down their thoughts on what they are grateful for.

Seoul Presence

South Korea is now a hotspot for two reasons – K-pop groups and cosmetic surgery. But these are not the primary reasons why a group of students from the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at SP were there not too long ago.

A Taste Of University Life In K-Pop Land



Maritime Business students made an inaugural visit to Chung-Ang University in South Korea.



Eugene (second from left) and course mates having fun sightseeing and eating in the land of K-Pop.



The group stayed in a hotel about 45-minute drive from Incheon Airport in Seoul. Besides exploring all of CAU, they had a little bit of time to discover Korean culture. One of the more interesting recreational lessons was learning how to make kimchi at the (what else!) Kimchi School! They had also some time to shop at some of the most popular tourist belts like Myongdong, Itaewon and Nandemon.

“What I like about Korea is that the people seem to be respectful to each other, especially towards the elders and teachers. The food was great but a major problem is that most restaurants only have their menu in Korean.

Their barbeque meat is especially delicious! And experiencing a temperature of almost -8 degrees is no joke for us so used to the hot weather. We brought winter clothings but they still couldn't keep us warm,” says Eugene.

Eugene has not yet decided whether he wants to study in CAU but he is pretty sure of getting a degree after his diploma. No sweat for this guy to advance his studies, with his current almost perfect GPA score.

Note: In a recent collaboration between Singapore Maritime Academy and Chung-Ang University, graduates from the Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB) can pursue the Bachelor of Business Administration (International Logistics) at CAU, a two-year degree programme conducted in English.

ease in providing hands-on learning for the undergraduates there. The group also visited the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ), a hub for logistics, international business, leisure and tourism, and the Incheon Port.

Eugene recalls his visit to Incheon Port: “It was really an eye opener. The visit gave us a real feel of the port facilities. From the academic viewpoint, I felt really privileged to be able to step into the port as this is usually not opened to the public. We also had the opportunity to see the lock system, a device that allows water to be raised for vessels to sail in so that cargo can be loaded and discharged. This is not used in Singapore and we only learned about it through our module notes. So seeing a real system reinforces my learning about its usage and is entirely different from just reading about it from our notes.”

Besides a tour of the entire campus which included visiting the library and hostel, they also attended a special lesson on port automation by a British professor. CAU was established in 1918 and the university has gone through extensive rejuvenation and many new buildings have been added in recent years. An interesting landscape of old and new buildings fill the campus. Best of all, the Korean government is building a seaport nearby which will add

Star Programme



Kar Meng (left) and course mate taking a break on Phuket Island.

Floating Campus

Every year, about 200 students from various SP schools and other partner educational institutions attend the Maritime Experiential Learning (MEL) Camp, a special learning programme on board Star Cruise Virgo. Started in 2004, the camp is a collaborative programme between the Singapore Maritime Academy at SP and Star Cruises for students to experience learning on a floating campus.

During the four-day return cruise to Penang and Phuket, in addition to the experience of living aboard and witnessing the operations of a large well-run cruise ship, the students also learn about the global shipping industry and Singapore's role in the maritime industry. There are also motivational talks by adventurers sharing their experiences in dealing with various challenges, such as climbing Mount Everest, trekking the North and South Poles and swimming across Malacca Strait.

Ko Kar Meng, a final-year Diploma in Maritime Business student, joined the camp during his second year. He enjoyed it so much that he volunteered for a second run this year, this time as a student helper.

“This time round, besides SMA students, we also had SP students from the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)**, undergraduates from Korea's Chung-Ang University, Japan's Toba College of Maritime

Technology and students from the Institution of Technical Education (Yishun). It was a good mix of local and foreign participants. My duties include co-ordinating the workshops, ensuring safety, taking photos and hosting our friends from Japan,” says Kar Meng.

Activities on board included workshops by Star Cruise's Captain Rodshort who shared his experience of his career as a ship captain. Professor Ehsan Mesbahi from the Newcastle University also gave a lesson about ballast tanks. Well

known motivational speaker Jeffrey Goh also delivered a hilarious talk to the young audience.

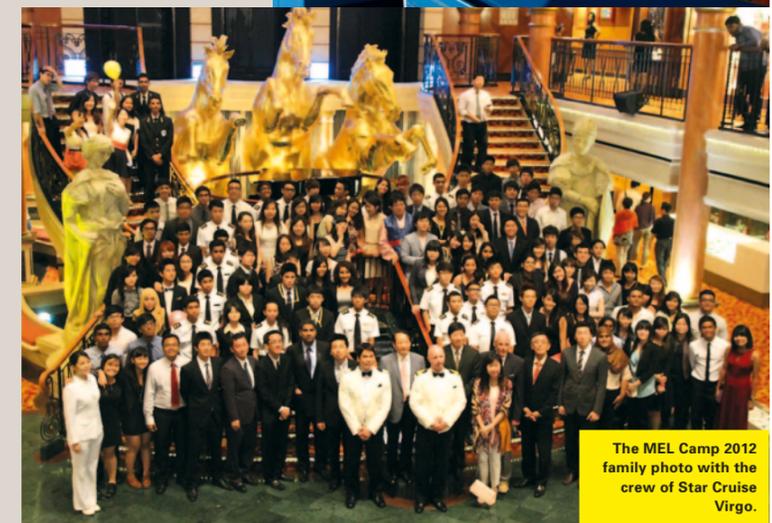
“One of the highlights was visiting areas in the ship that are not opened to the public, such as the engine room, the navigation bridge and the galleys where food is prepared. We had stops in Penang and Phuket and all of us spared no time to visit places of interest within the short hours given. The students had to give presentations on the last day on what they had learnt from the camp. It would end with a gala dinner hosted by the captain,” says Kar Meng.

Two times in MEL Camps is seemingly not enough for Kar Meng. He will be going to Nagoya in Japan for another overseas learning trip this month. This time round, he will stay in the homes of the Japanese students who had a home-stay in his house when they were here on a study trip earlier.

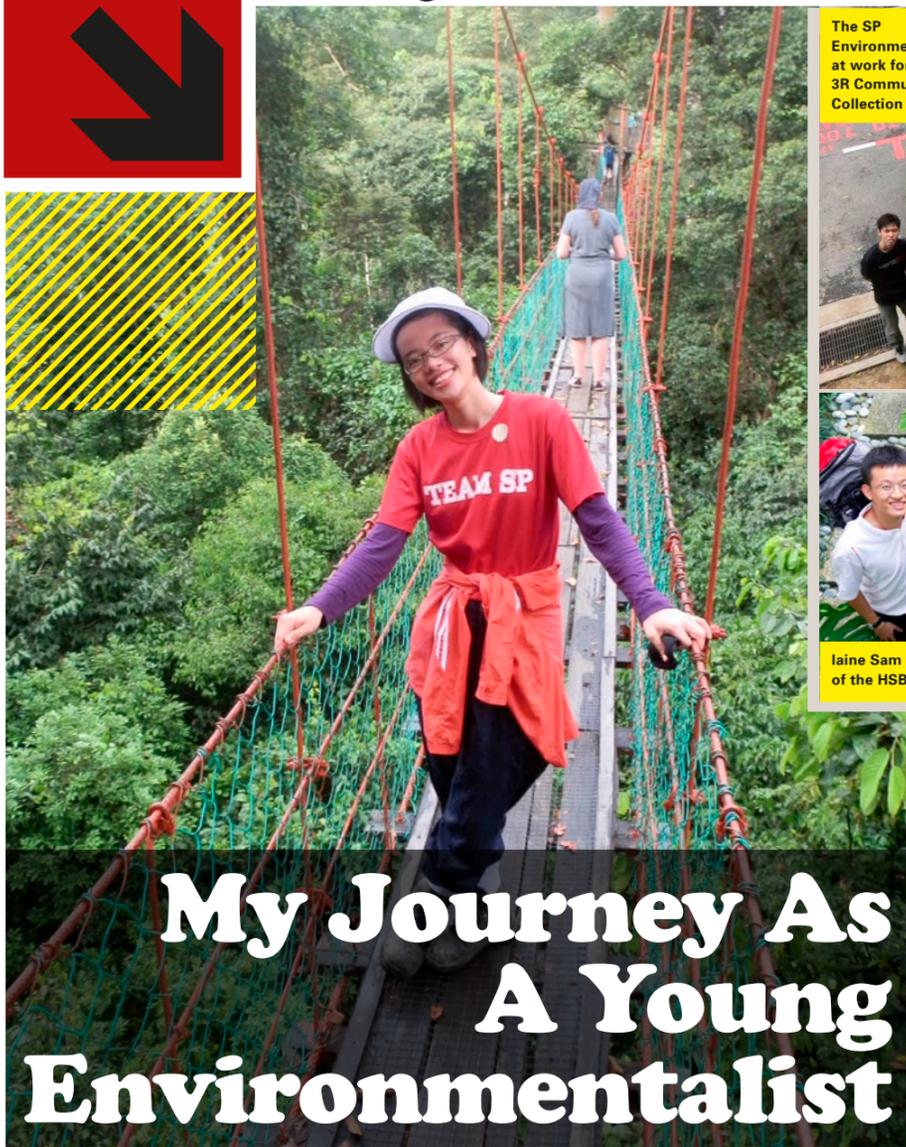
Ka Meng plans to further his studies at Plymouth University in the United Kingdom to study maritime business after his diploma.



Kar Meng with Star Cruise Virgo's Captain Rodshort.



The MEL Camp 2012 family photo with the crew of Star Cruise Virgo.



My Journey As A Young Environmentalist

Elaine Sam, a final-year student from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** course, recently took a trip to the tropical forest in Borneo to study environmental issues. The trip was her prize package as one of the five winners at this year's HSBC/NYAA Youth Environmental Award. She also received a plaque and a \$500 voucher. The Award was started in 1988 to recognise youth between the ages of 14 and 25 for their outstanding contributions towards environmental protection and nature conservation and to promote support for young environmentalists.

Elaine certainly deserves the win. It was through her diploma course that she met like-minded course mates who led her to join the SP Environment Club which she is now leading as Club President. But her emotional attachment to the environment started even way earlier.

"I'm fascinated with nature since young and it has always been my dream to visit all the natural wonders of the world. I was not only watching cartoons like any normal kids but



The SP Environment Club at work for the 3R Community Collection Drive.



Elaine Sam set foot in Borneo. Left: Elaine (middle) with the winners of the HSBC/NYAA Youth Environmental Awards 2012.

also documentaries that had creatures like the beautiful tree frog or other wild life animals. During my secondary school days, I realised that my peers are not really environmentally conscious. This actually motivated me to post articles on the environment and recycling on popular social networking sites. I believe a new belief can start with small habits in our daily lives. Soon, I got together a group of friends to volunteer at the Tzu Chi Foundation's recycling centre where people bring their own recyclables and help to sort out the different materials," recalls Elaine of her early days in environmental work.

With the SP Environment Club, Elaine participated in activities like the mangrove salvation at Sungei Buloh, Amazing Green Race and Earth Hour. She also initiated a field trip to Landscape Nursery to inculcate horticultural knowledge, promote gardening interest and introduce hydroculture technology in gardening. Together with NParks, she organised Earth Day @ Pasir Ris Park. In 2011, she represented SP at the World Leadership Conference where delegates from the region gather to discuss environmental issues. More recently, the Club embarked on a nine-month 3R Community Collection Drive to educate

residents about the importance of "reduce, reuse and recycle."

Elaine's trip to Borneo kicked off with a send-off where each winner was presented with research kits, as a symbol of being given the opportunity to go to Borneo's tropical rainforest to gain first-hand information and groundwork experience in scientific research. Guided by scientists from Universiti Malaysia Sabah and a senior scientist from the Southeast Asian Rainforest Research Programme, they would assess and measure soil moisture levels, test and analyse slope angle and position, plant seeds and study vegetation structure and density to understand soil erosion, fragmentation and climate change that occur in the rainforest of Borneo.

The Borneo trip seemed surreal to her initially: "Winning a trip to the heart of Borneo was really a dream come true for me as I have always wanted to explore that part of the world which is rich in biodiversity. Borneo is the third largest island (shared by Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei) in the world and much of it is covered with tropical rainforest which has the most diverse ecosystems in the world. They are home to thousands of plant species, countless types of insect, a vast array of birds and some of the world's most iconic and endangered mammals like the Sumatran rhino, clouded leopards and pygmy elephants."



Drinking fresh vine water and doing leaf count.



The journey there, in her own words, was like a scene from Indiana Jones. The group descended in Danum Valley field centre, about a three-hour drive from Lahad Datu Airport, after a bumpy ride on rusty laterite roads with countless bends and slopes. The place was set up for research, education and wilderness recreation and has suitably rustic, simple but sufficient infrastructures for the researchers. They were joined by self-funded Earth Watch volunteers from Australia, Britain and the United States.

Their project aimed to understand how logging and land use change have impacted forests and how resiliently these rainforests react to climate change, especially severe droughts. Together with a team of scientists and research assistants, they assessed the structure of the rainforest, analysed how plants and animals have been impacted by the logging and fragmentation, and how this disturbance has affected soil moisture, decomposition and soil erosion.

Although Elaine did not know her fellow team members well, their common interest bound them together. "The field project was done in groups, so teamwork is a key element. The scientist would pick the land plots and we had to meet targeted daily data collection for leaf count, herbivore damage and light intensity.

The forest was not second nature to the young urban dwellers, so they were also taught some basic jungle survival skills. They had to stay alert all the time and look out for signs of fatigue among team members. There were also volunteers who came from temperate climate regions who had to keep themselves hydrated all the time as the humidity was very high in the jungle and they might not have adapted well initially. Everyone learned some



Break time in the forest with the locals and the Earth Check scientists.

