

# SP|RIT

VOL 3 2013

## **SPear**

*Made-in-SP music ready to rock your ears!*

## **What If...**

*You were the Principal? What would you change in the school?*

## **Be A Good Sport**

*SP students overcome challenges to become sporting champions!*

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE



**WAKE UP!  
FRESHIES!**

**Get Indispensable Tips  
For Thriving In The Poly Habitat!**



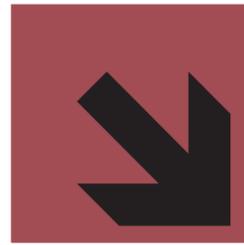
# Touching Lives

The scenery was breathtaking. The hospitality was heart warming. Twenty-four SP students leapt into the mountainous country of Nepal to share their love and warmth with the Nepalese, Singapore style no less. For building classrooms, teaching English and sharing little gifts, they received the most beautiful smiles in return. Priceless!

The LEAP Advanced Nepal trip was organised under the SP LEAP Programme that aims to develop students' leadership potential through guided mastery and Practiced Leadership. Interested? Check with the Department of Student Development for coming trips.



ALL PHOTOS BY LEE JIAN WEI, DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING



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# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## ARTS FIESTA 2013

Now that we have survived the doomsday predicted by the Mayans at the start of the year, escaped various strains of bird flu and masked our way through hazy skies, we believe it is time for some life affirmation as our creative heads come together to breathe a collective sigh of sweet relief...

In the vigour of youth, we often neglect to take a step back, stop and appreciate the beauty that life holds.

This year, in celebration of our survival in this ever changing world, we would like to invite you to join us as we unravel the threads of this beautiful tapestry we call life... Appreciating the beauty, love, pain and suffering... all that makes us alive.

We've picked out some of the best art, photographs, workshops and performances that our SP artistes have to offer to bring you a smorgasbord of activities for your enjoyment.

Feast your eyes on our "ROJAK" photography collection by SP Photographers, write your aspirations on our "Before I Die" wall, sing along to Vocal Talent's love songs, risk being turned into a frog by our Magicians as they pull wonderful gifts from their magic hats and learn a few cool moves to impress at your next dance party with a workshop by Singapore's first Bboys "Radikal Forze"!

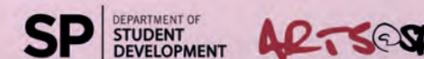
Come join the fun and celebrate Life!



@SPartsfiesta



Organised by:



OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

14 Oct - 22 Nov

"Before I Die..." Wall  
Space shuttles at  
SP Skate Park



ROJAK by SP  
Photography  
Walkway from  
Dover MRT

16 Oct  
Wednesday  
4pm - 6pm

Street Art & Dance  
Workshops by Radikal  
Forze & RSCLS  
Skate Park and  
Auditorium Foyer



25 Oct  
Friday  
8pm

A Cappella Night II:  
The Celebration of  
Life - SP Vocal Talents

26 Oct  
Saturday  
7.30pm

Viva la Guitar,  
Concerto de Amore -  
SP Guitarist



31 Oct  
Thursday  
8pm

Improvise 6 - SP  
Jazz Band

01 & 02 Nov  
Friday & Saturday  
8pm

Dear Chuck - SP  
Theatre Compass



08 & 09 Nov  
Friday & Saturday  
7.30pm

Waves 18 - SP Strictly Dance Zone



13 Nov  
Wednesday  
8pm

From Screen to  
Dreams:  
東方情 電影夢 - SP  
Chinese Orchestra



14 Nov  
Thursday  
8pm

The Beginning -  
SP Magicians



16 Nov  
Saturday  
8pm

Classical  
Renaissance  
XIV - SP Strings  
Ensemble



## Sound & Passion

# SPEAR

The Launch

SP is the first educational institution in Singapore to own a music label. Called SPEAR, the first-of-its-kind initiative will groom students to become artistes or music producers. The label was officially launched at a concert held at The Coliseum, Resorts World Sentosa, and attended by more than 1,000 music lovers.

# The SP Brand of Music

Students from the **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** have never had it so good. With the launch of SPEAR, which stands for Singapore Polytechnic Emerging Artists and Repertoire, they now have a professional outfit to help them develop and market their own brand of music to the world.

The set-up will enable them to learn and integrate all their skill sets; from composing, recording and performance to making and marketing a record.

Launched at Resorts World Sentosa to a full-house crowd of more than 1,000 secondary school and SP students and members of the public, the SPEAR concert featured four bands formed by current students and graduates: Celestia, a composer and solo vocalist; Formalisms, a band playing post-experimental music; V'Bel, a talented singer and violinist; and Victoria Street, a versatile pop and alt rock band.

The show opened with surreal, melancholy singing from Celestia, an already veteran performer with several shows under her belt. Under the glow of haunting blue light, and ever-so-slightly swaying, she sang smooth, evocative tales about lost hope, wishes, and glimmers of a better, freer life.

Formalisms came on next, deepening the soulful, heavy mood set by Celestia with a fluttering, sweet flute solo that rang out through the air. This led into a series of sharp-edged, dark and rock-influenced music that injected adrenaline into the atmosphere.

V'Bel came up next with a sensational, explosive electric violin solo. Her impassioned playing and dramatic flair built up the core of excitement and energy in the concert. The finale saw Victoria Street playing a series of smooth, easy-listening pop rock songs infused with grinning charm and a man-on-the-street relatability.

Local indie outfit, The Sam Willows, also appeared specially as a guest band and performed to the ecstatic crowd, regaling them with soulful harmonies and infectious tunes.

Music performed during the launch is available on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify. The bands recorded their songs in a brand new SP album: SPear, The Launch. For those of you who couldn't attend, here are interviews with the bands and photos of the incredible night:

## Celestia

Celestia, winner of the H-TWO-O S-League song writing competition 2010/2011 and second runner-up at the National Environment Agency Eco-music Challenge 2010.

### Real name:

Deborah Tan (DMAT, Class of 2009)

**Musical genre:** Folk and world music

### Celestia, tell us about some of your favourite musicians.

Some of my favourites are Joe Hisaishi, Kajira Yuki, Yoko Kano and Taro Iwashiro.

### What genres do you explore in your own songs?

I have an eclectic taste in music and listen to (and therefore explore) a diverse range of genres. Some of them include world music, folk music, electronica, techno, opera, neoclassical and orchestral music.

### What impact do you hope your songs will have on listeners?

I want my music to take them on a journey. It is meant to create a surreal world for the listener where their own interpretation is key. They are allowed to interpret whatever they want out of the story in my song. I usually prefer to write in a descriptive but representative manner as a result.

### How did it feel to be back together with old friends / lecturers at SPEAR?

Very nostalgic, to be honest. I had a relatively healthy rapport with my lecturers and working with them again reminded me of my days back in poly. There were marked differences though. This time I felt a little "less young", since the students I happened to be working with were current students! (laughs). They behaved in a mature and professional manner though and I am very proud of them as a senior.

### Complete the following sentence, "For people, music is essential because \_\_\_\_."

It is the essence of the human spirit, something that utilitarian essentials in life will never be able to fulfil or possess. It is the very proof of what kind of person you are."

Formalisms is SPEAR's largest band, with a total of nine members. Lead vocalist Beth Yap is in the foreground.

## Formalisms

**Band members:** Beth Yap (lead vocalist), Deanna Khusairi, Bryan Ong, Boaz Koh, Luke Yong, Wong Zhihao, Lee Yong Chiang, Tang Hui Jun, John Tim (all DMAT final-year students)

**Musical genre:** Post-experimental

### Describe the mood or feel of the music you play.

We've been labelled as "progressive dark music". I would say there are elements of melancholy and elusiveness about our music. At the same time we do have a happy, feel-good tune with an ethereal tinge to it.

### What kind of impact do you hope your music will have on people?

It is good enough for us if others like it, because it's rather "far out". I think our goal will be accomplished if we not only make unconventional music but encourage other people to think outside the box as well.

### How does the team draw inspiration for their music?

We draw inspiration from each other's unique playing styles. Most of the time, we use free improvisation to generate our ideas for new material. Somebody will start by playing a riff and then everyone else layers their instruments on top of that.

### Complete the following sentence: "To us, music is \_\_\_\_."

A blank canvas. Our brushes are our bodies; our medium is sound.

# Sound & Passion



Violinist and vocalist V'Bel passed the grade eight violin exam with flying colours because of her skills and years of intense training.

**Real Name:** Wong Ay Shyuan (DMAT, Class of 2013)

**Musical genre:** Classical cross-over

**V'Bel, we heard you prefer not to define your music by genres. Can you describe what types of music influence it, then?**

Whether or not the music is defined by genre, tempo, or dynamics, I would play it with inputs of the colours of my life. I don't define; I play however I feel close to it. As for influences, I think it is the influence of music I listen to or get captivated with at that moment - RNB, hip hop, pop, smooth jazz, reggae and whatever has something called "groove"!

**What would you say you aim to achieve through the music you create?**

I want to spread unsaid words through my violin, and words with more depth through my vocals. I hope to spread the message about the power of noble love, optimism, passion, tenderness, and kindness because they do live in us but are just forgotten and slowly being buried in this fast-moving world. Life is beautiful beneath its mask.

**Is there any particular impact that you hope your music will have on listeners?**

I hope they will feel the passion I have towards life. I hope they can see and embrace the beauty I see in life.

**Complete the following sentence, "Music is \_\_\_\_."**

Music is contagious. Music is evoking. Music is what reminds us that we're alive and tender inside.

**Band Members:** Deborah Jean Lee (lead vocalist), Darren Tan, Nigel Peh, Joshua Low, Spencer Teo (DMAT, Class of 2013)

**Musical genre:** Pop or alternative rock.

**Name some of the bands that inspire you.**

**Deb:** We all listen to pretty different bands and music, but those that we do share a common liking for would be namely Paramore, Yellowcard, and other bands like Anberlin.

**Describe the mood or feel of the music you play.**

**Nigel:** I guess our music goes more along the lines of melancholy, sadness or frustration. It's mostly moody and sometimes angsty. Our songs are mainly "story songs", meaning that our songs generally aren't the party type or the bouncy, happy type. Each song has a story behind it and we hope to reach out to people who've had the same experience or felt the same emotions.

**What kind of impact do you hope your music will have on people?**

**Josh:** It's when you hear a song on the radio and think, "That's me right now." It gives the listeners the words they were looking for to express themselves, or when you sometimes hear people say "This song helped me through a tough time." That is how we want our music to impact people.

**How did you come up with your band name?**

**Deb:** It started when Darren and Nigel actually got a bunch of us to go jam together at a freshmen welcome thingy. The night before our first jam, it stormed pretty badly - trees on the floor, stuff flying all over the place— so when we were walking to the jamming studio the day after, we saw a "Victoria Street" road sign lying on the floor, so we thought, "Hey that's pretty cool. Let's take a photo with it!" So we did... though it was not until later when we were trying to decide on a band name that that photo came in handy. I mean, it looked like an album cover for one, but it also served as a "sign". Haha, punny eh? But that's how we got our name! (:



Victoria Street's lead singer, Deborah Jean Lee. Victoria Street doesn't play covers, and instead plays its own original creations.



# SURVIVING POLY 101

Fresh graduates Angie Pay, Evon Kuo and Nicholas Lam have been around the block, slam-dunked and flunked assignments, laughed, cried, written screenplays – y’know, all the usual stuff in a poly kid’s life. Now, these Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) grads have condensed their hard-earned experience into a poly survival guide for you. YES YOU, NEWBIE!

**AFTER** reading Surviving Poly101!



**BEFORE** reading Surviving Poly101.

By Angie Pay, Evon Kuo and Nicholas Lam. Recent Graduates, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

**First things first, time management is very important in poly.**

- » REMEMBER DEADLINES AND GIVE YOURSELF SMALL GOALS TO WORK TOWARDS. DON'T LEAVE THINGS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!
- » » WITH LAPTOPS MADE COMPULSORY (SOME LUCKY ONES USE MACS), YOU'LL DEFINITELY NEED TO LEARN HOW TO REFUSE THE CALLS OF FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND TUMBLR WHEN YOU'RE HALFWAY THROUGH LESSONS.
- » » MAKE FULL USE OF THAT BREAK BETWEEN CLASSES AND YOUR WEEKENDS. WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU CAN'T SLACK, BUT SLACK WISELY AND IN MODERATION... WORK BEFORE PLAY!
- » » DISCONNECT FROM THE INTERNET DURING CLASS.
- » » SIT IN THE FIRST ROW (WE KNOW SOME LECTURERS LIKE TO CALL THOSE SITTING BEHIND).

Dear Year 1s, are you slightly thrown off and unsure about this wild, unpredictable thing called poly life? Don't worry, most of us felt that way when we first came in! As it's a very big leap forward with more freedom, responsibilities and independence, it might be a culture shock to some of you.

With new people (new classmates!) and endless supplies of food (KFC, Subway, Starbucks!), you have to learn to take care of yourself and get rid of distractions.

## THE RESEARCHER

### STRENGTHS

DETAILED, INTELLIGENT, GIVES SUBSTANCE TO THE PRESENTATION

### WEAKNESSES

SHY, ANXIOUS, MAY NOT PRESENT WELL



## THE ORGANISER

### STRENGTHS

ORGANISED, DETAILED, LONG-TERM THINKER

### WEAKNESSES

LACKS THE STRENGTHS OF OTHER TEAM MATES



## THE PRESENTER

### STRENGTHS

CONFIDENT, ELOQUENT, CHARMING

### WEAKNESSES

MAY TRY TO CHARM HIS WAY OUT OF WORK



## THE TEAM PLAYER

### STRENGTHS

SUPPORTIVE, ENCOURAGING, BOOSTS TEAM MORALE

### WEAKNESSES

NOT CRITICAL ENOUGH, GETS BULLIED BY BAD TEAM MATES



## THE DEADWEIGHT

### STRENGTHS

NOTHING

### WEAKNESSES

EVERYTHING



# Guide to Surviving Projects

A majority of us have experienced project work and realised how tough it is to work with others. Identify uncooperative ones or those with undesirable characteristics. If you can't change them, tell your lecturers.

### TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE DISCUSSION:

- ▶ Have an agenda, plan your discussions.
- ▶ Set deadlines, emphasise on urgency.
- ▶ Keep to work schedules.
- ▶ Distribute work fairly. Acknowledge strengths and weaknesses of each member.

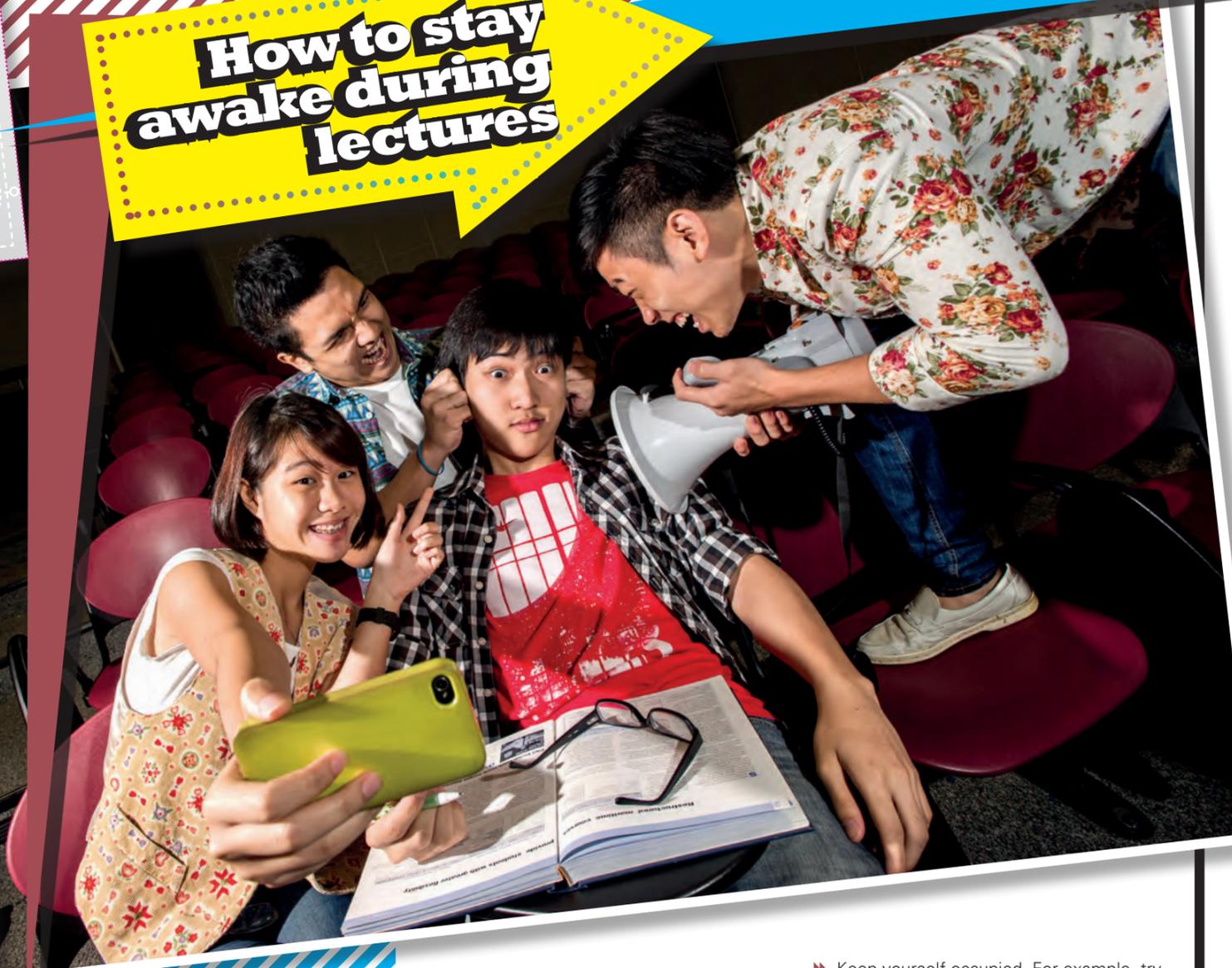
### OTHER POINTS TO NOTE:

- ▶ Identify the better speakers in the group. Use them to deliver presentations.
- ▶ Know your stuff. It's advisable to write important notes on cue cards before presenting.
- ▶ Rehearse and rehearse. Practice makes perfect. Rehearse until everyone is familiar with what is needed to be done during a presentation (in case the presenter faints).

### TIPS TO PRODUCE A GOOD POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

- ▶ Understand your project. Set the theme. Choose a layout that will complement your project.
- ▶ Choose appropriate fonts. Go to [www.dafont.com](http://www.dafont.com) and you'll find a fully categorised list of fonts.
- ▶ Backgrounds. Websites like [www.deviantart.com](http://www.deviantart.com) and [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) will provide you with artsy photographs that will do great as slide show backgrounds.
- ▶ KISS (keep it short & sweet). Keep your presentation slide text short and sweet. No one wants to sit through a lengthy presentation.

# How to stay awake during lectures



### If you're constantly falling asleep during class, read this.

- ▶ Keep yourself occupied. For example, try something like counting the number of times your lecturer says, "Understand?"
- ▶ Excuse yourself. Go wash your face. Or walk to the corridor to look at greenery or do some push-ups. If all else fails, get coffee from the nearest food court or vending machine.
- ▶ Get a friend to pinch you. It hurts but it works and lasts for approximately 10 seconds.
- ▶ Lift your heavy eyelids! Inspired by Tom in Tom and Jerry, this method works to a certain extent. Tape your eyelids with Scotch tape or masking tape. Plasters and double eyelid stickers work too.
- ▶ Sweets are your best friend. Always keep enough supply (preferably minty ones). Tried and tested sweets are Hacks and Fisherman's Friend.
- ▶ Get a good night's rest. Getting sufficient sleep is the key to staying awake during lectures. A solid eight hours is recommended; avoid drinking coffee and tea prior to sleeping time.
- ▶ Take notes. Better if you can write fast by creating your own short forms.

# Dealing with Poly People: Classmates

You'll meet different people in poly. Here are some of them.



**THE A-SCORER**  
A species on their own; these human variants have adapted well to the school habitat. Catch one to be your study buddy!



**CLASS REP**  
Leaders of the natural world, they send mass SMSes and act like the extensions of teachers, just younger.



**THE SLACKER**  
Probably born without a backbone or source of willpower, they are very distinguishable with their unique slouch.



