SP DRAGONBOAT: POWER ROWERS

+ 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.
One and Only
A unique combination of Engineering, Management and Social Sciences – the key ingredients for the future.

Studio-Based Learning
Learning is conducted through active engagement of students in a specialised studio setting. Studio learning will enable you to:
• Learn in teams
• Master the fundamental knowledge through sharing and inquiring
• Develop problem-solving skills and analytical thinking
• Apply the knowledge to the real world applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

Diploma in Engineering Systems
Brand New Course for 2013
Hi 😊

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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 POLITE 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 than 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!

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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, 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 water 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 solitary movement,SP hunks could be spotted flexing their arm muscles. The training was tough and both wanted to give it their best. Daryl was quite behind in training during his first year: “In the end, I couldn’t bear to leave them because I didn’t want to lose my chance to row.”

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 focused on our goals,” says the 19-year-old.

Vice-captain Ling Hwa Hwa, 20, from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DIEEE) who joined SP from CommitteeWest Secondary School, adds: “Even outside of training, we would hang out together to eat, study and play. We might have missed out on 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. Dominic became the team’s treasurer. The members who go for competitions 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 more pressing 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.
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 feminina 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 XIP 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 Tertiary (Women), Premier (Mixed Team) and 1st Runner Up Open (Women) at the SAVS Games 2012.

Like the men’s team, the Tertiary (Women), Premier (Mixed Team) and 1st Runner Up Open (Women) at the SAVS Games 2012.

NeWSSFlACh! SP Dragonboat (Women) clinched the championship in the Tertiary (Women); Premier (Mixed Team) and 1st Runner Up Open (Women) at the SAVS Games 2012.

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 experienced teams such as Canada. Therefore, it will be hard to persuade the girls, they have a team of ten from the same year, so that was an advantage,” says John.

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 as 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.”

The paddlers sit facing forwards and use a specific type of paddle. The leading pair of paddlers, called “pakers,” “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 to 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

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.

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 Yoo, 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 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.
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 (DASE) 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 midnight 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 brains who has amassed an almost perfect GPA (High) School student liked what he saw and got hooked. 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 brains who has amassed an almost perfect GPA.

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

Update: The new President for Gusto is Terence Yeo, 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.

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 2006 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, light song team dances with arm movements and acrobatics to their routines."

In 1981, the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) was formed in the USA and hundreds of thousands of cheerleaders were trained. During the 1990s, 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.
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.
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 on the way to unlock 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 had to stand in a hammock in the jungle throughout the night, trying very hard to fall asleep. I know I needed rest to prepare my body for the challenges that lie ahead. And how did I do that? I fell into a waterfall earlier that day made me worried 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 reached the base camp. I managed to pull myself from the water and eventually collapsed.

Fortunately, I managed to pull myself together, with great determination and perseverance. With that, I can face any challenge that comes my way.

Let me share with you my life motto, “First say to yourself what you would like to do, 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.
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: Cheew Jun Wern, Cassandra Chong and Xavier Lee; from DISM: Cheong Jun Wern, Cassandra The and Information Technology (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 programme, 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: C.K. 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).

At the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2012, organised by the Singapore Maritime Foundation, SP students also laid claims to all three of the MaritimeONE scholarships for those pursuing a maritime career course at the polytechnic.

Another 11 students from the Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME) and Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) were awarded the TMSS Scholarships that come with a sponsorship of up to $30,000. 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!

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.

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 (Singapore), William Barefoot in the Netherlands and Plymouth University in United Kingdom. SP students also laid claims to all three MaritimeONE scholarships for those pursuing a maritime career course at the polytechnic.

Another 11 students from the Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME) and Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) were awarded the TMSS Scholarships that come with a sponsorship of up to $30,000. 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)

Adilina Astra Rusli
Joel Chew
Pamela Koh
Joshua Lim
Lin Mingling
Li Zhi Wei
Natalia Bte Azie

17
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 Saifuddien 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*, 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. They are Nguyen Hai Jia (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering), Mohd Fadhil Bin Mohd Soffe (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, 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 Urban Redevelopment Authority. The five of them received the scholarships from Mr Khaw Boo Wan, Minister for National Development, at the MND-EDGE Business Innovation and Design Scholarship Ceremony held in July.
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, test, implement and review their marketing and sales ideas, together with the Frank by OCBC team and their mentors.