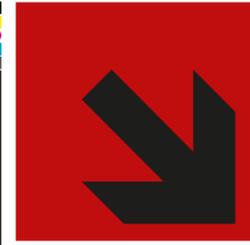
tips on recognising heat illness due to acclimatization, burns, harmful insects and hazards in the forest. One important tip that Elaine picked up was recognising dead tree stumps and not to hold on to them.

Her summary of the trip: "I've learnt a lot about the importance of forest biodiversity and its beauty. I made the most out of my time there and enjoyed nature to the fullest. Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, the experience of tranquility is priceless. Out in the forest, we got to experience wildlife sightings of hornbills, listen to the sound of the barking deer, monitor the tracks left by clouded leopards and look out for signs that a rogue male pygmy elephant was in the vicinity."

Elaine has this word of advice for young aspiring environmentalists like her: "What's most important is taking the first step in volunteerism. The SP Environment Club, for example, is a great platform. You can start as a green guide for secondary schools students to tell them more about our SP green features like the InnoVillage or even initiating outdoor environment camps."

After her graduation, Elaine hopes to clinch a scholarship to study Environmental Engineering or Environmental Science at one of our local universities. But her journey as an environmentalist does not stop after SP. She intends to continue her passion in raising awareness on environmental issues and hopes to inspire future green leaders to take the first step forward in making the difference.

String Perfection



The SP String Ensemble learns from the best in Taiwan.



师父 (Shifu), Please Show Me How

In the imaginary world of sword fighting novels, we hear of young men who would travel to the mountains to seek masters or *shifu* who would teach them martial arts.

A group of 19 young musicians from the SP String Ensemble did the same, albeit in a more comfortable setting. They flew to Taipei to seek out the masters among the orchestra musicians there, hoping to improve their performance skills while slurping oyster mee suah in Ximending, a popular youth shopping district.

The one-week trip was made possible by Johnny Ong, a manager from the Department of Student Development who was once an undergraduate in Taiwan. Through his network with the music industry there, he

hooked up with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra which kindly accepted his request to conduct master classes for the SP string musicians.

For Liow Ying Xuan, a fresh SP graduate from the **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** who went on the trip, it was a very fruitful and educational trip for her. The visit to the Chinese Cultural



Our string musicians learning how to choose a good cello from Mr Chen Yu Han, a cellist from the Taipei Symphony Orchestra.

Editor's note; The SP String Ensemble will be putting up their Renaissance series concert this year under the SP Arts Fiesta in November. Watch out for it!

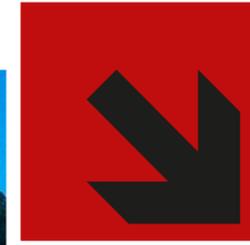
University, for example, exposed her to the Baroque symphony which uses different instruments and techniques. The group also attended lectures conducted by the National Taiwan University where they learned about stage management and structuring of songs. A concert by the National Symphony Orchestra was also included in the itinerary.

The eye-opener was a special master class conducted by Mr Roger Chiang, the Concert Master for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra who patiently listened to our young musicians and pointed out how they could improve on their skills.

How could a visit to Taipei end without taking in the sights? Besides visiting Taipei 101, the tallest building in Taiwan, the ensemble also found time to visit cultural gems like the Ying Ge Pottery Museum and the Taipei Arts Museum where they admired native art forms. They also took a dip at a hot spring in Yang Ming Shan and visited Danshui old town and the must-see-and-eat Shilin Night Market.

Ying Xuan sums up the trip: "Although it was only one week, I learned so many things that I can apply in my daily practice. Other than that, I bonded much closer with the group and our relationship has strengthened so much more after this trip."

Sarawak Project



Sleeping With Lizards And Bugs

Not even 20 years old and thrown in a foreign land to produce a documentary. That was the scenario that final-year students from the **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)** faced for one of their projects. No big deal. Just make friends with the bugs, hop on a boat, talk to villagers and laugh a lot. At the end of it, they delivered!

The entire final-year cohort of 43 students spent four days and three nights in Sarawak, Malaysia for a filming project. Accompanied by five lecturers, they had to complete a documentary assignment under the module called 'On-Location Production'. The idea was to train them to produce a compelling story in unfamiliar or even unfavourable conditions within a tight deadline. This is what SP educators love to call it – authentic learning. After all, the aspiring creative writers would have to deal with such work environments in the future. This is the best way for them to learn – do what the media professionals do. Not a single complaint from them. After all, this is in lieu of taking exam papers!

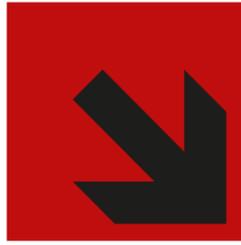
Teamed in groups of six, they were given a choice of three destinations - a fishing village called Kampung Buntal, the Sarawak Cultural Village and another village at the foot of the majestic Santubong mountain. Many hours were spent under the hot sun interviewing the villagers, filming their daily activities, attending briefings and discovering myths and legends. There was a lot of hard work. It was not exactly pleasurable just waiting for the right shot. Getting the interviews right was excruciatingly difficult.

But there were fun moments. Home was right smack in the rainforest with no pillows and bolsters. They woke up not to the blasting of car horns but chirping birds and had visits from friendly neighbours like the lizards and bugs. There was some time to play beach games and even shopping. Some of them even realised that life without their mobile phones was a lot better!

What matters most to them however were the end results - stunning visuals



and enlightening sound-bites. It was an exhilarating experience that would be a highlight in their resumes. Their documentaries would be exhibited during their graduation show next year. Best of all, they would also compete amongst themselves for the DTVM Awards, the highlight of their graduation show.



Water Pleasures



It was splashing good times once more as SP staff and students, together with partners from the secondary schools, occupied Marina Barrage on a sunny morning in June for the annual Singapore International Water Festival (SIWF). Organised jointly with the Public Utilities Board in collaboration with the Singapore International Water Week, the event serves to educate youth on the importance of water conservation.

Since last year, SIWF has also become a family day event for SP staff where family members of the SP community have a fun day engaging in activities such as kite making, art competition and riding on the river taxis. The turnout of SP students was also the highest in the history of this fun yet educational event, a well-deserved record after months of campaigning by the SIWF student ambassadors appointed to promote the event. In all, more than 5,000 people soaked in the wet and wild environment.

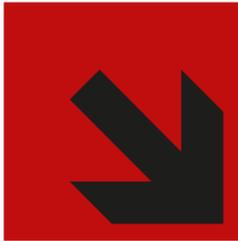
Mr Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, officially launched this year's SIWF. Two cheques were presented at the ceremony. The sum of \$90,000 was presented to President's Challenge to help beneficiaries under this programme while another \$75,635 was donated to Mercy Relief to aid humanitarian

missions worldwide. The monies were collected by SP freshies during this year's Flag Day.

If you missed out on the action, **SPi** brings you the highlights in pictures.

SP students and our partner institutions pit their skills in the Raft, Telematch, Canoe and Dragonboat races. The Raft Race was particularly interesting as teams had to build rafts using recycled materials.





The Season Of Medals And Trophies

If team spirit could be measured, there was certainly 100% of it in the blood of SP sportsmen and sportswomen. From cheerleading to dragonboat, they invested endless strength and commitment in their passion to bring glory to SP. Their victories were not confined to just Singapore but beyond the shores to as far away as Hong Kong. Adding to the list were individual achievers who competed at national and international levels and they also demonstrated the tenacity that characterises the SP Team SPirit. Hip Hip Hooray!!

SPiRiT salutes the winners and our gratitude goes out to the coaches for their dedication in bringing out the best in our SP boys and girls!



Dragonboat
 1st in POL-ITE Games (Men)
 1st in POL-ITE Games (Mixed)
 2nd in POL-ITE Games (Women)
 1st in 8th Club Crew World Championships, Hong Kong (200m event / 18-23 Racing Class, Open division)
 2nd in 8th Club Crew World Championships, Hong Kong (500m and 2000m events / 18-23 Racing Class, Open division)

Gusto! Cheerleading
 1st in Singapore National Cheerleading Championship 2012
 2nd in Cheerleading Asian Invitational Open 2012

Water Polo
 2nd in POL-ITE Games

Tennis
 3rd in POL-ITE Games (Women)



Taekwondo
 1 Silver and 1 Bronze at the International Club Taekwondo Tournament (ICTO) 2012 in Bangkok

Chinese Chess
 1st in POL-ITE Games

Weiqi
 1st in POL-ITE Games

Lion Dance
 1st in Ngee Ann City Lion Dance Competition (School category)

Wushu
 15 Golds, 13 Silvers and 1 Bronze at the Singapore International Traditional Wushu Competition 2012

Bowling
 Basil Low
 3rd in 12th World Youth Championship Bangkok (Boys' Single)

Diving
 Timothy Lee
 1st in Macau International Diving Invitational (Open Men's 3m Springboard)
 1st in Macau International Diving Invitational (Open Men's Synchronised 3m Springboard)
 2nd in Southeast Asia Swimming Championships (Men's 1m Springboard)
 3rd in Southeast Asia Swimming (Men's Synchronised 3m Springboard)
 1st in Schools Senior (Men's 1m) and 2nd in Schools Senior (Men's 3m) at 2nd International School Diving Championship

Rugby
 2nd in Singapore Rugby Tertiary10s Competition



Rock Climbing
 1st in National Schools Sports Climbing Championships 2012 (Youth A Division)
 2nd in Team category and 3rd in Akid Intermediate category in NUS Boulder Active

Adventurers
 2nd in Team category in Adventure Trail Challenge 2012

Softball
 1st in SBSA Kallang Softball (Men's Open)
 1st in SRC Softball Open (Men's Open)

Silat
 Tertiary Silat Championship
 Gold in Male category Class G
 Silver in Male category Class I, Class F and Male Artistic Team Category
 Bronze in Female category Class B, Male category Class C, Male category Class O and Male category Class D





Optometry final year students (from left) Santi Tang, Kodi Goh, Syaifiq Asyraf and Jian Bin have the best of both worlds after they graduate – they can choose to start work as optometrists and draw a good starting pay or pursue a two-year degree programme offered by University of Manchester and conducted in SP.



A spanking new Optometry Centre to train future optometrists. From left: Santi Tang, Kodi Goh, Syaifiq Asyraf Bin Kusni and Ge Jian Bin.



Only the best and the latest eye care equipment is stocked at Sp Optometry Centre.

Perfect Sight For The Future

Taylor Swift sings “Keep your eyes open.....” in her hit song Eyes Open. The next time you pass by the Optometry Centre, you have to really open your eyes. The almost 20-year-old Centre has been given a major eye lift (pardon the pun!) to equip optometry students with the latest eye care equipment and an upgraded retail space that can rival any of the optical shops downtown.

SP has been offering the **Diploma in Optometry (DOPT)** since 1994. Over the years, it has trained thousands of optometrists who enjoy one of the highest starting salaries among diploma graduates. The most recent employment survey of polytechnic graduate shows that Optometry graduates can earn close to \$2,500 (for those who have completed national service). This is certainly one of the key reasons why DOPT has been a very popular course among GCE ‘O’ level school leavers.

However, since 2010, there is another compelling reason to study Optometry. After completing their three-year diploma

course, the graduates can proceed to continue with a degree in Optometry conducted right here in SP campus. The two-year degree programme is offered by the University of Manchester (United Kingdom) and is among the most reputable in the world. It is also approved and heavily subsidised by the Ministry of Education.

Final-year student Ge Jian Bin was set on taking Optometry at SP three years ago even though he stays in Bedok, some distance away from SP. His reason: “SP is so accessible with the Dover MRT Station. To be honest, I just love everything about this course which includes the modules, lecturers and facilities. Probably because I’m just interested in Optometry, thus I enjoyed everything.”

His classmate Kodi Goh, who joined SP from Dunman High with an aggregate score of just five points, says: “Through interacting with people, optometrists directly help to improve their quality of sight, whether by early detection of diseases or simply prescribing a pair of spectacles. It gives me a sense of satisfaction whenever we are able to solve their vision problems. The career path is a challenging but fulfilling one.”

No regrets for both of them as they are now among the top performers for this course.

In case you didn’t know, SP Optometry Centre is also open to the public (which of course include all school students) for eye checks and purchase of prescription and contact lenses. Opening hours are from 10am to 5pm from Mondays to Fridays, except on Wed from 10am to 1pm; and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

I Care. Eye Care

June marks the graduation of the second batch of students from the University of Manchester (UM) Optometry Degree Programme conducted in SP. Adding cheers to the happy occasion was the news that 70 per cent of the graduates had already been offered full-time employment even before they graduated, with high starting salaries to boot!

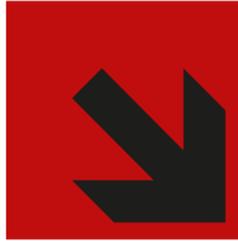
First started in 2009, the two-year full-time degree awarded by UM caters specially to Diploma in Optometry graduates in Singapore.

Tan Li Ying, one of the top graduates from the latest batch, initially planned to study overseas after completing in 2008 her optometry diploma in SP with a GPA of 3.831. However, she held back her plans due to financial constraints and therefore it was a godsend that the UM degree programme materialised. With her new qualification, she hopes to deliver quality primary eye care or specialised services such as in contact lenses or paediatrics, just like in the United Kingdom, Australia and United States. To reach that stage, I will need more training and experiences,” says Li Ying who is now working with a public healthcare organisation.

Another top graduate is Lim Hui Ying who completed her SP Diploma in Optometry with a GPA of 3.895. “Furthering my studies with UM was an opportunity for me to upgrade my skills and knowledge on optometry to a higher level. The degree programme came with many hours of practical sessions in hospitals and clinics which gave us a more sophisticated and in-depth learning of eye diseases,” says Hui Ying, now employed with Changi General Hospital. She also had the chance to witness one of the best eye care models in the world when she did her internship at the State University of New York (SUNY), College of Optometry. Hui Ying is not stopping at a degree. In the long run, she hopes to get her doctorate and become a lecturer to educate future generations of optometrists.