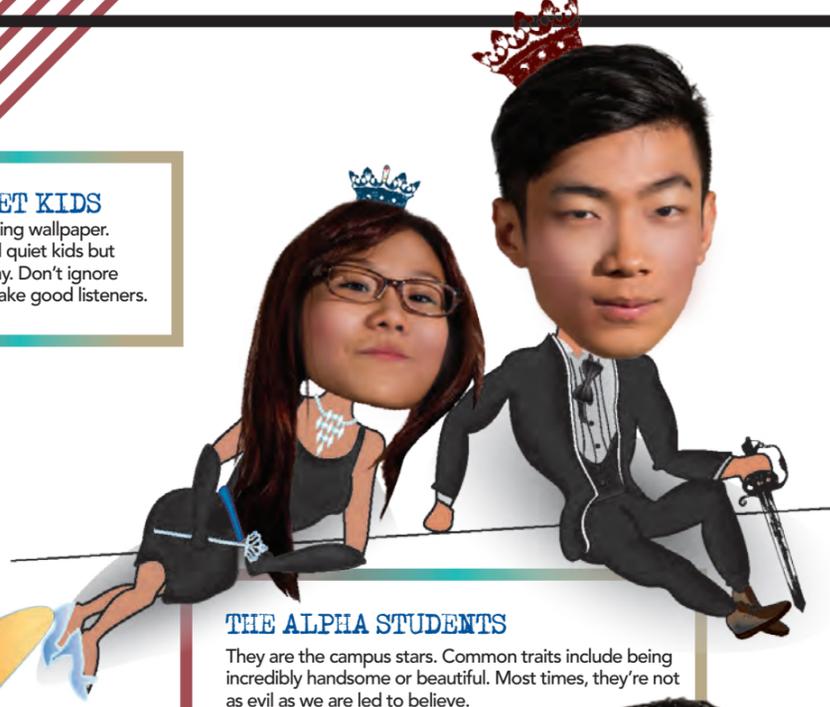
**CLASS CLOWN**  
Born comedians, always on a natural high. They always crack a joke to brighten the mood and keep the class in high spirits. Don't take them too seriously.



**THE QUIET KIDS**  
Living, breathing wallpaper. They're called quiet kids but they're just shy. Don't ignore them; they make good listeners.



**THE CRUSH**  
This is your ideal mate. Every time your eyes meet, you suffer from butterflies. What better place to confess than poly? SP has many gardens.



**THE ALPHA STUDENTS**  
They are the campus stars. Common traits include being incredibly handsome or beautiful. Most times, they're not as evil as we are led to believe.



**THE FORTUNE TELLER**  
Nature's warning siren; they know Friday is bad even before Friday! They are always in the know. Need info? They have it.



**MR RELIABLE**  
He helps people. Whatever you need, he will help you because he's just that nice. He's the most counted-on person in class.

## Dealing with Poly People: Lecturers

### THE ANGRY BIRD LECTURERS

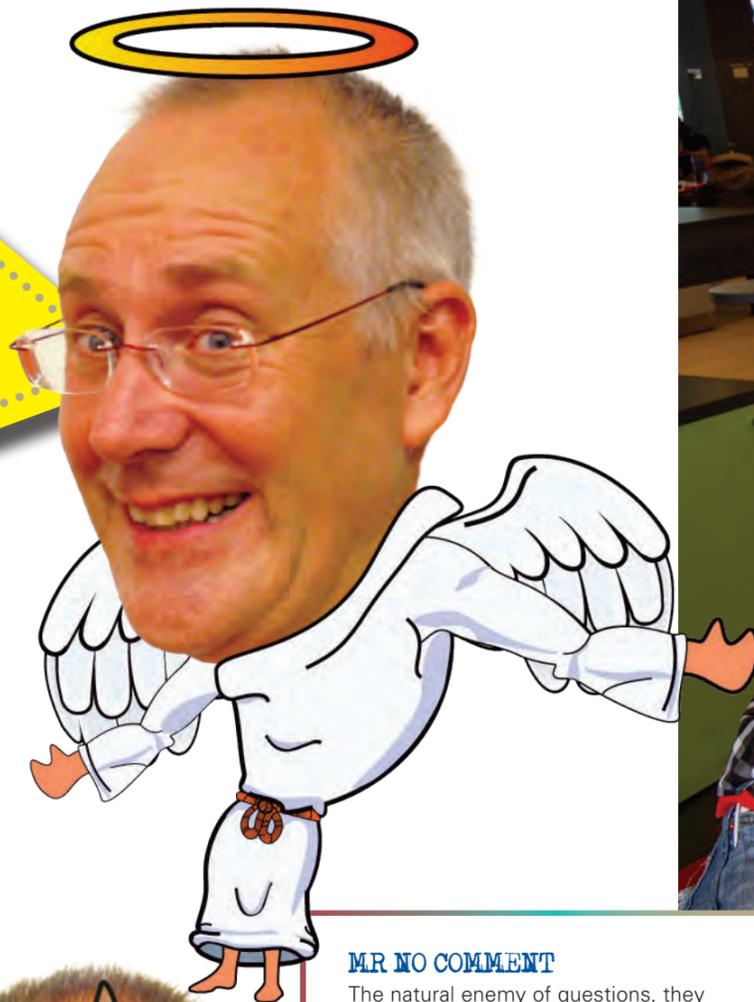
They bestow impossible deadlines and give you a hard time. But truly, these lecturers want to help you and if they can do that, they don't mind being hated.

### I-AM-YOUR-MOTHER LECTURERS

These motherly beings instinctively know when something is bothering you and will always try their best to help you. Just tell them.

### THE ELUSIVE LECTURER-FRIEND

These lecturers really want to be your friend! They're young, hip and they'll cut you some slack if you really need it. If you find one, don't let him go!



### MR NO COMMENT

The natural enemy of questions, they ignore your raised hand only because they want to focus on the whole class before seeing you one-on-one.

### MR CYBORG

Part-man part-answering machine. They have two default settings: Boring and Sweet Dreams. But underneath, they house a flood of knowledge. So listen up and he'll teach you something.

### MR FRIENDLY

He sits beside you in the food court and starts talking to you. He's not your lecturer. Don't panic, he's just our friendly Principal.



## So much food, so little time.

### FC 3

Long queues form for the sizzling platters of Korean food at FC3. There is also a fruits and juices stall that sells sweet chunks of papaya and watermelon in cups at \$1.00 each! FC3 is also a home to royalty. Burger King, that is.

### FC 4

Managed by Koufu, this FC is one of two air-conditioned food courts. They serve standard food court fare with exceptionally good ban mian and Indonesian food.

### FC 5

The convergence of fast food joints Subway, Starbucks and KFC. There is also Bang Deli, Cheers and Popular bookstore. With many power sockets available, this FC is a hotspot for studying. Located next to the pool, it's perfect for catching the dragon boat hunks and SP swimmers on hot summer days.

### FC 2

Best known as the home of the first (but now relocated) McDonald's outlet in SP. Besides having awesome Malay rice and yong tau foo stalls, this FC also contains Ya Kun and a sundry shop where you can buy magazines and sweets.

### FC 6

Located on top of the hill, this FC serves the students from School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences, School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology and SP Business School. Students from the other schools don't usually visit this FC because of the climb up the hill. But if you happen to be here, the chicken rice is a must-try.

### FC1 (BET YOU WERE WONDERING.)

First-time visitors to SP may be confused to find that there is a Food Court 2 but no Food Court 1! This is because FC1 has been demolished recently for campus redevelopment.



## Getting around Campus

The SP campus is awesomely big and green and it's not difficult to get lost with all the buildings, gardens, hills and all. You'll have to figure out the best method to get to a particular place without losing your way.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Coming from Dover MRT station, the block number of buildings increases from the left of school to the right (e.g. The left side of the school has blocks like T1 and W1, whereas the right has blocks like W12 and T20).

### UNDERSTAND VENUE CODES:

- T = Teaching blocks
- LT = Lecture Theatres
- MLT = Main Lecture Theatres
- T2122 = Block 21, 2nd storey, Room 2
- T731 = Block 7, 3rd storey, Room 1
- S8kjerjh = someone defaced the signboard ☹️

### GETTING TO THE NEAREST TOILET (THERE ARE SOME IMPRESSIVELY RENOVATED ONES)

- ▶ Look for toilet signs (We have been trained to do so since birth...).
- ▶ If it's not your kind of washroom (male or female), go either one floor up or down to find the opposite gender's toilet. And boys, don't do it in the gardens.

### ASKING AROUND

- ▶ Look at their faces. If they have lost expressions like yours, avoid them.
- ▶ Approach people wearing the SP tees. There's a reason for wearing the SP tee. Right?
- ▶ The wisest thing to do is to locate offices in school and ask the people sitting in there.
- ▶ Don't hesitate to ask around. People around here are generally helpful.

### HOW TO GET LOST IN SCHOOL / EXPLORING THE CAMPUS:

- ▶ Bring along an equally blur friend on your exploration.
- ▶ Walk randomly with your eyes closed.
- ▶ Go up and down different flights of stairs. The more isolated the place is, the higher the level of your exploration.

Getting lost in campus may sound horrible, but if you have lots of free time to kill, it can be quite fun. Like, do you know that perched on a hill behind the main library is a Lego-like place called InnoVillage? There's a School there that serves coffee. Who knows, you might be able to find new cosy spots to study or stumble on a breathtaking view of the campus.

Whoever said poly was slack? If you want the easy way out, poly is NOT the road you should take. In SP, you'll learn to work hard for your GPA and learn how to play hard. By the way, GPA is Grade Point Average or simply, your results. It's not your SMS jargon like lol or cmi.

### KNOWING WHEN TO CHILL

Some of you are single pointers. Waahhh... so smart! Some of you are very capable of managing stress and there are some who are just perfectionists. Now that's all right and good, but three years is a long time. You need to know when to take a break and when to *jia you* (err...it means add oil!).

When your brain slows down or worse, shuts completely, take that 15-minute break, read a book, play a game of Candy Crush Saga or check your Facebook account. You'll be more productive once you get back to work. Remember, even your brain needs a break once in a while.

### HOW TO HAVE FUN: MOBERLY

This magical place of relaxation and fun is called Moberly. A long time ago, it was a barracks for British soldiers. It's beautiful. William and Kate should have gotten married here!

Now, it's your recreation centre. Play billiards, sing karaoke, jam with your best friends or try the nice chicken chop at the cafe.

### HILLTOP LIBRARY

If you don't belong to one of the Schools up on the hill, you might not notice this. There's a Polar Cafe and cool study tables and chairs. And the girls from business and media courses!

### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School doesn't actually end when lessons end. In SP, it's not compulsory (remember, SP treats you like adults) to join a CCA but most of the students join one anyway.

With more than 120 CCAs ranging from the standard uniform groups like Red Cross to the not-so-standard Makeup Artists club, there's definitely something for everyone. Archery or beatboxing, anybody?

### EXCLUSIVE TO SP

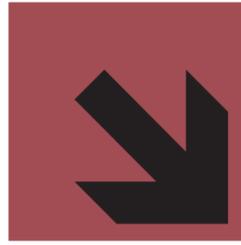
Every poly has a pool and a gym. But there's more in SP. Noticed the Drifters' Court and Skate Park at Open Plaza? You want to bowl? Just walk over to the SP Graduates Guild; you get special rates. If you like trees, take the Heritage Trail and find out that some of them are older than your grandma.



## Chillin' '101



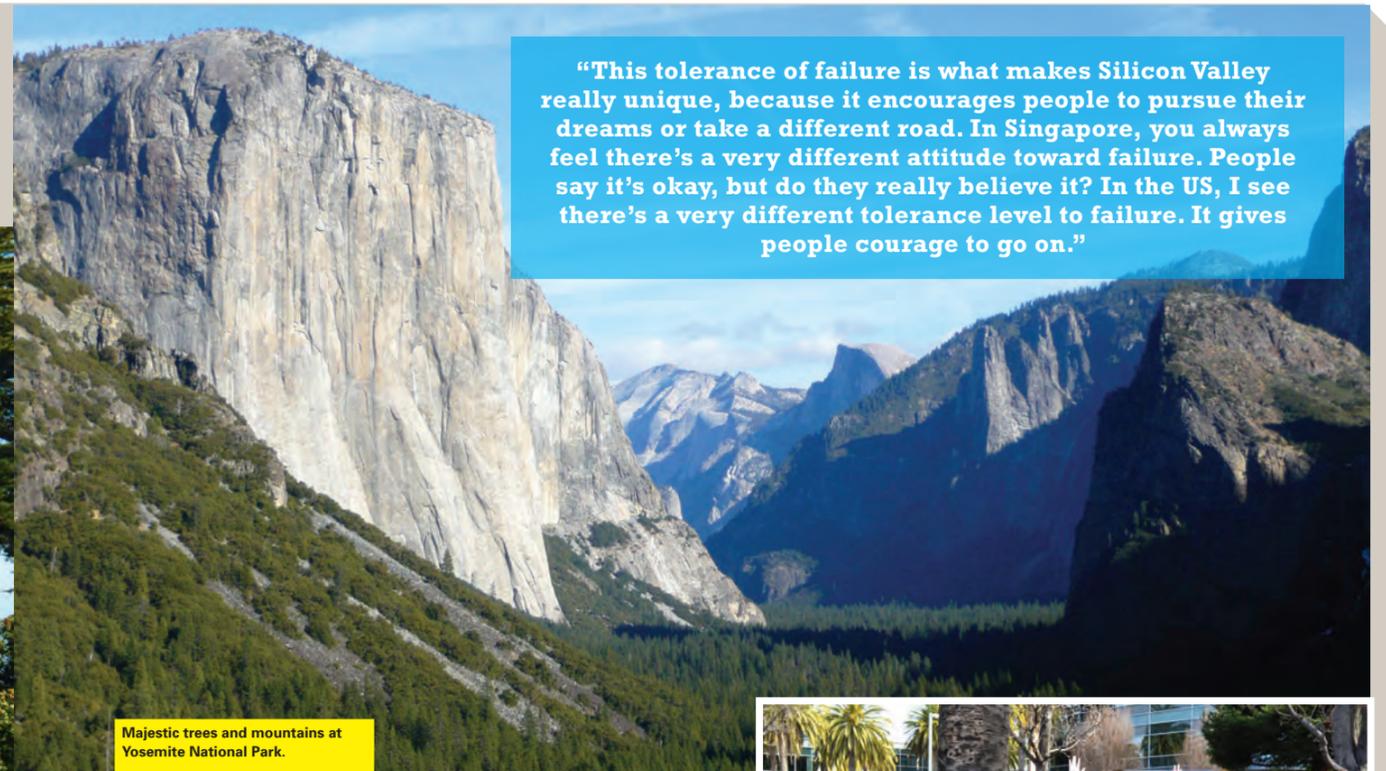
Student models: Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) graduates: Abigail Tan, Kayleen Ang, Muhd Fazly Bin Aziz, Saranya Mahendran  
Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) Year 3: Ng Wee Tze, Nicole Yeo  
Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) graduate: Nicholas Lam  
Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA) graduate: Quek Ting Quan



# Learning To Fail



The 35 final-year students visited iconic attractions such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. Lecturer Ms Alison Ho is fourth from right, bottom row.



Majestic trees and mountains at Yosemite National Park.

“This tolerance of failure is what makes Silicon Valley really unique, because it encourages people to pursue their dreams or take a different road. In Singapore, you always feel there’s a very different attitude toward failure. People say it’s okay, but do they really believe it? In the US, I see there’s a very different tolerance level to failure. It gives people courage to go on.”

“In Silicon Valley, failure is acceptable and like a badge of honour to them,” said Alan. “To the people there, if you fail in your first start-up, you are never ostracised or looked down upon. Companies will even hire you because they feel you’ve learned something from it and they can learn from your mistakes.

willing to consider other possibilities.”

Besides Silicon Valley, the students also attended lessons at famous universities such as Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley.

There, they were exposed to a different approach to learning by American professors. Alan felt that the lecturers there played the roles of discussion facilitators who encouraged them to “think in-depth, be more vocal and learn proactively.”

“This tolerance of failure is what makes Silicon Valley really unique, because it encourages people to pursue their dreams or take a different road. In Singapore, you always feel there’s a very different attitude toward failure. People say it’s okay, but do they really believe it? In the US, I see there’s a very different tolerance level to failure. It gives people courage to go on.”

“In Silicon Valley, failure in school, work, or simply just attempting something novel, is not deemed failure but a stepping stone in life,” said Ying Sheng. “In fact, the real failure comes from either not trying, or not learning from one’s failures. We observed the intensity of the never-say-die spirit inculcated in these people.” He also added that people there were “open-minded and

No trip to California, however, would be complete without the chance to go to some of its most iconic attractions. The students visited architectural marvels such as San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge and Palace of Fine Arts. They also binged on seafood at Fisherman’s Wharf, a famous tourist landmark at the seaside filled with restaurants, docked ships, performers and buskers. The Dungeness



The students visited the offices of media giants such as Google and Facebook and had the chance to chat with the staff there.

## SP students travel to America and discover the value of learning to fail and daring to take a different road.

In front of him, in the distance, was the El Capitan, a massive, 900-meter high monolith of whitish rock. Between him and the El Capitan was a valley of sturdy oaks and redwood trees, a vast sea of green that stretched on for miles.

Standing in the midst of Yosemite National Park, a 3,080.74 km<sup>2</sup> nature reserve, Alan Bong couldn’t help but feel an immense sense of awe and wonder weighing down on him.

“Yosemite was the best for me,” he recounted. “When you look at something so huge and nice, you get the feeling that the world is really big with lots of chances to explore and self-discover.”

The park was only one of the things that stirred the hearts and minds of Alan and 34 other **Diploma in Financial Informatics (DFI)** students from SP Business School (SB) travelling across California, USA. The study trip was organised for them to immerse in the proud entrepreneurial culture of California’s famed Silicon Valley, and to nurture their own entrepreneurial spirit.

For many of the students, the valley’s

culture was inspirational. “The phrase, ‘never-say-die spirit’, which Singaporeans are quite fond of, exists so strongly in people at Silicon Valley that it is no wonder the environment has produced some of the most successful companies and individuals to have ever existed,” said final-year student Lam Ying Sheng. They visited powerhouse companies such as Facebook, Google and Citibank, as well as start-up incubators like Plug and Play Tech Center. Talking to the professionals at these offices, they learned not just about American culture but also the single most important lesson they would gain from the trip: the value of learning to fail.

crab there was so good that when their bus came, a student who hadn’t finished his food snapped a claw off and ran to the bus with it, much to the disgust, envy and amusement of his classmates!

They returned to Singapore with newfound enthusiasm for business and an expanded sense of what was possible in life. Alan said: “Before I went, I never thought of starting my own business. I just thought of studying and getting a job. Just the typical route... But after San Fran, I thought, why not take the step out, identify opportunities and start something of my own? The trip really exposed me to a different culture and I saw how people around the world are doing stuff differently.”

## Sincere People



Sight is one of our most precious gifts, and this ability to take in the physical beauties of the world around us is safeguarded by none other than optometrists. 15 recent graduates from the **Diploma in Optometry (DOPT)** witnessed first-hand the key role of eye health specialists during their two-week learning and community service trip to Chennai, India.



During the trip, recent graduate Tan Shu Hui examined the anterior eye health of patients using slit-lamp biomicroscopy.

# Seeing Is Believing

"You choose to be an optometrist because you want to help people." This simple, striking statement was made by Dr S S Badrinath, the founder of Sankara Nethralaya (SN), a hospital in Chennai, India.

As final-year students at the time, they were there to observe advanced optometry procedures and look at rare eye conditions that could not be found in Singapore. Dr Badrinath was there sharing anecdotes with

them about reasons for choosing the ophthalmology field.

"Dr Badrinath's words about optometry were really impactful to all of us," said Nur Ain Bte Abdul Razak, the trip's team leader, who felt the trip had strengthened her convictions about her course of study.

All of them shadowed doctors and optometrists at SN and at the Jaslok Community Ophthalmic Centre. They witnessed advanced eye examination techniques, as well as rare eye conditions like nystagmus, abnormal and involuntary eye movement that leads to reduced vision. They also actively used their skills to benefit the communities in

the area, such as conducting free vision screenings for the locals and cleaning and donating recycled spectacles that they had collected before the trip. "The people were especially welcoming," recounted team member Chen Jian Hong. "They even had a formal gift presentation for us and lots of photo taking. I was glad that I could help them in my own way. The experience was definitely priceless." Nur Ain added, "We did make a difference to them, but they made a difference to us as well. The Indian optometrists and our lecturers were willing to guide and teach us, and they made us more confident."