Mr Ching Wai 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 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.

The DIT students fought hard against another competition that he took part in – the KlumAppsChallenge 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, Ding Jin Wen, Felix Foo and Christopher Choo – all final-year students.

The current final 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 ideas approved for Nokia’s #LumiaAppsChallenge. His first app, Blast Bunnies! received more than 3,000 downloads in two weeks!
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 21 minutes. The air was tense as the students from around the world tuned in for the first time, challenges student 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 Fa Chey. 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 automotive to help save the environment.

“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.”

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.

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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 Teh 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.

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 automatically and schedules the reminder times 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 Application in the Tertiary category.

Besides winning a top prize at the Now You Can Leadership Series (main story), Jonathan Teh also captured the Best Presenter Award at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation Awards. This is not all. A team comprising fresh DIT graduates Kugan Kobalakrisna (Team Leader), Muhs Nafrul Nizam Mohd Khamis, Jayaprakash Amresh Kumar, Lau Hui Ling, and Muhd Israif Rozain 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.

An SP team from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) 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.

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South Korea. Chung-ang University in Maritime Business

A Taste Of University Life In K-Pop Land

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 Myeongdong, Itaewon and Namdaemun.

“We 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 clothing 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 that he would love to volunteer for a second run during his second year. He enjoyed it so much that he volunteered for a second run this year, this time as a student helper.

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 Pole and South Poles and swimming across the Malacca Strait.

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.

“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 the Malacca Strait. Ka Kar Meng, a final-year 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. “Two times in MEL Camps is seemingly not enough for Kar Meng. He will go 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.

The MEL Camp 2012

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.

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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 Awards. 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 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 Tao 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 Sungai 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 @ Paxist Rio 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 sand-on 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.”

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 latane roads with countless bends and slopes. The place was set up for research, education and wilderness recreation and has suitably rustic 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 resilient 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, climate change, decomposition and light intensity.”

The forest was not second nature to Elaine as the humidity was very high in the tropical rainforest. She also had to keep herself hydrated 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 stay alert all the time and look out for signs of fatigue among team members. They 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 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 here 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 volunteering. The SP Environment Club, for example, is a great platform. You can start as a green guide for secondary school students to tell them more about our SP green features like the Innova/lage 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.

Elaine’s trip to Borneo kick-started a journey where she would like to one day study environmental issues. She intends to continue her passion in environmental protection and nature conservation and to support young environmentalists.

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Show Me How

Through his network with an undergraduate in Taiwan.

Development who was once

Department of Student Ong, a manager from the

The one-week trip was a popular youth shopping

mee suah in Ximenting,

skills while slurping oyster

improve their performance

musicians there, hoping to

out the masters among the orchestra

setting. They flew to Taipei to seek

the SP String Ensemble did the

same, albeit in a more comfortable

the SP string musicians.

For Liow Ying Xuan, a fresh SP

from the best in Taiwan.

request to conduct master classes for

Orchestra which kindly accepted his

hooked up with the Taipei Symphony

whom they admired

art forms. They also took a
dip at a hot spring in Yang Ming Shan

did the

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

many things that I can apply in my

pointed out how they could improve

the Concert Master for the Taipei

class conducted by Mr Roger Chiang,

The eye-opener was a special master

class conducted by Mr Roger Chiang,

the Taipei Symphony Orchestra who patiently

attended 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

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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.

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.

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, SPirit brings you the highlights in pictures.
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!!

**The Season Of Medals And Trophies**

**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**
- 3rd in POL-ITE Games

**Tennis**
- 3rd in POL-ITE Games (Women)

**Taskwondo**
- 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 Nghee 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

**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

The Season Of Medals And Trophies

Sporting Peaks
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 students (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 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.

