

SPiRiT

OCTOBER 2011

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

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Scholar

Scholar
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- ➔ Meet SP's Super 7
- ➔ Can you befriend your teacher on FB?
- ➔ SP students @ Yale, Harvard & MIT
- ➔ SP Dragonboat Hunks

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SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**



SP. SPIRIT

Celebrating **SP**irit

Hi,

How's it been at Singapore Polytechnic (**SP**), so far? For those in your first year, it must have felt very different compared to those days when you rushed to school in uniforms. For some of you, it's a different headache now – what should I wear to SP today? But we made it easier for you – I see many of you proudly wearing the SP tees 😊. The final year students - you have one more semester to clear, you know what to do ;). And to those of you taking the 'O' level exams soon, my best wishes to you and I look forward to welcoming you at SP. Life at SP is not just lesson after lesson. That will make you a dull Jack, or a bored Jill. SP has a green and beautiful campus. The lecture theatres are nice and lessons are not chock-a-block the whole day. During your breaks, you have choices. You can retreat to Starbucks, McCafe, Polar's Cafe, or maybe Koufu. How about chilling out at Moberly or the new EcOasis and Butterfly Sanctuary? Take advantage of these wonderful facilities while you are here.

You will discover even more as you flip through the pages of our inaugural **SP**irit magazine (whether you are already in SP or planning to join us). There's a throbbing and vibrant **SP**irit embedded in each story.

Our cover story on the SP Scholars will give you an insight on a breed among your peers who are bright, yet humble in **SP**irit. They are much sought after and clearly far from being nerds.

Check out the top graduates from the Class of 2011. They are living models of C.A.R.E. – **C**onfident, **A**ccomplished, **R**eady, and **E**xcellent in ways big and small.

Don't miss "One stroke, one heart" and hear from our very own dragon warriors. You will be inspired by their words of wisdom that will come in handy while you are in SP or even beyond.

For a peek into the mind of one of our more "adventurous" lecturers, check out the pages peeled from Howard's Facebook wall. You'll be amazed how he uses Facebook to connect and communicate with his students.

I trust that you will have sufficient reasons to pour your eyes over the pages of **SP**irit. I hope you will enjoy reading how the first polytechnic in Singapore endeavours to bring out the best **SP**irit in each one of you.

Viva **SP**irit.

Tan Hang Cheong (The **SP**irit Principal)
Singapore Polytechnic

The **SP**irit Team

Advisor: Henry Tan

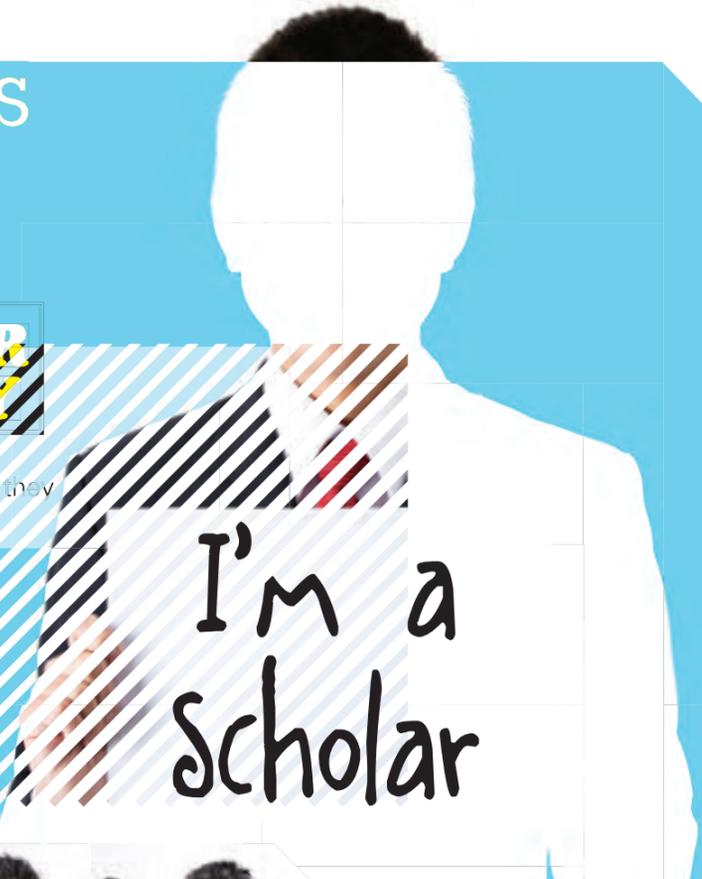
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I'm a
Scholar



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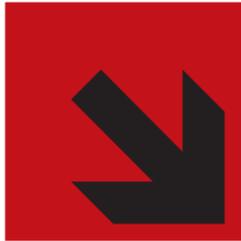
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Love blossoms on campus.

67.

App Me Please!

SP rolls out mobile apps.



Speaking Personally

Winning entry! This letter wins a O.D.M. Necklace Watch worth \$145, courtesy of Teenage magazine

I'm in love with an amazing Las Vegas band called Panic! At The Disco. They're unique - crazy awesome lyrics and song titles go with their extraordinary tunes. I've been their fan for six years, starting from when they first started. Despite their split in 2009, I've stuck with them and I'm glad I did. P!ATD makes me happy; their music videos and songs bring joy to me. When I saw them live in concert for the first time in 2008, it was the best day of my life. The overwhelming excitement and fan girl hormones felt great.

NURQISTINA ISKANDAR
Diploma in Digital Media

I love SP because it gives me a home away from home. Being Malaysian, I never thought I'd fit into a foreign country. But somehow, I've found a second home here. SP cares for international students too. The staff are friendly and the facilities are great. The great variety of food caters to every race and culture. Some of the food really strikes the right chord with international students who miss mum's cooking. Pursuing an education overseas has never felt so easy. Thanks SP!

NICOLE LOH
Diploma in Media and Communication

SP is the place where I know I can find comfort when I am tired and the place where I know I can satisfy my thirst for knowledge.

OH HUI QI
Diploma in Food Science and Technology

Chicken Talk is one of the stalls with the longest queue in Singapore Poly food court 3. This stall can sell up from 500-700 plates per day. Among all the chicken set choices, chicken cutlet rice gets the highest ratings as it never fails to whet students' appetite. With 13 kinds of sauce, such as sambal, black pepper, sweet Thai, rendang and mayonnaise, students are being spoilt enough, not to mention the delicious variety of side dishes. The chicken is tender and incredibly juicy. Beside chicken cutlet, the stall also offers chicken horfun, ayam penyet, chicken porridge and chicken macaroni. Enjoy all goodness at really cheap prices.

LYDIA ARTAN
Diploma in Media and Communication

Before I graduate, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my lecturers for their generous support and motivations throughout the years. They not only educate me but also taught me values and attitudes. With their immense patience and guidance, they have moulded me into a person with positive values and inspirations. And I am truly grateful for that. Mr Ng Eng Poh, Ms Edna, Mr Neo Chip Chuan, Mr Martin, Mr Caleb Lye, Mr David Chee, Mr Kong - they aren't just any ordinary lecturers. They are my extraordinary lecturers.

SEE YI LIN
Diploma in Accountancy

The best dish to have for lunch at SP is the chicken cordon bleu from the western food stall in FC3. The dish features a chicken fillet stuffed with ham, cheese and mushrooms that would definitely appeal to anyone! It also comes with a side dish of your choice to complete the meal. I recommend this dish to anyone who likes an exciting combination of flavours and textures in their food. So if you're looking for something around campus to tickle your taste buds, do give this a try!

SAYAKA TATEKURA
Diploma in Biotechnology

If you have something to say about anything in SP, let us know. **SPiRiT** welcomes contributions from SP students which should be less than 100 words. Submit your entry to spirit_editor@sp.edu.sg with your full name and admission number. One entry will win a special prize and other published letters win a consolation prize.

Published letters in this issue win an ACNES Hamper worth \$20, courtesy of Mentholatum and Teenage.



Sharing Pictures

Winning entry! This picture wins a O.D.M. Necklace Watch worth \$145, courtesy of Teenage magazine

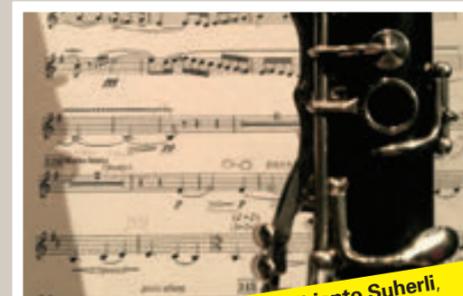
By **Lee Wen Juan**,
Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management



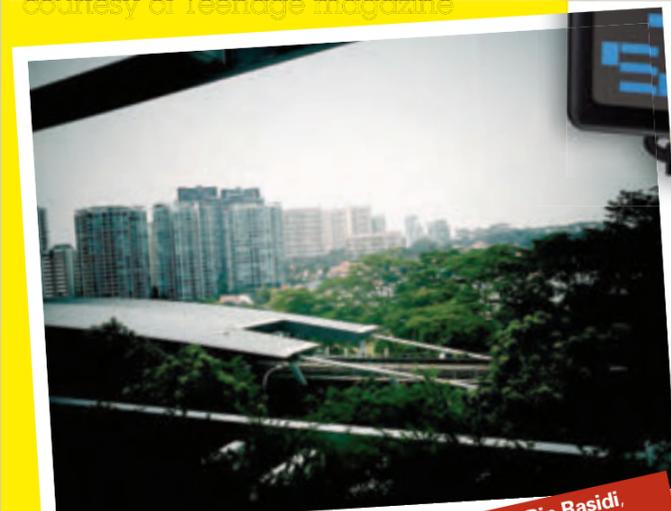
Food Court 6 - Where our friendship blooms



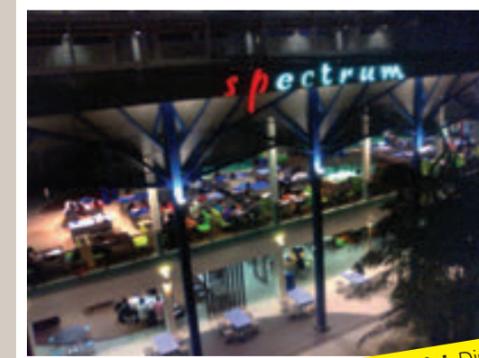
Rays of the sun at SP
By **Lee Teck Cheng**, Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering



The Clarinet and I
By **Adhianto Suherli**, Diploma in Biomedical Science



Dover MRT. Where the coolest kids aight.
By **Muhd Nursyazwan Bin Rasidi**, Diploma in Biomedical Science



Spectrum, a place where we study and have fun!
By **Lee Yu Hui**, Diploma in Engineering with Business

Take a picture of your favourite place / object / people in SP with your smartphone. Email the photo to spirit_editor@sp.edu.sg with your full name, admission number and a caption in less than 10 words of what the picture is about. One entry will win a special prize and other published photos win a consolation prize.

Published photos in this issue win an ACNES Hamper worth \$20, courtesy of Mentholatum and Teenage.





SUPER

They are the smarties of Singapore Polytechnic Graduation 2011. For the seven of them, the journey to the top is not merely scoring good academic results. What's behind these super-achievers and things that we don't know about them? **SPiRiT** investigates the magnificent seven who unanimously put SP as their first choice three years ago.

**Diploma in Business
Information Technology**
Formerly from Singapore
Sports School

SEAN LEE TEK REN

Who Am I?

- I'm a national sailor and have sailed in places like Uruguay and Australia.
- I won medals at the Southeast Asian Games and international sailing competitions.
- I was Singapore's Young Ambassador at the 1st Youth Olympic Games.
- I was the final torch bearer for the YOG Journey of the Flames, Southwest District.
- I was a SP Sports Scholar and groomed under the SP Outstanding Talent programme.
- I am the reigning SP Sportsman of the Year.
- I can sail; I can write. I was a SP student journalist.

My Next Step:

- I'm a Nanyang Scholar and will be pursuing a business and accountancy degree at Nanyang Technological University.
- My biggest wish now is to be selected for the Olympic Games 2012 in London.

My Awards

- Lee Kuan Yew Award
- IDA Gold Medal
- Keppel Housing Prize
- OCBC Prize
- Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
- Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Prize



THING KAI YUAN

Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Formerly from Gan Eng Seng School

Who Am I?

- ✓ I did my internship at Pratt & Whitney in Beijing.
- ✓ I taught kids how to use the computer in Timor Leste.
- ✓ I had dialogue sessions with our Ministers as part of my leadership programme.
- ✓ I was a liaison officer at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit.
- ✓ I tutored final-year students in my alma mater Gan Eng Seng Secondary.
- ✓ I received the Kampong Glam CCC Scholarship (Polytechnic) for two years.
- ✓ I also helped needy children.

My Next Stop:

- ✓ I aim to study at a prestigious overseas university with a Scholarship.
- ✓ I want to be an outstanding leader, a role model father and a good friend to others.

My Awards

- ➔ Lee Kuan Yew Award
- ➔ SIA Engineering Aeronautical Engineering Gold Medal
- ➔ Alfred Robert Edis Prize
- ➔ Eurocopter SEA Merit Award
- ➔ OCBC Prize
- ➔ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
- ➔ The Diploma-Plus Book Prize
- ➔ The Institution of Engineers, Singapore Prize



LIM HUI YIN

Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
Formerly from Presbyterian High School

Who Am I?

- ✓ I know how to build amazing flying machines because I won awards designing them.
- ✓ I helped visitors at the airport as a Changi Youth Ambassador.
- ✓ Don't play with me; I know taekwondo and kickboxing.
- ✓ I went to China for my aerospace internship; I can now survive China because I passed the aviation test conducted in Mandarin.
- ✓ I swallowed a bug during my community service in Cambodia. It actually went down my throat!
- ✓ I'm a perfectionist.

My Next Stop:

- ✓ I want to take a one-year break to do community service, upgrade my wushu skills and learn to play the guitar.
- ✓ I plan to study electronic and electrical engineering in Nanyang Technological University after my break.

My Awards

- ➔ Lee Kuan Yew Award
- ➔ European Aeronautic Defence and Space Gold Medal
- ➔ OCBC Prize
- ➔ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
- ➔ Shell Merit Award
- ➔ Singapore Technologies Aerospace Prize



CLOTHES, ACCESSORIES AND HEELS FROM MUSE @ PACIFIC PLAZA



KANG KOK WEI

Diploma in Clean Energy
Formerly from Hougang Secondary School and ITE College East

Who Am I?

- ☑ I'm a never-say-die person who joined SP from ITE. I made it!
- ☑ My sister also graduated from SP; she told me it's a good poly. I listened to her and she's right.
- ☑ I gave tuition at the Clementi Student Service Centre.
- ☑ My final-year project got a Gold Outstanding Display Award at Spinovex 2011.
- ☑ My secondary school teacher made a big difference in my life. She motivated me.
- ☑ My dad is my role model; in future I want my kids to see me as one too.
- ☑ I received help when I was in primary school, now I help others by doing community service.
- ☑ I love archery. It's physically and mentally challenging.
- ☑ I was the SP Rotaract Club President.

My Next Stop:

- ☑ I'll proceed straight into second year in Nanyang Technological University to study electrical and electronic engineering after national service.
- ☑ I want to be a part of the fast-growing sustainable energy dustry.

My Awards

- ➔ Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal
- ➔ PCS Silver Medal



VICKI LAU

Diploma in Digital Media (Now renamed Diploma in Interactive Media)
Formerly from CHIJ Katong Convent

Who Am I?

- ☑ I was a bullied teenager in secondary school; my classmates made me eat pencil shavings.
- ☑ I'm now a confident youth who wants to be a successful film-maker.
- ☑ I went to Hollywood to learn video production under the NUS-MDA Hollywood Attachment Programme.
- ☑ I won the Sony-SP I.C.E Award and the prize came with an all-expenses trip to attend the NAB Show in Las Vegas.
- ☑ I was the President of SP Videography Club.
- ☑ I believe in 3Ps – Passion, Poise and Perseverance.
- ☑ I want to bring major changes to the local media scene.