Besides optometry-related activities, the students also took time to experience Chennai culture. They visited many cultural heritage sites and attractions and ate flavourful local dishes such as *masala dosai*, *poori*, *iddiappam* and *naan*.

Now, having returned from the trip and graduated, most of them feel a renewed sense of purpose. Nur Ain said: "I now feel even more confident that the path I chose was the right one. I chose optometry in the first place because I knew I could make a difference to healthcare in Singapore. Seeing how it really mattered in India made an impact on me and helped me realise how important it was."

Nur Ain graduated this year and is now in Nanyang Technological University studying for a degree in Biological Sciences.



Recent graduates Chen Jian Hong (blue-t shirt) and Lee Yi Xuan (sitting; white t-shirt) with lecturer Ms Michelle Lim (extreme right), testing the visual acuity of patients (i.e. how well they can see).

## Simply Picturesque



The seven SP representatives of Singapore went to many exciting places with their newfound Cambodian and Korean friends, including popular ski resort Welli Hilli Park!

There, they met and interacted with fellow youths from South Korea and Southeast Asian countries. The event, organised by the National Council of Youth Organisations in Korea and sponsored by organisations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), aimed to build a strong bond between youths from different countries through music, cultural sharing and mutual learning about each other's nations.

Over seven days, the group attended the ASEAN-Korea Food Festival, the ASEAN-Korea Music Festival and ASEAN-Korea Night. For the Food Festival, all the participants prepared their own local cuisines, allowing our students to taste kimchi pancakes from Korea, tom yum soup from Thailand and spicy lard from Laos. As Singaporeans, the team made sure to put extra effort into the laksa dishes they prepared for the other groups! Mutual learning also took place as each country's students gave colourful presentations that provided insights on their homelands.

The Music Festival was held at COEX, the largest underground shopping mall in Asia. There, the group practised together with

the other countries' students to perform a dance item. Each country's representatives also took turns singing their national day songs and performing ethnic tunes. The series of festivals was concluded with Korea Night, where the participants partied, played games and danced together. As part of the trip, they also had the chance to visit attractions such as Gyeongbokgung, a royal palace filled with blooming gardens, ponds and beautiful pavilions; and go skiing at Welli Hilli Park, a popular ski resort!

For most of them, the best part of the trip was meeting their peers from other lands. Recent **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** graduate Chia Jin Kiat said, "With just a simple supper, we built great friendships with the Cambodian participants, who were really friendly and open to talking. We even went shopping together and supported each other during team games. As for the Korean participants, they took care of us very well throughout the programme. They brought us out to shop and eat, and let us try out street

K-pop land is never too far away for SP students. Each year, there are several trips to the land of kimchi, be it for study trips, cultural exchanges or internships. Seven SP students and recent graduates recount their experience in Seoul where they made new friends from around the world, and represented the Lion City at the 14th ASEAN Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme.

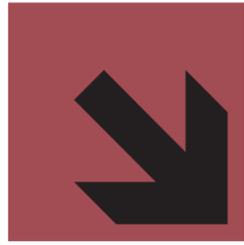


A Kpop group wannabe? No no, this was the SP team performing national day songs at COEX, Asia's largest underground shopping mall.

food and their favourite childhood treats!"

Recent **Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology (DADP)** graduate Cheryl Gan agreed. She said: "What I enjoyed the most was having the company of people from many different countries. I made a lot of good friends whom I still keep in contact with. Some of the Korean participants even came over to Singapore and we hosted them throughout their stay. One does not come across this kind of friendship easily."

Cheryl is pursuing a degree in Drama, Applied Theatre and Education at the University of London.

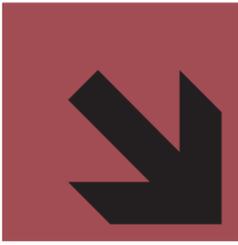


# The Best Is Yet To Be

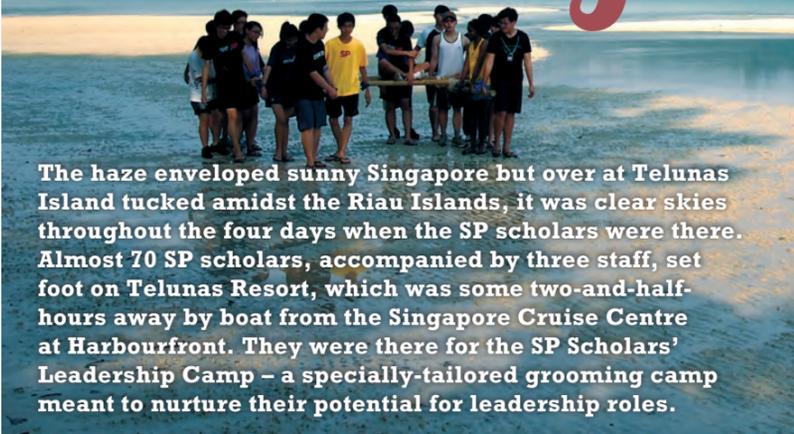
Say "Hello" to these newly-minted SP Scholars! The title is certainly nice to have but now the onus is on them to put forth their best show for the next two to three years in SP. Altogether, 60 first-year and 15 second-year students were recently awarded the SP Scholarship and the SP Engineering Scholarship. Another five were recognised for the outstanding achievements and awarded the SP Sports, Arts and Music Scholarship. As scholars, they are expected to perform exemplarily in their academics as well as other areas such as community involvement programmes. They will also be enrolled in SPOT (SP Outstanding Talent), a specially-tailored programme to hone their leadership skills through activities like camps and the United Nations Model Conference held in American top universities. More importantly, they should also embody the spirit of serving the less fortunate. This was best summed up by Steven Ong, a former SP scholar from the Class of 2013 who shared in his speech at the scholarship ceremony: "Empathy and humility are two very important traits that we should have as SP scholars and possibly, future leaders. These qualities will help us to know how others around us feel and in turn, we can respond to their needs better."



SP Scholars with Principal and CEO Mr Tan Choon Shian.



# Out Of The Comfort Zone



The haze enveloped sunny Singapore but over at Telunas Island tucked amidst the Riau Islands, it was clear skies throughout the four days when the SP scholars were there. Almost 70 SP scholars, accompanied by three staff, set foot on Telunas Resort, which was some two-and-half-hours away by boat from the Singapore Cruise Centre at Harbourfront. They were there for the SP Scholars' Leadership Camp – a specially-tailored grooming camp meant to nurture their potential for leadership roles.

There was no internet connection and TV sets on the island but that did not seem to spoil their desire to have a good time. For most of them, it was the first time that they were housed in dormitories built atop wooden stilts and nothing else but the sea water they could see when they stepped out of their rooms. Showers were confined to a common bathroom and meals were taken community-style in the resort canteen. For those who brought some money, they could help themselves to minor luxuries like a can of Coke.

Comprising mostly first-year scholars and a handful from Year 2 and 3, the group picked up knowledge about leadership styles, conflict management and team building which was coupled with fun activities such as an amazing race to illustrate these values through action.

Confidence-building came in the form of jetty jumping from a 10-metre deck. While some took to it without any hesitation, there were some who made their maiden jumps into the water with much trepidation. For those who overcame the fear, they asked for repeat jumps!

For most of them, the highlight of the camp was certainly the overnight jungle trek which was a mentally and physically taxing experience. Aside from having to trek on ground for a gruelling five kilometres, they had to dismount off a boat and trek in a mangrove swamp that was waist-high and as dirty as one could imagine. Team spirit oozed in abundance throughout as members voluntarily helped each other to cross difficult terrain, build hammocks and cook in the jungle.

Camp videographer Jonathan Liew doing the balancing act.



A teambuilding test - using recycled materials to build a raft.

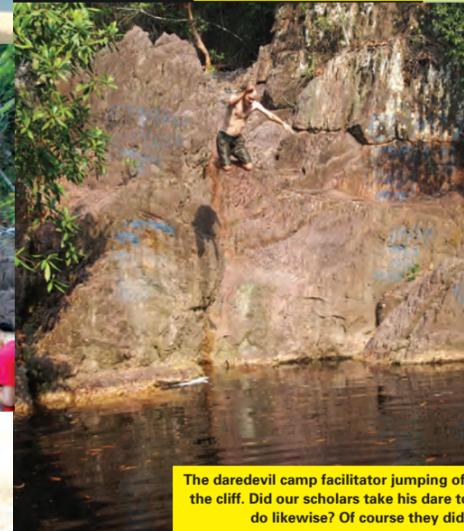


The campsite was this eerily dark.....

leap scholars @telunas 2013



Scaling cliffs to reach the campsite. With teamwork, there was no danger.



The daredevil camp facilitator jumping off the cliff. Did our scholars take his dare to do likewise? Of course they did!



The leap of faith. No more fear of heights after this.



Nice! Classroom by the sea.



Arriving at the scenic resort camp in Bintan island.



Taking a break.....

Arshad Bin Supa'at from the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** showed tremendous grit. He could have opted out of the jungle trek as his leg had recently undergone a skin grafting operation after a bad traffic accident. But he was determined. "I wanted to challenge myself physically. I don't want to define my limits and I want to be game enough to try out new challenges," he said confidently.



The muddiest experience – trekking in waist-deep mangrove swamp to reach the campsite.



Make a guess – was there a knot at the end of the rope?

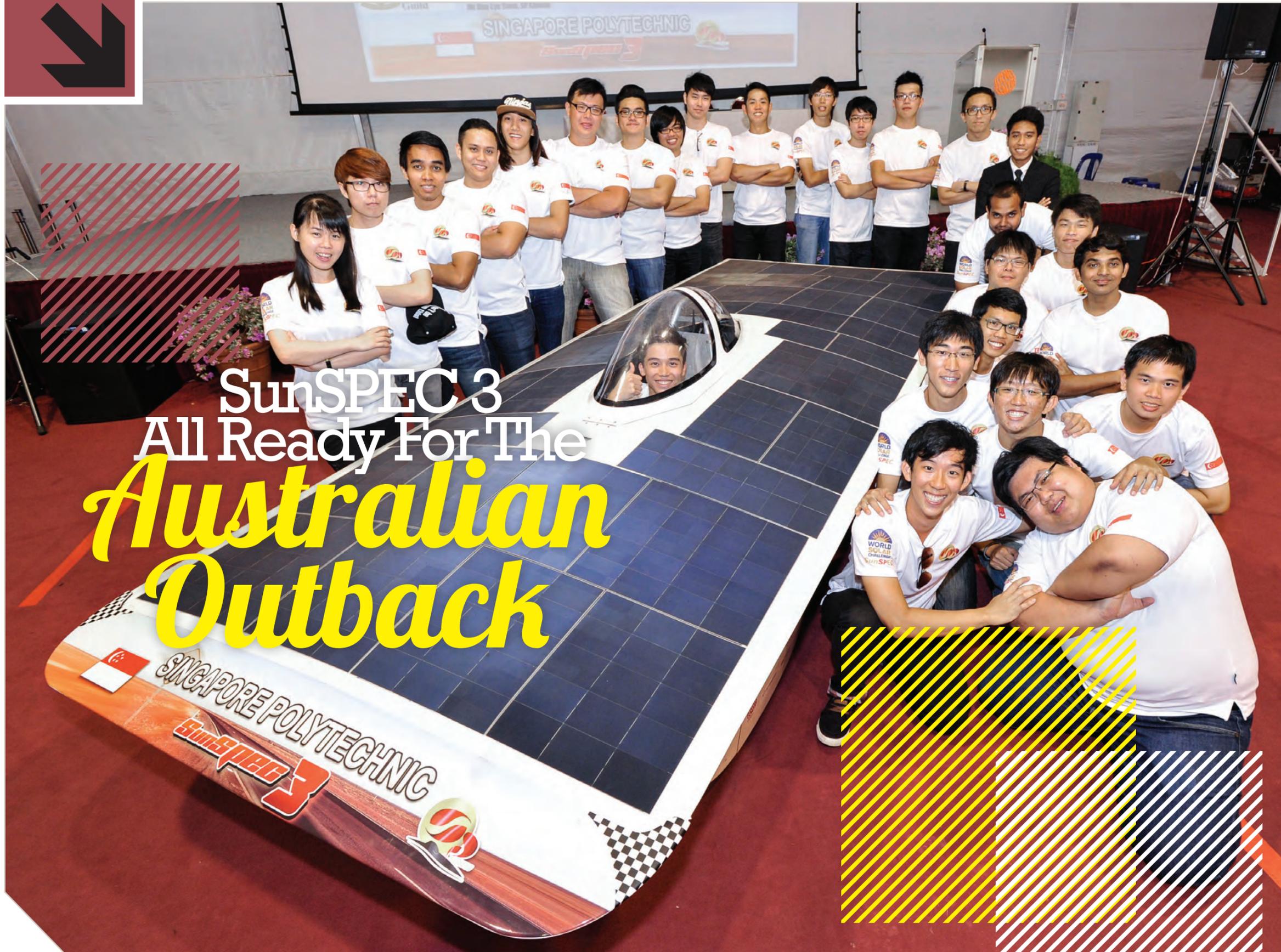
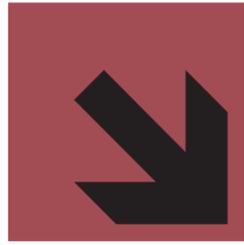


Cooking in the dark – mum didn't teach me this.

Gayathiri Sivaraj from the **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)** revealed that she was initially reluctant to attend the camp. "I'm really glad that I came, otherwise I would have missed out on the really good fun and company. The overnight jungle camp was my favourite activity. We had heart-to-heart sharings and all of us bonded really well."

Benny Ong from the **Diploma in Bioengineering (DBEN)** summed up the camp experience: "Although it was a three-night camp, time passed so fast that I wished it could go on for a few more days. We were only starting to get familiar and comfortable but before we knew it, it was coming to an end." He believed most of his fellow campers would be feeling the same way too.

Superb Performance



# SunSPEC 3 All Ready For The *Australian Outback*

The heat is on for the best in solar-powered vehicles. About 40 students and a handful of recent graduates from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) and the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) will be heading down south in October for the solar race of the year. Dubbed the Olympics of solar car competitions, the World Solar Challenge (WSC) 2013 will see the SP Team racing down a 3,000km public route along the Australian Outback all the way from Darwin to Adelaide. The team will be up against 42 teams from 23 countries in the Challenger Class category, including teams from Cambridge and Stanford universities.

Buoyed by their success at the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2012 where the team came in first in the Prototype Solar category, every team member is putting in their 100% to make this their most memorable SP experience. Says Jason Ang, student leader for SunSPEC 3 from the **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)**: "We did case studies of the other cars in previous races and are confident that SunSPEC 3 can surpass them in terms of performance." The last time Team SP participated in this biennial race was 1999. In 2011, only seven teams managed to complete the race, out of a total of 37 teams that participated.

How will they perform in Australia? **SPirit** will catch up with the team upon their return to bring you a review of their Australian experience. Visit [www.worldsolarchallenge.org](http://www.worldsolarchallenge.org) for details on this competition.

## Strong Passion

After graduating from SP, most students either start work or join university. However, a particular group of fresh graduates from the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) has chosen to develop their passion in writing further. **SPIRIT** writer Nicole Yeo recounts her inspiring meeting with her seniors.



Team Flare (from left): Alicia Ho, Kelly Varella-Chang, Cassandre, Elsa Chan, Hana Nordin and Jedidah Neo.

Teen-oriented articles on movies, music, fashion, relationships and how-tos delivered with amply drizzled humour and a generally upbeat view of life – this is the content direction of Flare.

# Flare

With a burning desire for finally having something of their own, Jedidah Neo founded Flare Magazine ([www.flare-magazine.com](http://www.flare-magazine.com)), an online magazine that is “for girls, by girls”. She then pulled together four close friends from her course to lead the Flare team.

I caught up with Jedidah as well as Hana Nordin, a contributing writer who is part of the Flare team, for a chat on how the website is flaring, oops, I mean faring.... and what keeps it exciting and engaging.

**First of all, what is Flare Magazine in a nutshell?**

**Jed:** Flare, in a nutshell, is like a coming together of minds and personalities to talk about almost everything under the

sun. It’s like a never-ending sleepover—that feeling you have when you get together with all your girls at a sleepover and talk about everything!

**Hana:** One of the definitions of the word “flare” is “to shine or to glow”, and that is exactly what we wanted the message of our magazine to be. That everyone has the potential and capability to be that special spark. We hope that our magazine shows that to our readers – that they are not alone and that they are so very special.

**How is the team like, especially with the five of you?**

**Hana:** We have very different people with very different personalities!

**Jed:** We are all crazy here. We are all so different we will all have different ideas of what Flare should be, so I think that’s good because we want our readers to feel that Flare is what they make it to be.

**Hmm, so what is it that ties you girls together?**

**Hana:** We understand what one another is doing. We accept one another for what we like and think, so it’s not like we judge each other. We have different ideas but the same goal.

**Jed:** Same heart but different minds. Especially in DTVM. It is a course where everybody is very different, so you learn to embrace each other. We don’t outright reject an idea because we know it is dear

to the other person. So we respect each other’s interests.

**That’s very sisterly! But do you see Flare Magazine as something like project work in school?**

**Jed:** During project discussion in school, everyone is like half dead, but now we’re all actively discussing. Everyone has the same interest and everyone wants the same thing. Sometimes we may disagree but we always reach an agreement together. I think what’s great is that everybody is putting in something, like a piece of ourselves.

**Do you think that the skills you picked up from DTVM were helpful?**

**Hana:** I don’t think we could have started this without DTVM. How we met from this course plays a part as well. Our writing has definitely improved, because there is a difference when you are writing for yourself and writing for others to read.

**Jed:** DTVM has really refined us. It prepares us because we can’t just go into the media world and say, “I just want to write”. We have to have knowledge of everything (e.g. writing,

screenplay production, new media), and DTVM prepares you for that.

**How did your lecturers react when they heard about Flare?**

**Jed:** It was around the time of the DTVM Awards graduation dinner in March 2013. At that time it was still a secret. So I just told our lecturer, Ms Stella Wee, about it.

**Hana:** She was so sceptical. She was like, “What do you guys want from this? Are you sure?”

**Jed:** So we wanted to prove her wrong. And when we came back for graduation in May, she gushed to us, saying something like, “Guys! I’ve seen your website, it is so good!”

**What are some things that readers can look forward to in the future of Flare Magazine?**

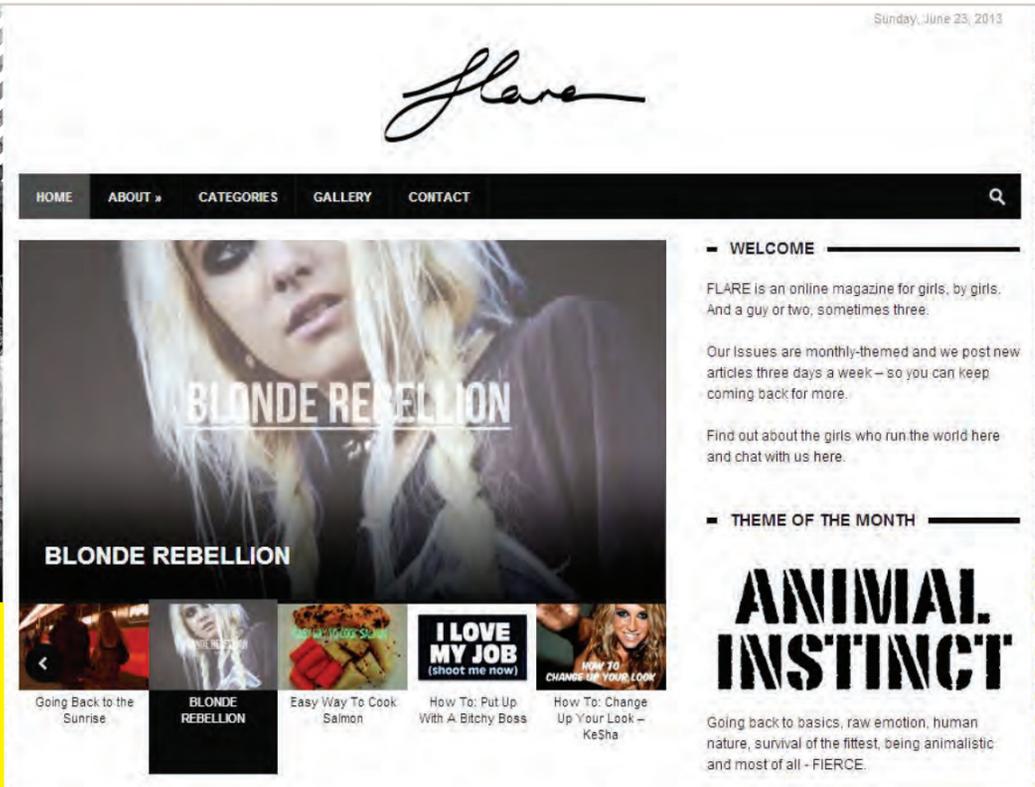
**Jed:** I think readers can look forward to more fun reads on Flare. We always aim to entertain and have a wide variety of articles, everything from a thought-provoking piece on performance artist Marina Abramovic to a guide on how to deal with being in the “friendzone”. Also, the team has

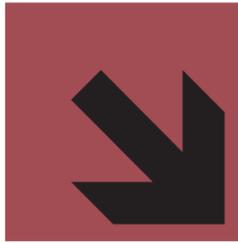
kickstarted a How To: Change Up Your Look series where we challenge each other to adopt the styles of different celebrities! For our July issue, we had our first-ever collaboration with online blog shop, Evil Valentine. So other collaborations or future giveaways are definitely on the cards. Stick around to find out!