Lim Hui Ling (left) and Tan Li Ying graduated with 1st class honours in Optometry from the University of Manchester.



A Brand New View From Dover



A new look will soon take shape at the Admin Block.



Spacious entrance to levels 1 and 2 of Admin Block.



Reception area.



The present façade of Admin Block.

The SP skyline from Dover Road will see a major transformation come end 2013. The almost 40-year old Administration Block and the adjacent buildings will soon undergo major redevelopment works that will turn the ground floor area of both buildings into vibrant social and learning spaces.



Workshops will gradually be given a new exterior.



A new entrance for Gate 1 along Commonwealth Avenue West.



Social and study spaces on Level 2 of the new Admin Block facade.

A warm and cosy reception area will welcome visitors where they will also get to view some of the best of works by SP students. Natural lighting accentuated by warm lightings will enhance the ambience of this social space. One section of the area will be developed as a study area.

For visitors going towards the Library and other areas of SP, their walk will be given a little more comfort with the

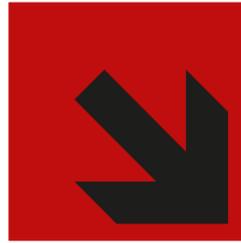
addition of escalators. A sheltered drop off point will let visitors stay dry on a wet day.

This re-development project is the latest among a series of campus rejuvenation programmes rolled out since two years ago. Completed projects include new study areas like SPectrum at T16, iCAFE at the Student Service Centre, the lobby area at the Auditorium, eleven2 and various green

spots including EcOasis and Sanctuary. Upcoming works include renovation of the Auditorium's interior, a new entrance for Gate 8 along Commonwealth Avenue West and an overhead bridge adjacent to it.

SPirit brings to you the artist impressions of these exciting new projects that will certainly inject a lot more vibrancy to the SP environment.

Serving People



Shannon Sim (extreme left back row), Lydia Lim (extreme right front row) and fellow SP mates Jackson Lee, Ryan Loh, Ash Ang, Wong Wei Foong, Teo Kae Lin and Amelia Poh showcasing the hand-sewn handicrafts, a social enterprise project that was spun off from their community service trip in China.

Having a heart to serve is a core value that SP hopes to instil in all its students. With this in mind, the Go Serve programme was recently launched as part of SP's holistic education framework. The programme hopes to imbue a heart of compassion and a spirit of social innovation and entrepreneurship among students and staff to serve the people and society. As a winner of the President's Social Service Award in 2011, SP will spare no efforts to deepen our commitment to serve the community.

Go Forth And Serve



At the launch of Go Serve, a group of students delivered an emotional presentation on their community service trip in a remote village in Sichuan, China. The trip has changed their perspectives of how they view the world.

Shannon Lim, a final-year **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** student and one of the presenters, spoke on how the experience has humbled him. Having lived in a very sheltered environment, the trip showed him the true face of poverty. Says Shannon: "The trip made me treasure the little things around me; to us these things might be insignificant but they mean the world to our underprivileged friends in China. After the trip, I became more careful in managing my money and took my education more seriously. I learned to appreciate the love that my family has given me.

"If given the opportunity, I would like

to return to the same place for another community service trip project. Although it was only a short two weeks, the work we did had impacted the local community. We encouraged volunteerism among the youth there and also drafted a business proposal for their handicap beneficiaries. I very much like to go back to see the progress of our work done there," adds Shannon.

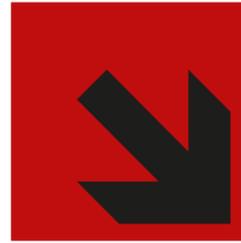
The trip has also jolted Shannon to start a social enterprise with Lydia Lim, a final year **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** student. They work with the Sichuan villagers to produce hand-sewn handicrafts which they hope could be used as SP's corporate gifts.

To know more about the various local and overseas community and social innovation projects SP students have undertaken, visit goserve.sg.



Shannon sent this message of love to his family whilst in China, something he has never done before.

Serving People



Get Set For Humanitarian Missions



The first batch of trained SP humanitarian students receiving their certificates from Deputy Prime Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam.



The pioneer batch on their first humanitarian mission in North Luzon, Philippines.

For 34 SP students, completing and receiving their Diploma Plus Certificate in Humanitarian Affairs last month marked a new beginning. With formal training in a very specialised area, they are now ready to serve countries that need help when a disaster strikes. The group received their certificates at the observation ceremony for the 4th World Humanitarian Day organised by Mercy Relief (MR), a humanitarian organisation that has touched lives and hearts in more than 18 countries in Asia such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China and India. Deputy Prime Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the certificates to the pioneer cohort.

The two-year Diploma Plus course is a joint initiative by SP and MR in an effort to mould the next generation of humanitarians in Singapore who would play a proactive and effective part in serving the region's humanitarian needs. This is essentially crucial with Asia witnessing and experiencing an increase in the occurrence of natural disasters over the last decade.

The course was launched to provide practical, hands-on training to students and professionals about the multi-disciplinary nature of humanitarian assistance and international relief and development. MR's Chief Executive Mr Hassan Ahmad, is grateful to partner SP in this programme: "We found a priceless partner in SP for the development and running of the course which was set out to groom the next generation of humanitarians who would be able to meet the growing demands and challenges. It is useful to have a partner who shares this vision and conviction." Mr Hassan also lectures in this diploma course and often shares his personal experiences in humanitarian missions. The three-module course focuses on

the principles, philosophies, mechanics, dynamics, expectations and challenges of the humanitarian sector. It also includes overseas practical assignments for sustainable development, disaster risk mitigation and post-disaster relief works.

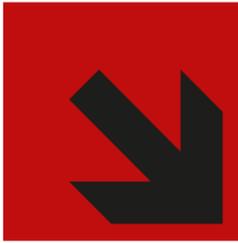
The three best-performing students received Mercy Relief Book Prizes. Kohgilavani d/o Selvakumaran, a final-year student from the **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)**, graduated as overall top student and also the best student for Module 1. Choo Si Ling and Whitney Tan, both from the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** topped Modules 2 and 3 respectively.

Kohgilavani shares that apart from the many essential lessons and topics discussed, the course has given her a lasting reminder to exercise her objectivity by emphasising the need to reflect, question and ponder. "In the humanitarian field, it is crucial to see the bigger picture, without being blinded to the small details," she says.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Tharman

Shanmugaratnam praised the young humanitarians in his Facebook page. He wrote: "This was the first batch, 34 of them. They had done it in the evenings - three modules, 180 hours, over two years - on top of their day classes in their various diploma courses. Plus a few weeks overseas, working in disaster-stricken or impoverished communities. They visited those affected by Typhoon Ketsana in Central Luzon, Philippines, where they learnt to plant mangrove and prepare sand-bags; and did a study to understand the plight of urban slum dwellers in Tondo, Manila.

They were from different fields in SP - business, engineering, tourism studies and so on - but had all chosen to add on this new programme in humanitarian work. Why? Some told me it was because they "felt privileged" in Singapore. They spoke from the heart. Some others were interested in switching into careers in social work, and wanted the exposure. I've given out many academic scrolls, but this group had something extra as they bounced onto the stage. They had idealism. They were doing something out of interest, not because it was required of them. More like them are coming up now, in a new generation. A real plus for Singapore."



Reach Out And Touch Somebody's Life

SIFE IN SP

Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an international non-profit organisation that works with business leaders and tertiary institutions to engage university students in social enterprise projects and teach them to become socially responsible leaders in their communities. Student teams are formed in various countries where they develop projects that will improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. The SIFE World Cup is a platform for their projects to compete first on a national level and then advancing to the international finals. Projects on both levels are judged by business leaders.

SP first participated in SIFE in 2008 and has been crowned the national champion in the years that they were took part - 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012 - beating teams from the other tertiary institutions. With their recent win at the national finals, the SP SIFE Team will represent Singapore at the SIFE World Cup in Washington DC, United States this month.

This year, the SP SIFE Team embarked on the Project Sukka Valli in India. It involves generating income for the villagers through selling goats, commercialising readily-available herbs that grow in the area and using coconut leaves to make roofs and fences. President for SP SIFE Team 2012, Beatrice Ho (**Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology**) and team members Chua Xiu Fang (**Diploma in International Business**) and Marcus Seah (**Diploma in Biomedical Science**) share their experience in this social enterprise undertaking. The trip to India took place in April this year and immediately after, the presentation team swung into action to make their pitch at the national SIFE championship held in June.

Beatrice, how and why did you choose to get involved in this

project? Were you involved in the past two years?

Beatrice: I became involved in SIFE only from the end of last year. I felt that I could apply what I have learnt from my course to help others as well as to learn from the other members in the team.

Knowing that the SIFE team has won the national championship three times, how did the new team cope with the pressure of maintaining the standard?

Beatrice: There was definitely a lot of pressure during the preparation stage as we wanted to succeed and show everyone what we as a SIFE team had been doing. We coped by working as a team; we supported, encouraged and pushed each other to do our best.

How much confidence did you guys have in winning the national championship?

Beatrice: Honestly, we were rather confident as we put in a lot of time and effort into our projects and shaping our presentation. However, we were well aware of the tough competition coming from the other tertiary institutions and felt a little nervous. But more importantly, winning or not, we saw the national championship as a platform to showcase our projects and the real needs of our beneficiaries to the world and share our stories in the belief of a better tomorrow.

Xiu Fang, what were some of the biggest challenges in the weeks leading up to the national championship?

Xiu Fang: Strangely, our biggest challenge was finding a common time for us to meet and discuss. Our team is made up of students from different courses and projects. We needed time to bond as a team and adapt to each other's working styles.

Can you describe Project Sukka Valli and how this project was chosen?

Xiu Fang: When we embarked on an evaluation trip for the previous SP SIFE Team project in India (Project DKSHA), we were introduced to Sukka Valli by the director of DKSHA. Sukka Valli is a nomadic settlement which has existed for generations without proper infrastructure and adequate supply of water. The villagers' earnings were barely sufficient to feed an average family of seven. Thus, there was malnutrition everywhere. The villagers also incurred medical and financial debts, causing a vicious cycle. In order to supplement their income, the villagers resorted to illegal logging which damaged the balance of the ecosystem. After conducting a needs analysis, we realised we could help the villagers generate income by doing three things: build infrastructure, pay debts and reduce malnutrition. We



The complete team of students and staff for SP SIFE 2012.

discovered that the villagers' income could be supplemented with social businesses by making use of readily available resources in the area, such as fallen palm leaves. After some discussions, we came up with three initiatives: herb picking, leaf weaving and goat rearing. While helping the villages, these initiatives also tackle some environmental problems.

What were the earlier projects by the teams in 2010 and 2011 about (Projects DKSHA and Savapur)?

Xiu Fang: DKSHA is an orphanage and in order for it to be sustainable it took on the role of a central negotiator in the moringa (a plant) trade. DKSHA earns revenue as the middleman by matching buyers to the 46 farms that are partnered with them. We also introduced the cultivation of hybrid moringa which grows faster than the local breed. The farmers were also taught how to make organic compost which, in the long term, is better for the environment. We also set up an education centre consisting of a tailoring hub and a computer centre. One of the staff at DKSHA was taught basic administrative skills so that she could teach courses at the computer centre. The fees for the courses were marked below city price to make them affordable for the villagers; this in turn help them get better jobs. The tailoring centre was for women to learn how to tailor clothes. They have started to make uniforms for nearby schools.

At Inba Seva Sangum, an orphanage in Sevapur, the earlier SP SIFE Team built a greenhouse to grow saplings that were chosen due to their ability to adapt to the semi-arid conditions. They were cultivated in a greenhouse to increase their survival rate in the semi-arable land. A compost production facility was also installed

to make organic fertilisers that would recuperate the land damaged by the use of chemical fertilisers. These products were then sold to the villagers below market rate so that they could afford it, and in turn, also build up their farming capacity. This enabled the orphanage to earn a profit from the sales. An education centre was also set up with computers donated by SP and our students trained the trainers.

Marcus, what were the biggest lessons / takeaways from this project?

Marcus: I learned to be grateful for what we have. In the communities we reached out to, they have so little to live on and yet remain happy. Many of us here just can't seem to find contentment with all that we have. Life is more than just studying and living it out, it is also about seeing a need and doing your best to meet that need for someone who cannot repay you.

What did you think were the strengths that helped the SP SIFE team win the national competition?

Marcus: Definitely our drive and compassion. We didn't join SP SIFE to win the competition. We joined to help people. This competition gives us the opportunity to give these communities a voice by speaking up for them. We go to these communities to create sustainable change. We implement long term solutions which will benefit them in the long run. We ensure this by going down and talking to the people and understanding what they actually went through.

How are you guys preparing for the World Cup?

In between projects and exams, we have weekly meetings to keep the ball rolling in preparation for World Cup. We are making another trip to India soon to follow up on our project and look into potential projects for 2013.

After SP, do you intend to continue with social enterprise work, maybe in the university or maybe start on your own?

Marcus: SIFE has helped me understand more about social enterprises. Above that, I have also learnt how to give back to society in other ways, and not only when I'm involved in social enterprises. I will definitely continue to try and make a difference in people's lives. It might not necessarily be through social enterprise though.

Who are the people that the team would like to thank for the success in the SIFE national championship?

Xiu Fang: We are thankful to our teachers and supporters who helped us throughout our journey - Ms Evelyn Louis, Ms Lee Yoke Ling, Dr Elangovan, Mr Song Nay Hay, Ms Ismawanty, Ms Valerie Wong and of course our SP SIFE alumni. We are also grateful to all other SIFE members who have helped us so much but couldn't be on stage with us.



SP SIFE Team in action in Sukka Valli village, India.



The SP SIFE team that presented at the SIFE National Championship (from left): Aliff Aqid, Thamizhanban Manoharan, Chua Xiu Fang, Marcus Seah, Beatrice Ho, Ignatius Mario Doli Sentosa and Loke Zheng Hao.