My Next Stop:

- ☑ I was awarded the MDA Scholarship to pursue a degree in Visual Effects at the Savannah College of Art and Design in USA.
- ☑ The college has also awarded me with the Academic Honours Award and an Artistic Scholarship.

My Awards

- ➔ Chua Chor Teck Gold Medal
- ➔ Media Development Authority Gold Medal
- ➔ Monstrou Studio Award
- ➔ Shell Companies In Singapore Prize



THOMAS LIM TING WEN

**Diploma in Applied Drama
and Psychology**
Formerly from
Catholic High School

Who Am I?

- ☑ I love to perform. I enjoy spending time in the arts.
- ☑ I took part in two Singapore Youth Festival Competitions.
- ☑ I switched from a top JC to join SP because of my passion for applied drama.
- ☑ I attended the International Drama Educators' Association World Congress in Brazil as an SP student. An amazing experience!
- ☑ I staged H, a devised performance for Celebrate Drama! organised by the Singapore Drama Educators' Association.
- ☑ I'm now a drama trainer at inwardBOUND School of Drama until my national service.
- ☑ If I can, I would start a social enterprise.

My Next Stop:

- ☑ I want to be an applied drama practitioner to help marginalised communities.
- ☑ I will pursue further education in drama-related degree programmes.

My Awards

- ➔ Toh Chin Chye Gold Medal
- ➔ School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences Gold Medal
- ➔ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize



LI YAN

**Diploma in Business
Technology**
Formerly from River Valley
High School

Who Am I?

- ☑ I'm a member of the Microsoft Student Partners, an international programme.
- ☑ I have free access to Microsoft technologies and softwares.
- ☑ I developed mobile web apps for SP that will be implemented soon.
- ☑ I developed three mobile apps for Windows Phone 7. Check out Today Across Time, SG Taxi and NRIC Validator.
- ☑ I enjoy doing assignments.
- ☑ I'm very vocal. Nothing scares me.
- ☑ I dare to do presentations to big shots. I've already done it before.

My Next Stop:

- ☑ I want to be a developer evangelist with Microsoft after completing my university education.
- ☑ I will pursue an Information System degree at NUS under the Kent Ridge Undergraduate (Merit) Scholarship.

My Awards

- ➔ Low Guan Onn Gold Medal
- ➔ IDA Gold Medal
- ➔ Microsoft Singapore Award
- ➔ Shell Companies in Singapore Prize
- ➔ Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Prize

The Student Agency

I wanted to see if I can match up to the industry standard as well as to gain more exposure in the working design world, plus to experience global cultures through study trips!

My presence itself inspired me to be in TSA.

Eng Sui kee

Year 2
Junior Designer

Hakim Nur

Year 2
Visualiser

While there are many challenging tasks out there, the most difficult one is when you have to deal with people who give you a hard time. I once had all my design ideas thrown back at me several times. However, it takes experience and a positive mind to understand that design is subjective.

To learn, to challenge myself and to deal with the real world. It has helped me to visualise and improve on my designs. Afterall, design is not all about self-indulgence. It's thinking and communicating through visuals.

I love The Student Agency because it brings me a step closer to everything that I can and want to be in the future as a designer!

A family of passionate people who work, share ideas, and create awesomeness together.

3.22am: Rushing visuals for a presentation the next morning with oldies music playing in the background!

To work on a seemingly unexciting brief into an exciting project together with really awesomely cool people in the agency. That is why TSA is so amazing

I joined TSA because I wanted to learn and know what it is like to work in a creative agency. Working with others, sharing and listening to different ideas, being exposed to many projects and making new friends are very interesting, fruitful and enriching to me.

The reason why I joined TSA was because I wanted to experience how it feels like to work in a student agency and working with live clients.

It heartens me to work with students who are unwavering in spirit and enthusiasm, and show great attitude in the face of deadlines and other demands of school.

The most memorable moment I had in TSA is the Last Super photo shoot, I've learnt 2 things; TSA uber fun and I sure know how to take "good" photos.

Elaine Tham

Year 3
Designer

Lee Xin Ying

Year 2
Junior Designer

I joined TSA so I can experience the "outside world", it's not really something you can experience just sitting in the studio all day. I now know more about how typical design agencies work, and the kind of friendships you experience along the way.

Aishah Mohd

Year 3
Designer

I decided to join TSA for the experience and I believe it will benefit me in the long run.

Anson Cheng

Year 3
Art Director

What do you get when you have 20 passionate students under 1 roof? Fireworks. It can get highly stressful yes, but along with the stress, you uncover gems among these kids that will sparkle the industry one day. I have been very humbled by them.

Justin Tan

Graduate
Senior Art Director

The person who inspires me the most is Azhar. His caring demeanor never fails to guide us in each and every project, which I aspire to emulate.

Chrisvensia Layhadi

Year 2
Junior Designer

I joined TSA so that I'll be able to learn valuable lessons that are not taught in the classroom.

Farrah

Year 3
Designer

Michelle Rachel

Year 3
Designer

To leap and face my fears, TSA is my cliff!

Sarah Michelle Lee

Lecturer
Creative Director

Being in TSA has exposed me to the realities of the design and advertising industry. The longer I stay here, the more driven I am to pursue my goal to be a copywriter.

Koh Jia Ling

Year 2
Visualiser

TSA feels like a family living at home, with a dragon. Except dragons don't exist so TSA feels like a family living at home, with all the warmth and the bonding that you would expect from one.

Sng Jia Rong

Year 2
Visualiser

Samantha Tan

Year 3
Account Executive

Jesylnn Ong

Year 2
Junior Copywriter

Sabrina Khong

Year 2
Account Coordinator

Noor Azhar

Senior Lecturer
Account Director

Jacqueline Teo

Year 3
Art Director

Syarini Asa'ari

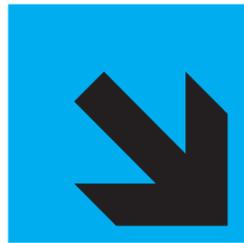
Year 3
Copywriter

Qomarul Arifin

Year 3
Copywriter



Serious Projects



They will Make A Difference!

What a madness it was! SP students were encouraged to go MAD but retain their sanity. The initiative, first launched last year, was to get students to Make A Difference (M.A.D.) in the lives of people around them. Ideas that are adopted will receive funding to see them to fruition. Now in its second year, Go M.A.D. was organised by 101 final-year students from the **Diploma in Media and Communication**.

This year, 10 teams made their pitch with revolutionary ideas and four teams won! They were decided by a panel as well as audience voting during the open pitching session that took place at the SP Open Plaza.

SPiRiT profiles the four winning teams.

The Out-Word Expression

This team won seed funding for the second time, the first was their project Poetry Slam Revolt. They decided to take one step further by reaffirming the beauty of words in the Internet age where youth emote with acronyms and abbreviations instead. "GoMAD gave us this platform not found anywhere else. Since our idea was

accepted last year, we were encouraged to take part again."

"A lot of people think that words and English are beyond them but we want to clear that misconception – if you can feel, you can definitely say. If everyone benefits from the project, we'll have a more democratic society because we are all expressing ourselves," explained team leader Abdul Azim Bin Awalludin.

Green Vending Bank

An innovation by five final-year Mechanical Engineering students, this special vending machine gives you instant cash rebates in exchange for used drink cans and bottles. When asked how their product would help shape recycling efforts, leaders Fong Ee Jie and Yogendran said: "Some people think recycling is too troublesome. By giving incentives, there is more motivation. This is on-the-go recycling: once implemented, you can find them all around."

Green Desert @ SP Fall 2011

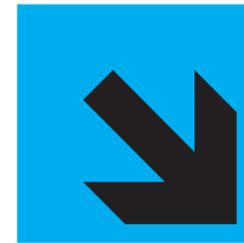
Four students will make their way to Beijing and Inner Mongolia to plant trees. This is a

part of the five-year conservation program launched in 2007. Team leader Amanda Yeo Qian Yu said: "We will use the funds to plant more trees. Our original aim was to plant 1,400 trees but it was reduced due to a lack of funds. With the new funding, we can get back on track." This team also plans to educate children in these communities about the environment. "They're the next generation of leaders, so we want to help them become more conscious about protecting the environment," added Amanda.

Project WeShare

The idea is to raise awareness on literature amongst the children. Spearheaded by 19 students from the SP BP Mentoring Club, the team hopes to set up an English library at a student care centre and hold a book fair. Team leader Lim Shi Yan hopes the project will inculcate the spirit of reading in children. "Many children don't appreciate books because they are not introduced to the joys of reading. We hope that this can spark off their interest to read," said Shi Yan.

Serious Projects



Wearing the MAD HAT



Go M.A.D.: Behind The Scenes

Our experience as the account directors behind the entire promotional campaign of GoMAD and GoINSPIRE was – no pun intended – maddening. Exhaustion aside, this entire project is nevertheless a student's dream.

The purpose of us going to a polytechnic is to experience reality in a vibrant educational environment where we can learn and make mistakes. This project most definitely fulfilled that purpose. The first stage of the project involves dividing ourselves, all 101 of us from the Diploma in Media and Communication, into small groups. Each group had to come up with an idea to promote GoMAD and GoINSPIRE.

Our group's idea was chosen and we were assigned as student directors of different functional groups that include Account Management, Creative and Production, Engagement and Outreach, Publicity and Event Management. These key groups would help and guide the rest of the cohort in executing our functions.

There were a few things that made this project incredibly realistic. First of all, we were given a real budget for the campaign. We know this might sound silly to some of you but in schools, we are seldom given real money to run our projects. We are normally asked to write a proposal or come up with an idea. Hence, the consequences of failure are minimal. However, with real money comes real responsibility and that is the reality of the working world and we experienced it first-hand!

Secondly, we were given freedom. Some wise man said that the role of a teacher is not to hold the hand of his student but to show him the direction. However, the wise man was wrong. This time round, we, as students, made most of the decisions and directed the functional teams. There were times that we had to make judgment calls and make critical decisions. To make a decision without full knowledge of its consequences is hard but that is, again, so real.

Overall, speaking on behalf of SP's **Diploma in Media and Communication** Year 3 cohort, conceptualising and executing GoMAD and GoINSPIRE was enlightening. We have learnt so much from this project and the experience would certainly go a long way after we graduate.



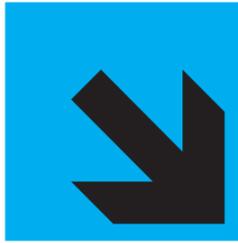
Perry Shen and Amanda Foo, both final-year students from the **Diploma in Media and Communication**, are the account directors in the Go M.A.D. Committee. They share with **SPiRiT** about their experience organising the annual event which is also their final-year project.

WHAT IS Go M.A.D.

Go M.A.D. (Make A Difference) is an initiative by Singapore Polytechnic to encourage its students and staff to develop ideas that will Make A Difference in the lives of others – whether on campus, in the community or in the society.

WHAT IS GoINSPIRE

GoINSPIRE is a seed funding initiative that helps finance the ideas from students that will bring about social changes. It allows students to take charge and turn their own ideas into reality. If their ideas are good, they will be selected for funding.



My Teacher is my Facebook Friend



Should our lecturers befriend their students on social media?

SP Business School lecturer Howard Yap didn't hesitate to do so. He tells **SPiRiT** why.

I believe most educators would ask themselves the same question. To be honest, it did not cross my mind when I first started using Facebook back in 2007. I would just add my students when the friend requests came in and made it a point to accept every request almost indiscriminately.

Understandably, not every educator embraces the idea of befriend students on Facebook, much less adding every student in their class who requested. The reservations are further justified by the

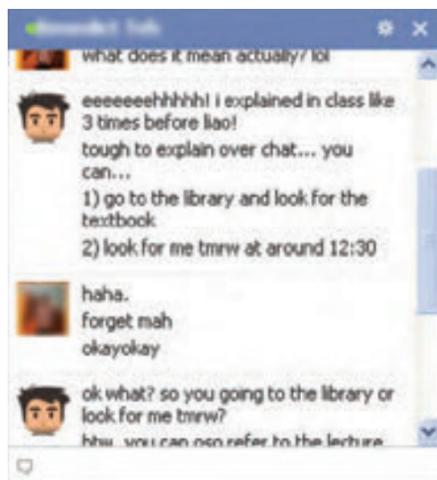
occasional news articles that spoke on how content posted by educators "came back to haunt them" and in more extreme cases, like the one reported on BBC News recently, that one-third teachers in UK are victims of cyberbullying, largely attributed to connections with their students on social media.

Furthermore, as educators, we do need to be mindful and sensitive on what we share and discuss on social media as most students look up to us, to a varying degree, as role models. Therefore, we

are expected to conduct ourselves in a manner that upholds the high standing of the profession, both in a personal and professional capacity.

So then, should educators befriend students on social media?

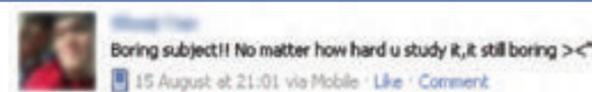
Before answering the question, take a look at these exchanges that took place on my Facebook account, re-printed with permission from those who posted and names blurred to protect their identities.



▲ Becoming a personal helpdesk to students: Student asking question on lecture over Facebook chat in the evening



▲ Getting encouraging feedback and affirmation from students that the module is on the right track.



◀ ... as well as those who may not be quite as excited about the module.

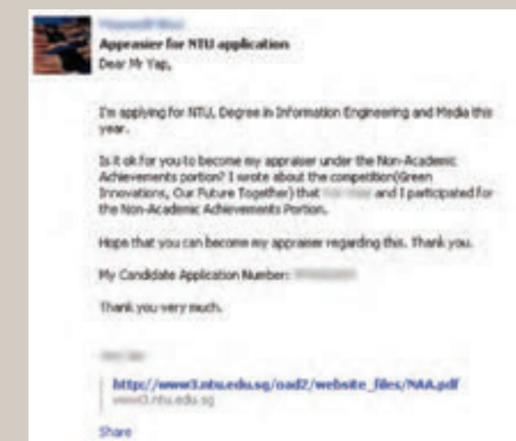


◀ Useful for getting feedback and discussion with students on improving the module at the end of semester.

▲ ... and to graduates, whom I've never taught before!



◀ Intense and healthy exchange on ethical and privacy issues between my student and a friend who is a business advisor in a multi-national company. A good avenue for students to test ideas with the industry. (Actual exchanges too long to be printed)



◀ A convenience store for appraisals and testimonials. Every year, I get around 30 to 50 requests from students for applications to local universities. Including those from graduates whom I've not kept in touch for years!



◀ NUS, NTU or SMU? It's the same question every year. While I may be able to share what I know about the three institutions, it can't compare with the first-hand experience of our graduates who are currently pursuing their degrees. And credit to our SP Business School graduates, they are extremely responsive and eager to share their experiences with their juniors.