**Lastly what advice do you have for your juniors who want to work on their passion as well?**

**Hana:** Just go for it, because after you’ve acquired all the skills and knowledge, you are kind of prepared for everything that’s to come. It’s whether or not you have the passion for it. If you do, then you should just go for it.

**Jed:** Besides what Hana said about passion, I think one piece of advice should be to think things through. Don’t rush it just because you feel like you need to make something out of yourself right now. I think if it is something you care about you would put in even more time to plan it and make sure it is perfect before you put it out there. Finally you have to believe in what you do and not let self-doubt come into the picture.





# Popping In and Out



The pop-up store by Kai Jun's group creates a sense of child-like wonder in users, and draws attention to the clothes displayed within.



From left: Team members and final-year students Low Kai Jun, Melissa Sze, Chionh Yun Ting, Gabbie Ng and Teo Shu Xian.

**Diploma in Interior Design (DID) students were tasked to explore bold new designs for spatial enclosures and retail displays that could mesmerise shoppers and give them fresh, intriguing experiences. Recently, they held an exhibition of pop-up stores outside campus with designs generated by their study of sewing techniques in clothes.**



An outside view of Kai Jun's team's store.

Pop-up stores are stores that can quickly be set up for sales, street markets or conventions. These stores "pop up" for short durations, and are quickly and easily disassembled after the event ends.

The exhibition was held at Ann Siang Hill Park, with 15 miniature stores mushrooming up along its winding alleys. The students were tasked to respond to the character of the Ann

Siang enclave — famous for its vibrant indie stores — in their designs.

The interior design students were also given a thought-provoking assignment: design their stores according to the stitching techniques found in clothes. Each team had to analyse and deconstruct a shirt, re-stitch the material into a skirt, then translate the skirt's dimensions, ratios and stitching technique into the design of their store.

"The method assigned to our team was weaving," said final-year student Low Kai Jun. "This means our skirt had two separate layers weaving through each other. We extracted the ratios and design ideas in our skirt and translated them into the store's design."

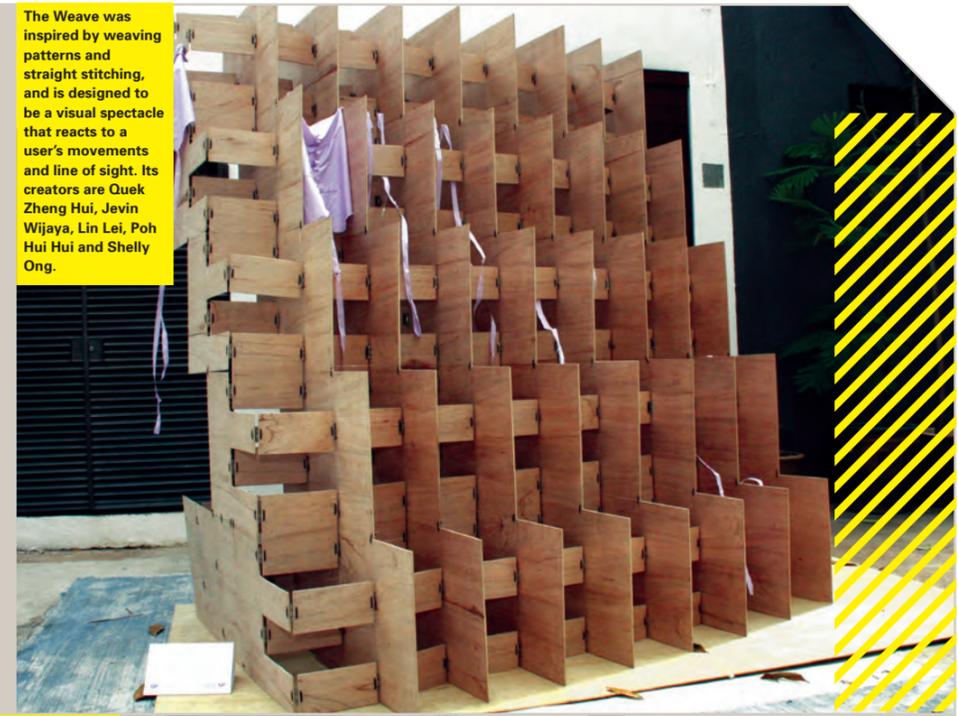
Kai Jun's group aimed to design and construct a store that would attract shoppers from a distance and then draw their attention to the clothes inside it. The result was a strikingly angular display with several panels jutting out. Hints of the clothes inside stick out from openings, leading

shoppers towards it. Once near, they see a corridor full of protruding angles that they must twist, turn, and manoeuvre through to view the clothes in full.

"The idea was getting people to weave through the display," said team mate Teo Shu Xian, "and not just walk through it normally. We were thinking, instead of having the structure show the weaving design, why not let the user himself weave through it?" Kai Jun added: "We wanted the user to feel constrained. It's like you being a needle trying to weave through a cloth."

The result was absorbing and delightful. As you twist and squirm through the store's corridor a la obstacle course, you feel like a small child wandering through a deep, dark

The Weave was inspired by weaving patterns and straight stitching, and is designed to be a visual spectacle that reacts to a user's movements and line of sight. Its creators are Quek Zheng Hui, Jevin Wijaya, Lin Lei, Poh Hui Hui and Shelly Ong.



From left: Ooi Tian Ci, Weng Yufeng, Soh Siew Kim, Marc Alexander Raphael Chitran and Rachel Teh created The Wooden Gem, a pop-up store that can be closed or folded out into different shapes to present a garment from fresh perspectives.



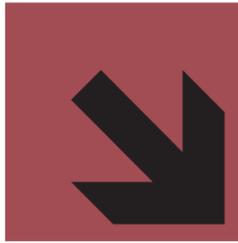
The Walk-in Hanger engages users through sliding panels that showcase the skirt. It also allows users to step inside to "try on" the clothing displayed within. Its creators are: (in picture) Ma Jiawen; (not in picture) Felicia Tan, Eunice Lam, Kelly Chan and Sandra Lam.

cavern. Around you, there are skirts and shirts positioned at strategic angles that snatch the attention of your heightened senses. Every edge of the walls around you provides a tiny challenge for you to deftly dodge and avoid. Once you finally exit, you feel like you've completed a little mini-adventure.

The exhibition garnered a fair amount of exposure for the students. "The

first user we attracted was a tourist, a designer from San Francisco," said Shu Xian, "When she stepped closer, we explained our project to her, and she liked it. She thought it was something very interesting and different." DID lecturer Mr Fann Zhi Jie was pleased with the turnout. He said: "Looking at how the students engaged the public with pride, I think the event has more than met its objectives and ended with a bang!"

*The DID students' stores are currently being showcased at ArchiFest 2013, a month-long architecture festival organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects.*



# 18-Year-Olds Shaping Our Lives



**There are 18-year-olds in Singapore's ministries helping to shape government websites and influencing policies. Is this something good or something horrifically bad? Maybe no one knows but the 18-year-olds themselves...**

Five second-year students from SP have been spending time at the Ministry of National Development (MND), one of those admittedly mysterious organisations that guide and direct the flow of our lives from behind the scenes.

These five **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** students were interning there as part of the requirements for their DBID-MND scholarships. The ministry had offered these scholarships in the hopes of spotting young talent that could provide

unique perspectives and analyses to improve government policies.

The five were chosen not only because they impressed the senior management at MND during an interview round for the scholarship, but also because they had been trained in a special thinking methodology called Design Thinking (DT) which is taught in SP. Over two school breaks, they used this knowledge in two projects assigned to them by MND. Two of them, Kao Hwee Ling and Vivian Ang, share their experience:

### What did you work on, Hwee Ling and Vivian?

**V:** Our first project was www.myhometown.sg, a website to encourage kampong (i.e. community) spirit. We interviewed Singaporeans to get ideas to improve the site, which has low membership even though it was launched years ago. Our second project was from the Housing Development Board (HDB). It was about the resale process with customers, agents and HDB officers.

**HL:** We conducted deep-user interviews

and focus group interviews to get info for useful recommendations for both projects.

### Who did you work with or meet from MND?

**V:** For our interview, we were assessed by six directors from MND. For our first project, we also made presentations to a senior director and the Permanent Secretary of MND! (Editor's note: The Permanent Secretary is the highest-ranking official in a ministry after the ministers themselves.)

**HL:** It was definitely a scary experience! They had thick files with all our personal info in them! For the projects, we worked under a manager, Mr Seth Chow, and an assistant senior director, Mr Andrew Chua.

### And what was it like working with them?

**HL:** We worked really closely. The five of us had a meeting room to ourselves, and they would usually come down to discuss. Sometimes they came to find us instead of us going to find them. For people ranked so highly... It's simply very humbling for us.

### Was it interesting to do research on national-level MND projects?

**V:** It's a government organisation. I mean... In our lives, how many chances do we have to work with the government? MND is at the core of Singapore's national development, so we're working on something that could potentially change the future of Singapore...

**HL:** For me it's the same. How many 17 or 18-year-olds get to work on solutions that will really impact people and meet so many high-ranking faces?

### How did it turn out?

**V:** For our first project, we presented first to the senior director and understood that he was very happy with it. Then he told the Permanent Secretary about it, and after the Permanent Secretary saw it, we were told he was also very happy about it too! Haha.

**HL:** Initially we were just doing sort of a small project. Then I think the senior director became interested so he wanted

to see our presentation. And it escalated to the Permanent Secretary so it was really very interesting.

### Can you share with us one of your key findings?

**HL:** For the website, there were some unnecessary functions. There were many functions in the website but the main function that people used was the forums. So there were many other things that people did not want, and which made the site look very cluttered. We found that people wanted simplicity and convenience.

### What is the most memorable thing you learned during the internships?

**HL:** I think what I remember is... that the people from the government are also normal citizens like us. If you are in the government, you're likely to be aimed at by everybody. But they are just like ordinary folks and they don't want to be hated. This is something that stuck with me.

**V:** I think I agree with her, haha. Out of all the people there, I remember the senior director most because I had a tea session with him. Also, he is a nice person. Haha.

### What is Design Thinking? Did it help you in your work at MND?

**HL:** DT is a problem-solving methodology that's focused on understanding the heart of a user. Instead of giving people what you think they need, you can find out what they really need through DT.

**V:** One thing about DT is that you must put yourself in the shoes of users, feel what they feel and see what they see. This helped us gain insights from our end users that we cannot know from just doing statistical research.

### Has the experience shaped your thoughts about what you'd like to do in future?

**HL:** I would want to do something that will impact people's lives, because that's what Design Thinking is all about. And I really want to make people's lives better. So even after the MND experience, that's what I'll try to do.

*Another group of SP students recently won scholarships from MND. Read about them on page SP News 7 and 8.*

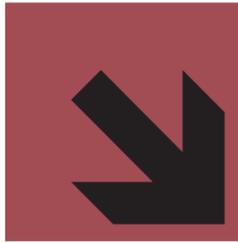


The **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** encourages students to unleash their inner creativity to transform business processes. Perhaps an interesting illustration of this is when Vivian showed presentation slides of her art drawings during her interview with the six directors. When asked why she did something so unconventional, Vivian said:

"My lecturer suggested it, and I thought it was an interesting idea. At the time, we were freshies and our PowerPoint skills were limited. So I thought that using visuals could spice up the presentation. I also showed them improvement pictures, like what I did in secondary two versus secondary four. Since it was my strength, I wanted to emphasise it."



(From left) Mr Seth Chow, a manager at the Ministry of National Development with DBID-MND scholars Aaron Lim, Kao Hwee Ling, Vivian Ang, Valetta Teo and Michelle Lim.



# Don't Go Gentle

**The SP Silat Women's Team re-established its dominance this year by winning three silvers, four bronzes and its first gold in eight years at the Tertiary Silat Competition (TSC) for polys, universities and ITEs. With fierce kicks and snapping punches, Nur Azilla bte Nazli fought to the championship spot in Tanding Category B. Her advice for her juniors? "Never be gentle in the ring."**

The first striking thing about Azilla is her voice – the mild, gentle, sweet cadences alternating with bubbling, pure laughter— definitely not what you would expect from a trained silat champ who could pummel, strike, or crush you into submission.

Across the interview table, the petite girl sits, smiling, laughing and sharing her experiences enthusiastically, such as how her teammates have nicknamed her "Azilla the Godzilla".

"People say that I have this very killer smirk, like a 'I'm gonna bring you down' kind of thing. But actually, inside my mind it's just, 'I'm sorry... But I have to do this to you!'" she says, laughing.

The final-year **Diploma in Landscape Architecture (DLA)** student admits that in the ring, she is a fiercer, more determined person. In her view, most girls tend to be gentle and softer during training, so she's always emulating the attitude of the boys. She says, "I think I'm different from the girls in that when I have to fight, I'll go all out. I see how the guys just whack each other and then go, 'nice job'. Haha. But girls tend to be more gentle. And that's a bad thing, because it's better to train against someone rough."

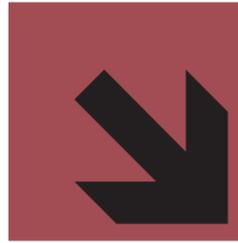
That is probably one trait that brought Azilla from having zero silat knowledge in Year 1 to beating opponents from the other tertiary institutions to get the no.1 spot this year. A great work ethic and two-hour training sessions, three times a week, certainly helped as well. Or perhaps martial arts is simply in her blood. The sweetly-spoken girl's uncles, aunt, sister and cousins have all practiced silat at some point in their lives.

Azilla hones her skills not just through physical punches, kicks and leg sweeps but also through mental focus and discipline. At night, before competitions, she envisions what she'll do in her fights. She says, "Silat also touches on mental strength. During the three-minute fight, our mental strength and confidence have to be greater than our opponent. You have to tell yourself, 'I can do this. I can win this. I have done this before.'" She also speaks warmly of her coach and parents, who constantly encouraged and motivated her throughout the competition.

For Azilla, winning at TSC was the happiest day of her life thus far, and she says that one key motivation was making sure that the other schools would sit up and take notice of SP's abilities. To her juniors who will fight for the club when she leaves, she says: "This skill you're learning could one day help you in the outside world if you're in trouble. So my advice would be, 'Never be gentle in the ring.'"



Sisters in silat: Azilla (right) together with Aliyah Thahirah (Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design) who won a bronze at the Tertiary Silat Competition in Tanding Category C.



**Sports for Life: the platform that encourages, motivates and cultivates students to have a passion for sports. SPIRIT writer Joanne Chim unravels the success story behind an ordinary student who became extraordinary within a matter of months.**

# Splendid Volley!

Alice Pang Kia Jeok, a student from the **Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW)** walked away from the tennis court a champion after winning her match at this year's POL-ITE games (the annual ITE and poly sports meet).

Unlike other students who joined this sport, Alice had no prior experience in tennis. Being a relatively shy person during her time in Punggol Secondary School, she did not feel comfortable in joining any CCA that required her to interact a lot with other people. Most of the time, she limited herself to participating in cultural or media clubs. But a mere click on her laptop was all it took to seal Alice's successful fate with tennis. Her journey started after applying for the last vacant slot online for tennis in the Sports for Life (SFL) programme during her second year.

When she first started out, she underwent many ups and downs as there were times when she managed to perform well and others when she could not even score a single point. Initially it was frustrating, and the young rookie started to feel more discouraged and pessimistic about herself. However, despite the hardship, Alice persevered, believing that practice makes perfect.

Her coaches played a significant part in her success as well. In Alice's second semester with the team, a new coach, Kelvin Lim, joined. That was when things began to improve for her. Through

his constant coaching and encouragement, she vastly improved in both her techniques and tactics. Alice started to gain more confidence. Soon, she was brought to the next level of training in the development team. In that squad, she was groomed under Coach Hendroff Ignatius Patrick to play on a competitive level. This led to Alice finally getting recruited into the school team – something which she did not ever dream of.

Eventually, Alice was selected to represent SP in the POL-ITE competition. Initially, she was worried as she didn't feel prepared mentally or technically for such a big stage. However, she continued to train hard to improve and match the standard of her friends.

On the competition day itself however, the fruits of that training revealed themselves. Despite a nerve-wracking atmosphere, the determined rookie traded fierce volleys with her opponent, shedding her nerves in order to concentrate and ultimately win the match. Her win contributed to her team's flawless victory: each player won their match against ITE, earning themselves the championship crown.

Now fully in love with tennis and in her final year at school, Alice says: "Joining



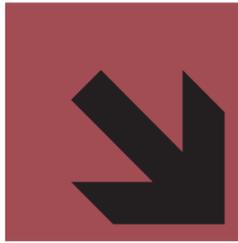
Alice Pang joins the SP Tennis Women's team as one of the new queens on the court for this year's POL-ITE games.

the tennis team has given me a treasure in my life. New friends, CCA points (kidding!), time to exercise and most importantly, it's made me grow to believe more in myself. I've found something to work for, and I know that with hard work and practice, I can go far in tennis!"

*SFL is SP's sports enrichment programme that aims to help students discover their sports talents and lead a well-balanced life. Training opportunities for people new to sports are provided for activities such as martial arts, racket sports and even yoga! It is currently in a pilot stage where only certain diploma courses are involved, but will eventually expand to include the entire school.*



The triumphant SP Tennis Women's team won a flawless 5-0 victory to become tournament champions!



# I Don't Waste Time!

Jeremy Ko, who graduated from SP with the **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** in 2008, had his first taste of money-making when he was a primary school kid in Maris Stella High. A supplementary lesson in basic web design led him to create a simple website for his mother's friend who needed some online presence. That first project earned him \$500 for five HTML pages.

There was no turning back for Jeremy who realised he had the entrepreneurial streak in him. During his secondary school days in Dunman High, he started providing photography services using a friend's camera. He charged \$50 to \$60 an hour and even offered photoshopping as a value-added service. Through self-learning from a book, he started to offer page layout services too.

You think all of these would affect his grades? No way! Jeremy's 'O' level grades were good enough for his choice of junior college but he chose to join SP.

"Very simple reason," he told **SPiRiT**. "I don't need to fill my brains with theoretical stuff by learning physics or maths. Poly education would give me the hands-on experience. But there was one other reason why I chose SP – it has the most awesome rock-climbing team. And of course, SP has a very strong brand name!"

His Bizad modules helped to hone his business skills. Modules such as accounting, business law and supply



Jeremy demonstrating the mobile workout device that his company brings in.



"I thrive when there is a threat to my safety. When we are under siege, we will go all out to get out." – this is one of the guiding philosophies of Jeremy Ko, which he applies to the business world.



Still an undergraduate but Jeremy already has a full-fledged business complete with a warehouse.

chain management taught him how to run his business the proper way. He wasted no time and holidays and weekends were spent doing part-time jobs such as hawking gadgets at IT shows.

"Working with the big names at IT shows made me realise how important branding is. I realise why a brand would angle its product in a particular way and how branding can move a product faster than its real functionality," says Jeremy.

In addition, he continued to offer his photography and design services. On average, he could earn up to \$1,500 a month. He could have saved a bundle but most of the cash went towards gadgets and books. "I wasn't focused on saving money, I was just happy to earn money!" he laughed. But money-making was not his only preoccupation. During one of the semester breaks, he went to Cambodia on a community service trip to

teach English to the native kids and also participated in all kinds of rock-climbing competitions.