Optometry final year students (from left) Santi Tang, Kodi Goh, Syafiq asyraf and Jian Bin have the best of both worlds after they continued 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 Bukit Timah, 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."

Adding cheer 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 especially 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.
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.

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.
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 our orphanage beneficiaries. I very much like to go back to see the progress of our work done there,” adds Shannon.

Shannon Lim (extreme left back row), a final-year Diploma in Media Communication (DMC) student, spoke on how the trip has changed their perspectives of how they view the world. Shannon sent this message of love to his family whilst in China, something he has done had impacted the local community. We encouraged volunteerism among the youth there and also drafted a business proposal for our orphanage beneficiaries. I very much like to go back to see the progress of our work done there,” adds Shannon.

Serving People

At the launch of Go Serve, a group of students delivered an emotional presentation on their community service trip to 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 in life, whilst in China, something he has done had impacted the local community. We encouraged volunteerism among the youth there and also drafted a business proposal for our orphanage 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 produce hand-sewn handicrafts which they hope could be used as SP’s corporate gifts.

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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.

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 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 multidisciplinary 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.”

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The pioneer batch of the Go Serve programme went to Sichuan, China. The trip 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 our orphanage beneficiaries. I very much like to go back to see the progress of our work done there,” adds Shannon.

Among the highlights: Shannon Lim’s heartfelt message to his family whilst in China; Lydia Lim’s heartfelt message to her friends and the activities of Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, the keynote speaker at Go Serve’s launch event. He said: “This was the first batch, 34 of them. They were 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 sandbag, and did a study to understand the plight of urban slum dwellers in Tondo, Manila.

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 sandbag, 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 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.”
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 member’s 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 diving into action to make their pitch at the national SIFE championship held in June.

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.

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 to the people and understanding what they actually went through.

Beatrice: How much confidence did you 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 increase our presence and the real needs of our beneficiaries to the world and share our stories in the belief of a better tomorrow.

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

Marcus: One of our biggest challenges 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?

Xia 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 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 weeding and goat rearing. While helping the villagers, these initiatives also tackle some environmental problems.

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

Xia 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 hut 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 make clothes. They have started to make uniforms for nearby schools.

At Inba Saya Sangum, an orphanage in Savapur, 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-arid 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.

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SPRIT 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 StartNow, a social enterprise that he started with a friend.

For information on StartNow, visit startnow.sg, facebook.com/startnow.sg or contact keith@startnow.sg.

Social Project

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 startup called StartNow which I started with an old friend Ivan Chang.

We won $10,000 in seed grant at the Choice of the Day. Most recently, and then another $1,000 for the People’s Category that gave us another $7,000, which came with $15,000 cash prize. We re-invested it back into our start-up.

That sounds like a really cool idea. How did StartNow come about?
We started with a desire 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 StartNow.

How did this volunteerism thing come about?
After all, our vision is for people to use their skills and passions to make a difference in the social sector in Asia. StartNow is a social enterprise for social enterprises.

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.

That’s a cool $33,000 in all. So what have you guys done to the money?
We spent $7,000 on a trip to the UK where we were members of the SP SIFE Teams.

What about your Business Administration diploma course? Did the modules play a part in how you shape this startup?
We started with the Diploma in Business Administration which mentors and seeds young social enterprises.

What are you doing now Keith?
That’s a cool $33,000 in all. So what have you guys done to the money?
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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 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.

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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 Medicorp’s Young Entrepreneur Awards 2012 and was the 2nd Runner Up at Penn Olsen’s Startups in Asia Startup Arena Challenge earlier this year.

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.
Well if you look at my results, I scored respectable GPA. But I didn’t want to study them again. I passed them. Simply because I just didn’t want anything. I read about DDM from the website and I failed those subjects; I passed them. Okay, they gave you very good advice. Why was that? 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. Wait 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 Compositing and Matteing 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 maths and I suffered... hahaha...

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 teamwork 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. I actually enjoyed more than I learned.... hahaha! 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.