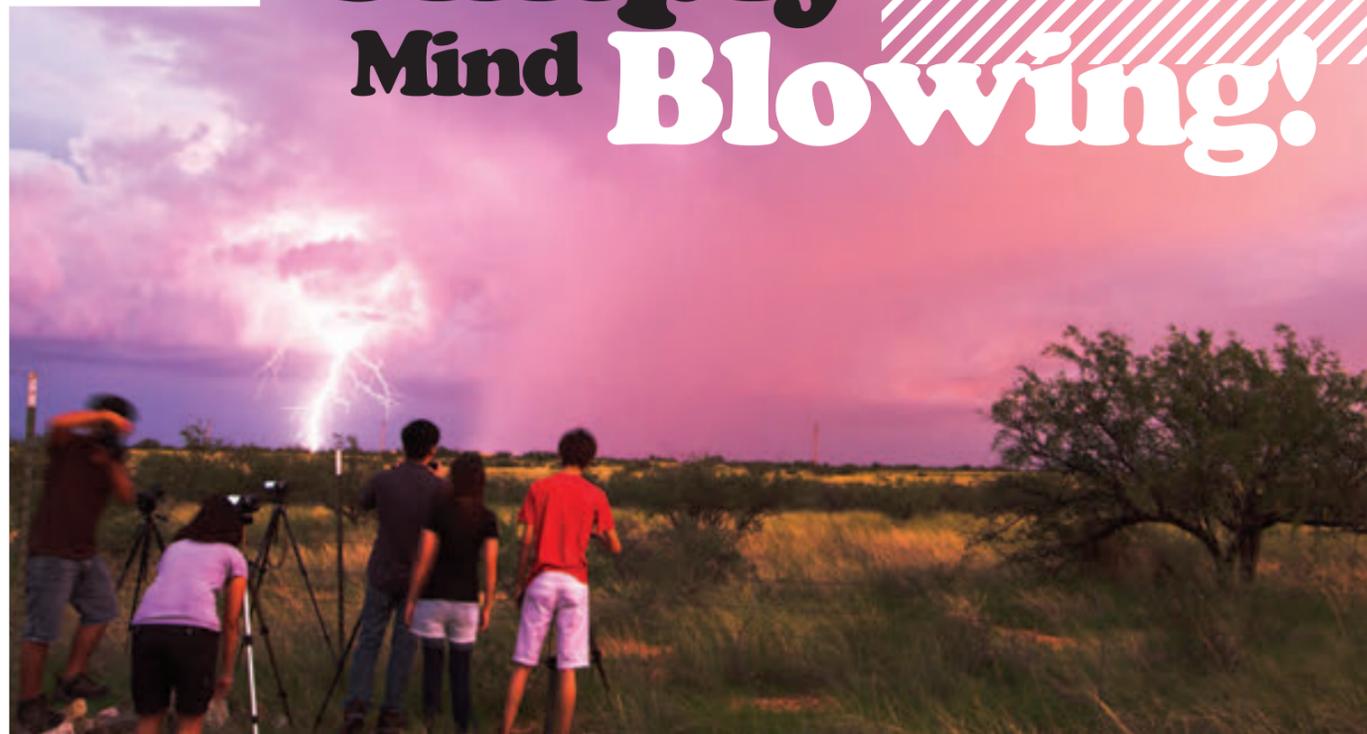
So, back to the question whether educators should befriend students on social media. I think the decision rests on individuals. If they choose to do so, better with eyes open wide. The reason why the question did not cross my mind was because connecting with my students was the very reason that made me create a Facebook account.

I hope the personal experience I shared here will not deter those who were previously apprehensive or undecided.

Stunning Picture



Simply Mind Blowing!



This is beautiful photo, isn't it?

The location is in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The people behind the lens are eight SP students from the **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics** and Lynus Hee, their lecturer. Their mission was to chase storms.

also learned how to conduct filming in extreme weather conditions. Nothing in a classroom can come anywhere near to replicating the experience.

Providing valuable guidance was American Alister Chapman who is

renowned for storm and tornado chasing and a specialist in 3D stereoscopic production. He has produced a one-hour special on tornado chasing for National Geographic and has also worked for CNN, Discovery Channel, BBC and many other television broadcasters around the world.

HUH?

What has storm chasing got to do with their course? Aha! This is the unique SP experience.

The students have to learn, among other things, 3D stereoscopic filming and production and photography during their three-year course. So documenting storms in 3D is a realistic learning journey for them, our future bunch of visual effects artists. Besides experimenting on how to capture natural phenomena, they



The SP storm chasing daredevils.

Space, Please



These SP folks dare to express themselves; you can too at SPACE.

Give me SPACE

Teenagers like you need SPACE. So SP will give you all the SPACE you need! Last month, SPACE was officially declared open to any one who wants to be seen and heard.

SPACE is a portal set up by SP's School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences for people like you to express yourself and display your creativity. It could be a music composition that you want others to hear and give comments. Or the holiday pictures that you wish to share. How about that self-made spoof video that you created and you think it's so funny? Join the forum space if you need to seek opinions about something. Or perhaps get a poll on who's the hunkiest Korean star now. You can also tune it to SPACE radio, an internet radio station run by SP students where aspiring DJs take to the mic and play your favourite music. Managed by students from the **Diploma in Media and Communication**, SPACE aspires to be the virtual playground for sharing and idea exchanges amongst not just the SP student population but anyone out there.

Now that we have it, don't say we didn't give you SPACE! Go visit www.spspace.sg now.



So Prestigious



Rabiatul (left) with Tiffany and their first winter experience

Two SP students from the **Diploma in Biomedical Science** went to the famed Yale University for their overseas Internship. Prior to this, another two students headed to Harvard for a similar programme. More will land at other prestigious universities that include Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Imperial College. They will work with the undergraduates, PhD students and researchers from all over the world. **SPiRiT** catches up with Tiffany Goh and Rabiatul Adawiyah Minhat on their Yale experience.

What is it like being selected for this internship at Yale?

T (Tiffany): I'm truly honoured to be given the opportunity to experience what life is like at a prestigious university. Being in Yale is something we thought we could only dream of. Honestly in the beginning, I was unsure if I'd be able to cope with the stress of being in such an environment without family members and good friends by my side. The trip has taught me to make sacrifices in order to achieve my dreams.

R (Rabiatul): Yale is one of the top universities in the world. Even though it's just an internship, I felt really honoured to be selected. I'm grateful for this opportunity and hope it will open new

doors and lead me to better opportunities in the future.

What did you accomplish from this internship at Yale?

T: We were exposed to doing lab research at university level. We learned many new things not covered in the poly syllabus. The supervisors and laboratory colleagues there were all very helpful.

What is it about Yale that interests you?

T: Definitely the rare chance to learn from the people at Yale, a top class institution with a long history and legacy of producing top nobel prizes laureates.

Yale! Yeah!

How has SP's Diploma in Biomedical Science helped you in your education so far?

T: I have a better understanding of health sciences.

R: I understood the basic concepts, skills and techniques required for lab research work.

What is it in Biomedical Science interests you the most?

T: Right now, it would be how the mechanisms of genetics work.

R: The potential to lead me to a career in Research & Development, and that I could possibly make a difference in the world. The study of genes and immune system in particular interests me. I find it amazing how the smallest change can make a drastic impact.

Why did you choose SP?

T: Because SP has a good reputation in Biomedical Science. Our seniors have gained admissions into medical and dental schools in NUS.

R: And easily accessible by MRT too.

Who inspires you in your studies?

T: My lecturer, Dr Tan Eng Lee and everyone in the R&D industry. So that includes Einstein!

R: The feeling of wanting to make my parents proud and to be someone my sisters can look up to, motivates me to be better.

Any advice for students who will be going for internships at prestigious institutions?

T: The most important thing is to enjoy what you are doing, because that is what will push you to strive harder towards your goal. Also remember to work hard and play hard!

So Prestigious



How can Junliang not take a pic at the iconic MIT dome?



A day at the Wingaersheek Beach for Huixin



At work in the MIT lab.

We're in MIT!

Life Science students at SP are becoming the envy of others. They have been getting attachment opportunities at prestigious overseas universities. The pair that landed in MIT are Yap Junliang and Yu Huixin, both second-year **Diploma in Biotechnology** students who were selected for the 11-week long attachment. Under the supervision of research scientists, both of them will undertake research projects such as a molecular cloning. **SPiRiT** got them to pen short notes on their trip.

4 July

Touched down in Boston after a long 26-hour flight. It's also Independence Day in the USA. We have a day to settle into our cosy Harvard Street apartment.

5 July

It's a 30-minute walk to the Koch Institute at MIT, our new workplace. Yes! We're finally at one of the top universities in the world! Our friendly supervisors, Jordi Mata-Fink and John Rhoden took us on a tour of the Wittrup Lab.

12 July

We were given our own MIT IDs and brought to the lab to be briefed on our projects. Jun Liang will be working on a molecular cloning project, whereas I will be working on the creation of a HIV vaccine. Our supervisors are extremely helpful and patient with us, guiding us through the interesting experiments we have to run. We get to put the techniques we learned during our practical sessions in SP to good use!

16 & 17 July

We spent our Saturday at the SoWa open market. Each stall has a unique set of goods on display, from vintage and handmade crafts to trendy, modern apparel. An eventful Sunday was spent at the Cambridgeside Galleria, one of the best shopping malls in Boston and a must-visit for shopaholics.

23 July & 24 July

Visited two of Boston's main attractions – The New England Aquarium and the Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The aquarium is definitely worth a visit for marine life enthusiasts. My favourite exhibit is the giant tank housing huge sea creatures. Each exhibit is created to resemble the natural habitat of the different animals. The Marketplace is probably the best place to get Boston souvenirs such as the classic Boston tees, pullovers and sweatpants. We didn't miss out on the magnificent horse carriages.

14 August

We're halfway through our internship programme in Boston and already missing Singapore! Dr Jonathan Loh, an SP alumnus now attached to Harvard Medical School, was sooooo kind! He brought us to a popular restaurant in Chinatown where we tucked into Singaporean-style dishes.



destination:



Simplicity is Happiness

story by: **JARAD LIM**/DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

SPiRiT writer Jarad Lim recalls his rudimentary experience in a place that is believed to be paradise on earth.

If I were to suggest a two-week stay in Shangri-la, one would probably think of a luxurious stay in an extremely comfortable five-star hotel, or maybe even seven-star. In a 1933 novel by James Hilton, Shangri-la has been described 'to have certain congruence to a sort of utopian land where there is perpetual harmony and happiness'. Simply, it's heaven on earth.

For two weeks, I was in Ringha Valley in Yunnan Province, China, with fellow SP students and lecturers. Google describes that the place was given the Shangri-la label to attract tourists. Their mission for the 25-strong team was to build some toilets for families living there. You see, even in paradise you need proper sanitation.

Setting foot on the mountainous terrain for the first time, we definitely weren't convinced that the place - ground littered with animal waste and houses made with earth and wood - was any sort of paradise. Hygiene was not a prime issue to the villagers. Many were in the same attire day after day. Taking a shower was not a daily routine for them.

Their houses lacked almost everything that we think is basic. Electricity was intermittent and cooking was done over a wood stove. There were no such things as a video game or computer.

The altitude was a killer too. It wasn't easy working over three kilometres above sea level. The air was cold and thin. The nights were freezing and the accommodation was (ironically) a far cry from the comfort of a Shangri-la hotel room.

There were hardly any power tools to aid us in our work. Instead, there were only humans, a bunch of pickaxes and shovels. The work was strenuous and we were out of our comfort zones. Still, we managed to



finish building the toilets on schedule, much to our satisfaction.

Despite the less-than-desired conditions, it was still a lovely experience. We discovered soon enough that the true beauty of Shangri-la was not the weather, architecture, or environment. Rather, it's the people. Look at the picture of the kids and their happy faces!

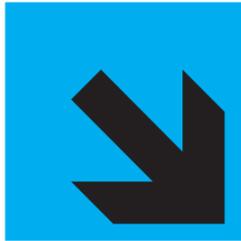
We had the chance to mingle with the villagers in the evenings for cultural sharing. Even though they spoke little Chinese and we couldn't understand their native Tibetan dialect, the sharing was particularly enlightening to us. Whatever barriers that existed collapsed and we ended up singing - alternating between the Tibetan and Singaporean singers. They

would laugh and spur each other on to come up, acting noticeably shy as they did and subsequently blew us away with their amazingly powerful voices.

I am truly awed by the strength of the villagers. Despite all the harshness of living in Ringha Valley, the villagers always had a smile on their faces. If anyone needs a helping hand, there's always one stretching out. They are generous with cheerful calls of *tashidelek*, which means a blessing of good fortune in Tibetan language.

We urban folks learned so much from them. The trip has taught us to appreciate life in Singapore. Although the villagers live a simple life, they are happier than many of us. It certainly taught me that simplicity is happiness.

Whatever James Hilton wrote back in 1933 is probably true. Shangri-la does exist. It's in the people.



One of the World's Top Warriors is in SP!

One look at Nur Fazlin Jumā'en and you would never suspect that she's a martial arts expert. The petite and soft-spoken lady is a member of the national Silat team and is the currently ranked third in the world. **SPiRiT** chats with a world class winner.

story by:

WENDELL WEE/DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Congratulations for achieving the Number 3 world ranking! How did you get there?

It came as a surprise to me actually. I was up against favourites from countries like Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia at the World Pencak Silat Championship held in Jakarta just a few months back. Most of the competitors were in their twenties and naturally they had more competition experience. It was my first senior competition. I prepared myself well by training very hard and keeping to a healthy diet. I had to forgo junk food and ate more meat and vegetables to maintain my stamina. It also meant that I had to sacrifice my time with my friends. It was school, training and more training. I'm glad that all my efforts paid off 😊

When did you first start out in Silat?

Way back in Primary 2, I always thought that Silat was a fun sport. Someone passed me a flyer, I just signed up for it. The training would be tough if you're not disciplined. As I grew older, I love the sport even more and I really don't know what I'll do if I'm not practising Silat now.

For those who are clueless, what is Silat all about?

Silat is a form of martial arts of with Malay origins. In the olden days, it was practised purely for self-defence. Today, it is practised for fitness and passion for the culture too. There are hundreds of different styles of Silat but most are focused on strikes, joint manipulation, bladed weapons, throws, animal-based techniques, or combinations of these.

In competitions there are usually two categories, the artistic and the match. For match category, two competitors have to compete in three rounds and whoever wins two rounds is declared the winner. The artistic category is the total opposite. The entire category is choreographed into a three-minute performance and is made up of two or three participants in a team. The first component is a solo demonstration by each team member, while the second is a choreographed sparring item. The last is a group demonstration by all three members.

Silat is one of the sports included in the Southeast Asian Games and other region-wide competitions. I hope it'll be eventually included in the Olympic Games.

To be crowned the SP Sportswoman of the Year means you did well on both the academic and CCA fronts. How did you manage to balance both?

I've been juggling studies and sports even before I came to SP. I was taught how to manage my time properly when I was with the Singapore Sports School. It was tough at first but since it's for my own good, I have to be disciplined enough to keep to my schedule.

Although I'm away once a month for competitions, I never had any special treatment in class nor get extended deadlines from my lecturers. I'm very thankful for the wonderful lecturers and classmates who kept me in the loop when I was away for competitions. The lecturers



always gave me extra help when I needed it and they will make sure that I was not left behind in my studies. I will maximise my time and take the opportunity to catch up on my school work every night before I go to bed.

Wow, you sound like someone who's very dedicated to both studies and sports. What else do you do apart from studying and Silat?

(Laughs) I actually hang out like everyone else. During non-competition periods, I watch movies. Cartoons and comedies are my favourites! I also go to Starbucks with my friends, you know! But unfortunately for me, these times are rare as training and school took up most of my time.

Since Silat is a contact sport, what's the worst injury that you've sustained?

Sorry to disappoint but I only suffered a sprained ankle. When I was in the junior team, I was competing in the match category but shifted to the artistic category when I joined the senior team. That means I would be less prone to serious injuries.

What's your five-year plan?