Even after completing his final-year project which involved working in a competition with Community Chest, he was hungry for more hands-on experience. With very thick skin, he wrote in to the chief judge of the competition, Mr Liak Teng Lit, who is now the Group Chief Executive Officer of Alexandra Health System. He asked for an attachment to Alexandra Hospital. The boss replied and offered him the chance to learn in the hospital's corporate communications department. He was tasked to either help to produce a coffee table book or revamp the hospital's website. He took up the latter challenge. "It was really challenging as it involved talking to everyone from top to bottom, doctors, nurses and patients on what they want in a hospital's website."

"The more time you have, the more time you waste. If I have only an hour, I will focus on maxing out that one hour," says Jeremy Ko. Not that he is arrogant; this SP alumnus would rather find out the fastest way to take notes during lectures instead of facebooking or twittering. Indeed, it is his highly-disciplined time management ritual that helps him to excel not only in his studies but also his business start-ups. **SPiRiT** interviews this intellectual go-getter who learned how to make money from primary six.

Jeremy completed his national service with the platoon's Best Recruit honour, and joined Nanyang Technological University (NTU) where he enrolled in the Bachelor of Communication Studies programme. He is on track to graduate with first-class honours if he does not side track too much on his grades.

The first three years in NTU were eventful for Jeremy. He got a scholarship due to his excellent grades and went to the famed Fudan University in Shanghai as a University Exchange Scholar. He was also on the Dean's List and selected to be a university research scholar, a position offered only to undergraduates with a GPA of at least 4.5 who can choose to work with any professor on a research topic.

Jeremy chose China for his overseas

programme because he wanted to brush up on his Mandarin as well as immerse himself in the country with the fastest-growing economy in the world. His strong command of Mandarin now would put many of his peers to shame; he could even communicate technical jargon in Mandarin!

In China, he networked with suppliers of gym equipment and seriously looked into starting a real and registered business. Within months, Movement First was born! The company supplies and customises fitness equipment to gyms such as Ritual Gym, and his clientele has now expanded to Malaysia and Indonesia. He is now comfortably pocketing close to \$5,000 profit every month from this business, which has a full-fledged warehouse in Yishun.

For a half-year period after returning from China, he interned with media research

giant The Nielsen Company in the day and worked on his business operations in the evening.

After graduating from NTU next year, he envisions expanding his business. "Movement First is highly scalable. I can progress to offering consultancy services, group and personal training or even working with engineers to create gadgets specific to fitness," he says confidently.

And did we mention that actually Jeremy has another online business that is now taking a break? He started 49orless.com, an online shop that sells anything less than \$50. It's still making a decent profit but he wants to let it go to concentrate on bigger stakes on hand. Any takers?

Need a kettlebell or medicine ball to keep fit at home? Visit [movementfirst.sg](http://movementfirst.sg) or [facebook.com/movementfirst.sg](https://facebook.com/movementfirst.sg).

## Specialised Programmes

The choices for pursuing a university education locally have been made more interesting and varied with the set-up of Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), which partners renowned overseas universities to offer degree programmes. **SPiRiT** catches up with two former SP alumni who chose to get an engineering degree from SIT.

# We Chose SIT (and why not?)

### Law Wei Cai @ Technical University of Munich

There was no doubt that Law Wei Cai wanted to further his studies after graduating from SP with a **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)**. But he never imagined having the chance to earn a degree from the famed Technical University of Munich (TUM), ranked the top university in Germany, all made possible with the wonderful collaboration with Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). And best of all, the journey took only two years and it included a summer attachment at TUM itself – yes, in Munich!

Law Wei Cai joined SP from Regent Secondary School where he scored A1 for math and science at the G.C.E. 'O' levels. He enrolled into the popular aerospace course and his interest in engineering was further piqued by the course.

Right after national service, the set-up of SIT opened up a wonderful pathway for him to get a university degree offered by a renowned engineering institution – TUM. He enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & Information Technology degree programme, one of two degree programmes offered by the partner university with SIT.

A German education in engineering was very appealing to Wei Cai and certainly one of the pull factors in his choice of university. TUM's partnership with SIT also meant that he would be able to complete his degree ahead of his peers and start looking for jobs earlier.

Wei Cai appreciates that his professors actually fly in from Munich to teach his classes which were conducted on familiar ground – SP

campus. (Editor's note: A new SIT building will be ready in SP in about two years' time). He enjoys learning about the cultural differences between Singapore and Europe through his professors' personal experiences. Although he feels that the German professors can be demanding at times, it nevertheless keeps him on his feet constantly. He also appreciates that they are encouraged to ask questions as part of the learning experience.

One highlight of Wei Cai's curriculum is the compulsory Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) in TUM (Munich) itself. He spent nine weeks in Munich last year with his classmates where they completed their final thesis in consultation with the professors in Germany. The OIP gave him the chance to work in TUM's laboratories alongside the German peers.

In SIT, Wei Cai would always volunteer as a photographer for various SIT events as he gained a sense of accomplishment from capturing the happy faces of his peers. He muses that "photography gives me a chance to capture beautiful and exciting moments of our daily life. It's like keeping a diary with pictures."

As TUM classes are located within SP's campus, Wei Cai is grateful that he can continue eating the "cheap and delicious" food from the many food courts there. He also gets the chance to re-connect with his former SP lecturers whom he misses very much. For Wei Cai, SP has taught him that learning never stops. His degree experience in SIT-TUM has further shaped him as an inquisitive learner and has prepared him well for the stormy world after graduation.

### Jeremy Jiang @ University of Glasgow

From a passionate hobby of assembling RC-planes, Jeremy is now in his second year at SIT pursuing the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Aeronautical Engineering offered by SIT in partnership with University of Glasgow. Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow is the fourth oldest university in the English-speaking world.

Since young, he has always been curious about how airplanes fly and the mechanics behind them taking off and landing. To pursue his interest, Jeremy joined SP in 2007 after his 'O' levels at Maris Stella High to pursue the popular **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)**. After SP, he signed on as an Air Force Engineer Officer where he was offered a scholarship by MINDEF to further his studies in SIT.

As an Air Force Engineer, Jeremy believes that his degree education will equip him with the advanced skills and knowledge to understand aircraft systems better, and help him with defect analysis, trending and troubleshooting. The highlight of his course was spending four weeks in Glasgow for the Overseas Immersion Programme, during which he worked on two key projects. One of them involved building a high-lift aerofoil using styrofoam to conduct wind tunnel testing.

Jeremy's team of five conceptualised the design in Singapore then assembled the model in Glasgow. He built on his experience from his final-year project in SP where his team built a 2.2m by 3.6m aircraft that operates like a helicopter with vertical take-off and landing capabilities. This project was funded by DSTA and the team clinched the Bronze Award at the annual SP's Engineering



Show. The model still resides in his former lecturer's office in SP to this day.

At SIT, Jeremy spearheaded a community service project in Glasgow where the students made sandwiches and distributed them to the homeless twice a week in the town area. His motivation for helping the community stems from an experience in the Air Force, when he was tasked to lead a project by bringing the elderly to Marina Bay Sands for a day trip. He noticed how something small could bring much joy and happiness to the elderly and since then, has been very motivated to continue giving to society.

As the President of the SIT-UoG Student Management Committee and SIT Divers Club, Jeremy is required to organise a range of student activities. This year, he

organised a Chinese New Year gathering for SIT-UoG staff and students. He recalls fondly that the faculty from Glasgow were delighted to have the chance to "lou hei" with the locals and be part of the festive occasion. The soft skills that he gained from these extracurricular activities have raised his confidence level, which is useful for him when he gives presentations to his superiors and commanders.

As UoG's aeronautical engineering programme is conducted at SP, Jeremy is delighted to continue his degree education at his alma mater as it brings back memories of his poly days – loads of fun moments amidst the hard work needed to upkeep his Grade Point Average. To his juniors in SP, he says, "Never give up on whatever you are doing and always strive for the best that you can be!"

### SIT WELCOME CEREMONY 2013

The latest batch of undergraduates in Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) had a memorable first day at the SIT Welcome Ceremony 2013 which was held recently at the Nanyang Polytechnic Auditorium. The ceremony was organised to acknowledge and affirm the importance of the beginning of an exciting education for our students. Mr Ng Yat Chung, Chairman, Board of Trustees, SIT graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour.

At the ceremony, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, highlighted that "SIT is where everything falls into place. We know your aspirations. We know your strengths and weaknesses. We are in tune with industry demands and we also constantly look to the future in which all of you will be playing a key role."



## Student Priorities



Recently, online store ASOS had a clearance sale of up to 70% off on watches, shoes, shirts, blouses— well basically everything. If you're not in the know, then you almost certainly missed out on the chance to restock your wardrobe. But not to worry. **SPiRiT** writer Lakeisha Leo surveyed SP students on their must-go websites for fashion, pop culture and entertainment so you'll never miss out again! Here's the top five.

# What's buzzing on the Internet?

Spending at least five hours daily on their computers, laptops or mobile devices, teenagers nowadays make use of the Internet to catch up with their friends on social media websites, get entertainment on online streaming sites or simply obtain information and get updated on the latest news around the world.

One can't help but wonder: What are some of the websites that are popular among SP students right now? Read on to find out the top five websites with the most number of students visiting overall.



### No.1 YouTube

Website: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

It's no surprise that the No.1 website for SP students is YouTube. Launched in February 2005 and owned by Google since 2006, the website lets users upload, view and share videos. Music videos, TV shows, web-series, Vlogs (Video blogs) – you name it, it's there. (There's also an SP channel, if you never knew!)

With YouTube, there's always something for everyone. One channel we'd recommend is HISHEdotcom, whose videos easily get at least 2,000,000 views each. How It Should Have Ended (HISHE) is a series of animated parodies of famous box-office flops and smash hits. Wondering how Iron Man 3 would've ended if genius Tony Stark had simply used his army of autopilot suits from the beginning? Watch to find out!



### No.2 9GAG

Website: [9gag.com](http://9gag.com)

Popular among students across the different schools, this image-based entertainment website is a big hit with nearly two billion page views per month. Similar to websites such as Reddit and Digg where users can vote and comment on the posts, the content in 9gag is mainly made up of Internet memes, humorous comics and Internet gifs.

Students tend to visit 9gag during class and lectures, saying that the funny images help to reduce the boredom during lessons and prevent them from falling asleep. Others make use of 9gag to kill time and keep them entertained.



### No.3 Manga Websites

Website: [www.mangareader.net](http://www.mangareader.net)

As many students are fans of Japanese culture, it is no surprise that manga websites are on the top three of the list.

One popular website is MangaReader, where students can read purportedly free English translations of popular manga. Updates occur weekly or monthly, giving students a regular break from studies to

look forward to. However, take note that the legality of the manga provided is a contentious affair. Although we could find no online notices from companies targeting the site specifically, the actual validity of MangaReader's copyright policies are pretty unclear!

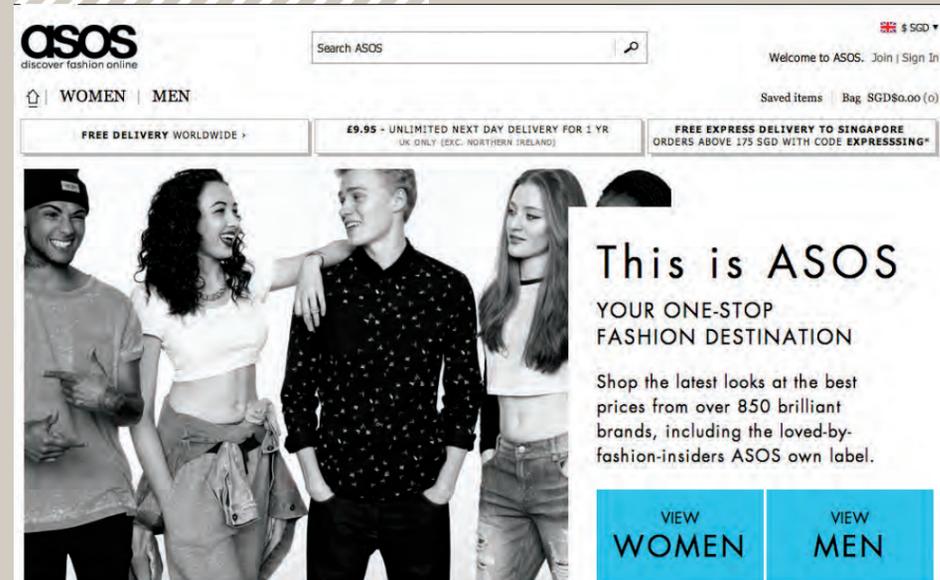
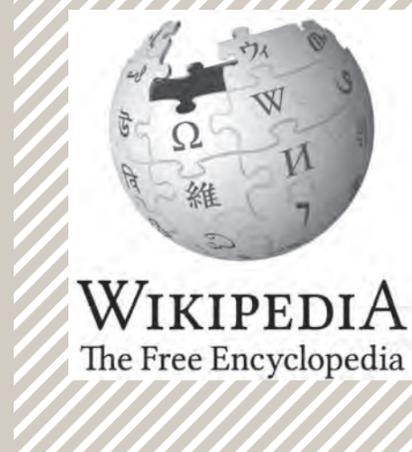
### No.4 Wikipedia

Website: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

Created by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger, Wikipedia is a multilingual, collaboratively edited encyclopaedia owned by the Wikimedia Foundation. With over 30 million articles in 287 languages, Wikipedia is the largest and most popular online encyclopaedia on the Internet.

Wikipedia has a large amount of information readily available on any topic under the sun, thus making it popular with SP students who need resources to help them with assignments or research papers. Other than research, there are students who enjoy visiting the website just to read up on random topics to kill time. Some students even use the website to find out spoilers on their favourite TV shows!

A good source if you need factual information about something. However, be aware that the articles can be edited by anyone, so some information might not be 100% accurate!



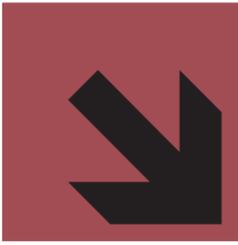
### No.5 ASOS

Website: [www.asos.com](http://www.asos.com)

ASOS is one of the largest online-only fashion and beauty shopping websites based in the UK. Primarily aimed at 18 to 34-year-olds, it offers over 60,000 branded products across women's wear, menswear, footwear, accessories and jewellery.

SP students enjoy visiting ASOS because of the website's easy navigation and wide range of fashion and beauty products offered. It is a convenient and hassle-free marketplace that lets you shop with a click of a mouse, 24/7. Seems like the user-friendliness of the website is one of the key points of how to attract users!

As an added bonus for its customers, ASOS also provides free worldwide shipping. Furthermore, for orders above S\$175, there is free express delivery to Singapore with the code "Expressing". With such attractive deals, no wonder ASOS is a popular website for students who enjoy shopping online.



# What If...

**What If...**

While you stare at your lecturer rattling off, your mind wanders elsewhere... to a space where you become the most authoritative, commanding, awe-inspiring and/or terrifying figure of your school – the Principal and Chief Executive Officer (PCEO)? **SPiRiT** writer Desirae Tan went around SP asking students: What would you change or introduce? (And by the way, yep, that's his title: PCEO Mr Tan Choon Shian! Shiny, isn't it?)



**"I would invest more in the size of the clubrooms and definitely the CCAs as they are the reason we have so much fun within our polytechnic. So to keep our students happier within the polytechnic we must make sure their CCA is enjoyable! For example, remaking that dance house from Step Up 3."**

- Brice Tan, second-year, **Diploma in Interactive Media (DIXM)**.



**"I would have an escalator to go uphill and also build a bridge connecting all the different buildings because it's tiring to climb the hill every day in order to get to class. I would also hold more events for SP so it won't be boring."**

- Richard Prayoga Supangat, second-year, **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)**.



**"I would be more supportive of CCAs because they are where students excel and learn life lessons."**

- Reagan Goh, final-year, **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)**.



**"Install aircons in FoodCourt 2."**

- Terence Zhang, second-year, **Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD)**.



**"No 8am classes."**

- Sam Wen Jun, final-year, **Diploma in International Business (DIB)**.

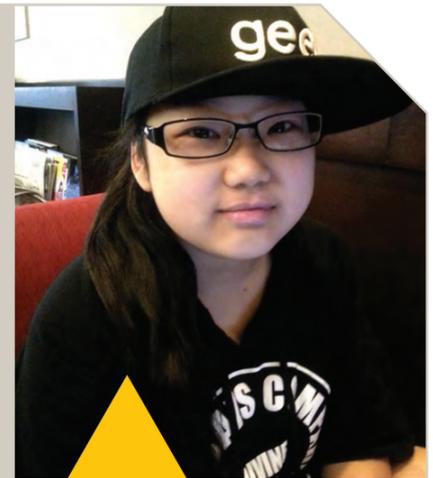
**"I would start a three-day weekend."**

- Mandy Chang, second-year, **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)**.



**"I would abolish Gen Ed or turn it into an extra credit module that might actually help in our portfolio."**

- Lee Xue Jun, second-year, **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)**.



**"I would cry because it's such a big responsibility."**

- Nadiah Afrina, second-year, **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)**.

**"I would build an escalator along the long stretch of road uphill towards the business school and also install more lifts to ferry everyone up to class faster."**

- Goh Liang Yu, second-year, **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)**.



## FIRST POLY GRAD IN NTU MEDICAL SCHOOL



Russell (left) and Charlene are among four SP graduates who made it to medical school in NTU and NUS this year.

**Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** graduate and SP scholar Russell John Chuah holds the distinction of being the first polytechnic graduate admitted to the new medical school jointly set up by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Imperial College. The former student from Holy Innocent's High who joined SP under the Direct Poly Admission (DPA) programme will commence studies midway through his national service. During his SP journey, Russell organised and participated in various community healthcare programmes such as a health mapping exercise for senior citizens. He also joined a team of SP students in the IT Joy project in East Timor where they donated recycled computers and taught basic computer lessons to the natives there.

Besides Russell, fellow DBS graduates from the Class of 2013 - Charlene Mok, Darren Goh and Meetrra Seyher Rajoo have also gained admission into the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS). In all, there are now seven SP graduates accepted by NTU and NUS to study medicine. In addition, Alex Chua, also from DBS, was the first poly graduate admitted to NUS to pursue dentistry and has graduated this year.

## YOUR COMPUTER IS NOT SAFE...

... Not from these guys, at least. Dixon Soo and Chia Ching Chuen won third place at AIRRAID 2013, a competition where teams of IT students compete to see whose hacking skills are the greatest. The two **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** final-year students battled with 12 other local and international teams. Their objective was to launch cyber attacks on a web server infrastructure created by the organisers. The teams that could breach security most effectively and retrieve the most information from the server's systems were crowned champions. For their efforts, the two-man team, Team Steamboat, received \$500 in cash.

And of course, we're just kidding. Dixon and Ching Chuen really only use their skills for good. DISM teaches its students to become professional cyberspace and IT security protectors, and part of learning about protection involves understanding offensive attacks (i.e. hacking) that can compromise systems. To find out more, visit [www.sp.edu.sg/schools/dmit](http://www.sp.edu.sg/schools/dmit) to read about DISM and other IT-related courses.



Dixon (left) and Ching Chuen use their hacking skills to toast the competition and score a little cash as well.



(From left) Social Innovation Relay national champions Joel Loo, Crystal Tee, Cheryl Tay and Koh Hau Wee.

## BEST IN SOCIAL INNOVATION

Four **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** second-year students won a HP EliteBook laptop each for beating schools such as Nanyang Polytechnic, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and Raffles Institution in the national finals of the Junior Achievement and Hewlett Packard Social Innovation Relay.

Organised by Hewlett Packard and Junior Achievement Singapore, the competition challenges students aged 15 to 18 to create innovative business concepts to help solve some of the world's most important challenges and social problems. DBID's team, Da Bomb, proposed the idea of a sports club that brings together both able-bodied and physically challenged people to play sports for the disabled. The club would be stationed at community centres and organise various gaming events such as blind soccer, all the while encouraging the general public to take part or volunteer at the centre. For winning the national leg, team Da Bomb was selected to represent Singapore on the international level of the competition.

## WINNING FRIENDSHIPS AND MORE



From left: Final-year students Jasmine Sim, Lim Jingyi, Avril Chua and Vanessa Ong at an animal museum in Indonesia.