What did you gain at the NAB? The seventh man and people took many photos and videos. The first group that we met were people who had worked on the film “Flowers of War” by Zhang Yimou. It has a very intense feel to it. Some shots were really amazing. Everyone in the group was very friendly and helpful. They gave us some really good tips on how to improve our work and also some feedback on our work. I got a lot of useful tips from them. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day. I also got a chance to meet some famous directors and producers who showed their films and their work. I was really impressed by their work. I got really inspired by their work and I realized that I want to be a director one day.

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.

What are some of the good films you watched recently? My recent favourite is Flowers of War by Zhang Yimou. 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.

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.

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.
SP Students Win 32 Out Of 45 BCA Scholarships

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 $800. 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 Wei Yu 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:


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


The first batch of LTA Engineering Award recipients are Wong Weiyu, Elaine Tan, Winston Seetoh, Tan Kah Xuan and Muhd Yasier Bin Mohd Sahair. The second season of the LTA Engineering Award was launched last year was awarded to current SP students. Of the 45 recipients, 32 of them are now current SP students. When asked about their plans for the future, the first-year students who were awarded the scholarship last year said they plan to pursue careers in the built environment.

Wong Wei Yu, an engineering student at SP, who received a scholarship, said: “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).”

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SP Students Publish Paper In International Journal

Earlier this year, SP’s DEPM students collaborated with the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) to put together the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2012 at The Cathay Cineleisure. The annual event is organized 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 took the SPirit initiative to carry the theme “Life Does Not Rewind: Make The Right Choice”.

The Wiping Out Drugs event management students and lecture-ship students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DEDT) were tasked to heighten awareness and garner support for a new NDP initiative – Building a LovingSG, which is also a donation drive.


Daphne Low and Kenneth Lim, together with their lecturer Dr Handjojo Djati Utomo, published a journal paper in the international journal Water Science and Technology (DEWT) who 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. They produced an animation video that was aired on national TV and also the web pages for the ‘- Building a LovingSG, which is also a donation drive.

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 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.

Another team of students from the Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) produced an audio recording and dedicated broadcast mix of the performance, 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!”

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 (DDEMM) were tasked to develop and manage the web portal for the LovingSG One Heart, One Voice project. It involved splashing the videos of Singaporeans singing the national anthem into a harmonious virtual choir which premiered on the parade day itself.

Calling themselves VirtualGems, 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 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.

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 DDMM students on the NDP Official Website at www.ndp.org.sg.

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.


Calling themselves MediaGenix, the SP students formed a harmonious virtual choir which involved thousands of phone wipes. Sixty student volunteers from the Diploma in Digital Media (DDEMM) joined in the fun.

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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 Teo) 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 FrevoFriends (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. 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 Chix Sheng. (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE)

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 Teritary GIS Application category. For their excellence, they won a total of $3,000 in cash prize. Their entry involves an interactive GIS application that allows users to view the history and culture of Singapore. At the same competition last year, fresh DIT graduate Gordon Lee and his team mates won the Outstanding Data Collection Award in the Tertiary GIS Analysis category.

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 Onset, 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, these SP teams took part in the competition. Although the other two teams did not win, their cyber-fighting spirit was commendable. They were Team Lynn (Tan Jun Xuan, Edmund Teo, Gabriel Li and Ias Tan) and Team Octans (Chua Wei Kiat, Goh Xue Yu, Maverick Yong and Lim Jun Juan).

Understanding Geospatial Technology

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For Skills For Medals

SP engineering and design students clinched two Silvers, four Bronzes and two Medallions for Excellence at the recently concluded WorldSkills Singapore 2012. The competition is held biannually 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 Zhang Hao, Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
- Tan Huang Jie, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

BRONZE MEDALISTS:
- Biritan Tan, Leonard Hoe and Xu Weijie - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Norputraeni Bie Susanti, Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering

MEDALLIONS FOR EXCELLENCE:
- Durian Ou, Diploma in Visual Communications and Media Design
- Goh Min Qi, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

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 (YPCLS) 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 Vician Wei Hu Wen came in 4th for her presentation on Materials for Spectacles Frames. In 2011, Malyng Ang and Maltvin Ng, also DMLS students, both emerged third place winners at the same competition.