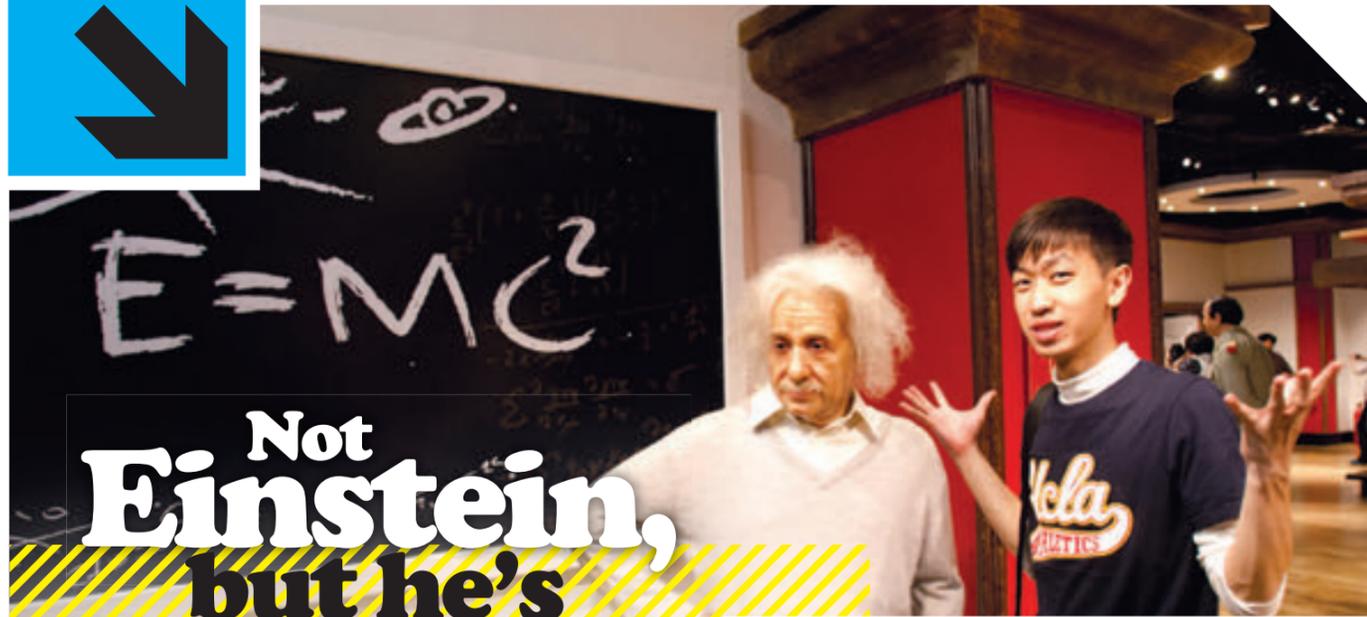
I plan to continue my studies in the university and become an engineer when I graduate. I'm already the resident engineer at home when my family members run into problems with their broadband network. My other ultimate wish is to be the world champion in Silat. I guess that is achievable if I put my heart and soul to it since I'm almost there.

Nur Fazlin is a final-year student from the Diploma in Information Communication Technology.

Heartiest congratulations to Fazlin for achieving two Gold medals (for doubles event and team event) at the 1st Asian Pencak Silat Championship held in July.

That's not all. She also brought back another Gold medal (women's doubles) at the International Pencak Silat Competition 2011 held in Kuala Lumpur.

Soaring Plane



Not Einstein, but he's Intelligent too

Albert Einstein was born in 1879. Ng Yi Ming came to this world 112 years later in 1991. It was impossible for them to cross paths although the latter dreamt about learning from the genius. Not too long ago, they met in Hong Kong, specifically at the wax museum where Einstein was immortalised.

Back to reality. Yi Ming has every reason to be happy although he didn't win the Nobel Prize like Einstein. But he clinched the Nanyang Scholarship from the Nanyang Technological University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering with Business.

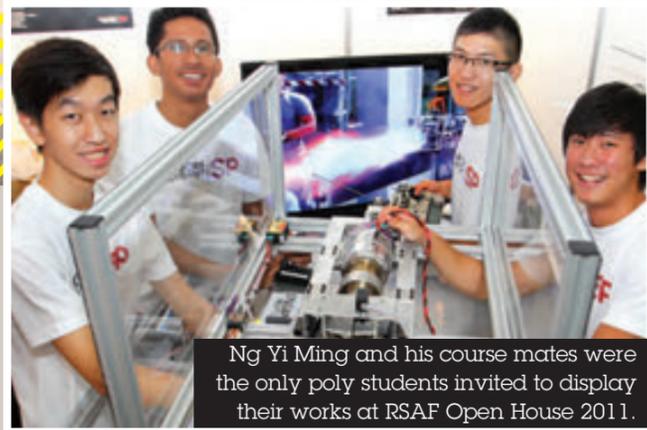
It didn't seem that difficult for him to win the scholarship. After all, he got 29 distinctions out of 43 modules over the three years in SP. This is a significant achievement for the ex-Monfort Secondary School student who joined SP with 11 points aggregate score.

"Three years ago, I chose SP's **Diploma**

in Aeronautical Engineering as my first choice. Today, I'm certain to say that I've made the right choice," declares Yi Ming who made the decision to join SP after being impressed with its learning facilities when he visited the campus during its Open House.

They say it takes two hands to clap. While his lecturers believed that Yi Ming's self-motivation and positive attitude towards learning were the key reasons for his success, the 20-year-old in turn credits his very passionate lecturers who would turn up at 7am to help with his school work and projects.

"If I have one word to describe my time at SP, it would surely be 'awesome'. Besides learning about engineering concepts in lectures, I also had the opportunity to develop a miniature afterburner as a project which was

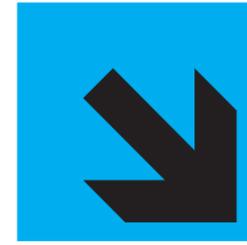


Ng Yi Ming and his course mates were the only poly students invited to display their works at RSAF Open House 2011.

displayed at this year's RSAF Open House. I also travelled to Beijing for an industrial attachment with Pratt and Whitney, a world leader in manufacturing aircraft engines. I believe the strong engineering foundation that SP has equipped me with, will surely put me in good stead for my future endeavours," says Yi Ming.

While he's not putting pressure on himself to become a genius like Einstein, he certainly wants to create an impact in the finance industry with his engineering skills. No conflict there, because he has done his research and knows very well that engineers do flourish in the world of banking and finance.

Socializing Pleasure



An eventful and glamorous three-year journey

This boyish student was secretly wishing that by the time he graduated from SP, he would be involved in a glamorous event that would blow his mind away. After all, it was his interest in organising events that made him take up the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management** at SP three years ago. **SPiRiT** finds out.

Muhammad Zulfaldi Bin Yazab was part of the student team that was tasked to help out at Screen Singapore, a week-long international cinema event that premiered

Hollywood new films and showcased Asian content to the world. The event was hosted by the Media Development Authority of Singapore.

presentations.

"In just a few days, all the hard and soft skills that we learned over three years were all put to good use. Organising events takes more than just socialising with people. It's also about what you know and who you know," says the ex-student from Coral Secondary.

Of course, Screen Singapore was not the only hands-on project Zul got involved in. Besides conceptualising and executing school events, he was also an active member of Sinema Show Off, a thematic movie screening event that SP organises with the Sinema Old School. His role involved working with his lecturer to curate suitable films for screening.

Zul is now serving national service and he hopes to study for a degree in marketing or finance thereafter before plunging himself into the world of events, once again.



Never mind that Zul and his team were not involved in conceptualising this major event that brought in big names like Tom Hanks and Zhang Ziyi. A significant decision-making role like that would come in future when he becomes a professional event organiser.

For Screen Singapore, Zul and his team were tasked to help in the media centre which gave constant updates on the event via social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter from the official venue, Capella Singapore on Sentosa. They made the most out of their time stationed there. From the sides, they witnessed how the event organisers worked with various parties to get things done. Anything, from receiving VIPs to ensuring banquet rooms were ready for

SCHOLARS SO WHAT?

Are scholars a royal breed? Is it still a prestigious tag? After all, don't we often associate scholars with nerds? **SPiRiT** writer Shamus Lee discovers that SP scholars are way too cool to be called nerds!

story by:
SHAMUS LEE/DIPLOMA IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

SIM EE LIANG;
First-year Diploma in
Applied Drama and
Psychology student
and SP Scholar

What's the big deal with being a scholar besides not paying school fees? They still have to queue up for their meals at food courts. They still take the MRT to Singapore Polytechnic (SP). For many of the SP scholars, it goes beyond shouldering the scholar tag. After all, this elite bunch had the choice of joining top junior colleges after their 'O' levels. It might have been one of their life's key decisions (at 16!) to join Singapore's first polytechnic. And since they got their first choice, why not make the best out of it by taking up the scholarship and enjoy the SP Scholar experience?

Each year, scholarships are given out to students with stellar 'O' level results and CCA records. Besides tuition fee and notebook laptop subsidies (did you know new students can buy either PCs or Macs?), the scholarship package also includes participation in the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Programme, a talent development and enrichment programme that will turn even the timid ones into leaders. They don't call this SPOT for nothing!

The pioneer batch of SP Scholars graduated this year. Among them is Jonathan Tan, the Mechanical Engineering graduate who is aiming for a place at a prestigious overseas university. He describes his experience in SP as "meaningful and memorable." We are sure he's not referring to finding dates for movie outings.

"I found my passion and drive during my three years here. I'm pretty sure that played a part for me to do well. I was recently offered the DSTA (Defence Science and Technology Agency) Scholarship. This is an affirmation that SP has the capabilities to produce top notch students," says the ex-Victoria School student who joined SP with an aggregate score of just five points.

There's no such thing as a free lunch. The SP Scholar has to shoulder great responsibilities and expectations. In class, the notes and tutorials of a scholar are frequently sought after as revision materials. On the other hand, lecturers set high expectations on scholars to ace and score distinctions in the modules. Outside class, a scholar has to juggle both his academic and non-academic commitments completely. Sometimes, the scholar hears

CALL ME A
SCHOLAR



remarks like “they all nerdy nerdy ones!”. Well, these are challenges that will define and stretch the potential of our scholars.

Lim Yi Hao, a recent Banking and Financial Services graduate and member of the winning team that won the recent SIM National Management Competition, feels that the holistic approach in the SPOT curriculum had prepared him for the upcoming challenges in life. He said: “SPOT has equipped me with the right tools to deal with anything thrown at me.”

See the world. Isn't this the dream of all youth like you? SP Scholars are also globetrotters. Under the

DON'T COPY MY NOTES!

SPOT programme, they participate in community service projects in countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh. They also get industry exposure through internships in China and get to visit places as far away as the United States for study trips.

Final-year Aerospace Engineering student Brandon Wong had the opportunity to be in Beijing, China, for his Industrial Attachment Programme (ITP). “I grabbed the opportunity to do my ITP in China in order to gain exposure and experiences that will be useful for my further studies. Scholars are usually given priority for overseas attachments and sometimes with additional subsidies as well,” reveals Brandon, who joined SP from Damai Secondary with an aggregate point of seven.

During her graduating year in SP, Sue-Ann Lee, an alumna from the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronic**, ventured to Bangladesh for a community service project. She felt the importance to reach out to the community as a youth. “The SPOT programme provides us with opportunities to give back to society,” she shares. Sue-Ann, who joined SP from Tanjong Katong Secondary, will be pursuing her degree programme at the newly set-up Singapore University of Technology and Design.

“I think the scholarship is a great incentive for us to work hard. With so many exciting opportunities in SPOT, I am looking forward to be groomed as a well-learned scholar.”

SIM EE LIANG



{ SP Scholars 2011 }

These are just some success stories of our SP Scholars. Inspired? Motivated? With these glowing testimonials from his predecessors, newly-anointed Scholar Sim Ee Liang is confident that SP will provide him a well-rounded learning experience and develop his potential to the fullest.

Adds the **Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology** student who took his 'O' levels at Clementi Town Secondary and scored A1 for Maths, A-Maths and Literature: “I think the scholarship is a great incentive for us to work hard. With so many exciting opportunities in SPOT, I am looking forward to be groomed as a well-learned scholar.” He hopes to participate in the Model United Nations Conference held overseas, an annual event arranged for those in the SPOT programme.

So you see, being a SP Scholar has its privileges. It's not about getting a blank cheque to buy all that you want. Neither does it get you a bigger frappuccino at Starbucks@SP. It is all about turning you into a CAR – a Confident, Accomplished and Ready individual who will create a positive impact and make a difference anywhere in the world.

Sure? Of course! At SP - its So Possible.

Want to be a SP Scholar?

- Singaporean or Permanent Resident
- Have outstanding CCA records (B3 and above)
- Show strong leadership potential
- Outstanding GCE 'O' Level results of 10 and below for L1R4

What are the different SP Scholarships?

- SP Scholarship
A passion for Engineering and good grades in Maths and Science
- SP Engineering Scholarship
Excellent NITEC or Higher NITEC results (ITE's gold medalists will automatically qualify)
- SP Sports Scholarship
- SP Music and Arts Scholarship

What you will get

- Full tuition fee sponsorship
- Notebook PC subsidy of \$1,000
- Participation in exciting local and overseas SPOT programmes
- Subsidies for enrichment and training programmes
- A rewarding future, new friends and loads of fun!



MY SP SCHOLAR JOURNEY

Jonathan Tan, a fresh graduate from the **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**, sums up his feelings as a SP Scholar in this speech that he gave at the SP Scholarship Presentation Ceremony held in July. It's so well said that the **SPiRiT** editor did not even need to edit it.

"I am humbled to be given this opportunity to speak at today's ceremony. I would like to share with all of you three key learning points for me while I was in SP, and the possible challenges that you might face as a SP scholar.

Firstly, always be humble. When I was first awarded the Scholarship three years ago, it gave me a new confidence. But somehow, this stimulated a growth in my head size, in a way that science cannot explain. Let me share more about my humbling experience.

In my first year, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Poly Forum. Being the only Year 1 student to attend the Forum, I have to admit that I felt proud, and to some extent, arrogant. It was in this setting that I was taught the great lesson of humility.

As an engineering student, one of the modules I took was Mechanics 1, which is a very fundamental topic in my course. Towards the end of the Poly Forum, when I received my Semester 1 results, I realised to my horror, that I had scored a C+. And it was in this instant that I realised my pride had grown out of proportion.

Although many of you will soon find that as long as you put in sufficient effort and time in your studies, an A is never out of reach. But always remember to be humble and gracious in your accomplishments. Humility is like the undergarment we wear every

day, it is essential, and it is over them that you will put on the clothes of teach-ability, competence and responsibility.

Secondly, build relationships. During your three years in SP, you will observe a very special breed and subsidiary of homosapiens – polytechnic students. Poly students are a very varied bunch, in terms of scale for academics, physical, vocal levels and even fashion.

Somehow, everyone will know you're a scholar, and you will be one of the first to be approached for consultation during exam periods. Your tutorials will be highly scrutinised and photocopied. In this, you're in a greatly advantageous position to help your friends. But don't just give. Teach. Each semester, I would compile my notes for certain more difficult topics or modules, and I would share these with students who request for them or require assistance. But I would leave blanks in some of the main points and spaces for diagrams. These are just little ways to engage and help the people around you.

More importantly, treasure your friends. I do have a deep regret for not making the effort to get to know some people better, like my first year classmate who passed away recently. If we think that the best things in life are the little things, then we're wrong. The best things in life aren't even things, they are people.

Lastly, have a hunger for more. For most of you, a diploma will offer only an intermediate level of challenge. I challenge you to take up more side activities to improve yourself. For me, I took up the challenge of the WorldSkills Competition, an international competition that displays the best vocational skills. I clinched the gold medal and got the opportunity to represent Singapore at WorldSkills London 2011.

I have many friends who have this similar hunger for more than a diploma. I have a friend who is a national sailor, and despite his long hours of training at sea, was able to do well academically and became one of this year's top graduates. I know of people who have stepped off the beaten track and chartered their development and success, fuelled by this hunger. The opportunities given by SP are endless. And all the more, as scholars, you are at an elevated starting point. So make full use of the opportunities!

I would like to share this little nugget as I conclude. I have always believed in the strengths and merits of a polytechnic education. Polytechnics are the places where you find people with the real passion and drive in what they do.

As SP scholars, never settle for mediocrity. Use every opportunity given to develop and challenge yourself and strive for the best. In this way, I'm sure you will find your SP learning journey a meaningful and memorable experience."

- JONATHAN TAN
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Class of 2011
Formerly from Victoria School



Bernard Lim, a SPOT student from the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media, went to New York for the Princeton Model United Nations in December 2010.

What is SPOT?

Certainly not the prints on a leopard's torso. Nor is it designed to put you in a tight spot.

SPOT, or SP Outstanding Talent, is a specially-tailored programme developed in 2008, as a platform to develop SP's brightest students into well-rounded individuals who distinguish themselves as Leaders, Humanitarians and Communicators.