Good Start For Now And The Future

What are you doing now Keith?

After national service, I joined National University of Singapore (NUS) as an architecture student. But even before joining NUS, I was also busy with a new startup called StartNow which I started with an old friend Ivan Chang.

Yeah, we heard you won some good money with StartNow.

Haha...yes. We came in first for the new Social Enterprise / Cooperative category which came with \$15,000 cash prize. We were named second overall for the Open Category that gave us another \$7,000, and then another \$1,000 for the People's Choice of the Day. Most recently, we won \$10,000 in seed grant at the

Singapore International Foundation's Young Social Entrepreneurs Programme which mentors and seeds young social enterprises.

That's a cool \$33,000 in all. So what have you guys done to the money?

We re-invested it back into our start-up.

How did StartNow come about?

We started with a desire to grow volunteerism here in Singapore and in Asia. StartNow is a social enterprise for non-profit organisations and they are at the core of what we do. We also provide an enterprise solution for businesses that seek to leverage the power of corporate volunteering to build their brands and

create deeper employee engagement. Our platform allows businesses to connect their employees with volunteering opportunities and also track and assess the impact of volunteering activities across their organisation.

That sounds like a really cool idea. How did this volunteerism thing come about in you? Did your involvement with SP SIHE play a part?

I was involved in the marketing for the SP SIFE Team during my SP days and that was in itself a form of volunteerism in the social enterprise arena. Ivan and I wanted to focus this area because when we looked at the social sector here, we saw a lot being done in the area of

SPIRIT catches up with Keith Tan who was a member of the very first SP Team that won the Student In Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Championship in 2008. He graduated from the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) in 2009. He was in the headlines lately after winning awards at the StartUp@Singapore Competition for Start-Now, a social enterprise that he started with a friend.



Keith Tan now (left picture) and back in 2008 when he was a member of the SP SIFE Team.



Start Now was started by Keith (right) and an old friend, Ivan Chang.

donations and micro finance but little to grow volunteerism, which is equally important, if not more important. In fact, in 2010, the value of volunteerism in Singapore was valued at some \$1.8 billion, surpassing the \$1.06 billion that was donated in the same year. The SIFE experience was a game changer for me. It created the realisation that we could utilise business tools to effect social change. This realisation started me on the path of social entrepreneurship which led to the creation of Start Now.

What about your Business Administration diploma course? Did the modules play a part in how you shape this startup?

I've always been a strong advocate of how valuable my Biz Ad diploma has been. The analytical skills gleaned from the rigours of project work imbued in me a sharp business sense. The course has been instrumental in implementing the StartNow social enterprise. I was also fortunate to be part of the Entrepreneurship Concentration programme which was responsible for igniting the entrepreneurship spirit in me.

How do you plan to grow this business further?

Moving forward, StartNow is re-evaluating our position and thinking of a major revamp in the next few weeks. We will be dropping our scope which for now limits us to volunteerism and instead be expanding

our focus to the general "social good" while retaining our existing volunteering platform as one of the key prongs. After all, our vision is for people to StartNow and get involved in solving the challenges of our time. Volunteering is one of the ways but we think there are more ways we can help and we must.

How much money did you and Ivan pump in to start this?

We got a nice funding of \$50,000 from Spring Singapore and a matching amount of \$13,800 was also injected into it at the beginning. We have been very fortunate also to be able to raise funds from several business plan competitions.

Apart from the recent winning at Startup@Singapore competition, StartNow was also nominated by IS Magazine as one of 2012's Most Promising Startups. We also got a Special Mention at Mediacorp's Young Entrepreneur Awards 2012 and was the 2nd Runner Up at Penn Olsen's Startups in Asia Startup Arena Challenge earlier this year.

Wow... that's quite an achievement! Who have come on board StartNow so far?

We are working with organisations like Singapore Gymnastics, Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, Blessings in a Bag, Apex Harmony Lodge and Clarity Singapore. Most recently, National Kidney Foundation, Cat Welfare Society, Young NTUC and Rotary Foundation Singapore have also signed up. These are among more than 120 non-profit organisations on our platform.

Ten years from now, where do you see yourself? An entrepreneur?

Most definitely. Ten years from now, I hope to see StartNow as the leading platform for volunteerism and social good in Asia, and perhaps myself still playing a key role in that organisation. And of course, I hope to be a good architect who can also build social causes and not just buildings.

For information on Start Now, visit startnow.sg, [facebook.com/startnow.sg](https://www.facebook.com/startnow.sg) or contact keith@startnow.sg.

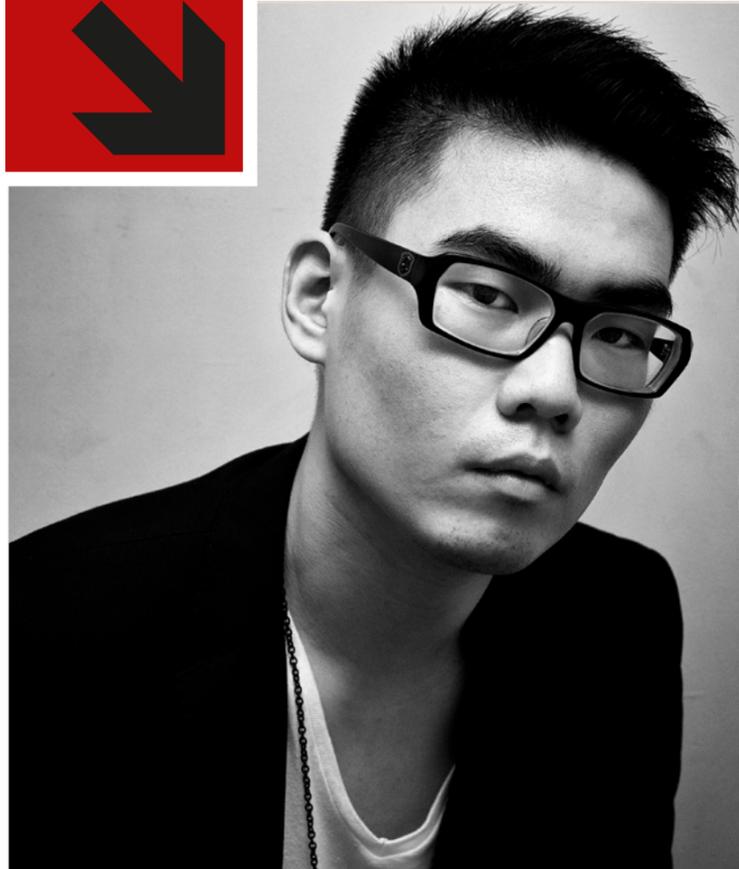
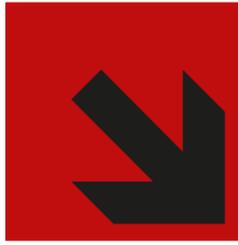


The StartNow team visited rural villages in Thailand and also studied the different social enterprises there as part of the Singapore International Foundation Young Social Entrepreneurs Programme (SIF YSE).



Another visit by the team to a rural village in Buriram, Thailand, to understand how micro finance under the Village Development bank program was implemented.

Stunning Pictures



If Alvin Lee had been a straight As student back in his days in Chung Cheng High School (Yishun), he wouldn't have become the budding film-maker he is today. **SPiRiT** catches up with the Diploma in Digital Media graduate and current national service man who in one year won two major Awards for his works.

Start Short, Aim Long

You chose SP as your first choice after your 'O' levels. Why was that?

(Laughs....). I tell you the truth. I wasn't sure what I wanted. But the people around me all kept telling me to join SP because they said it's the best poly. My parents, uncles, aunties, friends... My sister is now in SP doing Creative Media Design (Editor: now renamed Visual Communication and Media Design).

Okay, they gave you very good advice. Then why choose the Diploma in Digital Media DDM?

Simply because I just didn't want anything that has a lot of textbooks. I don't exactly like maths and science, or textbooks. Not that I failed those subjects; I passed them. But I didn't want to study them again. I read about DDM from the website and it seemed like a buffet spread. It offered stuff like 3D, filming, programming, website design. A lot of job options.

You did pretty well in the end, scoring a respectable GPA.

Well if you look at my results, I scored

distinctions and As for those subjects that I really liked, such as Storytelling and Storyboarding, Visual and Audio Fundamentals, Digital Composing and Matting and CG Effects Studio. I even scored a perfect GPA for my second year because I had an interest in the modules offered. But when they threw in things like media law and maths, I suffered...haha...

So what was memorable in your three years at SP?

The third year – working on the final-year project with my team mates. We learned a lot about team work. For the first time, we had to really get out there in a team to get the work done. It was due to team work that we produced a good short film and I got nominated and then selected for the first Sony-SP I.C.E Award. (Editor's note: This annual Award is given to graduating students who show great potential. The two winners in 2011 earned an all-expenses paid trip to attend the National Association of Broadcasting (NAB) Show in Las Vegas.



The vibrant blue scarf and purple top caught Alvin's attention in the dark wet market in Kintamani, Bali. He was actually chasing another lady for a shot until he realised that she was laughing just beside me, so he shot her. (National Geographic Young Photographer Award Trip, Bali).

What did you gain at the NAB?

I actually enjoyed more than I learned.... haha! But it was really cool stuff, the latest videography technology and equipment. Big name film companies showcased their upcoming works. I also

attended some talks on the technical aspects of filming.

You also won an award at the Very Short International Film Festival (VSIFF) this year?

Yeah, it was for Timeline, my three-minute short film. I won the top prize, the Grand Prix Award at the VSIFF in Singapore. After that, Timeline was the only Singapore short film selected for competition at the Festival International des Tres Courts in France. I came in 4th for Audience Award. I just got another piece of good news recently. The film was also shortlisted for the prestigious Sapporo International Short Film Festival and I will be flying there soon. Another film called "I Can't Hear" also won a merit prize at the Sound Out: 60-second Video Contest.

You also won a big award for your other love, photography.

I have been meddling with photography since my SP days. In the past, I love to shoot in colour and still objects. But now I prefer to shoot people in black and white. I was one of the top eight winners in the National Geographic Young Photographer Award this year. The winners went to Bali for a photography trip with Jino Lee, the resident photography instructor with Canon. I prefer black-and-white because of the "primal" feel to it; and I can also isolate the expressions of my subjects better.

Let's go back to films. Who are your movie heroes?

Someone once told me that there are three kinds of film directors. The first are those who are very creative and stylistic like Quentin Tarantino (Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction). The second are the epic types who direct blockbusters like Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings, King Kong). The third group puts a lot of emotions in their films, like Martin Scorsese (Gangs of New York, The Departed). My favourite is the late and legendary Akira Kurosawa. To me, he is a combination of the three. He is simply great in all aspects of film directing, from camera movement to cinematography.

What are some of the good films you watched recently?

My recent favourite is Flowers of War by Zhang Yi Mou. It has a very intense feel to it.

We all know film-making is a struggle at the beginning, are your parents supportive towards your passion?

Oh yes, they are very supportive and I'm really thankful to them. I always bring them along to my screenings and those film competition ceremonies. Family is my first priority and I want them to be a part of the whole journey.

Chinese opera, a subject that often intrigues Alvin.



Will you do commercial or art-house type movies?

It's okay to do some commercial films for money, and then we can invest the money in films that you really want to make. The money spent on film-making is not the most important; it's the dedication and passion for the subject you are working on.

What are your plans after national service?

I will be applying to study film directing at the Beijing Film Academy. It's not going to be easy because every year about 100,000 people will apply and they only take in 600. Otherwise, I will start working in film production and learn from the experienced directors. I will continue to make more short films to gain experience. In the long run, I definitely want to produce my own full length films.

Screen shot of Alvin's winning short film, Timeline.



Turning the praying wheel in the temple.



Little boy with his balloon in Chinatown.

Note: The modules in Diploma in Digital Media are now offered in two separate courses – Diploma in Digital Animation and Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics. Visit www.sp.edu.sg/schools/dmit for details.

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SP Students Win 32 Out Of 45 BCA Scholarships



Wong WeiYu is one of the pioneer recipients of the new BCA-Industry Built Environment Diploma Scholarship for polytechnic students.

A whopping 71% of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)-Industry Built Environment Scholarship launched last year was awarded to current SP students. Of the 45 recipients, 32 of them are now current SP students.

The scholarship aims to nurture outstanding youth who aspire to lead and shape the future of Singapore's built environment. Under this scheme, the 32 students will get their course fees waived and also receive a monthly allowance of up to \$900. After they complete their studies, they can also opt for a post-diploma development phase which comes with on-the-job training and further study opportunities with the companies that sponsor them.

Says Wong WeiYu from the **Diploma in Civil Engineering**: "It has always been my ambition to be an engineer, to build structures that are safe for people to live, work and play in. This scholarship not only provides me with financial incentives but more importantly an opportunity to gain engineering experiences at Swee Hong (a leading civil engineering firm founded in 1962).

The 32 scholarship holders come from five diploma courses that are key to the built environment industry – **Architecture (DARCH), Landscape Architecture (DLA), Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB), Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) and Mechanical Engineering (DME).**

The winners of the BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholarship 2012 are:

From DARCH: Abdullah Bin Hashim, Aslam Bin Salim, Barcome JBrien Cezar, Joseph Samuel Chan, Chey Yi Ting, Chung Er Pei, Derrick Chua, Evangelina Ong, Joy Heng, Ho Cheng An, Ho Ming, Hu Anni, Lin Ken Yin, Ngan Cheuk Heng, Nick Koh, Ong Zhen Hong and Tan Se Yong.

From DLA: Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi. **From DCEB:** Alexandra Larissa, Chan Jing Ting, Lee Mei Shuang, Prissy Poh, Wang Meihong, Wang Zhen Min, Wong WeiYu. **From DHLFM:** Ho Xin Ping, Lee Xue Ting, Jasmine Ngoh, Tay Zhi Qian, Jeremy Teo Zhen Kang and Yesmeen Yeo.