Four SP gals (pictured above) accomplished a major feat: they beat not one, not 100, but 182 teams to take fifth place and US\$250 cash in the Espriex Business Model Competition 2013. Calling themselves Eco M, the girls from the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** vied with teams from tertiary institutions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore. The competition, held by the University of Brawijaya in Indonesia, challenged students to come up with creative but realistic business ideas that fit the theme, "Creative Business for Shaping the Future of ASEAN". Eco M's winning idea was an electronic business card mobile app that would benefit both business professionals and businesses aiming to promote themselves effectively online. One aim of the app is to help users to better keep track of people and businesses they are interested in.

While there, the girls also had the chance to immerse themselves in Indonesia's rich culture. They sampled local cuisine and watched traditional dance and music performances. Team member Avril Chua said: "The most meaningful part of this competition was the friendships built between us and our ASEAN competitors. We had many opportunities to network with the other participants. Although we were competing, that did not stop us from developing a healthy camaraderie. This proved to us that as important as a competition may be, it is the relationships that matter. Being in the International Business course, these friendships may benefit us in our future endeavors."

## INNOVATE IT!

Each year, the SMU InnovateIT competition invites students to come up with innovative IT ideas that can improve businesses. Final-year SP students from the **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** entered the competition and took the third prize of three Samsung MV900F cameras.

Their team, PerfectInnovators, proposed a mobile app idea called KLearn. Their app will digitise a pre-schooler's portfolio, such as artworks, worksheets and sculptures, and store them in a cloud database. This lowers costs of maintaining portfolios for schools, makes the portfolios more accessible, and allows the stored data to be used as a great learning tool.

A unique feature of KLearn is its capability of storing not just 2D but 3D projects like sculptures. Teachers simply need two to four minutes to take several photos of a work, which will be used to generate a 3D model for storage. Students can then learn about shapes, sizes and colours from the model by rotating and zooming in on it. Additional benefits of the system include allowing parents and teachers access to a student's performance to help them gain insights on how to improve the child's learning progress.



From left: InnovateIT second runners-up Hendra, Alivia Heng and Do Hoang Anh.

## FUTURE BUILDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT



**Diploma in Architecture** student Delphine Ng Wei Zhen receiving her scholarship from Mr Peter Chua, Chairman of the Construction Industry Joint Committee.

Thirty current SP students are now proud recipients of the BCA-Industry Built Environment Diploma Scholarship awarded to current SP students pursuing diploma courses relevant to architecture and the built environment. This year, SP students again took the lion's share of this scholarship, clinching 30 out of the 41 scholarships awarded to polytechnic

students. In addition, another 27 students were awarded the BCA-Industry Built Environment Sponsorship.

The scholarship and sponsorship programmes, offered by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and sponsor companies and organisations, serves to attract young people of high calibre to take up full-time built environment courses at the local polytechnics and the BCA Academy. Besides covering tuition fees, there's also a monthly allowance for each recipient. They will have to serve at least two years with the sponsoring firm upon graduation. To upgrade their skills, the sponsoring firm will provide the graduate with a structured On-Job-Training in the first year and enrol the scholar in a part-time Specialist/Advanced Diploma in the second year.

The list of BCA diploma scholarship and sponsorship recipients this year are:

**DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURE**  
**Scholarship:** Chey Yi Ting, Evangelina Ong, Jonathan Chua Wei Shen, Joshua Koh Tong Aik, Lee Cheng Yi, Muhd Syazwan Menzies, Nur Idayu Bte Burhan, Delphine Ng Wei Zhen, Iris Ng, Syabil Bin Sarafian, Athena Sze Jia Ying, Wang Ting, Wong Chi Kay; **Sponsorship:** Dominic Chia Wynn Tat, Ho Xue Ying, Julien Lau Yu Lin, Mohd Fadell Bin Baharuddin, Ng Han Wei, Tan Sing Yi.

**DIPLOMA IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH BUSINESS**  
**Scholarship:** Xu Pei Song, Daniel Julian Valdes Goh, Dianne Ligie Coquilla Odol, Hazel Yap Si Hui, Koh Hin Nge, Soo Yeong En; **Sponsorship:** Kenneth Lim Kai Ler, Lim Qiao Xian, Muhd Aliff Bin Saniban, Sean Wong Yu Zhe, Amanda Tay Shi Ying.

**DIPLOMA IN CLEAN ENERGY**  
**Sponsorship:** Alika Savira Koh, Darren Lee Ting Jue, Li Yiheng, Nicholas Sim Jia Jun, Wang Qi.

**Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology**  
**Sponsorship:** Daryl Ting Shuen Yee

**DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING**  
**Scholarship:** Jowy Lee Choon Siang; **Sponsorship:** Mohd Haris Bin Mohd Muzzamil

**Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management**  
**Sponsorship:** Jasmine Ngoh Ka Ling, Lee Xue Ting, Ong Qian Yu, Siti Nadhirah Bte Nadzran; **Sponsorship:** Christin Chia Choy Tian, Sim Yi Hui.

**DIPLOMA IN INTEGRATED EVENTS & PROJECT MANAGEMENT**  
**Sponsorship:** Najihah Bte Muhd Amin, Tan Hui Lin

**DIPLOMA IN INTERIOR DESIGN**  
**Scholarship:** Jeraldine Toh Yi Ting; **Sponsorship:** Ker You Quan, Douglas Poon Cheng Qiang, Siva Sandiya d/o Thirunaukarasu.

**DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
**Scholarship:** Chue Kai Hoe, Hu Qiruo, Ip Wan Hei, Yao Ling Ling; **Sponsorship:** Syahirah Bte Muhd Shirhan Ganesan.

**DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**  
**Sponsorship:** Raymond Ng Kian Meng

## WINNING TOP-TIERED NTU SCHOLARSHIPS

Seven SP recent graduates have been awarded the Nanyang Scholarship, Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) foremost undergraduate scholarship awarded to outstanding freshmen pursuing undergraduate programmes. The scholarship recognises students who excel academically, demonstrate strong leadership potential, and possess outstanding co-curricular records. It covers payable tuition fees, a living allowance of S\$6,000 per year, a book allowance of S\$500 per year, accommodation allowance of up to S\$2,000 per year if they reside in NTU hostels, a one-off travel grant of S\$5,000, a one-off computer allowance of S\$1,500, a one-off settling-in allowance of S\$250 and priority for overseas study programmes. Best of all, there is no bond attached to the scholarship and the scholars are free to pursue careers of their interest after graduation.

The recipients of the Nanyang Scholarship in 2013 are: Sean Lee (**Diploma in Business Information Technology - DBIT**), Gan Bee Li (**Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics - DMRO**), Holly Foong (**Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business - DCEB**), William Loke Zhi Shen (**Diploma in Music and Audio Technology - DMAT**), Nicole Loh (**Diploma in Media and Communication - DMC**), Toh Jia Yi (**Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology - DHRMP**) and Toh Xin Ni (**Diploma in Accountancy - DAC**).

Newly minted Nanyang Scholars (front row from left) Toh Xin Ni, Gan Bee Li, Nicole Loh and Holly Foong; (back row from left) Toh Jia Yi, William Loke and Sean Lee.



## MARITIME STARS

The path towards a glorious maritime career is shining brightly for 28 students and graduates from the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). They clinched 28 out of the 42 MaritimeONE Scholarships awarded this year to pursue their diploma and degree programmes either at the Singapore Maritime Academy, or at local or overseas universities. These scholarships, with a total value of \$1.1 million, are sponsored by SMA and maritime companies and organisations such as shipping firms and shipyards. It is administered by the Singapore Maritime Foundation.

In addition, 10 Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Scheme (TMSS) scholarships worth a total of about \$600,000 were also awarded to current SP students pursuing the **Diplomas in Marine Engineering (DMR)** and **Nautical Studies (DNS)** at SMA. The scheme offers scholars an early step up in their maritime career path through obtaining a seafaring education and subsequently becoming Masters or Chief Engineers of oceangoing merchant ships. This invaluable seafaring experience will prepare talented and hardworking officers for top shore-based management positions within the maritime industry.

Recipients of the **MaritimeONE Scholarship** are:  
**SMA Graduates:** Ho Yan Cheng, Gary Chin Weng Meng, Gerald Sim Choon Wee, Tiffany Aw Yun Qi, Sherwin Choo Jian Jia, Muhd Faqih Bin Mohd Rais, Winnie Khoo, Koh Ming Hui, Jana Sing Tan, Eunice Lim Yan Ting, Jeremias Pang Youchao, Elizabeth Tai Li Lin, Brandon Lee Jin Yee, Leon Tan Guan Xiang, Eugene Guo He-Jun, Poh Ann Nah, Siti Khaliesah Bte Mansor, Predeepkumar Krishnamoorthy, Xue Guorong.



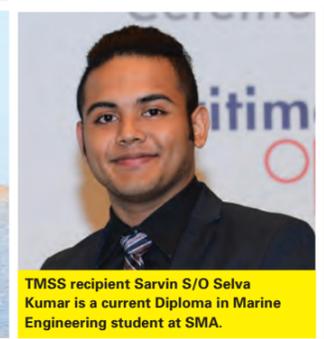
Marcus Tan is a current Diploma in Nautical Studies student at SMA.



Siti Khaliesah Bte Mansor will study Maritime Business & Law at Plymouth University, United Kingdom.



Winnie Khoo will study Business Administration at Chung-Ang University, South Korea.



TMSS recipient Sarvin S/O Selva Kumar is a current Diploma in Marine Engineering student at SMA.



Sherwin Choo will pursue a science (honours) degree at NTU.

**SMA current students:** Chia Xinyi, Marcus Tan Wei Guang, Muhd Irfan Asyraf Bin Muhd Aziz, Muhd Fareez Bin Haris, Loh Shen Kai, Muhd Amirul Aniq Bin Mohd Jaafar, Mohd Shaquille Bin M Dawoodsha, Muhd Aditia Iskandar Jaya Bin Muhd Ali, William Goh Boon Tong.

Recipients of the **TMSS Scholarship** are:  
**Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR):** Ng Shi An, Alvin Quek Zhe Liang, Thanasegaran S/O Elancharan, Thet Lin Oo, Sarvin S/O Selva Kumar, Shaik Reza Shahid Bin Shaik Annuar.

**Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS):** Joshua Chua Zhong Sheng, Justin Lim, Muhd Ezzul Bin Zulkarnain, Pyei Thiha.

## SWEET SOLUTIONS TO WORLD PROBLEMS



From left: Diploma in Chemical Engineering final-year students Sakinah bte Lokman, Choo Jia Yi and Kuah Li Ping, and graduate Wee Ian Bing.

In 2012, Singapore produced 703,200 tonnes of food waste, of which only 12 per cent was recycled. Such waste is not only terrible in itself – it also causes additional environmental harm when it is incinerated in waste disposal plants!

Three students and one graduate from the **Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE)** have come up with a possible solution! At the recent Trust Us, We Are Engineers competition organised by the Institution of Young Engineers Singapore, teams of students were invited to learn more about environmental issues and propose innovative solutions to environmental challenges. To deal with the problem of food waste, the SP DCHE team researched a process to convert crushed sugarcane waste into useful products! Called Sugarcane Bagasse to EverGreen Board, the process allows for crushed sugarcane fibres left over from sugarcane drink production to be recycled into materials for fibreboards! These boards can then be used to create useful products such as chairs or stationary boxes. As an added bonus, the process is also environmentally friendly. The board fibres are glued together using only harmless, natural compounds like lignin (a substance found in

plant cell walls) instead of potentially harmful chemicals. For their ingenious creation, the team won first place in the Junior College/Polytechnic/ITE category, as well as a gold medal and \$3,000 cash!

# WE CAME, WE SAW, WE PROPOSED



From left: Brenda, Sophia, Xi Chun and lecturer Dr Handojo Djati Utomo holding their published research papers at their graduation ceremony.

Recent **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** graduates Brenda Ong, Sophia Lim and Ong Xi Chun finished their three-year SP journey with a wonderful parting gift! In 2012, they had travelled to Melbourne, Australia to present their research findings at the 5th International Conference on Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering. There, they received an excellent award certificate for their presentation.

In 2013, after a tedious peer review, their paper, "Thermally Processed Sewage Sludge for Methylene Blue Uptake", was finally accepted for publication in the International Journal of Biodeterioration and Biodegradation! Congratulations to Sophia, Brenda and Xi Chun for making it to the world stage!



Hosea receiving his prize from Prof Chong Tow Chong, Provost, SUTD.

# MECHANICAL NATURE

Hosea Loke recently had a taste of biology-inspired robot design. The final-year **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** student recently won the Merit prize at the SUTD Technology and Design Challenge 2013. Organised by the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), the event challenged participants to design a bio-inspired robot suitable for search and rescue missions. The Merit prize earned Hosea \$100 and the chance to attend a two-day workshop where the prize winners built basic rescue robot prototypes and got introduced to SUTD's courses and campus.



The SP representatives in the WorldSkills team (from left): graduate Elena Quek (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering) and first-year students Sean Tan (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering), Brendan Tan (Diploma in Clean Energy), Loh Kay On (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering) and Goh Kok Hong (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics).



Elena, focusing intensely on creating her prototype during the competition.

# SHOWING THEIR STUFF IN GERMANY

Four SP students and one graduate challenged the best of the best in Leipzig, Germany, as part of Team Singapore at WorldSkills Leipzig 2013, a worldwide competition that invites hundreds of talented youths from 67 different countries and regions to compete before the public in various skills ranging from health and social care-giving to robotics, mechatronics and even cooking! The event is meant to recognise outstanding achievements of youths and help them to meet fellow skilled enthusiasts from other countries.

Elena Quek, a recent graduate from the **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)**, represented Singapore in the Prototype Modelling category. Facing intense competition from Chinese, Thai and Indonesian counterparts, she worked over four straight days to create a 3D virtual model using computer image drafting software and fabricate the model using chemical wood and spray paint.

Although she did not win in her category, Elaine was grateful for the chance to represent both Singapore and SP. "The four-day competition was definitely gruelling," she says. "We had to be able to let go of the mistakes we made from previous days and not let it affect our mood for the next day of competition. Nonetheless, I'm still very honoured to be able to represent Singapore on a world stage." She was also glad to be able to learn new things from the other competitors and experienced craftsmen. Besides competing, she and the team also spent time touring the city, visiting attractions and landmarks and sampling German cuisine. Elena is now studying psychology at Nanyang Technological University.

Team New Age (right) and Ali Baba (left) were from the Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business, while S.H.E. was from the Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology.



# BUILDING A WINNING LEAD

Sixteen teams from the National University of Singapore and SP took part in the inaugural Productivity Race. Organised by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), the event aimed to attract young talents into the built environment sector and introduce students to innovative construction methods and technologies used to achieve higher productivity in the sector. Students had to race to various construction sites, interact with construction suppliers, and observe construction techniques to answer questions about things such as scaffolding creation and the value of automating manual processes to increase productivity.

Teams from SP's School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) swept the top prizes, demolishing the competition. Team New Age, S.H.E. and Ali Baba won the first, second and third prizes respectively, collectively receiving \$3,000 in shopping vouchers for their efforts!

Team New Age from SP's School of Architecture and the Built Environment beat about 80 other students to emerge champions, receiving \$1,500 in shopping vouchers for their efforts!

# MATH WIZARDS

This team of second-year **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)** students (from left: Huang Pengfei, Chin Guan Wei, Yap Jun Da and Wilson Lim Wei Sheng) knew the formula to ensure that a rocket taking off would land and remain in space. Using mathematical concepts, they solved this problem posed to them by the School of Physical and Mathematical Science in Nanyang Technological University (NTU). In a special assignment cum competition organised by SP's Department of Math and



Science, they took the top prize of a \$200 Kinokuniya voucher sponsored by NTU. This curriculum-based activity aimed to cultivate mathematical thinking and creativity amongst SP students taking the Advanced Math Module 3.

# THE PERFECT (BRAIN) STORM

Team Playmat from SP are now the proud owners of shiny new Samsung Galaxy S3 smartphones. This group of second-year students from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** came in second place at the Isobar Create 32 event. Their win earned them a trophy and smartphones for each of them.

The competition gave students a mere 32 hours to brainstorm and develop prototype apps using Near Field Communication (NFC): radio communication technology used in smartphones, smartcards and credit cards. The students then had to present their creations to judges from Samsung, OCBC, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore and Isobar (a digital marketing agency). Winners were chosen from a range of 18 innovative applications developed in the short 32 hour period.

Team Playmat's app, also called Playmat, is an interactive smartphone game app that tests kids on their ability to match words to pictures. The phone app will display a word on the screen and children will use the phone to scan images found on a separate sheet embedded with NFC receiver chips. They will score points with each correct match. Team Playmat's approach earned them additional praises because few other participants had explored the possibility of using NFC in games to influence kids.

From left: Isobar first runners-up Dion Chua, Shaun Lim, Khu Giem Teck, lecturer Mr Tan Hu-Shien, Terence Lam, Evan Tay and Chng Wee Ping.



# SP GRADS AND STUDENTS CLINCH TOP MOE AWARDS

Nickson Lee Yun Hui, a pioneer Polytechnic Foundation Programme student in SP, and Leong Hei Kern, an institutional medallist at SP Graduation 2013 and Public Service Commission Scholar, have clinched the two top education awards. Nickson won the Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-Round Excellence, a national level award which is presented to only one current poly student who has excelled in both academic and non-academic spheres, and who exemplifies positive character development, strong leadership qualities and commitment to service to the community. Hei Kern won the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement, which is presented to only one poly grad with outstanding academic and non-academic achievements and who made outstanding contributions to the community, and demonstrated a spirit of innovation and enterprise.

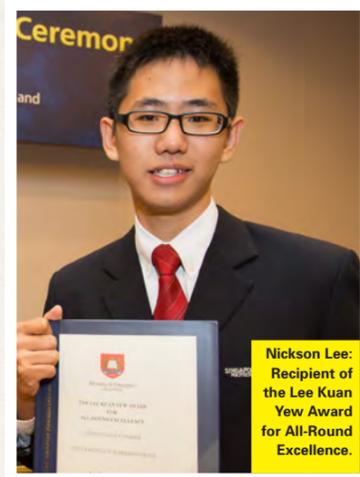
In addition, out of 10 LKY-STEP Awards (Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading Awards) handed out to poly graduates proceeding to universities, SP graduates took four. They are A Saravanan and Qurratu 'Ain binte Aminurrashid who are going to National University of Singapore, and Lau Jia Yi and Joyce Tan Li Ling who are heading to Nanyang Technological University.

Five current SP students also received the LKY-STEP Award given to ITE graduates now studying at the poly. They are Arshad Bin Supa'at, Lee Jun Li, Muhd Firman Bin Abdul Wahab, Tan Yong Siang and Yip Wei Li.

The LKY-STEP Award comes with a one-off cash quantum of \$3,500 and waiver of tuition fees during their course of study. The awards were presented to them by the Minister of Social and Family Development, Mr Chan Chun Sing, at the 2013 Special Awards Presentation Ceremony.



SP current students and graduates who received the MOE Special Awards - Front row from left: Leong Hei Kern, Qurratu 'Ain binte Aminurrashid, Joyce Tan Li Ling, A Saravanan; Back row from left: Lee Jun Li, Yip Wei Li, Arshad Bin Supa'at, Tay Yong Siang, Lee Yun Hui Nickson, Muhd Firman Bin Abdul Wahab. Not in photo: Lau Jia Yi



Nickson Lee: Recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-Round Excellence.



Leong Hei Kern: Recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-Round Excellence and the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement.

# A BIG SCHOLARSHIP LEAP

## PSC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD CEREMONY 2013



He has done it, again and again! It seems an easy feat for Leong Hei Kern to win awards and scholarships. Throughout his three-year SP journey, he has clinched the SP Scholarship as well as prestigious awards like the LTA Engineering Award and the A\*STAR Science Award (Polytechnic). At his graduation ceremony, he was named as one of SP's institutional medallists and graduated with the Lee Kuan Yew Award, along with a string of other prizes.

The latest, and the biggest feather to his cap, is winning the prestigious Public Service Commission (PSC) Open Scholarship, the top-tier government scholarship. Formerly from Chung Cheng High School (Branch), the **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)** graduate was firm about choosing to join SP after his 'O' levels. His father, also a SP graduate, supported his decision wholeheartedly.