The total prize money of $400 was small when compared to the irreplaceable 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 Vician.
Green Coffee Boys

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

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 submitted 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.

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 Ze Jie took the third prize. This is the third consecutive year that a DBF student or 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 Realh Yauo 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 areas in Taiwan. To make these containers attractive to the locals, the team even added feng shui elements to their design.

Said Realh, "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 Lec 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 Institutes 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 volunteering 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 VivoSMRT 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 Visualgraphic Club, Lee Han Yu, 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 edit 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.

A Clock On A Watch

Final-year Diploma in Experience Product and Design (DXPD) student Elvixson 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 Elvixson stood out from more than 200 entries in the tertiary category. He won based on the design’s artistic value which should not be lost to oblivion.”

Ellvixson’s watch design was inspired by the old clock hanging at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station. “I was inspired by the roman-numeral clock that can be seen on the exterior of the building. The beautifully ornate 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.”

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 as they 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 getting them confidence when they presented at the competition.

Pursuit Of Water Purity

In September, eight final-year Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT) students went with their lecturer, Dr Hanley Djiat 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 opportunities 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 Hanley 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.
Young And Bright Entrepreneurs

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 keychains, 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.

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 students.

SP’s design and digital media students plucked 1 Gold, 2 Silvers and 2 Bronzes for their entries. The Silver for the 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 (VCM-D). Jiarong and Chloe are currently the Art Director and Designer respectively of 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.

Rachel Choo and Jezelynn Ong took a Silver for their 3D Animation work titled Snatchers while a 3D Animation titled Robot Revolution by Gu 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

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 officially 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!”

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 (under the pan) 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 more two regional meets – the Fina World Juniors Championships in Australia and the 9th Asian Diving Championships in Dubai. All the way Tim!
Basking In Olympics 2012

How many among the seven billion people on earth can say they have had the greatest sporting experience in their lifetimes?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 Enter 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 Palambang last year, Gary broke a 10-year medal drought by clinching the silver.

Gary was a former SP Sports Scholar for the men's 100m. 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.

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 Mandarin albums Amphibian and Goodbye and Hello respectively.

Tanya graduated from SP with a Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) and is now an undergraduate Information at Nanyang Technological University. For his excellent photographic works, Andrew received S$5,000 and a valuable opportunity to be photographed by the world renowned photographer Andrew Yee. Andrew finds passion in communicating via photography.

Stunning Pictures

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 25-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.

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. He 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.

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

Anecdote from nEbO

Cheng Rui Ting, 20, started out as an intern at nEbO, a junior recruitment arm of NTUC, in 2010. She 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 others while juggling their many commitments.

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 others 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, heading 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.
As kids, twins Ashleyna 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 Joint Polytechnic SAF Diploma Scheme (JPSDS)*. 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.

Ashleyna 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 Ashleyna: “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.

Three 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.

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.

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Eco-Friend Award By MEWR

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 Foreign Affairs, Mr Khoo Seow Poh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Policy and Planning Group, National Environment Agency.

The latest award adds to the list of accolades that SP has achieved over the past three years. The Green Master Plan to transform the polytechnic into an eco-friendly and green campus.

Running In A Bunch

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 300 from the SP community (comprising staff, students and alumni). Deemed in Team SP was 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 7,561 kilometres!

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.

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.

As DigiPen’s degree programmes require industry-standard classrooms, studios facility, along with acting and animation studies for game development, are included in the architectural plans.

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. He was joined by other students and community stakeholders. SP staff also helped to facilitate and teach arts workshop sessions for children under this programme.
A Platinum Garden

Let a thousand flowers bloom in SP. It’s no fluke that SP proclaims 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 2003, 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?” “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 running basic financial literacy levels in Singaporeans for almost ten years through large-scale events and media programmes.

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

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 Goodeall. Visitors and media who witnessed the MOU signing also visited SP’s Games Resource Centre located at InnoVillage.

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, tool-building, 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 to ABE students.

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

More Opportunities For Maritime Students

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.
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.