From DME: Muhd Yasier Bin Mohd Sahair.

Pioneer LTA Award Recipients



The first batch of LTA Engineering Award recipients are (clockwise from extreme left): Wong WeiYu, Leong Hei Kern, Muhd Khairul, Winston Seetoh, Tan Kah Xuan and Elaine Tan.

The Land Transport Authority has generously sponsored \$12,000 to recognise top engineering students in SP. Called the LTA Engineering Awards, they were given out for the first time by the organisation and exclusively to SP. Each award comes with a cash prize of \$2,000 and an industrial attachment opportunity with the LTA.

Two students each from the Diplomas in **Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB), Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) and Mechanical Engineering (DME)** who excelled in their course of study have been selected for the inaugural awards. They are Wong WeiYu and Elaine Tan from DCEB, Winston Seetoh and Tan Kah Xuan from DEEE and Muhd Khairul Bin Jamil and Leong Hei Kern from DME. They were the top first and second year students from their respective courses during for the academic year 2011-2012.

The awards were given out at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) Prize Presentation Ceremony. At the event, outstanding ABE students were also presented with awards and scholarships offered by external organisations that include Hilton, Public Utilities Board and Kumpulan Architects, in addition to those sponsored by the School.

Recognition By Motorola



Tan Sze Meng and Terence Teo, winners of the Motorola Scholarships for 2012.

Two second-year students from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) - Tan Sze Meng (**Diploma in Engineering with Business - DEB**) and Terence Teo Boon Chiat (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**) are the new recipients of the Motorola Scholarships. The scholarships are given to students who have achieved outstanding academic results and are also active in CCA and community service.

Sze Meng is a key member of the SP Red Cross Youth Chapter and she has volunteered her services for charities like the Red Cross Home for the Disabled and the St Lukes' Elderly Care Centre. In EEE, she is an Assistant Class Leader and a Group Leader for student helpers for her School's Orientation Programme this year. She also played a key role in the International Students' Freshmen Orientation Programme.

Terence loves sports and is the Sports Secretary for SP Daiko Drummers. Besides performing with the

Daiko group at several SP events, he also helps to organise sports activities for the members to build team spirit as well as stamina for performances. Terence also contributes to his School by participating in the SP Engineering Show 2012. He also volunteered his services in a recycling project to raise money for the EEE Needy Fund.

The bond-free Motorola Scholarships is worth \$2,500. As recipients, Sze Meng and Terence have a competitive edge when they seek employment with Motorola as their achievements are already in the technology giant's Talent Search Database.

Rewards For Sporting Excellence

For their excellence in sports, four SP students have been awarded the Peter Lim Scholarships. They are Illyas Lee (**Diploma in Aerospace in Electronics** and footballer), Muhd Amirul Asyraf Bin Abdul Aziz (**Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics** and hockey player), Ernest Chua (**Diploma in Biomedical Science** and fencer) and Yeu Czech Den (**Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics** and handball player). They were awarded under the Tertiary category which comes with a \$3,000 value. **Diploma in**

Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management student and sailor Audrey Yong received \$10,000 for her scholarship under the High Performance category.

Audrey and Ernest have much in common. Both of them received the Peter Lim Scholarship for the second time and were also crowned SP Sports Scholars for 2012. Coincidentally, both of them also won second placing in their respective sporting event at the last SEA Games held in Indonesia. Over the past years, they have competed in numerous overseas competitions that brought them to places like Bangkok, New York, Seoul, Perth and Pattaya.

Established in 2010, the Peter Lim Scholarship aims to help promising young athletes achieve their goals in sports performance by supporting their pursuit in sports.



Ernest (left) and Audrey are recipients of both the SP Sports Scholarship and the Peter Lim Scholarship.

Business Students Clinch Dairy Farm Awards



Xing Yi (left) and Rachel will start their careers with Dairy Farm right after graduation.

A management career with one of the biggest companies in retail business right after graduation would be a dream come true for two final-year **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** students.

Lim Xing Yi and Rachel Soon have been awarded newly commissioned scholarships by the Dairy Farm Group, a listed company whose retail operations include well-known brands like Cold Storage, 7-11 and Guardian. They will receive a cash award of \$5,000 and will go through a two-year management trainee programme. Both will have to serve a one-year bond with the company.

Xing Yi's specialisation in her Business Administration course is in Retail Management and International Trade and Business, while Rachel chose the Tourism and Public Relations and Advertising option.

Wiping Out Drugs

A mosaic wall made with phone wipes was the centre of attraction at the launch of the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2012 at The Cathay Cineleisure. The annual event is organised to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as the World Drug Day.

The idea was conceptualised by final-year SP students taking the **Diploma in Integrated Event and Project Management (DEPM)**. They led eight other schools, altogether numbering 260 student volunteers, to distribute the phone wipes to the public over three days. These were then mounted on a wall at the launch.

This was the second year that SP's DEPM students collaborated with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) to put together activities for this year's campaign. Besides the launch event, the students also organised road shows at public venues to spread the anti-drug message which carried the theme "Life Does Not Rewind. Make The Right Choice".



SP's event management students and lecturer-in-charge posing in front of the backdrop formed by thousands of phone wipes.

SP Students Publish Paper In International Journal



Kenneth Lim and Daphne Low with Dr Handoyo (middle) jointly published a paper in an international journal.

Earlier this year, SPirit last reported that two SP civil engineering graduates from Class of 2011 published a paper in an international scientific journal. Hot on their heels are two fresh SP graduates from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** who published a journal paper in the international Journal of Water Sustainability (Vol. 1, Issue 3, Dec. 2011: 313- 322).

Daphne Low and Kenneth Lim, together with their lecturer Dr Handoyo Djati Utomo, published the paper titled "Correlation between Turbidity and Total Suspended Solids in Singapore Rivers". The paper started with a compilation of three years of class assignments in the water supply module that culminated in a poster presentation contest at the 4th International Conference on Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering held in Taiwan last year. Thereafter, they were invited to propose a full article for publication in the Journal which was founded by University of Technology, Sydney and the Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology. After peer review and amendments, the paper was finally published.

As research papers in international journals are usually published only by university professors or post graduate students, SP students have scored a major coup for having published papers in three international journals.

Working Behind The Scenes For NDP

The 47th National Day Parade (NDP) came and went but memories of it will remain for a long time in the minds of students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology. Skills learned from their modules were put to the test in several projects.

Five students from the **Diploma in Digital Media (DDM)** were tasked to develop and manage the web portal for the LovingSG: One Heart, One Voice project. It involved splicing the videos of Singaporeans singing the national anthem into a harmonious virtual choir which premiered on the parade day itself. Calling themselves MediaGenix, they were also in charge of developing the web portal for this project and running a social media marketing campaign to promote it.

It was no easy task, as student Jackie Tan put it: "It was a challenge getting people to submit videos of



Digital Media students behind the Virtual Choir and social media campaign (from left): Jackie Tan, Jasmine Bay, Tracy Yu and Geraldine Tan; Not in picture is Wong Kok Fai.

themselves singing the national anthem online as Singaporeans tend to be more camera-shy compared to the rest of the world. But we had a fun time doing the project and also a great way to experience the industry in this manner."

Another team of students also from the Diploma in Digital Media was tasked to heighten awareness and garner support for a new NDP initiative - Building a LovingSG, which is also a donation drive. They created an animation video that was aired on national TV and also the web pages for this project.

Team leader Tan Swee Min shared, "It was a very good experience of the real world. As a lot of people from different companies were involved, we had to obtain approval from many parties before executing our plans. Through this, we learned how to work with people."

You can still watch the creations of these DDM students on the NDP Official Website at www.ndp.org.sg.



SP students in action at Music Matters Live 2012.

Music Matters To Them

What more could they ask for? Students from two diploma courses under the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology had the rare chance to work with international music professionals at Music Matters Live 2012, an event under the All That Matters Music and Digital Conference held in Singapore. Dubbed as Asia's celebration of live music, the three-day event at Clarke Quay brought together more than 40 international and local music acts.

Thanks to a partnership with production company The Deck, SP students from the **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** delivered live video recordings of the event via YouTube, the Official Festival Broadcast Partner, to thousands of viewers around the world.

Second-year DVEMG student Shawn Ang recalled the experience: "Kudos to the cameramen who sweat it out amidst the crowd of photographers and media, as well as struggling with crazy fans out there rooting for the Korean performers."

Another team of students from the **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** produced an audio recording and dedicated broadcast mix of the performances, supervised by their lecturer, Geoffrey Low.

"It was really great! I got first hand insights into my future working environment. I experienced the broadcasting side of major music festival works and also learned from the people from DVEMG which I enjoyed very much. Now I know this could be something I might possibly be doing a few years from now," said Bryan Tsao, a second-year DMAT student.

And nothing beats being recognised for their efforts. The students were credited in the Music Matters Live press release which stated "A big shout out goes to the students of Singapore Polytechnic for their assistance in production - a first for Music Matters Live!"

They Think And They Win

Three recent graduates (Chua Si Hao, Kenneth Ho, Jason Sim) from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** and another (Nicholas Toh) from the **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** teamed up to take part in ThinkQuest, an international competition that challenges students to solve problems using technology. The team submitted an entry in the Application Development category.

They could only try their best and dared not think of winning as they had to compete with nearly 5,600 other entries from students all over the world. Their entry titled Frevol Friends (short for Friends Volunteer Friends) is a web and mobile application that harnesses social media technology and peer influence to connect volunteers with organisations and provide a convenient way for friends to encourage other friends to participate in charitable work together. It impressed the judges enough to award them the second prize.

Team member Jason explains why they built this app: "As a regular volunteer with an organisation called FaithActs, I realised that there is always a



Chua Si Hao(DIT), Kenneth Ho Chee Chong (DIT), Jason Sim Meng Kiat(DIT), Nicholas Toh Zuan Jie (DISM) with lecturer Low Jin Kiat.

shortage of volunteers. Hence, we did some research and realised that this is one of the major problems faced by many voluntary welfare organisations in Singapore. Now, with just a smartphone or computer, we can rally friends to volunteer anytime."

Their prize package consists of a laptop and a trip to the United States to visit ThinkQuest Live, a five-day event hosted by the Oracle Education Foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area. The event includes workshops, social events, sightseeing excursions and a ThinkQuest Awards Dinner. Lecturer Low Jin Kiat, mentor for the group, is also invited to the trip.

Another SP team clinched the third prize in the same category and walked away with a laptop.

Their entry EL-Green is an automation and energy management system that helps households to reduce electricity consumption and minimise energy wasted due to human negligence.

This team comprises DIT fresh graduates Teo Jin Yuan, Chi Kok Pin, Lim Jun Yi, Linus Lim, Ong Wei Xiang and Wu Chia Sheng (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**)

Understanding Geospatial Technology



Fervent Studio members are (from left): Letitia Justina Leong Si En, Wee Gui Jun, Emily Lim, Lim Yi Kai and Wong Tse Kana.

Two SP teams of final-year students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology returned from the Spatial Challenge competition with two major Awards. Organised by the Singapore Land Authority, the competition aims to encourage the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in schools and raise awareness on geospatial technology among students.

The Fervent Studio team comprising five students from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** clinched the Excellent Report and the Best Presentation Awards in the Tertiary GIS Application category. For their excellence, they won a total of \$3,000 in cash prize. Their entry involves an interactive iOS application that allows users to view the history and culture of Singapore.

Another team named SP Gissers won \$2,000 for clinching the Outstanding Data Collection Award in the Tertiary GIS Analysis category.

At the same competition last year, fresh DIT graduate Gordon Lee and his team mates won the Top Prize in the Tertiary Category. The competition has piqued his interest in GeoSpatial Information and Technology and he is now interning with Quantum Inventions, a company that provides next generation dynamic navigation systems.

Medals For Skills

SP engineering and design students clinched two Silvers, four Bronzes and two Medallions for Excellence at the recently concluded WorldSkills Singapore2012. The competition is held biennially to discover the best in talents among the Singapore youth. Billed as the Olympics of Skills, the event symbolises the pinnacle of excellence in skilled trades and technologies training.

The winners competed in the categories of Electronics, Mechanical Engineering Design – CAD, CNC Milling, Industrial Control and Graphic Design Technology. A big round of applause for the winners!

SILVER MEDALISTS:

- Lee Zheng Hao, **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics**
- Tan Huang Jie, **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**

BRONZE MEDALISTS:

- Belvin Tan, Leonard Hoe and Xu Weijie - **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**
- Norpurwanti Bte Susanto, **Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering**

MEDALLIONS FOR EXCELLENCE:

- Darius Ou, **Diploma in Visual Communications and Media Design**
- Goh Min Qin, **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**



Team Orion from SP (from left): Goh Kee Chin, Jeremy Heng, Yang Xudong and Han Xingjie.

Cyber Defence Champion

At the Cyber Defender Discovery Camp (CDDC) organised by the Ministry of Defence, a SP Team emerged champions in the Institution of Higher Education category, beating a combined team from National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University into second place. The participants were given 12 hours to identify loopholes in a fictitious company's servers and devise solutions to plug those gaps. While this was on-going, their scores would be flashed on screens set up in a hall in the Singapore Science Centre, where the camp was held.

Calling themselves Team Orion, the four final-year students from the **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** - Yang Xudong, Jeremy Heng, Goh Kee Chin and Han Xingjie, had a roller coaster ride to reach the top. At one point, they ended up with a negative score and were in the second last position. With an adventurous spirit, a mixture of luck, experience and skills, they fought till the end and walked away with \$10,000 of shopping vouchers.

Altogether, three SP teams took part in the competition. Although the other two teams did not win, their cyber-fighting spirit was commendable. They were Team Lynx (Tan Jun Xiang, Edmund Teo, Gabriel Li and Ian Tan) and Team Octans (Chua Wei Kiat, Goh Xue Yu, Maverick Yong and Lim Jun Liang).