On his choice of applying for a government scholarship instead of a private one, Hei Kern says: "The more I look at the job scope offered by PSC scholarships, the more I'm lured into it. The scheme allows me to be placed in different government bodies to explore different opportunities. I feel that I could really use my engineering and design skills in a very meaningful manner to improve lives." He has accepted a place to read engineering at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), where he will also undergo a global leadership programme at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology in USA. He explains why he chose to join SUTD: "It has a very special programme that integrates design and technology and I totally subscribe to this pedagogy."

The PSC Scholarship is not the end of Hei Kern's string of victories. He has recently also been awarded the Lee Hsien Loong Outstanding All-Round Achievement Award, given to post-secondary students who have done well (both academically and non-academically), particularly those who have made outstanding contributions to the community and demonstrated a spirit of innovation and enterprise. The award was given out for the first time in 2010 to one Singaporean fresh graduate from each of the following four groups - junior colleges / centralised institutes, ITE, polytechnics and autonomous universities. The first recipient of this award for the polytechnic group was given to SP graduate Desmond Thiam, who is now doing his medical degree in the National University of Singapore.



Sheryl Lee (top photo) receiving her MND scholarship from Minister of National Development Mr Khaw Boon Wan. Inset photos from left: Jasmine, Hannah, Muhd Rehan and Atikah.

# AN EDGE OVER THE REST

A second group of students from the **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** were recently awarded the MND EDGE Business Innovation and Design Scholarship. Only SP students enrolled in the DBID course can apply for this prestigious scholarship offered by the Ministry of National Development (MND). The five were selected through a rigorous process before clinching the scholarship that will cover their tuition fees, annual book allowances and an overseas immersion bootcamp. The recipients are Atikah Zainuddin, Hannah Liu, Sheryl Lee, Muhd Rehan Bin Mohd Mahadi and Jasmine Tan. They will also intern with MND's family of Statutory Boards which include the Housing and Development Board (HDB), National Parks Board (NParks), and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). This scholarship aims to recognise outstanding DBID students who are passionate about contributing back to Singapore. Through exposure to the work of public infrastructure development and urban planning, they will gain diverse experiences through inter-agency projects and job rotations within the 8,000-strong MND family.

# FUTURE HOUSING ARCHITECTS

Three fresh graduates from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) have clinched scholarships from the Housing Development Board (HDB). They are Heng Cheng Sin and Ng Hiang Teck, both from the **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)**, and Ong Xi Chun from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)**. Cheng Sin and Hiang Teck will pursue architecture degrees at the National University of Singapore while Xi Chun will study Civil Engineering at Nanyang Technological University. Their scholarships will cover tuition fees at the universities, and book and hostel allowances. In addition, they will be sponsored for approved student exchange programmes overseas and have opportunities to participate in attachment programmes with HDB to gain insight into the organisation's business and operations.



Fresh HDB scholars (clockwise from left): Ng Hiang Teck, Heng Cheng Sin and Ong Xi Chun.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEENAGE MAGAZINE.

## GORGEOUS GUYS!

Brice Tan (left) (Diploma in Interactive Media) and Wilson Lau (Diploma in Computer Engineering - DCPE) have the title, "Gorgeous Hunks", hanging over their heads now. They are the winner and first runner-up respectively in the Gorgeous You! contest organised by Teenage magazine. Selected from a pool of great-looking guys across the schools, Brice and Wilson charmed the judges with their poise and confidence in the finals that was held in Bugis+. Brice went home with \$500 cash while Wilson got richer by \$300, and both lugged home a host of other prizes too. Say "Hey gorgeous!" the next time you bump into them, will you?

## TOPS IN ITE

SP students Arshad Bin Supaat (below left) and Tan Yong Siang received top honours from their alma mater, the Institute of Technical Education, recently. They received the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student/Trainee Award 2013 for their consistently excellent academic performance in their courses and display of outstanding conduct and attitude worthy of emulation by their peers. The award serves to inspire students and trainees to display exemplary behaviour in training, develop high moral values and show care and concern for others. Arshad is now pursuing the **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** while Yong Siang is chasing his dream to be an engineer with the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)**. Both of them were also recently awarded the SP Scholarship.



## SP STUDENTS CLINCH 60 PER CENT OF INFOCOMM SCHOLARSHIPS

Twenty-four in all: SP recipients of the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship.

MCI SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD CEREMONY 15 AUGUST 2013



SP students yet again clinched the lion's share of the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (IIS). Out of the 40 scholarships awarded, 24 went to SP students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology, SP Business School and SP Design School. The IIS will prepare them in their infocomm studies at both the polytechnic and university levels, such as providing opportunities for valuable industry attachments to major infocomm corporations locally and overseas. The scholarship will cover their full polytechnic tuition fees at SP and other perks such as a \$6,000 annual allowance, computer allowance and sponsorship of an overseas attachment. Upon graduating from SP, they have two options to pursue digital media and infocomm-related degree courses at university level – continue under the IIS programme or apply for the National Infocomm Scholarship. Recipient Russell Loh from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** applied for the IIS because of the opportunity it can offer to work in the growing digital gaming industry. "I enjoy doing programming for games and hope to specialise in game development next year. After SP, I aim to do a degree in this field too."



Russell Loh hopes to specialise in game development all the way to university under the IIS.

## READY FOR MEDIA INDUSTRY

Within a matter of three months, Tan Shi Hui clinched two top honours. The first was topping her **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** course in May. The second was receiving the National Infocomm Scholarship from the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), sponsored by Singtel. She is now pursuing her degree in Information Management for Business at University College London (UK). Incidentally, her older brother, Yao Wei, was also a SP graduate and high scorer too. He was the silver medallist in the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** course and is now pursuing a degree in Computer Science in Real-Time Interactive Simulation at DigiPen-Singapore Institute of Technology.

There were more honours for SP graduates at the Ministry of Communication and Information Scholarships Award Ceremony 2013. Besides Shi Hui, Louisa Tang (**Diploma in Media and Communication - DMC**, Class of 2013) and Daryl Bong (**Diploma in Games Design and Development - DGDD**, Class of 2011) were awarded the Media Education Scheme (MES) scholarship by the Media Development Authority (MDA) to pursue their university degrees. The duo will pursue careers with their sponsor companies after they get their degrees. Louisa will pursue a degree in Communications Studies at Nanyang Technological University and hopes to become a journalist with MediaCorp. Previously, she has interned as a journalist with Today newspaper. Daryl will pursue his Bachelor of Arts degree in Game Design at DigiPen - Singapore Institute of Technology. He aspires to be in the ranks of talented game designers, pooling together local and international talents to work on projects that would put Singapore on the gaming world map.

The MES is an initiative launched by MDA in 2003 to build and nurture the next generation of talent in the media industry. The scheme was revised last year to foster even closer collaborative relationships with the industry, so that scholars can benefit early from on-the-job experience to learn specified skill sets which the industry requires, and thereafter take the helm as the next generation of media leaders and professionals. The revised MES offers full scholarships for local and overseas studies that cover full tuition and other compulsory university fees, as well as annual allowances to defray living expenses. Partner companies, who are involved in the selection of the candidates together with MDA, orientate the scholars through internships before and/or during their studies. Upon completion of their courses, scholars will serve a bond of three to five years with the co-sponsoring company.

## EARNING THEIR FLYING WINGS

Fourteen SP students recently received prestigious pilot wings. The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore presented them with their Private Pilot Licenses (PPL), which they earned by training at the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC). The PPL entitles them to pilot a Singapore-registered aircraft for non-commercial use.

To get their licenses, the students, who are mainly from the **Diplomas in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)**, **Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** and **Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)**, joined the SYFC as their CCA and went on more than 30 training flights over a period of one year. Although the training is expensive, it is almost fully funded by the Ministry of Defence which hopes to identify suitable candidates to become air force pilots. SP students received 14 out of the 38 licenses awarded this year. In addition, Lee Hong Hui from DEEE was honoured with the SYFC Best in Flying Award and the MAJ Best in Flying Award, while Muhd Azkhairy bin Mohd Ramezan from DARE won the MAJ Best in Ground School Award.



The dashing young pilots together with their SP lecturers and staff. Holding the trophy in the centre is SYFC and MAJ Best in Flying Award winner, Lee Hong Hui.



Tan Shi Hui celebrating her National Infocomm Scholarship win with brother Yao Wei. Both are IT graduates from SP.



Louisa Tang receiving her degree from Communications and Information Minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim at an award ceremony.

# A\*STAR IN THEIR CAP



Newly-minted A\*STAR Scholars (clockwise from top left) Tan Tze Kai, Xenia Lim, Danson Kwong and Neo Shi Yong.

When Tan Tze Kai joined SP to pursue the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** in 2010, little did he think that three years later, he would clinch a prestigious scholarship from A\*STAR, the national science agency. It was not just any other scholarship that he won but the top-tiered National Science Scholarship that gives him the choice to pursue scientific studies all the way to a PhD at any top overseas university. The former student from Manjusri Secondary School also clinched the pioneer A\*STAR Science Award for polytechnic students when he was with SP. After his national service, Tze Kai will fly to the United Kingdom to pursue his studies in Developmental and Cell Biology at the University of Edinburgh.

Celebrating with Tze Kai are three other life science graduates from SP who received the A\*STAR Undergraduate Scholarships. They are Xenia Lim (**Diploma in Biotechnology - DBT**) who will pursue a degree in Life Sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Danson Kwong (**Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science - DACP**) who will study Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Nanyang Technological University, and Neo Shi Yong (**Diploma in Biomedical Science - DBS**) who will take up the degree in Biological Sciences at NUS.

Since 2001, A\*STAR's scholarship programme has nurtured a pipeline of over 1,200 Singaporean PhD talents. Over 350 scholars have completed their PhD studies or postdoctoral fellowships, and have leveraged on their research expertise to pursue a variety of rewarding R&D careers in public sector research institutes, corporate labs, tertiary institutions, hospitals as well as industries. The four SP graduates received their scholarships from Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade & Industry at a ceremony held recently.

# RISING DEFENCE ENGINEERS

Four young SP engineering alumni have clinched the DSTA Undergraduate Scholarship that will see them pursuing studies of their choice in science and engineering at renowned universities worldwide. Jonathan Tan Ze Sheng (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering - DME**, Class of 2011), Lee Jian Wei and Yee Zheng Kang (both from the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics - DASE**, Class of 2011 and 2010 respectively), will embark on careers in the Defence Technology Community that include the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), DSO National Laboratories, and the Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies. They will also get to experience their future working environment first-hand through internship attachments. This year, 39 DSTA Undergraduate Scholarships have been awarded.

Jian Wei and Zheng Kang are now in Singapore University of Technology and Design pursuing their engineering degrees while Jonathan has flown off to the United Kingdom to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Manchester.

The Defence Science and Technology Agency is a statutory board set up under the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF). It implements defence technology plans, acquires defence material and develops defence infrastructure for MINDEF. It provides cutting-edge technological solutions to the Singapore Armed Forces by tapping the best technologies and fostering an environment of creativity and innovation for defence applications. It also builds up a strong community of engineers and scientists from universities, research institutes, the government and industries to serve the defence needs of the nation.



Lee Jian Wei receiving his scholarship from Minister of Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen. Inset photos from left: Jonathan Lim and Yee Zheng Kang.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DSTA.

# STARS IN HEALTHCARE



Newly-minted MMOH scholars (from left): Maggie Lee, Yeo Li Ting, Crystalline Poh, Cassia Teo and Candy Goh.

The School of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLS) has produced a bumper crop of graduates who clinched undergraduate scholarships and awards from Ministry of Health Holdings (MOHH), the holding company of Singapore's public healthcare assets that include Alexandra Health System, Jurong Health Services and the National University Health System.

Altogether, 13 graduates from five diploma courses were given either the Healthcare Merit Scholarship or the Healthcare Merit Award.

These are awarded to outstanding individuals who are passionate about Singapore's public healthcare sector and demonstrate academic excellence, strong leadership qualities and community spirit. The scholarships and awards will cover costs incurred during their undergraduate studies such as tuition fees and compulsory charges, airfare if enrolled in overseas universities and developmental activities such as professional seminars and conferences. Upon their completion of a degree programme, they will be bonded for four years for local studies and six years for overseas studies.

The 13 MOHH scholars are: From the **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)**: Yeo Li Ting, Candy Goh, Cassia Teo, Maggie Lee; **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**: Crystalline Poh, Kweh Jia Rong; **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)**: Evelyn Ow; **Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW)**: Jenani A/P Rajan, Chan Ya Ling, Yu Yisheng, Liow Hui Shi, Li Jiajin and Lee Hui Bing.

All of them have secured places in local or overseas universities that include National University of Singapore, University of Missouri (Columbia), University of Queensland and Flinders University (Australia) to pursue niche degree programmes such as dietetics, speech therapy, pharmacy, medical social work and physiotherapy. Upon their graduation, they will embark on exciting career tracks such as the Professional Clinical Track, Education-Research Track and General Management / Leadership Track, according to their abilities and career inclinations.

# TALENT SPRING-ING UP

Recent SP graduates Sabareesh Nair and Dennis Teo are the latest talents to have sprung up in the eyes of SPRING Singapore, a government agency that helps local enterprises to grow and develop. They were recently awarded the SPRING Executive Development Scholarship (EDS) and the SME-SPRING Joint EDS respectively. Both schemes cover up to four years of full tuition fees. They also give book, computer and maintenance allowances; sponsor overseas exchange programmes as well as provide internship opportunities.

Sabareesh (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**) shared that he was very excited to receive the scholarship. He said, "As an aspiring technopreneur, SPRING offers me a meaningful doorway into the business world, and the rare opportunity to interact and learn from various industry leaders, policy makers and entrepreneurs. It is also exciting to be in the heart of the local entrepreneurship scene and to work hand-in-hand with our local companies to see them grow."

Dennis (**Diploma in Accountancy - DAC**) will be pursuing a degree in Accountancy at Nanyang Technological University, while Sabareesh has been accepted into the Singapore University of Technology and Design to study for a Bachelor of Engineering (majoring in Engineering Product Development). After graduating, EDS recipients will be bonded to SPRING Singapore for two years, while SME-SPRING Joint EDS recipients will be bonded to a local enterprise.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRING SINGAPORE.



Sabareesh receiving the scholarship from Mr Philip Yeo, Chairman, SPRING Singapore.

# A MATCH-MAKING OF GRADUATE + INDUSTRY



Eugene Lim and his mother with Minister of Education Mr Heng Swee Keat at the SgIS Award Ceremony.

Eugene Lim (**Diploma in Maritime Business**) and Lim Liang Yuan (**Diploma in Clean Energy**) both bagged the top honour for graduating top of their diploma courses earlier this year. Barely months after, both bagged bigger honours by clinching the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) offered by companies from 13 industries ranging from engineering, aviation, tourism and maritime to social services and the arts. Launched in 2012, the SgIS is a partnership between the government and private enterprises such as Singapore Airlines and Charles and Keith to develop a strong core of Singaporeans to anchor strategic sectors which are critical for Singapore's development. Scholars will receive full sponsorship of their university education, and can look forward to internships, development opportunities, and a career with a prominent enterprise or organisation in some of Singapore's key emerging economic and social sectors upon graduation.

As SgIS scholars, Eugene and Liang Yuan will pursue degree programmes at Nanyang Technological University which will be fully paid for. They can also look forward to exciting opportunities for a broad-based development through the SgIS Scholars Development and Engagement Programme that includes professional development through internships and other programmes conducted by the sponsoring companies and organisations. Eugene and Liang Yuan will pursue their careers with their sponsor companies PSA Corporation and Singapore Power respectively, after they attain their degrees.

Altogether, nine recent SP graduates were awarded the SgIS Scholarships. The others are: Yu Ming Yuen (**Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business - DCEB**), Benjamin Goh Jun Jie (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**), Sayaka Tatekura (**Diploma in Biotechnology - DBT**), Amos Soon Ee Ren and Benny Tan Jian Rong (**Diploma in Aerospace Electronics - DASE**), Loon Fook Kee (**Diploma in Banking and Finance - DBKF**) and Edmund Tan Choon Wei (**Diploma in Civil and Structural Engineering - DSCE**). The nine of them were among 97 who received this scholarship from a pool of 1,200 comprising mostly polytechnic and junior college graduates.



## TIMOTHY FOR SEA GAMES

Since 2003, Singapore has not sent divers to represent itself at the South-east Asian (SEA) Games. But this year, with a crop of six young talents, the country is gunning once again for victory at the regional competition. One of the athletes who met the SEA Games qualifying mark is our very own SP student, Timothy Lee. The straight-shooting young man with an impressive physique has been diving since 2009 and has since gained a plethora of awards, most recently scoring first place for various diving events at the Singapore Diving Invitational and the Malaysia National Age Group Championships 2013. How is he feeling now, in the face of this upcoming challenge?

"In the last two years, I've made every preparation necessary for a chance at success at the SEA games. I'm going to give my all at the competition and keep moving toward my goal of competing in the 2016 Olympics," he says. The words of a person who's focused and serious about his craft. All the best, Timothy! SEA Games 2013 will take place in Myanmar from 11 to 22 December.

Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering final-year student and national diver, Timothy Lee.



SP Tchoukball team (from left) See Xin Xiu (Year 2, Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology), Low Jie Yun Yvonne (Year 1, Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management), Sylvia Lee (Year 1, Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science) and Lee Yu Kang (Year 1, Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering).

## 2ND WORLD BEST IN TCHOUKBALL

It is still a relatively new sport here but that did not stop SP students from being the best they can be. Four members from the SP Tchoukball team made it to the Singapore team for the World Youth Tchoukball Championship held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. They played in the Men's and Women's Under 18 categories and both teams came in 1st Runner-Up, behind reigning world champion, Taiwan.

See Xin Xiu from the Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP) says of her experience on a world sporting stage: "It was an honour for us to represent Singapore in a world competition. Through our participation, we not only gained experience in the game but also reinforced important values such as teamwork and discipline. It was definitely an eye-opener for relatively new players like myself as this was my first international competition. The fight was certainly tough as we had extremely competitive teams from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, India and Switzerland. In my eyes, we are all champions because we upheld sporting values and played to the best of our abilities."



The SP Table Tennis Team.

## FIRST GOLD FOR 2013 SEASON

Team SP kicked off the new season of POL-ITE games with a golden start. The SP Table Tennis (Men's) clinched the Gold after beating their opponents from the other polys. They triumphed over two polys with straight 5:0 wins and lost only one game point (4:1) to another two opponent teams before emerging with the highest points. This is their third gold since 2010. The women's team did not disappoint either by emerging 2nd runner-up, an improvement from the 4th position last year.



## WATER VICTORY

The SP Waterpolo boys played their hearts out at the POL-ITE Games. In their last match against Nanyang Polytechnic, they lost out and came in second in position (after Republic Polytechnic) by goal difference in all matches played. No sweat, boys! We are sure you will go all out to win the championship next year!

## HONOURS FOR INDIAN SP GRADS

Every year, the SINDA (Singapore Indian Development Association) Excellence Award is bestowed on Indian students who have achieved excellence in their respective academic fields, the arts or sports. They are recognised for their diligence and passion to excel, and are given certificates and book vouchers to recognise their achievements.

Among the recipients this year are 15 recent graduates from SP. They are Aravin s/o Mathiyagan (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics); Gayathiri Chandramohan (Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media); Jehan Sasha Nair (Diploma in Architecture); Kalaichelvam s/o Ramdass and Mohd Noohu s/o Nazurudeen (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering); Meetra d/o Seyher (Diploma in Biomedical Science); Nur Khairiah Bte Azan (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science); Nur Nazira Bte Noor Mohd (Diploma in Maritime Business); Nur Shakina Bte Killer Mohd (Diploma in Business Administration); R Arul Nurai (Diploma in Computer Engineering), Rajendran s/o Ramachandran (Diploma in Marine Engineering); and Ravin Nicholas s/o Kunalan (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering).