All SP Scholars are automatically placed on this exciting programme. In addition, with so many bright sparks at SP, another group of first-year students with outstanding O-Level results and CCA records are also invited to enroll in this prestigious programme.



SPOT students on Brooklyn Bridge in snow-capped New York City!



What if I'm SPOTted?

Basically, you undergo a specially structured talent and enrichment curriculum that includes exposures to current affairs, leadership development programmes, and public speaking and presentation training. You will also get many exclusive opportunities to participate in overseas community service projects, high-profile youth conferences and dialogue sessions both locally and overseas.

The SPOT programme focuses on three domains to groom individuals of character.

Leader: You will go through a customised leadership camp that is held overseas. The camp features a value-based leadership model using Sean Covey's 7 Habits for Highly Effective Youths to hone your Leadership soft skills. At the camp, you will do activities like Jetty Jump (where you can jump off a 9m jetty deck!) and participate in an outdoor camp to help you get out of your comfort zones and learn about teamwork!

Humanitarian: You are encouraged to help the less fortunate via overseas community service trip. There are many openings to take part in service learning activities that will develop your heart and mind.

Communicator: From 2012, SPOT students will undergo a tailor-made General Education module that is modeled after the Model United Nations programme. You will obtain a wider and deeper understanding of current affairs and significant global issues under the special module. You will get a chance to go on a 10-day study trip to complete the GenEd module and also represent SP at the Model United Nations Conferences held in China and United States!



THE SPOT GUY WELL-TRAVELLED

Shamus Lee, a final-year student from the **Diploma in Biotechnology**, a SPOT student and a **SPiRiT** journalist. He shares how the programme has given him a truly holistic experience as a poly student.

I joined the SPOT programme in 2009. Why bother, if u asked me. Why not, I will tell you. After all, it's not every day that someone will offer to make you a confident leader. Simply, I just want to develop my potential beyond getting good grades for my diploma course.

As a SPOT student, I was given aplenty of opportunities to attend prestigious youth leadership events held here and overseas. Throughout my first two years in SP, I have taken all three modes of transportation to different places – a bus ride to Malaysia, a bumpy boat-trip to Telunas in Indonesia and flying more than 4,500km to New York City!

Together with 20 other SPOT students, I was in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, teaching English to some 140 primary school students, as part of the English for Everyone Festival inauguration ceremony organised by Mercy Relief. We designed our own curriculum and teaching materials from scratch. We taught using games and interactive activities to impart speaking and presentation skills to the Vietnamese students.

Early this year, I was also privileged to represent SP at the Harvard Model United Nation Conference held in Boston, United States. The conference was a huge eye-opener to all of us. All the participants, which came from universities all over the world, had to take on the role of diplomats from different countries to present and debate on current issues. Fortunately, we, the only students that came from a polytechnic, held our grounds as SPOT has trained us to be well-versed in world affairs. We applied critical thinking and reasoning skills when we stood in front of a committee to address an issue. Most importantly, it boosted my confidence in public speaking to higher level.

Being a SPOT student also gave me the priority to attend other exclusive seminars like the annual Polytechnic Forum. The five-day forum in Malaysia brought together students from the five polytechnics to discuss national issues related to Singapore.

Challenging ourselves to go beyond our comfort zone is also one of the many qualities of SPOT students. I was the only polytechnic student selected to represent

Singapore in a global conference held in Dubai for university students. The SPOT programme had also taught me to think analytically, a skill which came in handy when I had to write a critical analysis paper to qualify the conference. Perks of being at the conference? Besides the networking opportunities and attending keynote addresses by accomplished world leaders like Tony Blair, we were all invited to Abu Dhabi for a gala-dinner accompanied with dazzling fireworks and cultural performances!

If I have to find an analogy to describe my SPOT journey, it is like riding a roller-coaster. It is filled with ups and downs. The ups allow me to see the world from a different perspective. The downs keep me grounded to the reality that there are other people less fortunate. As future leaders, we must stretch our hands to reach out to them.

I'm going to be SPOTless soon when I graduate in a few months' time. To all my SPOTty friends and the unbelievably intelligent yet caring lecturers who guided us, thank you for making my polytechnic experience different from the rest. 😊

SCHOLARLY PROOF

Lye Yi Hao, from the pioneer batch of SP Scholars who graduated this year, gives evidence on how his SP Scholar journey has moulded him into a confident and ready individual.

When Lye Yi Hao joined SP in 2008, he set expectations on himself to do well. But things didn't go his way – he did far better. Many would call it an excellent performance. Recapping his SP experience would result in a long list but it would definitely inspire the batch of new SP Scholars.

2008-2009

- Awarded the SP Scholarship.
- Inducted into the SP Outstanding Programme (SPOT).
- Participated in dialogue sessions with government leaders.
- Took part in Leadership Camp held in Malaysia.
- Expressed his views as a participant in Poly Forum.

2009-2010

- Participated in various business and management competitions at tertiary level.
- Group Leader for Pre-University Seminar.
- Awarded Certificate of Merit in NUS National Economics and Finance Management Quiz.
- Taught children English in Siam Reap, Cambodia, under a community service programme.

2010-2011

- Completed Diploma-Plus Programme in Applied Psychology.
- Participated in Islamic Banking study trip in Kuala Lumpur.
- Led SP champion team in the SIM National Management Competition.
- President for the Dear Bintan Community Service Project.
- Obtained admission into NUS to study Business Administration and accepted the University Scholars Programme.

Lye Yi Hao joined SP from Damai Secondary with an aggregate score of six points. With his outstanding 'O' level results that include 4As, he took up the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services and applied successfully to be a SP Scholar. Just recently, he was accepted into the National University of Singapore's University Scholars Programme.



“The SP Scholar and SPOT Programme have given me a truly holistic experience. The breadth and depth of the Programme moulded me into a well-informed person in areas from arts to critical thinking to world affairs. Stepping out into the real world, I can confidently say that the Programme has equipped me with the right tools to deal with anything thrown at me.”

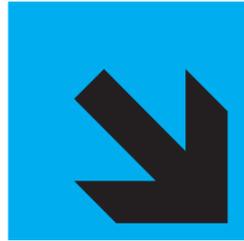
- LYE YI HAO
SP Scholar who plays football (supports Arsenal) and the guitar too.



**Celebrating the
SINGAPORE Spirit!
Let the SPirit flow!**



Scenic Personification



Pura Vida! From SP to Harvard!



Hola!

Time flies and I'm now a sophomore at Harvard. I am currently attending summer school in Costa Rica with a fund from Harvard's David Rockefeller International Experience Grants. With its phenomenal endowment, Harvard has not only opened its doors to students like me who otherwise would not have had this chance to study at this prestigious university. It also opened other doors of great opportunities like this Costa Rican experience.

Being at Harvard is already an overseas experience for me but studying at Costa Rica is totally different. For one, I need to use Spanish to be understood there. The country is a tropical paradise known for its great beaches, rainforests and mountains. The people and culture of course add to the natural beauty. Costa Ricans or Ticos in particular, are known to be very positive, friendly and full of life. The national catchphrase is *pura vida* which translates to pure life and a phrase to convey "everything's great!"

While here, I've been backpacking on weekends to places like Manuel Antonio National Park, Monteverde and Arenal and experiencing some of the most breath-taking sceneries that I have ever seen in my life. I chanced upon the few remaining squirrel monkeys in the world. I had a crash course on tropical biology in the rainforests. I went on a canopy tour. I learned how to surf.

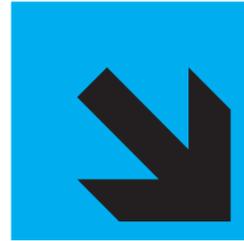
I was travelling alone most of the time which can be quite dangerous as there are opportunists who prey on tourists. And this is where skills and the street-smart sense that I developed from SP's Community Service Project in the Philippines have come into good use. Compared to the friends that I knew here, I think I've been experiencing more and yet spending less. I'm glad I came out to explore and I would encourage you to do likewise when the opportunities come. This is not what you can learn from a classroom.

*Saudos,
Kuriakin Zeng*

CLASS OF 2009,
DIPLOMA IN ELECTRONICS, COMPUTER AND
COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

This beautiful picture was taken by Zuriakin Zeng, an SP alumnus who is also the first polytechnic student admitted to Harvard University. Besides being awarded a full scholarship from the prestigious university, he also clinched another grant to study Spanish at Costa Rica during summer. He took time to pen a short note from the beautiful Latin America country.

Snow Peaks



Ahoy! Alaska

Second-year Nautical Studies student Yeo Zi Jun went on a six-month attachment on board the cruise ship Norwegian Pearl bound for Alaska. She wrote back to her instructor Captain K Nirmal Raj. **SPiRiT** got hold of the email.

Dear Capt Raj,

I flew to Hong Kong and Los Angeles before landing in Seattle and fetched to the ship.

This is my second week on board the Norwegian Pearl and I am already learning a lot of things. Bridge instruments, mooring stations, and a great mix of accents from all over the world. I worked eight hours a day, getting up at eight and getting off at five because there's a rule that bridge officers cannot work for more than eight hours a day!

The ship is departing from Glacier Bay and heading towards Ketchikan, Alaska. We will reach there by 6am.

The Captain of the Norwegian Pearl is Capt. Rune Edvin Myre and he's from Norway. I never really spoke with him but he seems really friendly and instils confidence in all the officers like a true captain.

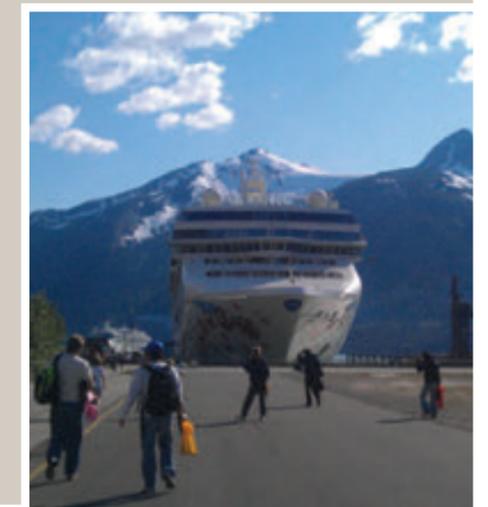
My training officer is 1st officer Vicente Amicone from Uruguay. He's only 25 but a really good navigator. The Captain always goes along with the decisions that Vicente makes, so that is really quite impressive.

I live with three cabin mates from India, South Africa and the Philippines. The girls from India and South Africa are really nice and we are actually quite close now. I've made friends with so many people - chief carpenter, staff chief engineer, deck boys, pilots, and even some musicians from Poland and Saint Lucia. It can be overwhelming sometimes but I'm quite used to it now. Being from Singapore is a BIG deal here. For reasons unknown to me, I have people looking at my nametag and saying, "Oh my God, you're from Singapore!"

These are pictures that I took when moving into Glacier Bay, Alaska. It's really beautiful but cold. So far I've only gone ashore in

Victoria BC. I will go visit Alaska when I'm less busy. Surprisingly, I'm more excited staying back in the ship and learning from the bridge officers than going ashore. Take care!

*Best regards,
Yeo Zi Jun*





My Hobby My Business

Ereen Toh graduated from SP Business School with a **Diploma in Business Administration** in 2005. She founded Stirring Hearts, a SP-nurtured business that makes greeting cards, gifts and runs creative workshops. For her, there is no better way to express love and emotions via a personalised handmade card. Judging from the success thus far, **SPiRiT** writer Jarad Lim believes she is right!

story by: **JARED LIM/** DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Does it take long to make cards? After all, you need to mass-produce for retail and corporate orders.

We have moved into the corporate market instead of doing only retail. When we get an order, the designer will come up with a prototype based on the client's requirements. Once approved, the production team, which comprises mostly housewives and students, takes over. Depending on the order size, we may make the cards using an assembly line format, which shortens the time we need to produce each card. The cards are then sent for quality control and packaged for delivery.

Why do you want to start this unique business?

I'd say it's a combination of my passion in crafts and wanting to start a business. I love cards and crafts, so why not turn

What is Stirring Hearts about?

We produce handmade greeting cards that create heartwarming moments for others. It could be for birthdays, expressing love, celebrating friendship or just a thank you. They also come in the form of photo frames cards where customers can insert their

own photographs. One of our bestsellers is the customised pens where you can choose a colour and add your name. For those who would like to make their own cards, we run workshops on card-making and scrapbooking for everyone - children, students and corporate customers.

it into a business? It originally started off as a pastime selling cards on the net all by myself. During peak periods, business became so good that I had to work late nights and over the weekends and holidays to finish the orders. But I was unsure whether to start taking this more seriously, so I kept my full-time job for awhile.

What makes you turn this into a full-time business?

It started when I participated in the Enterprise Challenge 2009 organised by SP and won the Enterprise Winner and Most Creative Business Prize in the alumni category. Thereafter, SP encouraged me to take part in the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) managed by SPRING Singapore which provides funding for business startups by young entrepreneurs. I took a big leap of faith when I applied for the scheme by quitting my job before I even got the funding. I actually started 2010 jobless! My family pressured me into getting the business up and running or find a new job. Thankfully, I got the funding approved in February.

You quit your job before you got the grant from SPRING. Were you that confident of your business?

No! On the contrary, it was never a sure win; whether the grant would be approved, whether the business would take off. Let me tell you it's not easy getting the grant from SPRING; they don't give it to you easy. You have to spend a lot of effort doing up business plans, financial statements - stuff like that. SP gave me much support throughout. My lecturers mentored me and helped me with the presentations by reading through my documents and criticising them. The office space was provided rent-free, including renovation and furniture. They didn't expect anything in return



and even help to publicise Stirring Hearts; they just want to see my business flourish. I'm really grateful.

You studied Business Admin in SP. Was it helpful to your business startup?
Of course! The knowledge and skills I learned from SP Business School were very useful, especially accounting and marketing. However, theoretical learning isn't holistic enough. Experience is the other key factor. So I think a stint in the corporate

world would help. For sure you can start a business without working experience or formal business education, but the path would definitely be harder.

What advice would you give budding entrepreneurs?

When starting a business we would surely face hardships. What counts is the right attitude and perseverance until your business takes off.



Editor's note:
Stirring Heart is nurtured by SP under the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) for StartUps. It was featured in the main media that includes The Straits Times, MediaCorp Ch 8 and Channel U.



Body au Naturel

It was just four years ago that Jason Chee graduated from SP. He's only 23 and is already a businessman. **SPiRiT** catches up with the hunk with the killer-bod.

You studied chemical process technology in SP but now you started a gym called BodiEs. How is this progressing?

Back when I was pursuing my diploma in SP, I thought that Singapore's sporting and fitness industry wasn't doing well and didn't have much potential. Hence, I took up the Diploma in Chemical Process Technology (now known as **Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science**) instead. I believe the course offers good career options so I decided to try it out. However, my passion for fitness got the better of me. After my national service, I took up courses related to fitness and wellness. That was how I started everything. I started off as a trainer and just recently opened my own gym. Business is picking up. We just started BodiEs but having worked as a trainer previously and my exposures in modelling and pageants helped give it a push.

There are four of us in this business. We are all from the same field of expertise. Having more heads gives us more ideas at times rather than an individual.

Do you think your diploma has helped your business in any way?

I had to be meticulous in the practical training for my diploma course. So that part actually helped in some ways because I would go into minute details when I set up my business. It is the attitude that I have

developed during my poly days is useful to me now, rather than the technicality of the diploma.

When do you start developing an interest in fitness? Was it because of the contest you joined?

I was already very much into sports when I was in secondary school and in SP. I played all kinds of sports from basketball to rock climbing to swimming. I started hitting the gym when my basketball team mate proposed that we build ourselves up physically for the team. However, I joined an outside team as it provides more free play than going for rigid trainings if I was in the school team. The process was quite fun and interesting and continued all the way until now.

With a better physique after years of hard work in the gym, I decided to give modelling and pageants a shot. I joined Manhunt 2009 and won the Mr Physique title; I was Mr Physique and the overall winner in Calendar Guys 2010; and the Cleo Bachelor 2011 where I was the Bachelor with the hardest bod. Joining various pageants will keep me on my toes and push me to maintain the best shape that I can have.