Vivian Wee and Low Li Quan with their lecturer and supporter.

Competing With PhD Candidates

Two second-year students from the **Diploma in Materials Science (DMLS)** repeated the winning feat at the annual Young Persons' Lecture Competition Singapore (YPLCS) by clinching the 1st and 3rd runner up prizes. The competition, open to students and professionals below the age of 28, is organised by the Institute of Materials (East Asia). Participants, ranging from polytechnic students to PhD candidates, had to deliver a short lecture on a materials-related subject.

Low Li Quan won the 1st runner up prize with her topic Carbon Nanotubes in Sports (Badminton) while Vivian Wee Hui Wen came in 4th for her presentation on Materials for

Spectacles Frames. In 2011, Melvyn Ang and Melvin Ng, also DLMS students, both emerged third place winners at the same competition.

The total prize money of \$400 was small when compared to the invaluable experience gained. "The competition gave me a positive experience about research and presentation which will be useful for my future projects," said Li Quan.

"We started from zero and it was a really difficult process getting a lecture presentation done. Nevertheless I enjoyed the journey throughout and it has become my most memorable experience I had in SP so far," added Vivian.



Worldskills 2012 Silver and Bronze winners: Front row from left: Norpurwanti, Lee Zheng Hao, Tan Huang Jie, Tan Wei Liang Belvin; Back row from left: Leonard Hoe Jin Han and Xu Weijie.



Winning teams: Left picture: First prize winners (from left) Irni Susiyanti Bte Jamal, Noor Arinah Bte Ahmad, Sofiana Bte Ramli and Laurina Tay; Right picture: Second prize winners (from left) Mok Cui Tian, Daphne Ho, Rebekah Toh and Lee Ru Ting.

Our Green Videos

Video production is not a module for students taking the **Diploma in Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)**, but that did not stop some of them from competing in a video competition.

Two teams of DEPM students won the first and second prizes at the Short Film (Tertiary) category of the National Climate Change Competition (NCCC), an initiative by the National Climate Change Secretariat's (under the Prime Minister's Office) to raise awareness and to encourage individual action on climate change among youth. They had to submit videos that reflect on the

theme 'Singapore: A Climate Change Resilient City' and also explain the cause and effects of climate change, and how individuals could fight climate change by reducing their carbon footprint.

There were altogether 126 entries from students who competed in four categories determined by educational levels. The winning SP teams received their awards and prize money (\$2,000 for first prize and \$1,500 for second prize) from Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean at the National Climate Change Youth Conference held recently.

Green Coffee Boys

The name Coffee Boys sounds like a boyband but they are capable of more than belting out pop tunes.

Lim Chin Haow, Saw Kay Heng and Fu Jia Jun, all final year students from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)**, have come up with a winning idea to recycle rain water.

At the Green Engine competition, they won the first prize of \$1,000 for their solution to remove metal ions in rain water using coffee residue and mixed filtration so that the water can be recycled for other use. The competition is organised by the Environmental Science and Engineering Department in the National University of Singapore. Through the competition, the organiser hopes there will be new ideas for innovative water or waste-water management methods that will ultimately enhance the quality of life of Singaporeans.

Besides Coffee Boys, another two all-girl teams of DEWT students calling themselves Aqua Gaia and Duo Pooh clinched the second and third prizes of \$250 each at the competition.



Winning teams: Front row: Coffee Boys members (from left) Lim Chin Haow, Fu Jiajun and Saw Kay Heng; Back row (from left): Aqua Gaia members Brenda Ong, Elaine Sam, Jocelyn Lim and Alice Kho; Duo Pooh members Ong Xi Chun and Sophia Lin.



Screen grabs of the two winning videos produced by SP students.

Gang Up To Make Videos

Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) students Kenneth Wong, Josiah Tan, Nathaniel Hong, Liu Zhengteng and Gayathiri Chandramohan have never gotten involved in gangs but they sure know how to dissuade other youth from doing so. They ganged up to submit an entry titled It's Not Worth It for the Say No To Gangs video competition organised by the Clementi Police Division, National Crime Prevention Council and Delta League. Their convincing script won them the Best Storyline prize of \$1,000. The video started out as a school assignment but the team thought it was good enough to join the competition.

Another team comprising students from the **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** won the Viewer's Choice Award for their entry Uncle Gabby in the same competition and walked away with \$500 in cash prize. They are Khine Phoo Wai, Lee Chern Chow, Del Mundo Lara Patricia Silang, Jeremy Eng and Nurellisya Bte Mohd Sahdon. In case you wonder how IT students know about video making? Well, thanks to the Audio and Video Fundamentals module that they took.

You can catch the short videos on Youtube (search under *TheDeltaLeague*).

Business Management Champs

Forgive the SP Business School if they have lost count of the number of times their students and alumni have won the championship for the annual National Management Competition organised by the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM). It is designed as a management game to provide business students the chance to practise corporate planning and managerial decision-making.

Participants were put in as-good-as-real business scenarios and they represented their "companies" in making key decisions.

Three teams comprising current students from the **Diploma in Business and Finance (DBF)** and another two teams made up of recent graduates from the same course pitted their business skills against more than 50 teams from other tertiary institutions.

Topping the business strategy competition was a DBF 2010 alumni team led by Tan Zhong Jie while another alumni team led by a DBF 2012 alumni Low Zi Jie took the third prize. This is the third consecutive year that a DBF



The SP student and alumni teams won five prizes, including the top prize, at the National Management Competition. The winning team is led by SP alumnus Tan Zhong Jie (front row, second from right).

alumni team has won the open business strategy competition.

For the record, DBF student teams had won the tertiary category six years in a row from 2004 to 2009 before SIM combined the tertiary and corporate category into an open competition in 2010.

Zhong Jie and team members won a cash prize of \$6,000 and will represent Singapore in the Asian Management Game to be held in Hong Kong.



Consecutive Win At Fedex Competition

Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) students Yap Jun Yuan (left in picture) and Rusli Yanto repeated the feat of their seniors by coming in first at the annual FedEx International Trade Challenge 2012. As champs, they won the right to represent Singapore at the Regional Challenge to be held in Hong Kong soon.

They scored winning points with an interesting idea of converting shipping containers to earthquake-safe houses in high-risk area in Taiwan. To make these containers attractive to the locals, the team even added feng shui elements to their design.

Said Rusli, "Jun Yuan and I spent many sleepless nights to finalise our proposal and presentation. I cherish very much this unique experience of tackling the challenges for this intense competition. We are proud to be able to represent SP at the regional competition!"

Team mate Jun Yuan added: "I still find it unbelievable that we have made it to the top three."

This entire experience is just awesome! It was definitely a great exposure for us, uniquely different from what we have experienced in school."

Last year, Darren Ong and Lee Qi Ni, also from DBA, paired up to win the national title and emerged second at the regional finals. Both of them graduated this year and have secured places in local universities. Qi Ni has even clinched a scholarship for her business degree at Nanyang Technological University.

Rising To The Challenge

Each year, SP freshies raise a substantial sum of money for the President's Challenge at the annual Flag Day. We did more this year. A team of students produced a video to raise awareness and promote volunteerism for the President's Challenge Volunteer Drive 2012. The challenge to produce the video came from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS). The video, sponsored by SMRT, is now shown on iViewSMRT screens at all MRT stations.

The team comprised project leader Muhammad Ridhwan Bin Mahadi and Mohamad Kamal Shah Bin Mohamad Ali, both final-year students from the **Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE)** and SP Videography Club; Lee Han Jie, a second-year DCPE student and Quek Wee Keong, second-year, **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** student, from the SP Interactive Media Club.

They faced a big challenge in selecting suitable content from a massive collection of video footages and photos of past events. As the video was only one minute long, the team had to pick and choose quickly and yet keep a creative eye for visuals that would capture the hearts of viewers. Nevertheless, the project was great exposure for them as experiential learning came into play and they applied their know-how from their course modules. Being a real-life project, there certainly was pressure for them to deliver and meet the client's expectations.

The video was much-liked by MCYS which further commissioned them to produce an extended version which will include shots of volunteers in action. This version will be screened at the upcoming President's Challenge "Thank You Reception" at the Istana this month.



SP students responsible for developing the President's Challenge video (from left) Lee Han Jie, Quek Wee Keong, Muhd Ridhwan Bin Mahadi and Mohd Kamal Shah Bin Mohamad Ali.



Digital game wizards Marcus Lee (left) and Lee Yang receiving their top prize from Mr Moses Lee, Commissioner of IRAS.

Winning Money From The Taxman

The recent Inter-school Online Game Design Competition, organised by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), found a winning team made up of two recent SP graduates. Lee Yang and Marcus Lee, both from the **Diploma of Information Technology (DIT)**, were encouraged by their lecturer Mr Ronnie Peh to enter the competition, as the school believed the competition was a good opportunity for them to apply what they have learnt.

The competition hoped to promote awareness of taxation among the youth while allowing students to showcase their creativity and programming skills.

Said Lee Yang, who specialised in game development for his course: "We developed the game based on the experience we gained from our DIT course. For example, the inspiration for the game design originated from our final-year project." The duo won a \$5,000 cash prize for the excellent effort.

The winning games were launched on the IRAS' 20th Anniversary Microsite and you can play them at iras20th.sg/online-games.

Ellvixson's watch design was inspired by the old clock hanging at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station (below).



Ellvixson revealed that his design inspiration came from the now defunct Tanjong Pagar Railway Station: "I was inspired by the roman-numeral clock that can be seen on the exterior of the building. The beautifully oxidized clock no longer functions but still stands on the edge of the building. It bears sentimental value along with the combination of European, Islamic and Oriental architecture. Such artistic value should not be lost to oblivion."

A Clock On A Watch

Final-year **Diploma in Experience Product and Design (DXPD)** student Ellvixson Yap was named the winner in the Azimuth Watch Design competition. This is the second year that the luxury watch manufacturer organised this event where members of the public and tertiary institutions submit designs of a watch to commemorate Singapore's 47th national day. Entries had to depict the significance of the Singaporean identity – on a personal and national level – and combine this significance together with Azimuth's tradition of avant-garde designs in their submissions. The competition was supported by the DesignSingapore Council.

The 'Singapore Heritage' watch designed by Ellvixson stood out from more than 40 entries in the tertiary category. He won based on the design's simple nationalistic concept and design attractiveness. For that, he bagged a cash prize of \$500 and an Azimuth Round-1 Back In Time watch worth \$2,300. He also bagged SGD 1,000 for SP Design School, Azimuth's way of rewarding the school for its support in cultivating budding design talent in Singapore.

47 pieces of Ellvixson's winning design will be manufactured and sold as an Azimuth limited edition National Day watch in Azimuth boutiques, retailing at a price of \$2,012.

Adhianto Suherli Lie, Vithya Krishnan, Nur Syazwani Binte Mohd Salim and their project supervisor, lecturer Woo Wee Hong.



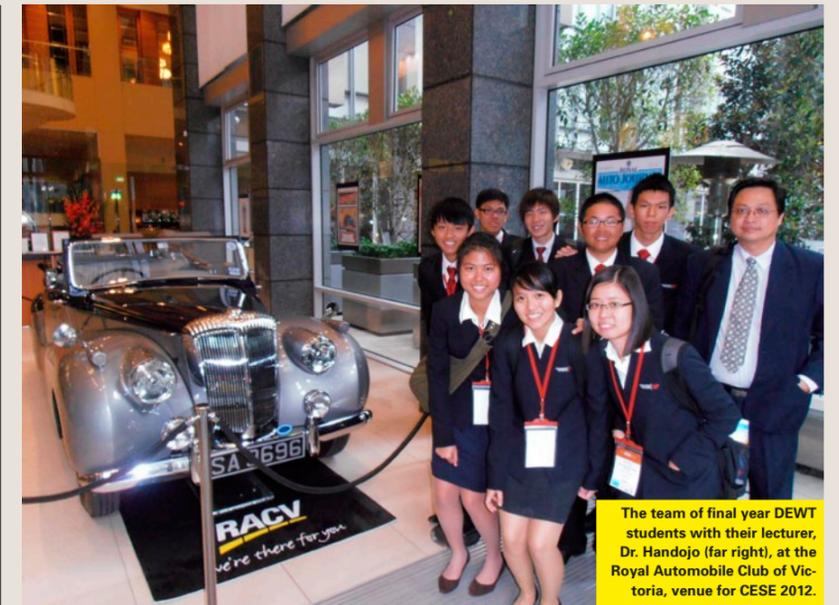
Space Research Wins Award

Three final-year **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** students won \$2,500 at the Singapore Space Challenge 2012 Award in the Biomedical Science category for their project Effect of Microgravity in Tissue Regeneration. The competition was organised by the Singapore Space and Technology Association to inspire interest amongst tertiary-level students in space-related issues. Through the competition, the participants explored engineering concepts and designs when coming out with solutions to space challenges.

The team was thankful that they chose the Biomedical Research option that exposed them to a broad range of topics in research areas and also critical analysis of journal articles. Their research skills helped them to find answers independently in a more complete way. For this competition, they explored several ideas on how experiments in space can be relevant to healthcare. The weekly oral presentations in their second-year curriculum also helped tremendously in giving them confidence when they presented at the competition.

Amazing Exhibit

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic (DEEE) students Park So Yeon, Alvin Koh and Ahmad Fareed received a Special Mention prize at the Amazing Science-X Challenge 2012. Organised by DSO National Laboratories, National University of Singapore and Science Centre Singapore, the competition saw more than 140 teams from local tertiary institutions competing for top recognition for their ideas of a scientific exhibit. Participants had to design and build a stand-alone science exhibit that best explains a physical science phenomenon. Calling themselves Team InSPire, the team took home a \$400 cash prize and medals.