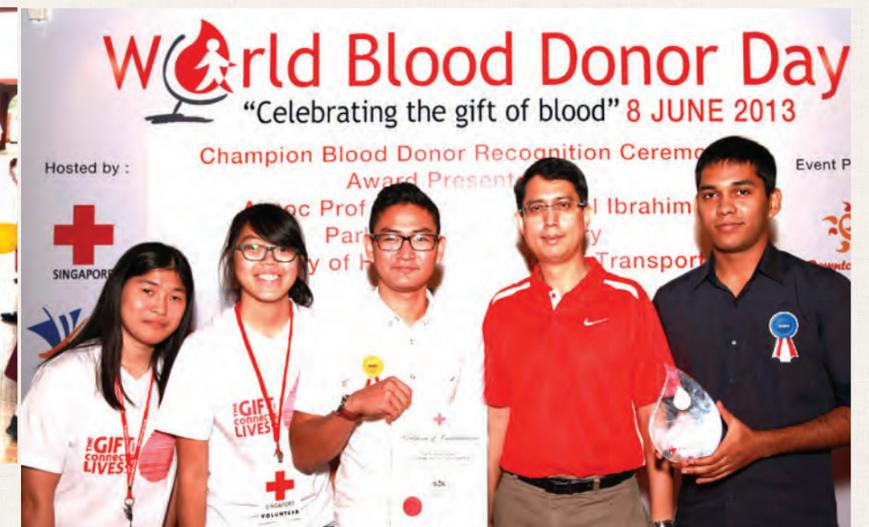


Mathnrj s/o Kawthaman, is now a second-year mechanical engineering undergraduate at the National University of Singapore.

SINDA Excellence Award winners Esther Subramaniam (left) and Harsha Channa are now pursuing their degree programmes at the Nanyang Technological University and National University of Singapore respectively.



SP Red Cross student advisor and Diploma in Clean Energy student Phyo Thu Ya Thet Min (left) with a boy he met during a community service trip to Indonesia. Phyo organised and volunteered in various Red Cross events such as its blood donation drives and freshmen orientation camps. He also served as the club's President during 2012 and 2013.



SP Red Cross students receiving the Bloodmobile Organiser Gold Award 2013. From left: Cynthia Lim (Diploma in Biotechnology); Juaniter Ng (Diploma in Biotechnology); Mohd Nasruddin Bin Roslan (Diploma in Biomedical Science); Assoc Prof Muhd Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport; and Sunit Bhowmick (Diploma in Maritime Business).

## THE KINDEST BLOODSUCKERS

The SP Red Cross has done a fair share of good these past few years. Besides supporting overseas disaster relief missions and first aid teaching programmes, they have also organised community service visits to homes such as St Luke's ElderCare and the Red Cross Home For the Disabled. They've also watched over many of us, though we may not know it, by providing first aid at several SP events.

The club also has the distinct honour of having been awarded the Bloodmobile Organiser Gold Award in 2012 and 2013 by the Health Sciences Authority and the Singapore Red Cross, as well as the Silver Award in 2011. Getting the Gold Award

means that the club managed to collect over 500 units of blood within a year through their blood donation drives held twice yearly.

The SP Red Cross is a student-run club and a chapter of Red Cross Youth, which aims to build a community of young leaders who are achievers as well as socially responsible people who embrace humanitarian values. If you are interested to let them suck your blood (for a good cause!), there will be a donation drive happening this October!

# ANTI-DRUG EVENT PLANNERS

SP students are helping in the battle against drug abuse through continued collaborations with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB). Five Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) students helped organise CNB's Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2013. This year, the campaign's theme was "Life Does Not Rewind. Say 'No' to Drugs".

Held at Bugis+, the event targeted youths and saw about 1,500 visitors over two days. The DEPM students helped to organise and develop several parts of the campaign, including the overall campaign concept, a YouTube teaser video for the event and a maze filled with posters depicting the life of a drug addict named Sam. The maze included lighting and visual distortion effects to mimic the confusion one feels when taking drugs. The team also helped to plan follow-up events such as an online photography contest and the distribution of anti-drug-themed memorabilia.

DEPM has worked with CNB on several different anti-drug campaigns. Previous collaborations include Club Against Drugs 2012, an island-wide clubbing event with an anti-drug message, and Danceworks! 2013, an anti-drug-themed dance competition and showcase.



From left: Second-year student organisers Lo Jia Wei, Joseph Lee, Jenson Seah, Aw Feng Ying and Claudia Nicole Loo.

# FLIGHT OF THE MACHINES



SP Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering students (from left) Eric Lim, Divesh Singaraju, Dashen s/o Dhanabal (face partially covered) and Lim Wei Qing, demonstrating their SP Iconic Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport who graced the opening of Aviation Open House 2013.

Made-in-SP unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were showcased to visitors at the Aviation Open House (AOH) 2013 held recently at the Singapore Expo. Built by students from the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) and the Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE), the remote-controlled SP Iconic UAV and Multirotor crafts wowed visitors with their impressive technical capabilities. The Iconic UAV was built to have high manoeuvrability that allows it to hover in mid-air and nimbly avoid environmental obstacles in flight. It is also built with onboard electronic sensors that can detect and track targets within its range. Another set of exhibits, the Multirotor crafts, were designed to be used for aerial photography and videography that can allow one to get multiple aerial perspectives of any outdoor event. Final-year DARE student Divesh Singaraju, who worked on the Iconic UAV, said: "It has definitely been a meaningful experience working on the UAV, which allowed us to acquire industrial hands-on experience, design and analytical skills, and the privilege of using expensive, high-tech equipment. Displaying it at the AOH was an inspiring moment that showed how our hard work had paid off."

Organised by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, AOH 2013 brought together more than 45 aviation-related organisations and education institutions to showcase opportunities, technological advancements and career options in the dynamic and growing Singapore aviation sector.

# DESIGN TOYS THAT THEY LIKE

The new generation of kids may not like what they see at Toys"R"Us. So what better way to please them than to get them to design their own toys? The 8th Toy Design Competition, organised by the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, saw students from 23 secondary schools forming a total of 75 teams participating in two categories – Autodesk Inventor Design + 123D Make Design Category (Land Vehicle) and Toy Design Category (Automata). First launched in 2006, the competition aims to promote creativity, innovation and enterprise amongst secondary school students.

River Valley High's creation, Two In One, won the first prize in the Autodesk Inventor category, whereas Henderson Secondary's design named Dummy Woods took the first prize in the Toy Design Category. The winners walked away with cash and product vouchers.



Winning toy designs: Teams from River Valley High (Above) and Henderson Secondary (Below).



# MUSIC IN THE GARDEN



The SP Chinese Orchestra serenaded picnickers and park-goers recently amidst lush greenery at the Botanic Gardens. With a combination of popular tunes from around the world, the 40-strong orchestra treated the appreciative crowd to an evening of orchestral music with a modern touch. Songs such as *Nobody* from the Wonder Girls, *Love Story* by Taylor Swift and Chinese pop favourite *Mice Love Rice* (老鼠爱大米) were performed with instruments like the gu zheng, pipa and sheng.



# SPLASHING GOOD TIMES

The Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) gave secondary school students a splashing good time at the recent Maritime Youth Day 2013. The event aimed to help participants understand the vibrant maritime and shipping industry in a fun, dynamic and challenging manner. Besides talks on career opportunities in the maritime industry, the students also enjoyed a series of energetic games such as tug-of-war in the water! They also toured SMA's Poly Marina, the academy's waterfront training centre for practical seamanship, proficiency in survival skills at sea, and other maritime-related courses.

# TRAILBLAZING AT TOP TOURISM SCHOOL

Tracy Hing, a recent graduate from the **Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)** has clinched a prestigious scholarship from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) to pursue a degree in hotel management.

The School of Hotel and Tourism Management in PolyU was ranked no. 2 in the world among academic institutions in hospitality and tourism in a 2009 study. It was also the only non-US-based institution among the top five that also included Cornell University, Michigan State University, University of Nevada-Las Vegas and Pennsylvania State University.

Tracy said: "I was very honoured to receive this entry scholarship for international students, which covers full tuition fees. I'm very grateful towards the lecturers at SP Business School (SB) for the huge influence they had on my poly life."



## SP GRAD IN YALE-NUS

A place in Yale-NUS College for SP graduates? Why not? After all, our graduates have also secured places in prestigious universities that include Cambridge, Harvard and Imperial College. **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** 2011 graduate Dennis Chiang joined the pioneer batch of undergraduates who enrolled into Singapore's first liberal arts college. His reason for doing so was a strong desire to understand key global issues through Yale-NUS's multidisciplinary approach. "Observing the world through a combination of social sciences, philosophy and literature allows for a more comprehensive view of things. I applied to Yale-NUS as other local universities don't have programmes designed with such a large combination of very different academic disciplines," Dennis said.

The DMC grad has been enjoying classes there so far, and he credits his time in SP with preparing him for this new phase in his life: "DMC taught me a lot about confidence and making presentations, as well as cultivating an independent go-getter attitude in organising campaigns, projects and events. These skills fit well with the style of education in Yale-NUS, where we're encouraged to be more independent learners who take initiative in defining and growing our own student lives."

## FIRST CLASS GRAD

Heartiest congratulations to Farhana Bte Ja'afar, a graduate from the Diploma in Digital Media, Class of 2009. She graduated recently from Nanyang Technological University with a first class honours degree in Visual Communications. Of her way to success, she says: "It gets really easy when you enjoy what you are doing. You will always get what you want, it's just a matter of time and place." We are very sure a bright future awaits you in the world of animation and visual effects!



Yue Chao with Prof Wolfgang A Herrmann (left), President, TUM, and Prof Meng Liqiu (right), Senior Vice-President (International Affairs), TUM.

## BEST OF HIS BATCH

Yue Chao from the Class of 2010 did SP proud by becoming the best in his university batch! The Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering alumnus recently graduated as the top student from the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at Singapore Institute of Technology - Technical University of Munich (SIT-TUM).

Yue Chao enjoyed his time in SIT-TUM tremendously. "Embarking on this programme with SIT not only provided fabulous opportunities; it also enriched my life. I got to experience living and studying in Munich. Working on my thesis allowed me to test my theoretical knowledge and inspired me to use what I know to innovate things in future," he said.

To his juniors in SP, Yue Chao gave the following advice: "In engineering, remembering theories and passing exams is not everything. Try to ask why things happen the way they do. If you really want to be a good engineer, nurture your passion to know 'why'. A theory is just a math equation, but behind the equation is a lot of meaning. You have to dig out the story behind it!"

## MY TEACHER MY HERO

**SP Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** alumnus Edwin Tan Jian Rong didn't just obtain his Bachelor of Engineering degree with first class honours from Nanyang Technological University (NTU). He also clinched the prestigious Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award which gives recognition to the influence of inspirational teaching, and the enduring bonds that are forged between teachers and students. Top NTU students who win this award have to achieve excellent academic performance, display strong leadership ability, demonstrate potential for contributing to society as well as possess exemplary conduct which can be an example for their peers. They are entitled to acknowledge an NTU faculty member and a teacher from his/her former junior college, polytechnic, or equivalent institution, who has inspired and contributed significantly to his/her education.

Edwin acknowledges SP lecturer Mrs Lee Mei Lai for his success. His reason? "Mrs Lee always simplifies complicated concepts to help us understand the subject better. Through her teaching experiences and life stories, she never failed to stress the importance of some theories and concepts which I can still relate to today," explains Edwin. Mrs Lee will have a \$5,000 cash grant established in her name to be awarded to a future NTU student from SP. He also attributes his success to the strong foundation he gained while at SP. The concepts, knowledge and skills that he acquired through lectures, tutorials and lab sessions gave him a good head start. A second lecturer he acknowledges is Assoc Prof Low Kay Soon from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, NTU.

Also a recipient of the Defence Science Organisation's (DSO) SOAR Scholarship, Edwin is now working as an engineer at DSO National Laboratories. He is the fourth SP graduate to clinch the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award since its inception in 2010. The first recipient was also a DEEE graduate, Gan Hoe Yee, who acknowledged lecturer Mr Toh Ser Khoon for his inspiring teaching. Fellow SP graduates Meyyappan Somasundaram from the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services and Yammie Chin from the **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** also clinched the award and acknowledged SP lecturers Ms Han Lih Lih and Mr Ken Kwan respectively for this award.



Edwin Tan receiving the prestigious award from President of Singapore Tony Tan, flanked by SP lecturer Mrs Lee Mei Lai (extreme left) and Assoc Prof Low Kay Soon from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, NTU (extreme right).

From left: Associate Professor Leo Yee Sin, Director of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, Tan Tock Seng Hospital; Associate Professor Thomas Lew, Chairman, Medical Board, Tan Tock Seng Hospital; Mr Lim Peng Hun, Deputy Principal (Technology and Industry), SP; and Mr Lance Lim, Chief Technology Officer, Technology Development Office, SP, at the MoU signing ceremony.



# GREAT OPP FOR BIOMED STUDENTS

Tan Tock Seng Hospital's (TTSH) Institute of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology (IIDE) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SP to advance clinical research on evolving infectious diseases. This is the first MoU that IIDE is signing with an academic institution to nurture more clinical research professionals in this field. IIDE was set up at TTSH last year to build up expertise in the management of infectious diseases.

The collaboration will bring together scientists from SP's Centre for Biomedical and Life Sciences (CBLS) and TTSH clinicians to help strengthen early detection measures for new strains and diseases. As part of the MoU, IIDE will

conduct research and development with the CBLS staff in SP's laboratories. The collaborative projects include bacterial genome sequencing, HIV viral quantitation and point-of-care diagnostics validation for dengue, to name a few.

The partnership will also provide new opportunities for the final-year students in SP's **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)**. Starting from April 2014, DBS students will get a unique practical internship in the area of infectious disease clinical research at TTSH medical laboratories. This will be the first time that students get to undergo a seven-month internship doing hands-on research work (as opposed to a standard three-month internship).



**Diploma in Energy Systems and Management.**

## NEW AND IMPROVED

SP is constantly reviewing and modifying its diploma courses to keep them relevant, up-to-date and beneficial to students. This year, two of SP's courses are being revamped. The Diploma in Clean Energy has been renamed as the **Diploma in Energy Systems and Management (DESM)**, while the Diploma in Materials Science is now called the **Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Materials Science (DACM)**.

While the previous clean energy course focused on clean (e.g. solar, wind) and conventional (e.g. oil, gas) energy sources, the new DESM diploma adds an additional component: a focus on energy-efficient technology such as smart power distribution grids, and energy-efficient technology design principles. The course aims to produce graduates who can handle a variety of energy systems and also take part in designing next-generation homes, buildings and technologies that are environmentally-friendly and burn less energy. More than 10,000 new jobs in this field are expected during the next 10 years as agencies increase support for energy management and efficiency to transform Singapore into a sustainable city for the future.

In DACM, students build a strong foundation in applied chemistry with an emphasis in materials science. They learn how to apply scientific principles to understand the structures, properties and behaviours of materials (e.g. ceramics, plastic polymers, composite metals) used in modern technology, buildings and manufacturing. DACM graduates can apply their chemistry and materials knowledge to develop advanced and innovative products like biomaterials, nanomaterials, eco-friendly materials and polymeric materials for use in almost any industry. Whereas the previous DMLS course had a component teaching management modules, the new DACM course replaces these modules with a stronger emphasis on chemistry and materials science.



**Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Materials Science.**

# DIRECT ADMISSION TO SUTD FOR SP STUDENTS



The MoU was signed by SUTD Provost Prof Chong Tow Chong (left) and SP Principal and CEO Mr Tan Choon Shian.

SP graduates scoring a minimum GPA of 3.8 after their fifth semester can now apply for direct admission to the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), established in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. With this one and only partnership with Singapore Polytechnic, SUTD will admit up to 50 SP students through this direct admissions programme into its undergraduate programmes. However, those selected under this programme must maintain the minimum GPA grade upon completing their sixth and final semester. To sweeten the deal, up to five SUTD scholarships will be awarded to SP graduates if they meet the university's entry requirements.

To enable SP students to have a better understanding of the degree programmes offered by SUTD, up to 20 outstanding students will be chosen to participate in SUTD's Introduction to Design Course, while another 10 top students from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) will participate in the university's architecture degree course.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by SUTD and SP recently to formalise this collaboration that seeks to promote science, technology and innovation and attain the highest level of excellence in education.



Established in collaboration with MIT

# MATERIAL BENEFITS

SP and Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd (ST Kinetics) recently launched Singapore's first-of-its-kind advanced materials research centre. The S\$4 million Applied Materials Engineering Centre (AMEC) located in SP will spearhead applied materials innovation in the areas of advanced powder metallurgy and ceramic applications that are relevant to industries such as aerospace, automotive, maritime and offshore, and electronics.

AMEC is equipped with two new state-of-the-art technologies – the Gas Atomiser and Sparks Plasma Sintering (SPS) equipment. Combined with SP's strong materials engineering knowledge and ST Kinetics' experience in smart engineering, AMEC aims to use this technology to create advanced metal alloy and ceramic powders that can be used in next-generation automobiles, electronic devices, energy-efficient superconductors and communications satellites.

With this joint collaboration, SP and ST Kinetics aim to contribute to the growing advanced materials market in the near future. Advanced ceramics, for instance, recorded sales of US\$2.5 billion in 2010 and this number is expected to grow to US\$4 billion by 2016. Mr Sew Chee Jhuen, President of ST Kinetics, said: "ST Kinetics is excited to partner SP in the research and development of applied materials technology. The launch of AMEC demonstrates our commitment to delivering smart engineering and innovative solutions to our myriad customers."



Attending the launch was Guest-of-Honour Prof Quek Tong Boon, Chief Defence Scientist, Ministry of Defence. Photo courtesy of ST Kinetics

# COLLABORATION



The MoC was signed by Mr Richard Yuen, President of MOOGAS (left) and Mr Roland Tan, Director, Singapore Maritime Academy in SP.

# IN MEDIATION

The Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) in SP and the Marine Offshore Oil and Gas Association Singapore (MOOGAS) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to develop and implement a new certification programme in expert determination and mediation. Both parties will work closely to engage the Singapore Mediation Centre to conduct courses in mediation skills to increase the understanding of conflicts, and learn the latest and most effective techniques to manage and resolve them. This is in line with Singapore's quest to be a total business centre and make itself into a major centre for dispute resolution. The collaboration will contribute positively to our Government's plan to promote and develop Singapore as an Alternative Dispute Resolution hub for the region. The MoC will also pave the way for SP and MOOGAS to explore further collaborations in other areas of training to strengthen Singapore's position as a major international maritime centre.

# CROWN JEWELS OF SP



Artist impression of the upcoming Aero Hub and SP Business School.



The SP Japanese Daiko Drummers Club announced the groundbreaking with thundering beats!

Aeronautical and business students can look forward to spanking new learning facilities in about two years' time. The groundbreaking ceremony for the upcoming Aero Hub and Business School took place recently. With them come a slew of benefits for SP students:

### SUPER CORRIDOR

This is the number one benefit for students at the hilltop. The Super Corridor is a passageway that will extend from the MRT and go straight up to the Aero Hub and Business School, before ending at a link bridge that goes to the buildings on the hilltop. At the link bridge, there will be escalators and lifts to help with the climb up the slope amidst the lush greenery!

### AERO HUB

This is a four-storey building located behind the SP Convention Centre. The Aero Hub will house all of the labs used by students from the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** and the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)**. This includes the Wind Tunnel lab, Aerodynamics lab and Avionics lab, all of which are currently located in different parts of our sprawling campus. Relocating them to one building will allow the students to collaborate more easily.

All of SP's aeroplanes will come under one roof. The Cessna 310, Cessna 172,

A4SU Super Skyhawk and the UH1H Huey Helicopter will all be moved to a huge hangar sitting beneath the Super Corridor. Visitors walking through the passageway will be able to look down through glass panels to watch DARE and DASE students tinkering inside the hangar with their airplanes and their autonomous flying machines or unmanned aerial vehicles.

The Aero Hub will also house a Research and Development Centre that will support the development of technologies such as full-motion flight simulators, hybrid rocket propulsion systems and VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing) Intermeshing and co-axial UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) systems.

### SP BUSINESS SCHOOL

The new Business School building will be located in between the Aero Hub and the hilltop. It is seven storeys tall and will be filled with classrooms and lecture theatres in a variety of styles. Harvard-style seminar rooms (similar to those in Harvard University), arena-style rooms (rooms designed to facilitate competitive team debates and negotiation simulations) and the SOHO studio (Small Office Home Office, a two-floor, multi-purpose studio for students to discuss projects in comfortable, private spaces) will be built with the intent of providing a diverse landscape of spaces to stimulate student learning and discovery.

Most of the studios and labs currently on the hilltop will be moved to the new building. There will also be a brand new Emotional Quotient (EQ) Seminar Room that will give students the space to reflect and learn about the EQ lessons infused into their curriculum. Best of all, there will be an air-conditioned food court in the new building that also doubles as an informal space to chill out.

These are but two of the exciting new buildings that will be SP's pride and joy in the near future. Keep your eyes peeled for the Student and Sports Hub, SP Design School and the Singapore Institute of Technology building due for completion next year.



Get ready for a new hangout area for relaxation or study.



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