As a fitness enthusiast, I want to let people know that anyone can achieve their desired physique if they put their heart and soul into it. Besides having a nice bod, you will also gain self-confidence and a better posture which will help you in the long run



when you are older. You wouldn't want to start feeling pains or panting when you are carrying your kids at, say, thirty something?

What are your long term goals for this business?

Definitely to be a millionaire, if this is not too far-fetched! Seriously though, I hope to turn fitness into a lifestyle. I want to inculcate a desire to work out not just for vanity sake but for personal wellness. We all live a hectic and stressful life, so sweating out is the best way to de-stress. In short, we hope to make you look good and feel good.

Our gym is not a conventional gym like the others. We want to develop a hub, where our clients can train, relax or even hold their meetings here. We have comfortable couches, a relaxing environment and a steam room to unwind after a tiring day at work.

Do you think men who gym regularly are vain?

To some extent, all of us are vain. Otherwise there won't be mirrors around anymore. I wouldn't say men who hit the gym regularly are there for the vanity factor. If they want to build a nice physique, I think they are being smart! So, boys and men, and girls too, start going to the gym soon!

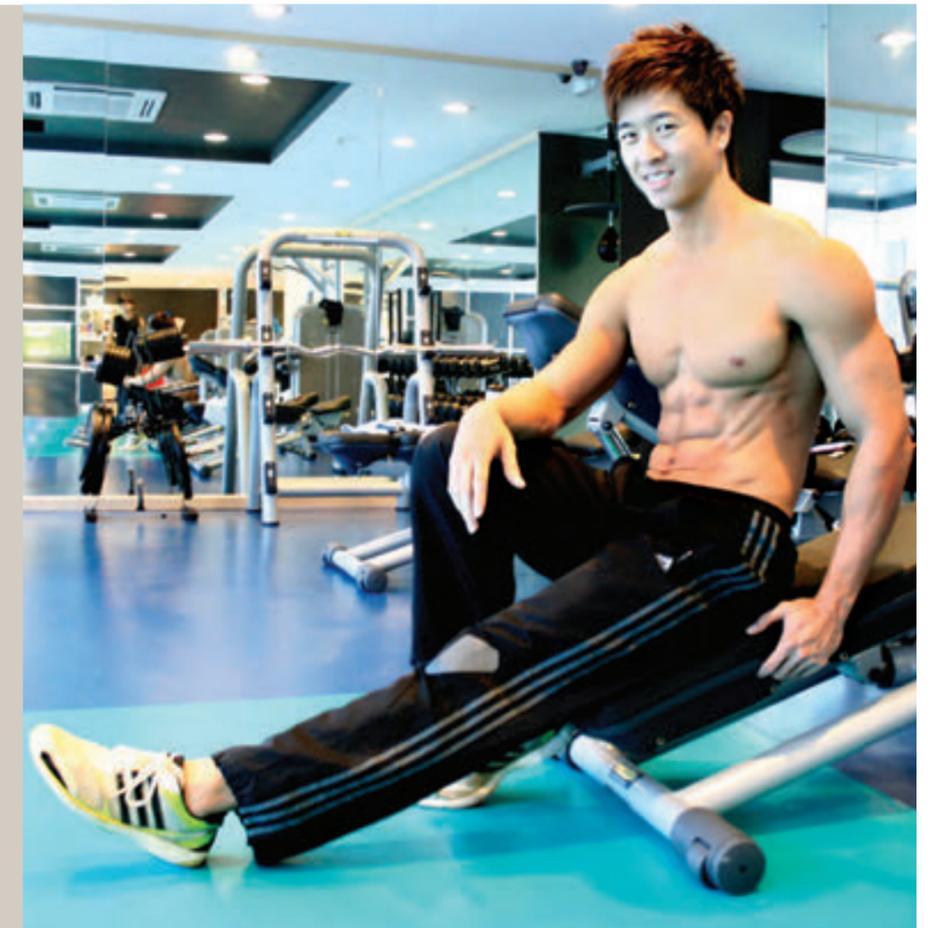
Will you be interested to coach SP students if approached?

Most definitely, I think poly students at their age are at the right time to start gym training. They can take up gym training as a sport and engage in it religiously. After all, you guys have a nice gym with a pool just next to it. As a SP alumnus, I would love to get in touch with the current students and educate them about fitness. They are most welcome to drop by at my gym.

How much do you charge for personal training sessions?

Our hourly rates for personal training is \$70.

For students we are offering \$50. But I'm



most happy to offer \$45 to SP students since it's my alma mater 😊

What are the most difficult muscles to develop in a man's body?

It's definitely the abdominal muscles, the much sought after six-pecs. The abdominal area has more organs than other parts of the body, so naturally most of the fats will be deposited there when ingested in order to protect the organs there. In order to have a six-pec abdomen, you have to lose the overall fat percentage to around eight percent and also do a variation of abdominal

exercises to strengthen it. Cut down on fast food for supper. It might be quite a long and painful process but after seeing the results, you will never want to be your previous self again.

BodiEs is at Yo:Ha@Jurong Jurong East Avenue 1 #03-01. Opening hours 7am to 10pm from Mon to Fri; 9am to 5pm on Sun.

Full gym facilities including free weights, machines, lockers and steam room. Enquires at 68998306 or dfitness7@gmail.com

SPECIAL PROMO FOR SP STUDENTS

Instead of paying the \$50 monthly membership, get a special pre-paid card for only \$35 that entitles you to 10 sessions in a one-month period. Card is transferable and you can share it with friends. Each card comes with one complimentary personal training session if you bring along a friend who signs up. But take note that if you come after 4.30pm, you can use the gym for two hours in order to ease the jam after office hours (except for Sundays). For enquiries, call 68998306.



One Stroke One Heart

The 27 well-tanned boys trained a punitive six days a week during the competition months, sometimes two times a day. The schedule alternates between land and water training in the Kallang Basin area. Land training consists of hard core endurance exercises using weights to train the bigger muscle groups such as the core muscle

These boys are rowing boats but definitely not gently down the stream. The hunks from the SP Dragonboat Team is the reigning champion team among the polytechnics and ITE. At the POLITE Games 2011, their hungry spirit helped them clinched the championship held on the waters off Marina Barrage. This is not all. The boys also triumphed at the Singapore Dragon Boat Race.

Sweet victories? Definitely, says Team Captain Nigel Lo, a final-year student from the pioneer batch taking the **Diploma in Engineering with Business**. This is their first victory in the POLITE Games ever since it was set-up. Last year, they only managed a third placing. It was not sheer luck that steered their boats to victory but hard work and more hard work.



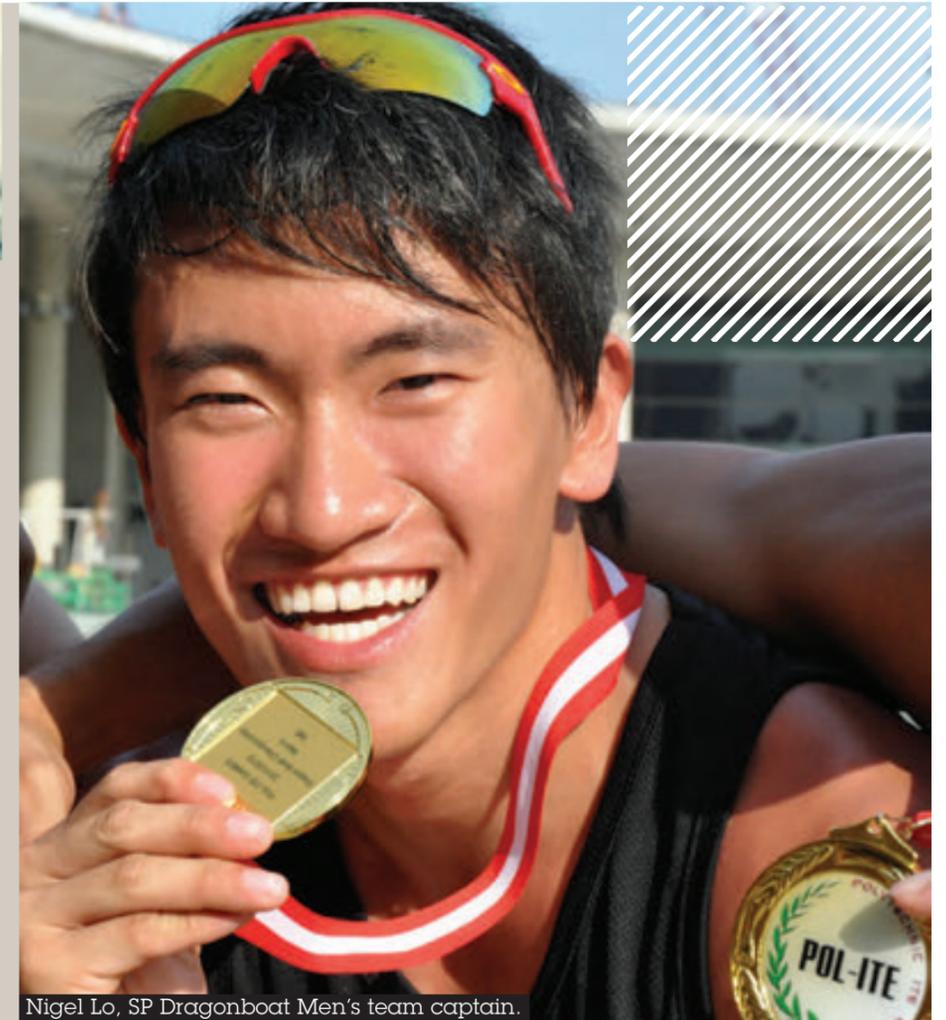
group (abs), chest and back muscles. Each training session cannot go beyond three hours, otherwise fatigue and exhaustion will set in.

Surprisingly, Nigel says the arm muscle is not a core body area for them. "The strength that we need comes from the bigger muscle groups, not the arms. This is a misconception because all of us have big arms which is quite natural after extensive training. Many people still think we depend on our biceps to row," he explains.

Another myth – don't assume dragonboaters are good swimmers. According to Nigel, the percentage of boat capsizing is really low and they put on life jackets all the time. And there's also the safety drills that they practise during training.

While we believe that a beefy body equals strength, Nigel says it's the mind over body. As Captain, he sets three expectations – personal and team discipline; commitment to training and the desire to win. All of these, he emphasises, are more important than strength. He gives an example, "During competition months, we have to discipline ourselves to avoid eating fried or oily foods. No gassy drinks and fast foods as these affect our blood circulation. We go for clean food such as brown rice and lean meat, with soya bean, protein shakes or green tea."

The boys are a closely knitted bunch. When asked to describe the team in one word, Nigel says "Family." It's the family spirit that unites them, not just in training but other times whenever a member needs support, emotional or otherwise.



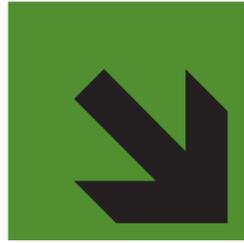
Nigel Lo, SP Dragonboat Men's team captain.

Some of the team members are also in the national team and the national youth team. They train under Goh Poh Soon, an ex-national coach for the men's team who is now training the national women's team.

Nigel, who joined SP from Holy Innocents High, hopes that their recent victories will inspire more current 'O' level students to join the SP team. Those who rowed for their secondary school teams would be an easy fit but for those who have no experience, it doesn't matter. Nigel reveals that he only started after joining SP. During his secondary school days, he was a track and field athlete who once won the 200m race for his school.

Coming up next for the boys is the SAVA International Sprint where they will participate in the IVP category; followed by the Singapore Regatta in November. They will also take part in the Malaysia Putrajaya Race where they hope to better their third placing in the under 23 category last year.

Catch these hunks at the competition venues. If not, you could see them hanging out in Foodcourt 5 or the gym. The beef bods and the tanned bodies – you can't possibly miss them.



The Winning Toss and Turns

story by: **KYLIE CHIA**/DIPLOMA IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

What does it take to be a champion of a sport that throw and toss people in the air? **SPiRiT** writer Kylie Chia speaks with SP Gusto, the reigning national cheerleading champions.

Gusto means vigorous enjoyment in the performance of an action. And it was this spirit that gave SP Gusto the victory at the 2nd Singapore National Cheerleading Championships 2011 organised by the Singapore Sports Council and co-organised by the Federation of Cheerleading Singapore.

"This is the second time we've participated in this competition. We made many mistakes last year, so we trained harder this year," says final-year student Yeo Song Rong.

For those who don't know him, Song Rong is all brawn and brains - he's the President of SP Gusto and also a SP scholar from the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering**.

Besides winning the Overall Champion title, SP Gusto was also first in two other categories - the Competitive Stunts (Mixed Team) and Competitive High School.

Song Rong is particularly proud that SP Gusto managed to beat the stronger university teams. "It is quite a feat to scramble to the top, judging by the performances put up by our competitors," he says. Preparation for the competition was not as smooth-flowing as he had wanted. "I'm thankful to our alumnus who motivated the team through telling stories when we were discouraged. And on the competition day itself, we were thankful to two Open category teams who were generous with dispensing advice."

With their triumphant win, SP Gusto will represent Singapore and compete regionally at the 5th Cheerleading Asia International Open 2011.

What's in Cheerleading?

SP Gusto is one of the 140 CCA Clubs in SP. Formed in 2007, the club currently has about 40 active members who usually train from 6.30pm to 9.30pm three times a week. When a competition draws near, the training becomes a daily routine.

What does it take to be a cheerleader? Song Rong said there are no hard and fast rules except that those who have background in athletics or dance would have an added advantage. The girls especially, have to be nimble. "Teamwork and communication skills are particularly important when executing stunts. If you're going to fall, you will know how to fall correctly," Song Rong adds.

Except for floor mats and some wrist and ankle tapes, there's no other training equipment. The tapes "act as a guard against tension on your limbs during stunts because there are a lot of sharp movements," says Clement Lim, a senior team member. "Guys hurt their wrists or fingers when things go wrong, while girls usually hurt their ankles and back. Safety is paramount in cheerleading."

THE GUSTO BOSS

Behind every club stands a group of dedicated leaders. SP Gusto's President Yeo Song Rong, a final-year **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering** student, is one such person who has led the club to many outstanding achievements during his term of service.

As a SP scholar with a stellar accumulative GPA of 3.98, Song Rong has efficiently juggled his duties both as a student and club president. Despite his busy schedule, Song Rong has remained in the Director's List for three consecutive semesters. He admits facing challenges when managing time between schoolwork and CCA. He makes sure he stays focused in class and does consistent revisions to keep an active learning mind.

"It's important to find the studying method that suits you best. I usually head out to places like the library or my friend's house where we form study groups to revise together and clear

doubts on school work. If you have worked out a study method, you'll be more productive," says the President.

While managing SP Gusto is not an easy task, Song Rong uses his previous experience of managing a CCA club, which he had gained during secondary school, to help him deal with any impromptu challenges.

"Since Cheerleading is a team sport, any dispute within the team will definitely affect our teamwork and training," says Song Rong.

"Any decision made - be it good or bad, could affect the whole team because everyone has different views and perspectives on an issue. It's hard but essential to convince everyone about your decision."

Other than his contribution to SP Gusto, Song Rong is also an active alumnus in his alma mater, Chung Cheng High School (Yishun), as a cadet inspector to the NPCC unit.



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Cheers to SP Scholars



Seventy-nine SP students found out that from now on, their lecture notes will become precious commodities. Thanks to their newly-anointed status as SP Scholars, they would be highly-sought after by their course mates for advice. This was testified by Jonathan Tan, a SP Scholar and recent graduate who delivered an inspiring speech to his the

new batch of scholars at the SP Scholarship Award Ceremony.

The Mechanical Engineering graduate who intends to pursue a degree overseas after his national service, shared that somehow, everyone would know who the scholars are and they would be approached for consultation during exam periods. Their tutorials would be highly scrutinised and

photocopied too. This is just a funny yet true anecdote. Read his speech on page 34.