The team of final year DEWT students with their lecturer, Dr. Handojo (far right), at the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, venue for CESE 2012.

Pursuit Of Water Purity

In September, eight final-year **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** students went with their lecturer, Dr Handojo Djati Utomo, to participate in the 5th International Conference on Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering (CESE 2012). Held in Melbourne, Australia, CESE 2012 was attended by approximately 200 participants, including professors, researchers and PhD students. They won a Group Special Award for their presentations on the theme of Sustainable Catchment Management (i.e. research dealing with water treatment and catchment methods such as reservoirs).

Student Sophia Lim said: "One year of hard work totally paid off. All those group discussions till nearly midnight, rushing of reports and power point slides, returning to school every single day during the holidays to complete experiments... It was really worth it!"

Kay Heng added: "This conference gave us the opportunity to see what the industry is focusing on. These are experiences that we could not get from the classroom. I'm really happy that we won something and that our hard work was recognised. Special thanks to Dr Handojo who put in an enormous amount of effort to prepare us for this conference."

The students also got the chance to visit Melbourne universities and tour Bendigo, a nearby mining region. They also witnessed the inner workings of the water treatment industry by visiting the Sandhurst Water Treatment Plant and the Epsom Water Recycling Factory.



Park So Yeon and Alvin Koh showing off their Special Mention medals

Young And Bright Entrepreneurs



Budding entrepreneurs (from left) Shawn Tay, Sheena Gan, Eunice Cho, Han Yi Xiu and Lim Jun Hao.

A creative and marketable idea by a team of Business School students won them the second prize and the Best in Digital Marketing and Social Media title at the Youth Entrepreneurs Competition. Organised by the Singapore Discovery Centre (SDC), the competition aims to instil lateral thinking amongst youth to turn challenges into opportunities. Participants also have to demonstrate how to harness on digital marketing and social media to generate interest and sales for their products and services.

Space Team is made up of five second and third-year students from the **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)**. They are also members of the SP's Business School's Entrepreneurial Leadership Club. Their business idea was to use beads to make attractive hand-made accessories such as keychain, fridge magnets and photo frames. They made about \$1,540 in sales, which included a \$750 seeding fund as a finalist. All the money was donated to charity through the SDC.

Team Han Yi Xiu spoke about the experience, "We were initially stumped for ideas before someone started on the topic of beads. From there, it was a flurry of activities from discussing pricing details, to brainstorming design variations and sourcing for materials. However, we believed the idea was sold because it was also a creative platform for children."

They competed with almost 20 other finalists from polytechnics, junior colleges and the ITEs. Besides getting medals, the team also won a laptop for their School.

Crowbar Awards



Gold winners at the Crowbar Awards Chloe Ong (left) and Sng Jiarong. Not in picture: Shina Lee

It was a great harvest at the Crowbar Awards 2012 – the annual platform for young creative minds to showcase their best works and learn from their peers. Organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Singapore (4As), the event is a rich hunting ground, for fresh talents and winners are much sought after and quickly hunted down by prospective employers. It is open to all full-time students currently enrolled in any school, or those who graduate within the year 2012. The works must be original and produced solely by the student.

SP's design and digital media students plucked 1 Gold, 2 Silvers and 2 Bronzes for their entries. The Gold for the Advertising (Direct Mail category) was won by a team of 3 final year students (Sng Jiarong, Shina Lee and Chloe Ong) from the **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)**.

Jiarong and Chloe are currently the Art Director and Designer respectively at The Student Agency, a student-run advertising agency under the SP Design School.

The Silver and Bronze medals were reaped by students from the **Diploma in Digital Media**.



Winners from the Diploma in Digital Media (from left) Lim Jia Ying, Ge Jian Han, Lim Cheng Yi and Li Guan Ting.

Rachel Choo and Jocelyn Ong took a Silver for their 2D Animation work titled Snatcher while a 3D Animation titled Robot Revolution by Ge Jian Han, Lim Jia Ying and Zhao Meng Lin took the Bronze. The short-film entry Homecoming took two prizes: Silver for Jake Koh for his Soundtrack and Music; and a Bronze to Lim Cheng Yi, Eugene Cheong, Jake Koh, Lenson Sim and Nicholas Lye for the short-film itself.



Dive For Success

Be it the sky or the sea, he is ready to challenge either. As a **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** student, he is also prepared for a career in the sky. The water is familiar territory to him as he takes frequent dives.

Meet Timothy Lee who recently did Singapore proud by finishing first in two categories at the Macau International Diving International - the Open Men 3m Springboard and the Open Men 3m Synchronised Springboard. The latter was achieved with his twin brother, Mark. This achievement adds to Timothy's string of successes this year at other diving competitions that include the 1st Southeast Asian Swimming Championship, the Thailand Open and the 2nd International School Diving Championship.

Not bad for this young lad who dived (pardon the pun!) into diving only in 2009. Now, he is aiming to be the best in his league. He makes clear his intention: "I aspire to compete well on the international platform, against better and more experienced divers. I want to achieve the highest possible level of excellence in the sport."

A big and tough call as he has to undertake at the same time his role as an SP student. Without doubt, it is another challenge

having to juggle diving with studies as it means making sacrifices. "I've learnt to be really disciplined with my time and make sacrifices. I'm really thankful that my teachers and friends in SP have been very supportive each time I go away for overseas competitions. They help me catch up with my school work every time after I get back," says Timothy, whose older brother Nicholas recently graduated from SP with a Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering.

We may hear more good news from Timothy as he prepares for two more regional meets – the Fina World Juniors Championships in Australia and the 9th Asian Diving Championships in Dubai. All the way Tim!

Dikir Barat At Its Best

The SP Teams once again scored an impressive victory at Suara Serumpun IV 2012, the annual inter-polytechnic Dikir Barat competition. This time round, both the Boys and Girls teams won top honours, in addition to individual prizes.

The Seri Thera (Girls' Team) won the top placing while the Keturunan Puthera (Boys' Team) came in second. The Boys Team also did SP proud by clinching two individual trophies: Best Awok-Awok and Best Singer, on top of receiving the 1st Runner-up Awards for Best Lyrics and Best Percussion. The victory was especially commendable for the Girls' Team as they did not win any awards last year.

The teams have made a name for themselves since winning the awards last

year. They were invited to perform at various prestigious events including the recent opening of Gardens By The Bay.

Team leader for the Girls' Team, Nurul Fatin Osman, a third year student from the **Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRM)**, said: "Our strength came from the whole team wanting to redeem our dignity by compensating last year's defeat! That became our top motivation, be it from the awok-awok, singers and the percussions. We trained very hard and had a solid two weeks of intensive training to prepare for the competition. Together with the guidance and support from our instructors from Wahana Deksu, the Boys' Team and the SP Malay Language Society, we did it!"



Best in their class: SP's Dikir Barat boys and girls.



Basking In Olympics 2012

How many among the seven billion people on earth can say they have had the greatest sporting experience in their lifetime? SP alumnus Gary Yeo can certainly make this claim. The **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** graduate from the Class of 2007 was a member of the Singapore Team that participated in London Olympics 2012.

Gary was a former SP Sports Scholar and was a very active member of the track and field team. He took part in several meets in Singapore and overseas and won numerous medals. At the Inter School Track and Field Meet in 2006, he won Gold for both the 100m and 200m sprint events. Other events he competed in included the Institute Varsity Polytechnic Games and competitions in Hong Kong and Thailand. For three consecutive years, he was awarded the Sports (Honours) Award at the annual SP Excellence Awards. He is now pursuing a business degree at the Singapore Management University.

Although Gary did not bring home a medal from the Olympics, he broke his personal best with a 10.57 seconds timing during the preliminary rounds and clocked 10.69 seconds in the heats for the men's 100m. At the SEA Games in Palembang last year, Gary broke a 10-year medal drought by clinching the silver.

He said after his Olympics run: "It was good to have come here and done a personal best. I've done my best so there's nothing to feel bad about." Upon his return from London, Gary took the gold in the 100m event at the Singapore Open Track and Field Championships.



Sprinting from SP to London



Gary (extreme right) in action with the world's best sprinters at the Olympics.

Photo courtesy of Singapore Sports Council.

Photo courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings.



Tanya Wins Big Time

Without a doubt, she is definitely one of Singapore's most accomplished music exports. Tanya Chua, a SP alumna, scored a major victory recently by winning for the third time the Best Female Singer title at the Golden Melody Awards held in Taiwan for her latest album Sing It Out Of Love. Dubbed the Grammy Awards for the Chinese music scene, she is the only singer to have won this three times since it debuted in 1986. She won the same award in 2006 and 2008 for her Mandarin albums Amphibian and Goodbye and Hello respectively.

Tanya graduated from SP with a **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)**. She counts her involvement as a member of the SP Ambassador Relations Corps (SPARC) as one of her more memorable moments in SP.

After her win in Taiwan, she came home to receive the Artistic Excellence Award at the 17th Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Awards.

Stunning Pictures



Photo courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings.

Andrew finds passion in communicating via photography.

Andrew Yee, a **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** graduate from the Class of 2008, has scored a major victory at the 4th Singapore Young Photographer Award (SPYA) 2012 organised by City Developments Limited (CDL). The 23-year-old, who is now an undergraduate at Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), was named the Overall Winner for the Youth Category.

Held biennially since 2006, the SPYA - a nationwide photography competition, aims to discover and nurture young photographic talents between 13 and 25 years old. More than 1,600 entries with almost 10,000 prints were received this year for the various categories.

For Andrew, his winning submission included a mix of landscape and portraiture that were highly commended by the judging panel for its depth in composition and uniqueness. The self-taught shutterbug picked up photography as a hobby, but later became serious about his craft. To improve, he learned from photographers whom he admired and travelled widely to explore new shooting opportunities.

He has a particular interest in subjects related to the beauty of nature, people and form because these are aspects that resonate within every human being. "My photographs seek to pursue and represent the true beauty of life in several ways and I hope that my images can touch the hearts of many across the world," he said.

For his excellent photographic works, Andrew received S\$5,000 and a valuable opportunity to be mentored by experienced photographers.



Cheng Rui Ting received the Award from Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and NTUC Secretary-General.

Award For Excellent Youth Volunteerism

Just a month before Cheng Rui Ting graduated from SP, she achieved another feather in her cap. The **Diploma in Events and Project Management (DEPM)** graduate is one of three youths who received the EXCEL Award at the second nEBO Spirit of Youth Awards organised by the National Trade Union Congress.

The award honours young people who have made significant contributions to the success of the youth community and its programmes. The EXCEL Award is a top award given out to young individuals for being outstanding, committed, leaders who have inspired other members while juggling their many commitments.

Rui Ting, 20, started out as an intern at nEBO, a junior recruitment arm of NTUC, in 2010. She became a member later on and developed a strong interest in volunteer work, after taking part in nEBO's social care events. An active, mature and passionate nEBO champion, she is now one of the main committee members in nEBO's Care community, leading and guiding other youths to contribute and give back to society.

Rui Ting is now pursuing a degree in Sports Science and Management at the Nanyang Technological University.



Triple Dosage Of Engineering In The Family



Twins Ashleyana (left) and Angelina, with younger sister Faith between them, have clinched scholarships from the RSAF to pursue engineering masters' programmes in the United States.

As kids, twins Ashleyana and Angelina Foo were fascinated by aircraft-related documentaries. One fine day, their dad brought them to the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) career exhibition. They were hooked by what they saw, and decided that they would want a career with the air force. After their 'O' levels at Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School, both of them picked SP's **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** as their first choice under the then Joint Polytechnic SAF Diploma Scheme (JPSDS)*.

Fast forward to 2012. The twins have graduated and are gearing up for an exciting journey to the University of York, United Kingdom, where they will pursue a four-year Direct Master's programme known as the Integrated Masters of Engineering in Avionics. They are fully sponsored by the Singapore Armed Forces under the SAF Academic Scholarship, and are sure glad to have this opportunity to further their studies without burdening their family's finances too much.

Ashleyana and Angelina are hopeful that more young women will be willing to pursue engineering as a course of study if they have the interest. Says Ashleyana: "Our schools need to challenge and inspire young women to achieve their fullest potential as engineers. They also need to provide opportunities to develop them as leaders in order to bring out that confidence that can help them succeed. We need to show that engineering and technology are truly fascinating, and that they can look forward to a good career."

The twins have a younger sister named Faith who graduated from DASE this year and is now studying in NUS.

**The JPSDS is now known as the MDES Study Award (Diploma) for those who wish to embark on a career as a Military Expert. Details on the range of scholarships and sponsorship opportunities offered by the RSAF are available at www.careers.rsaf.gov.sg*



Recipients of the LKY-STEP Awards for outstanding polytechnic graduates (from left): Desmond Thiam, Koh Shi Min and Tan Keng Hwee.

Three SP Alumni Win LKY-STEP Awards

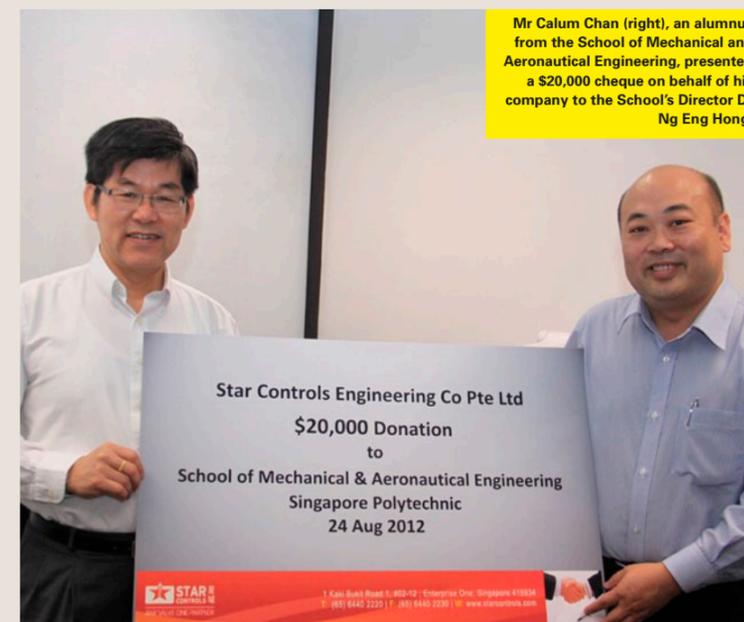
Three outstanding SP graduates received the LKY-STEP Awards for Polytechnic Graduates. They are Desmond Thiam and Koh Shi Min who are now pursuing a medical degree at the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine; and Tan Keng Hwee who is doing his degree in engineering at the Nanyang Technological University.

They were selected based on their outstanding academic results, excellent CCA Activities records and strong leadership qualities and potential. The bond-free award comes with a \$3,500 one-time cash award and waiver of tuition fees if they are currently not holding any other scholarships.

Star Donation

Thanks to the generous donations from companies and organisations, SP students now have even more opportunities to secure scholarships and receive financial aid. One recent example is a generous second-time donation of \$20,000 from Star Controls Engineering to the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE). Mr Calum Chan, the Business Development Director of the company who presented the cheque, is also a graduate from the School.

The donation will see four MAE students receiving Star Controls Engineering Scholarships worth \$2,500 each. Another \$10,000 will be disbursed for book prizes, student awards and student support programmes.



Mr Calum Chan (right), an alumnus from the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, presented a \$20,000 cheque on behalf of his company to the School's Director Dr Ng Eng Hong.

Top Students In UQ

Their academic excellence continues to shine even after SP. Of the 110 SP graduates now enrolled in University of Queensland (UQ), 22 of them recently received the distinguished honour of a Dean's Commendation for High Achievement, receiving an overall semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 6 or higher, out of a possible 7. They are pursuing different degree programmes ranging from engineering to biotechnology to journalism at UQ, one of the top five universities in the world.

Mckin Wong, who graduated from SP with a **Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE)** in 2007 and is now pursuing journalism at UQ, speaks favourably of his Australian experience. "I didn't know what to expect from studying in Australia. I'd heard about the laid-back, chilly, afternoon sip-a-coffee kind of life that could welcome me when I arrived. When reality hit, those descriptions actually were true, but by choice. You take charge of your studying habits, your lifestyle, all in all, yourself. The change in environment was refreshing nonetheless.

"Journalism taps into my creativity, knocks on my inquisitive instincts, and takes me through hours and hours spent on radio, print, and production assignments. To write for National Geographic magazine would be an epiphany in itself, with my reporting and writings skills much harnessed in university. Of course, my journo education is more than just writing, with modern journalists now expected to be proficient in editing videos and various editing software as well."

Eco-Friend Award By MEWR

SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong receiving the EcoFriend Award from Ms Grace Fu, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs. Watching on is Mr Khoo Seow Poh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Policy and Planning Group, National Environment Agency.



SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong has been named as one of the 12 winners in the inaugural EcoFriend Award. He received the award from Ms Grace Fu, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr Tan is recognised for being the driving force behind numerous environmental initiatives in SP such as the Car-Free Day, the online carbon footprint calculator and the Green Buddy Awards. He also formulated a five-year Green Master Plan to transform the polytechnic into an eco-friendly and green campus.

The latest award adds to the list of accolades that SP has achieved over the past three years. These include the President's Award for the Environment (the highest achievement for environmental sustainability in Singapore), the Southwest Environment and Community Award and the Green Mark Platinum Award (for InnoVillage).

Said Mr Tan: "This award is made possible through a team of very dedicated and passionate SP staff who are constantly mapping out new initiatives in environmental sustainability. And when we roll out these initiatives, the entire SP community is mobilised, from staff to students and sometimes our alumni too. We aspire to make the SP campus even greener in the years to come and also work with our partners such as the secondary schools, to develop and implement green projects."

The Biggest SIT Building

The ground was broken to make way for a state-of-the-art Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) building at SP. Located at the former tennis courts and adjacent to the Department of Student Development, it is expected to be completed by 2014.

The SIT building will certainly not be just another building block. With a total floor area of 3,400 sqm, it will be the biggest SIT building among the five polytechnics. The building boasts a grand front entrance and the upper floors command a priceless view of the scenic Dover greenery.

The SIT building at SP will host degree programmes offered by three prestigious overseas universities – Technical University of Munich (TUM), University of Glasgow (UOG) and DigiPen Institute of Technology.



Witnessing the ground-breaking ceremony of the SIT building at SP were (from left) SP Principal Mr Tang Hang Cheong; Mr Tan Chek Ming, Deputy President (Operations), SIT; Prof Ting Seng Kiong, Deputy President (Academic), SIT; Prof Tan Chin Tiong, President, SIT; and Mr Bill Chang, Chairman, SP Board of Governors.

As DigiPen's degree programmes require industry standard classrooms, studio facilities, along with acting and animation studios for game development, are included in the architectural plans.

In line with SP's quest in using sustainable resources within the campus, the SIT building design

will include a slew of design measures that will meet the Green Mark Platinum standards. These include building class rooms with optimum room depth to achieve ideal daylight and the generous introduction of naturally ventilated study areas.

Running In A Bunch



The community of SP runners clinched the top prize in the Schools Challenge at the SAFRA Bay Run 2012.

Once again SP staff, students and Alumni gathered in force to participate in the SAFRA Bay Run and the Army Half Marathon held last month. The event attracted more than 70,000 participants this year, with almost 500 from the SP community (comprising staff, students and alumni). Decked in Team SP tees sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office, the SP team took the top position in the Schools Challenge for the second year in a row, clocking a total running distance of 7,661 kilometres!

Dr Carlos Acosta, a lecturer from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering who took on the competitive 21 km run, said: "Running is a great sport and taking part in such events helps people with common interests to exercise together. That gives you an additional motivation to continue."

Senior Manager Dennis Sim from the Department of Student Development received the School Challenge winner's trophy on behalf of SP. He explained that the initiative to get the SP community to participate together started as part of the SP Healthy Lifestyle programme and a collaboration between DSD, Alumni Relations Office and Human Resource. He added that all three departments found this a good opportunity to get students, alumni and staff involved in keeping fit, though they never intended to win any awards.

SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong (extreme right) receiving the cheque from the Keppel Care Foundation, witnessed by (from left) Mr Choo Chiau Beng, CEO of Keppel Corporation; Dr Lee Boon Yang, Chairman of Keppel Corporation; former President of Singapore Mr S R Nathan; and Mrs Alice Chua.



More Scholarships From Keppel

SP has received a generous cheque of \$500,000 from the newly-launched Keppel Care Foundation. The money will be channelled into the Chua Chor Teck Memorial Fund that provides scholarships and financial assistance to students with the desire to work in the maritime industry.

With the fresh funds, SP students will not only get to enjoy more scholarship opportunities, but also see an injection of new programmes and improvements to existing ones in the advancement of education, particularly in the strengthening of the marine industry through knowledge-sharing as well as building competencies to better serve this sector.

The cheque presentation to SP was held at the launch of the Foundation, witnessed by the former President of Singapore and Mr S R Nathan.



Art for the community - a SP student volunteer painting a new artwork for a pre-school in Boon Lay.

Adding Cheers With Colours

New colours now adorn the walls of a pre-school at Block 207 in Boon Lay, thanks to a group of about 50 SP students who were roped in under the Let's Paint Homes! South West programme. They were led by Marcus Lim, an SP alumnus, heritage painter and active Southwest resident. The on-going programme aims to strengthen community ties and bring cheers to the homes of the elderly and needy residents with meaningful paintwork for them to enjoy and appreciate. Senior Minister of State for Education, and Communications and Information, joined the students in the painting.

To date, the programme has seen a total of 55 void decks and over 70 rental flats in the district painted by over 1,500 volunteers and community stakeholders. SP staff also helped to facilitate and teach arts workshop sessions for children under this programme.



SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong receiving the award from NParks Chief Executive Officer, Mr Poon Hwa Yuen.

A Platinum Garden

Let a thousand flowers bloom in SP. It's no fluke that SP prides itself as a very green campus. Years of deliberate efforts to beautify our campus with flora and fauna have paid off. SP was recently awarded by NParks the Platinum Band at the Community in Bloom (CIB) Awards 2012 - the highest accolade given out to organisations and companies for excellence in gardening efforts. Established in 2005, the biennial awards recognise excellence in gardening efforts by community groups in public and private housing estates, educational institutions and organisations. SP is the only tertiary institution to win the award this year.

The SP Community Gardens initiative was first mooted in 2008. What started as a pilot garden adopted by the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences was gradually extended across all SP schools and departments. To date, there are 11 Community Gardens in SP managed by the SP community. Each garden has its own identity with thematic design and the freedom to plant a variety of flowers, herbs, species, vegetables and fruit trees. Through this initiative, it is hoped that a gardening culture can be fostered among all SP staff and students where they can gather to plant, care and share ideas on how to provide green areas for all to enjoy.

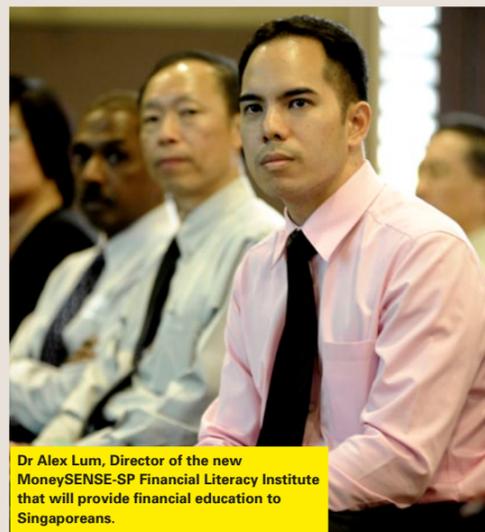
Making Sense Out Of Money

They all say money makes the world go round. But it can also make you go crazy if money is lost in unwise investment. Help is on the way. The MoneySENSE-Singapore Polytechnic Institute for Financial Literacy was recently set up by SP and MoneySENSE, which is spearheaded by the public-sector Financial Education Steering Committee, to educate the public on money matters. This include areas such as basic money management, financial planning and investment know-how.

Led by Dr Alex Lum with an experienced team of 11 full-time staff, the Institute aims to provide financial education to as many Singaporeans as possible, especially low-to-middle income earners, to make sound financial decisions. It will work with financial industry associations, consumer and investor associations to develop the content for its programmes. For a start, a series of lectures and workshops, provided free of charge, will be conducted in October 2012. Topics in the kick off series include "Making the most of your money", "Are you borrowing too much" and "Do I need every type of insurance".

Both parties possess strong credentials to meet the Institute's objectives. SP has been offering the Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBF) course since 1988 and with that, it has the strong foundation to offer financial education. Thousands of young SP graduates have since graduated and moved on to pursue successful careers in the banking and financial planning industry. MoneySENSE has the experience of raising basic financial literacy levels in Singaporeans for almost ten years through large-scale events and media programmes.

For more information on the Institute and the programmes available, visit www.finlit.sg as well as its facebook page: www.facebook.com/finlit.sg



Dr Alex Lum, Director of the new MoneySENSE-SP Financial Literacy Institute that will provide financial education to Singaporeans.

INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY
MONEYSENSE - SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

Latest Technology For Game Development Students



SP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Unity Technologies, the provider of the Unity multi-platform engine and development tools for creating 3D video games or other interactive content such as architectural visualizations or real-time 3D animation. The company won the Wall Street Journal Technology Innovation Award in 2010 and one year before that, it was named one of the Top 5 Game Companies by Gamasutra's, the leading website for video game development resources.

Under the MOU, SP would incorporate Unity as the primary game engine for students to create and develop digital games. A Centre of Excellence will also be set up to teach the visualisation and simulation capabilities of the Unity game engine. The tie-up will expose SP students to the essential tools that will take their game creations to the next level. For Unity, the collaboration reinforces its commitment to education in supporting the growth of game developers in the region.

The MOU was signed by Mr Lim Peng Hun, SP's Deputy Principal of Technology and Industry, and Unity's General Manager, John Goodale. Visitors and media who witnessed the MOU signing also visited SP's Games Resource Centre located at InnoVillage.

More Opportunities For Maritime Students



Maritime graduates will benefit from the partnership with Shell.

Thanks to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at SP and the Dalian Maritime University in China, two groups of SMA students had the opportunities to visit the premier maritime institute in Asia. The memorandum paved the way for both parties to collaborate in areas such as institutional visits, student exchange, joint research projects and course development.

Separately, SMA also signed a Strategic Memorandum of Cooperation and Understanding with Shell Marine Products this year. The co-operation will see Shell providing internship for SP students while the energy giant will use SMA facilities for lubrication training. Shell products will also be used for SMA lessons and workshops. In the pipeline is the setting up of a Tribology Centre by Shell Marine Products, SMA and a bearing manufacturing company for research in marine lubrication.

New Water Tech Partner

The School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) with AgPlus Technologies Pte Ltd, a start-up company that specialises in water technology. The collaboration will see both parties conduct joint research projects, test-bedding, commercialisation and production of new and novel water solution. Under the MoC, both parties will also explore and secure external funding for research and development works.

AgPlus will also support students' final-year projects, provide internship opportunities and sponsor scholarships and prizes to ABE students.

ABE offers the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)**.



Students learning water technology will benefit from the collaboration with AgPlus Technologies.



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

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TAN LI YAN
2nd Year
Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management
SP DanceSport Member

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★ ★ **SP CHEERLEADING:**
NO PAIN NO GAIN ★ ★

✦ Made in SP: The fastest solar car in Asia ✦ A bountiful scholarship harvest ✦ Heart to serve: SP SIFE, Go Serve and the humanitarian mission ✦ Overseas in Korea, Taiwan and Sarawak.