Of the 79, 37 were awarded the SP Engineering Scholarship which is given to students who aspire to be the design-thinking engineers of the future. Three of them received the SP-ITE Scholarships which are given out for the first time to ITE graduates.

SP Scholars will receive full tuition fee grants, laptop subsidy and opportunities to participate in programmes under the SPOT (SP Outstanding Talent), a leadership and enrichment programme.

For insights on SP Scholars, turn to page 30.

A STEP Further To Success



Picture courtesy of Ministry of Education, Singapore.
Lee Yu Qing receiving his award from Education Minister Heng Swee Keat.

First-year **Diploma in Computer Engineering** student Lee Yu Qing was the top winner at the Ministry of Education's Special Awards Presentation Ceremony 2011 held last month. He scooped up three awards, including the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement. This award was presented for the first time in 2010 to recognise the outstanding academic and non-academic achievements of post-secondary students, with one student each from Junior Colleges / Millennia Institute, Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Polytechnics, and

Universities. SP alumnus Desmond Thiam, who is now a medical student in NUS, received the award in the Polytechnic category last year.

The Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship To Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award was also presented at the ceremony. The Award recognises outstanding Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates who have performed well academically and attained good co-curricular activities records. This year, 15 LKY-Step awards were presented to ITE graduates now pursuing full-time studies at the SP.

Smooth Ride On The Infocomm Highway



Securing careers in their desired fields: Tan Jia Lin (left) and Chan Yik Wai.

Tan Jia Lin from the Diploma in Digital Media and Chan Yik Wai from the **Diploma in Games Design and Development** are among the elite group of 23 SP students who were recently awarded the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (IIS) offered by the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA).

And YES! Once again SP took the lion's share. Our students from

the SP Business School, SP Design School and the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology clinched a whopping 23 out of the 48 scholarships offered by IDA to the polytechnic students. Last year, SP clinched 16 out of the 32 scholarships. The elite group will pursue a polytechnic-university path under IDA sponsorship, paving the way for them to pursue a career

in the digital media or Infocomm industry. The scholarship package includes fully-sponsored tuition fees, an annual allowance, laptop allowance, and a local or overseas attachment of up to six months with a company or organisation related to their course of study.

IDA has also awarded three National Infocomm Scholarships (NIS) to three SP graduates to

pursue their degree programmes. NIS Scholars will receive a job placement with their sponsors company upon graduation. These companies are all big-names in the digital media and Infocomm sectors, such as Microsoft, IBM, Oracle and banks like DBS and UOB.



The creative bunch nurtured by SP. From left: Gavin Yeo, James Lye, Evan Low, Grace Lee, Vicki Lau and Justin Tan

Creative Gems

They pursue their passion in music relentlessly and now they are reaping their rewards. Four outstanding SP recent graduates from the **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology** were awarded the Media Education Scheme Award by the Media Development Authority (MDA) to pursue degree programmes in prestigious overseas universities.

Evan Low and Mandric Tan will be heading to Berklee College of Music in the US, while James Lye will study in Keele University in the United Kingdom. Stephanie Koh is already an undergraduate at Full Sail University, a premier American University famed for its degree programmes in arts, music and film.

Graduates Vicki Lau, Justin Tan and Gavin Yeo also received the same award at a ceremony held last month. Vicki, from the **Diploma in Digital Media**, will pursue her degree in Visual Effects at the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design. Creative Media Design graduate Justin, intends to study communication design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Capping the list of creative honours is Grace Lee Hui Min, a current final-year music and audio technology student who received the Georgette Chen Arts Scholarship from MDA.



Viva VivoStudio!

What's spatial? Some of us might scratch our heads with this term. But for the teams of SP students who took part in the Spatial Challenge 2011, the word was probably in their dreams for months. They grouped themselves into four teams and huddled together in labs to prepare for the competition that challenged them to develop innovative ways of using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Organised by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA), they had to think, reason and analyse information through GIS and seek, process and apply the knowledge on real life issues.

Team VivoStudio won the top prize of \$5,000 in the tertiary category for their project Silver Radar. They beat 36 other teams from the polytechnics and universities and also won the Best Presentation Award and the Most 'Like' Award. Their winning idea was to make use of GIS technology to provide civil defence agencies with

critical and useful information presented in graphical forms which in turn lead to better data analysis.

This is not all. The same project also clinched the top award in the tertiary category at the SiTF Awards, organised by the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation. The annual event recognises innovative IT applications and solutions developed locally. It was an uphill battle for the students who faced competition from more than 170 entries. They will represent Singapore to compete in the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Award later this year.

Vivo Studio comprises **Diploma in Information Technology** students (from left in picture) Nguyen Doan Hong Nhat, Gordon Lee, Yang He, Liu Junhua and Tan Jian An. Liu Junhua also clinched the Best Presenter Award at the SiTF Awards.

Tops In Management

A team of students from SP Business School's **Diploma in Banking and Financial Services** won the top prize at the annual National Management Competition organised by the Singapore Institute of Management. SP teams have been winning this competition for a consecutive number of years. The gang of four spent five hours daily over a two-week period to hammer out business strategies that beat

fellow competitors from other tertiary institutions. The team, which comprises (in picture from left) Loon Fook Kee, Lye Yi Hao (team leader), Tan Jun Kiat and Chan Ker Liang, won \$6,000 in cash and will compete at the Asian Management Game. The business savvy teenagers intend to invest part of their prize money and take a holiday in Taiwan.



Microsoft Experts

Two SP Business School students were among 228,000 worldwide participants in this year's Worldwide Competition on Microsoft Office. The duo comprising Dominique Soon (**Diploma in Banking and Financial Services**) and Gerald Wong (**Diploma in Accountancy**) won the national leg with four fellow local students and proceeded to San Diego USA for the international competition. After a tough fight, Gerald emerged as the 1st runner-up for the Microsoft Word 2010 category while Dominique was the 5th runner-up in the Microsoft Excel 2010 category. They were tested on their knowledge and application of the various functions in Microsoft Word and Excel components. Other than an online test, the participants also had to re-create documents with specifications given to them.



Gerald Wong and Dominique Soon (first and second from left) with fellow Singaporean participants.



SP SIFE member with the native kids in Project DKSHA in India.

Three-Time SIFE Winner

The SP SIFE team has done Singapore proud once again by clinching the championship trophy at the annual Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Competition. SP teams had won the local championship in 2008 and 2009 and went on to take part in the SIFE World Cup, pitting their skills against teams from universities all over the world. At the world finals in 2008, the team came in fourth, the best results for a Singapore team. Last year, the team took a break to carefully

explore project possibilities for this year's competition.

This year, Team SP submitted two projects – Project DKSHA and Project Hijau Bakau (Green Mangrove) which involved more than 100 students. For Project DKSHA, the students initiated activities that churned out small profits for an organisation that runs a home for orphans and destitute children in a little village in India. The second project saw the students creating an eco-tourism site out of a mangrove swamp in Batam, Indonesia. The project created job opportunities for the locals and the revenue generated from tourists was used to fund reforestation efforts.

Liau Min Yee, SP SIFE President and a final-year student from the **Diploma in Information Technology** who got involved in SIFE projects since her first year, believes that their projects go beyond performing community service. She says: "It involves learning new skills and then empowering those with needs. Through SIFE, SP has enriched my poly life so much. It has turned me into a responsible youth, a better leader, a better friend and a better individual."

Come October, Team SP will meet their competitors from universities all over the world in SIFE World Cup 2011. While a win would be gratifying, nothing beats the gratitude shown to them from the needy folks in India and Indonesia.



Good News For Accountancy Students

Good news for Accountancy students. Under a new collaboration, SP Business School and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) will offer Accountancy students the chance to get their professional qualifications during their three-year course. They will be awarded the CIMA Diploma in Management Accounting and Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting when they graduate upon completing the three required papers. CIMA will also offer scholarships to two students pursuing this programme.

A Business Class Idea



The learning experience in SP Business School is not just a staple mix of lectures, tutorials and exams. As much as possible, business students are exposed to the harsh realities when they take on special projects such as competitions. Winning will be a bonus but what's more important is the hands-on experience acquired along the journey.

Three teams from SP had their challenging moment when they took part in the 5th FedEx Express / Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge (Singapore).

For the competition, they had to research information related to a specific country to gain a greater understanding of international trade and develop a marketing plan for that country.

The team that comprised **Diploma in Business Administration** final-year students Darren Ong and Lee Qi Ni wowed the judges with their impressive idea of a space-saving convertible bed suitable for space-cramped Hong Kong. They emerged as champions and won a place at the Asia Pacific International Trade Challenge held in Bangkok.

Over in Thailand, the duo did not disappoint. They faced stiff competition from teams across Asia, including Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and South Korea. They put up a formidable fight and came in second after Thailand. They won US\$3,000 which came in handy for Darren who will use his share on a study trip to Washington USA this month.

RoboCON 2011



Kelvin and Hei Kern (third and fifth from right) were the only polytechnic student and graduate selected by SUTD to take part in RoboCon 2011 held in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in USA.

Second-year **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering** student Leong Hei Kern was one of the youngest participants at the International Design Contest RoboCon 2011, a robot design competition held in July at the renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, USA.

Since 1990, MIT and Tokyo Institute of Technology have been organising this event where university students from all parts of the world compete in a different host country each year.

Despite being younger than most of his competitors, Hei Kern displayed astounding maturity in his design thinking and contributed to his team winning the top prize. Together with Computer Engineering fresh graduate

Kelvin Khoo and eight others, they won an all-expense paid trip to Boston for the IDC Robocon after winning the Technology and Design Challenge organised by the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

But this is not the first for Hei Kern. He was also sent by SUTD to take part in RoboCon 2010 held in Shanghai. The first experience injected much confidence in him to face off with his opponents this time round, which included teams from countries like Brazil, China, France, Japan, Morocco, South Korea, Thailand and USA.



London bound (from left) Tang Chee Kit, Isabel Song, Jonathan Tan, Chong Ting Wei and Yap Yu Zhi.

RoboCUP 2011

The glory continues to shine for SP young roboticists. Earlier in the year, they won two golds, one silver and three bronze medals at the Singapore Robotics Games. They upped the ante and marched into the international robotic arena by taking part in RoboCup 2011, dubbed the Olympics of Robotics. Held in Istanbul, Turkey in July, Singapore was represented by seven staff and 12 final-year students, alongside participants from Nanyang

Technological University and junior teams from secondary schools.

Team SP walked away with two second place awards in the Humanoid League. In addition, the SP's @Home robot was ranked world number 8th among 19 participating teams. It was sweet victory for the SP RoboCup team, especially those hardworking students who worked past midnight and woke up at 6am during the competition period.



The SP Humanoid Robot Team won two 2nd Placing at RoboCup 2011, the Olympics of Robotics.

Next Stop London!

After winning five golds at the Singapore leg, a team of five SP students and fresh graduates are all geared up for the 41st World Skills Competition to be held in London this October. Team SP is made up of Isabel Song (**Diploma in Experience and Product Design**), Tang Chee Kit (**Diploma in Aerospace Electronics**), Chong Ting Wei and Yap Yu Zhi (**Diploma in Electrical and Engineering**) and

Jonathan Tan Ze Sheng (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering**).

The biennial event is the world's largest international skills competition with young people from across the globe competing to be the best of the best in their chosen skill.

Guys, keep up the **SPiRiT** in the other side of the world. We're with you all the way!

International Win

This picture called PlaySchool, is an international winner. Designed by SP fresh graduate The Yu Xuan from the **Diploma in Interior Design**, it won the first prize in the Interior Design Non-Professional Category at the International Design Awards (IDA) 2010, which was held in Los Angeles. The awards celebrate and promote legendary design visionaries and to uncover emerging talent in architecture and interior, fashion, product, graphic and fashion design.

PlaySchool is designed to reshape the learning environment for

kids within the age group of two to six years old. It embodies an interactive learning space, which is safe, controlled yet unguided with most of the space visible to parents. Yu Xuan is now working with an interior design firm and she plans to study architecture in Australia.

And she's not the only winner at the same awards ceremony. Wu Rong, a current final-year student from the same diploma won obtained a honourable mention for her project Room Zero : City Browser - Room of the Passing of Time.



More Winners

Seven students from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment won the joint third prize at the Engineering Science, Technology and Innovation Design Competition 2010 organised by the ASEAN Academy of Engineering & Technology. The competition required them to come up with conceptual designs for eco-friendly low income housing that provide a better quality of life as well as meeting the challenges of climate. More than 33 entries from countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines took part in this competition which was open to undergraduates, post graduates and young professionals below 30 years old.

The SP team received their prize at a ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur earlier this year.

The team comprised Vincent Lai, Choo Xin Wenn and Toh



Hui Ping from **Diploma in Architecture**; Aint Zar and Ei Phyu Phyu from **Diploma in Civil Engineering** with Business, and Joshua Tan and How Kwang Yi from **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology**.

President's Social Service Award



SP Principal Tan Hong Cheong receiving the Award from former President S R Nathan at the Istana.

SP has clinched, once again, another of the nation's highest award - The President's Social Service Award (PSSA). This is a highly prestigious award, conferred by the office of the President of the Republic of Singapore. It honours and recognises outstanding voluntary contributions made towards the social service sector.

In 2010, SP received the President's Award for the Environment, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote

and achieve environmental sustainability via its extensive green programmes that go beyond its campus at Dover Road.

As a recipient of the latest PSSA, SP will bring about a higher level of community involvement in Singapore in the area of social service. It hopes to serve as a role model for others to emulate, having demonstrated its commitments to the social service needs of the community.

And One More...

The caring spirit amongst SP staff and students has not gone unnoticed. SP received the Excellence Award at the People's Association Community Spirit Awards 2011 in recognition of its contributions to the community.

SP was also presented the Distinguished Defence Partner Award by the Ministry of Defence in recognition of its outstanding contribution towards national defence.

Hello Mr. President



The SP Civil Defence Lionhearters, comprising of student volunteers, were invited by former President S R Nathan to an appreciation dinner at the Istana. This was an occasion for the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to express its gratitude towards their community partners and volunteers. Formed in 2010, SP is the first tertiary institution to team

up with the SCDF to train students with emergency preparedness and life-saving skills. They are also deployed overseas as part of non-governmental organisations to undertake humanitarian projects and development programmes. The SP-CD Lionhearters were among the 500 guests at the Istana that evening.



SP Principal Tan Hong Cheong receiving the award, flanked by Dr Amy Khor, Mayor of SouthWest CDC and Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, then the Minister of Environment & Water Resources.

A New Green Feather

SP was conferred the Southwest Environment and Community (ECo) Award (Community Category) in recognition of its efforts towards environmental and community sustainability

in the district. This is yet another feather to its cap. It won the nation's highest accolade for its green practices—the President's Award for the Environment – in 2010.

Splashing Fun



Don't play with water. For a sunny day in July, this advice was officially ignored by more than 5,000 students from secondary schools, polytechnics and the ITEs. They gathered at the Marina Barrage on for the Singapore International Water Festival to play with water, literally. The annual event was organised for the second year running by SP and the Public Utilities Board, in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Festival, to educate students on the importance of water.

This year, the festival was also a Family Day for SP staff. Fathers, mothers and children happily soaked themselves wet in various water activities while students competed for glory in various water-based competitions.

Optometry Degree In 2 Years



The pioneer batch of undergraduates taking the Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Optometry graduated in June. The two-year degree programme is jointly offered by SP and the University of Manchester (UM). All of them previously graduated from SP with a **Diploma in Optometry** and they took only two years to get the honours degree, which is similar to the three-year programme offered in UK. Among them, 14 proudly received 1st Class Honours.

The degree programme is jointly taught by a team of faculty staff from UM and SP and they received hands-on exposure at the Optometry Centre in SP and National Healthcare Group Institute at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Nine in 10 of them already found employment by the time they graduated, employed as optometrists by employers like Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the National Healthcare Group and retail chain Capitol Optical.

1st Class Honours For Six Biotech Grads



Science to accountancy? No sweat for Darryl Koh.

Not one but six SP alumni from the **Diploma in Biotechnology** graduated from NTU this year with first class honours in their respective courses.

Graduating with degrees in Biological Sciences are Goh Hui Tong, Lim Yok Zuan, Noel Sng Yanwei, Sean Tan Yang Yi and Delon Toh Chengxu. Also making a successful transition from Biotechnology to Accountancy is alumnus Darryl Koh who graduated with a Bachelor in Accountancy from NTU.

All six are grateful to SP for grounding them with a solid foundation. "The modules and lab experiences at SP gave me an edge over others, allowing me to progress well in my studies and research projects," says Hui Tong.

Even though Darryl Koh did not continue with Biotechnology and switched to Accountancy, he found the SP experience beneficial. "The rigorous curriculum and teaching pedagogy in SP developed my time management skills, analytical skills and inculcated a strong sense of responsibility towards my learning. These helped in preparing me to meet the challenges of studying in a totally different field in NTU."

Except for Daryl who will start work in Citibank as a management associate, the other five will be pursuing their PhDs with scholarships.



You can call him Joey now. In future, it will be Dr Seah.

What's up Doc?

Joey Seah is the second **Diploma in Biomedical Science** graduate accepted into the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. His senior, Desmond Thiam from the class of 2010, is now a first-year medical student at NUS. And from the class of 2007, we have Alex Chua who is the first poly student accepted by NUS to study Dentistry. Besides producing future doctors and dentists, the School of Chemical Life Sciences has over the years groomed many

outstanding graduates. A couple of them are now award-winning scientists and several more are now pursuing their PhDs either locally or overseas. With attachment opportunities at world-class universities like Harvard, Imperial College, Massachusetts of Technology, Stanford and Yale during their three-year course at SP, our life science students can look forward to an exciting future in the medical and scientific research fields.

In Milan For Design

Milan, one of the major fashion capitals in the world, became the playground for a team of seven **Diploma in Experience and Product Design** students from SP Design School recently. The unimaginable became reality for them as they headed there as participants of the prestigious Salone Satellite 2011. The annual event brings together young designers under 35, showcasing new projects to manufacturers from all over the world. It is organised under the umbrella of Salone Internazionale del Mobile 2011, a prestigious design exhibition in Europe.

Their presence marked the first time that a polytechnic team from Singapore took part in this by-invitation only event. Besides gaining creative exposure, they got the chance also to build up their network in the global design scene, seeding the possibilities



of future collaborations with European young talents. "Designers from all over the world exhibit their works here. We wanted to provide exposure, open up more opportunities for our students, build networks in the global design scene and use the international platform to showcase our works. Our booth captured a lot of attention and was one of the more popular booths," says Winston Chai, Design School lecturer who led the students to Milan.

Only Poly Student In International Conference



Shamus (extreme right) with fellow participants in Dubai.

SPIRIT writer and Biotechnology student Shamus Lee was in Dubai to participate in Education Without Borders 2011, a biennial international student conference hosted by the Higher Colleges of Technology.

He was among 1,000 students selected from a pool of about 5,700 student applicants around the world who applied to attend this prestigious event. As it was a conference for university students, Shamus was also the only delegate to represent a polytechnic. There were several other Singapore delegates and many were surprised that he, yes, came from a polytechnic. Yes SP!

Over the four-day conference, Shamus mingled with fellow delegates from over 130 nationalities, discussing and presenting ideas to solve some of the major challenges facing the world today. The experience opened up new perspectives for him regarding world issues, besides forging new friendships.



We're At Stanford USA

Under the Overseas Youth Leadership Programme, 25 students visited Stanford University in California, USA.

The out-of-classroom learning experience exposed the students to the culture and heritage of not only this century-old university but also the state of California and United States in general.

At Stanford, they were inspired by a talk given by the Nobel Prize

Winner, Prof Douglas Osheroff who spoke about sustainability innovation and entrepreneurship. It wasn't all work and no play for this study trip. The lucky 25 also toured the San Francisco Bay Area and marvelled at the architectural landscape of the city, as well as took in the beautiful sites of Yosemite Natural Reserve.

Among the conference highlights was a keynote address former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. But the most memorable moment for him was being selected as the flag bearer during the opening ceremony held next to Burj Khalifa, the world tallest standing building.

Being in the Middle East for the first time, how could he not take in the sights of Middle East? He wasted no time to visit places like the famous Jumeirah beach, Palm Island and the Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi.



POLITE Champions

The victorious SP sports teams!

Clockwise from left: Men Bowling, Woman Volleyball and Men WeiQi.



It was a fruitful harvest for the first season at the annual POLITE. As at end August, SP has clinched the championship in several categories – Dragonboat (Men); Chinese Chess; Wei Qi; Volleyball (Women) and Bowling (Singles, Doubles and Team). Showing commendable SP fighting spirit are teams from Tchoukball (Women); Tennis (Men); Volleyball

(Men), Bowling (Overall). Winning the Dragonboat race was really sweet for the boys who touched the championship trophy for the first time. Under the leadership of SP Dragonboat Captain Nigel Lo, the boys put up a fierce fight in the waters off Marina Barrage where the race was held. Read more about SP Dragonboat Team on page 46.

Dikir Barat In Top Form



SP's Malay Language Society Club (Male Team), Keturunan Putera retained its glory as they champions in Suara Serumpun, an annual inter-polytechnic Dikir Barat competition organised by Andika.

Since their triumph in the Piala Katulistiwa competition in 2006, the SP team has not participated in any competitions until last year when they finished fourth in the Suara Serumpun competition. But the long hiatus did not affect the team spirit as they trained hard and regained their form quickly to win four awards in this year's competition.

On top of the team award, the SP male team also came in first for Juara (lead singer), Awok-awok (voice of the team), Paluan (percussionist). Although the female team, Seri Thera, did not win any awards, they improved their positioning from ninth in 2010 to sixth this year.

This victory is certainly a great achievement for Keseri Puthera, the performing arts section of the SP Malay Language Society Club.



Record-breaking band

Our students entered the Singapore Book of Records last year with the largest mosaic made using used recycled banners. A new entry was made this year with the longest kinship (friendship) band measuring 917 metres. The previous record was 462 metres. Crafted by students from the SP Welfare Services Club, the project has a higher objective of promoting family ties and kinship, in conjunction with the Citi-YMCA Youth for Causes programme.

For an entire year, club members spent many Saturdays visiting the less privileged elderly staying in

rented flats around the Eunos area. Much as they strived to do their part, it pained them to see many elderly abandoned by their own children, living alone with no one to care for them. Thus, the club came up with this idea to raise funds. After breaking the record, the bands were disconnected and sold at between \$2 - \$5 within SP campus and in public places such as Orchard Road. Proceeds will go to the Sathya Sai Social Service to help sustain its programmes for the elderly.



Hi From High Up There

This is Muhammad Hasif bin Othman proudly displaying the SP flag more than 5,000 feet above sea level. He is standing on top of Dafeng Peak, one of the four peaks in the scenic Shiguniang (Four Maiden) Mountains in Chengdu, China. Hasif is among 15 students who scaled this peak recently. This is also the youngest team, and the first from a polytechnic, to have made it to the top.

"The air is so thin and cold up

there, so you have to take in quick breaths. You can't stay too long up there. We stayed for around 45 minutes," recalls Hasif, who is the Vice President of the SP Rockclimbing Club. Fortunately, they had with them Joanne Soo, a member of the Singapore Women Everest Team who helped the SP students to acclimatise to local conditions before setting off. She also provided valuable mountaineering tips along the

way and also shared her Everest experience.

On the first day, they started at 8am and stopped at 3pm to rest a night at the base camp located about 3,000 metres high. The ascent continued the next day at 3am for another six hours up to the peak. This, to Hasif was the most difficult moment because it was like a never-ending climb. Each of them packed out own food and drinks in their haversack.

For Hasif, it was just chocolates, energy bars and water.

The experience had toughened Hasif who is glad he signed up for the trip. Now he's eager to go as far as to climb Mount Everest. But one thing at a time for the former Temasek Secondary School student who is now gearing towards his final semester.



A Humble Calling

Second-year student Zheng Jiang Ping from the **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management** had a real taste of what a hard life really is when she embarked on a community service. It wasn't quite a big shock for her as she already knew what to expect after taking up the **Diploma Plus Programme in Humanitarian Affairs**. The two-week trip, a practical mission under the programme, saw her breaking her back planting mangroves and laying bamboo floorings for a village called Zambales in central Philippines. The efforts were meant

to improve the infrastructure of the village which is now marketed as an eco-tourism destination that will bring revenue to the natives there.

For the team of 20 students who went on the trip, one of the valuable lessons they learned was not to take things for granted. "The villagers are already, yet they are so ready to share with us what they have, such as food. They give without expecting anything in return," says Jiang Ping who has previously gone on another community service mission to Bangladesh.

Think DESIGN



Roger Martin
with SP Students
at the Design
Thinking Forum.

Businesses looking to reinvent themselves picked up a tip or two on Design Thinking at the Business Design Fiesta held at SP in July. Featuring Roger Martin, Dean of the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, the event was one of the initiatives organised by DesignWorks Singapore to promote the integration of Design Thinking in enterprises, education institutions and policy making.

Design Thinking requires the individual to think like a designer and focus on generating user-centric solutions to new and perhaps unprecedented business scenarios. The solution that emerges through this approach is a powerful combination of the creativity of a designer and the acumen of a business manager. Companies who are quick to catch on to Design Thinking can grow this new competitive advantage and open up new opportunities for business growth, according to Dean Roger Martin, a pioneer in the field of Design Thinking.

Recognising the role Design Thinking has to play in today's fiercely competitive and globalised business landscape, SP partnered Rotman

DesignWorks, a part of the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, to set up DesignWorks Singapore at SP in September 2010. The partnership is the first-of-its-kind in Singapore and is also Rotman DesignWorks' first overseas collaboration. The set-up will help local enterprises identify new opportunities faster and more effectively; foster fresh insights into new areas of consumer needs; and transform it into innovation that brings growth and success.

SP Principal Mr Tan Hang Cheong said, "Even before the birth of DesignWorks Singapore, SP has made a conscious effort to embed Design Thinking into our modules and school programmes since 2004. We teach our students that design transcends the aesthetics, and we train them to see design as a strategic process to drive innovation. Design Thinking will teach our students to be comfortable with ambiguity and to learn to explore the unknown. This will help them greatly when they step out into the working world. They will be more confident and ready."



Do DESIGN

Current and future SP students will be amongst the first in Singapore to benefit from a new methodology called Design Thinking. Simply, it means using practical yet creative solutions to solve problems. This creative thinking-in-action process is casting a bigger influence on 21st education across disciplines from business to design to engineering.

Design thinking will unleash the creativity of SP students who will study in multi-disciplinary teams. Did you remember an episode of Channel 8's Dream Potter where SP students designed a customised laptop table for a boy afflicted with muscular dystrophy? The concept of design thinking was applied. Not only did they design and build the laptop table but they

customised a PC mouse for him as well.

SP student Tan Wenhao from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering** who was part of the team said: "What I like about design thinking is that it has helped us to generate and explore solutions to challenging real-life problems. It has made problem-solving more systematic, practical and manageable, all at once!"

A new diploma course called Business Innovation and Design will be launched by SP Business School in 2012. This will be the first business course in SP that fully integrates design thinking into its course modules. Turn to page 63 for more details.

Are you thinking already?

This Is Your Learning Space.... For Students In Business Innovation And Design



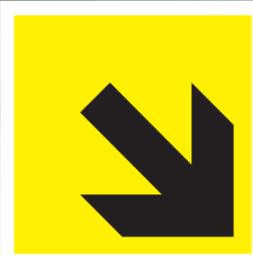
SP will be launching a brand new diploma course - Business Innovation and Design – the first of its kind in Singapore. Offered by SP Business School, it will be first diploma course that fully embraces Design Thinking concepts and practices. Lecturers who are involved in this new diploma have gone through extensive training on Design Thinking at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, which is a leading institution in this field.

If you or your siblings are taking the 'O' levels' this year and planning to enrol in a business diploma with a twist, look no further. The course will fulfil the desire for those who have the design streak and also want to learn about business fundamentals. It is also suited for young minds who want to be entrepreneurs from a young age but need guidance on how to design new products or services.

In a nutshell, the course will train students to create business innovations by using the way designers think. It emphasises using a designer's approach or design thinking to solve business problems and seize new opportunities.

One of the unique features of this course is studio-based learning. Students' creativity will be unleashed in an inspiring space specially built to inspire them to work on innovative business ideas. They will also participate in a business innovation boot camp at a prestigious foreign university and a 15-week internship programme with forward-looking companies.

Get more information about the course at SP Open House on 4th – 6th January 2012. You can also pick up a flyer on this course when SP visits your secondary school. For quick facts, visit www.sp.edu.sg.



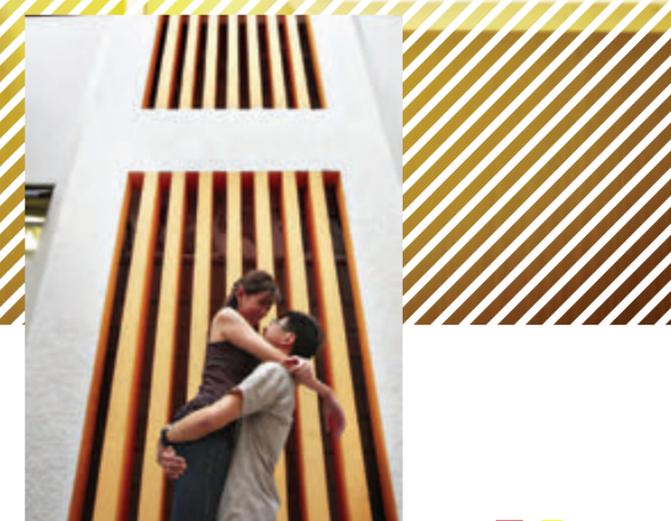
Sweet Pairs



I ♥ U!
 I looked in your eyes.
 Was it in LT1A?
 My heart was beating fast.
 I told myself
 One day, you will be mine.

Indeed, two hearts become one. SP is not just a learning ground. Love blossoms in the green and serene campus too. Many of them are thankful to their alma mater. This is where they found their life partner. And this is why they want their wedding pictures taken here.

Oh.... So sweet!



ME AND MY APPS

SPIRIT writer Terence Yeo snoops around SP to find out what are the top 10 apps downloaded by the students (and some staff even).

Story by: **TERENCE YEO/DIPLOMA IN BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES**



▲ **Facebook (Free!)**

FB mobile makes it easy to stay connected and share information with friends. Now you don't need a computer to access your FB account anymore. Frequently used in between classes, while waiting for friends or during those boring lectures!



▲ **Twitter (Free!)**

Follow the latest updates from your friends, favourite celebrities and what's happening around the world on your phone. Very useful when delivering 'breaking news'.



▲ **Angry Birds (US\$0.99)**

One of the most popular games now. The survival of the Angry Birds is at stake. Dish out revenge on the green pigs who stole the birds' eggs. Use the unique destructive powers of the Angry Birds to lay waste to the pigs' fortified castles.



▲ **Sneezies (US\$0.99)**

Sneezies is a game overloaded with cuteness. The game play requires you to burst as many bubbles containing these sneezies and while you pop these bubbles, the rest of the bubbles will be affected through a chain reaction.



▲ **Cut the Rope (US\$0.99)**

Cut the rope and feed the little froggy called Om Nom with the candy attached. Beware of the spider which will swipe your sweets.



▲ **WhatsApp Messenger (US\$0.99)**

WhatsApp is a smartphone messenger which allows you to chat and even have a group chat your friends. Good thing about this app is that iPhone, BB and Android phone users can download this app to their phones and cross chat with each other. This app is set to eliminate the use of SMS!



▲ **Plants vs Zombies (US\$2.99)**

A mob of fun-loving zombies is about to invade your home. Use your arsenal of 49 zombie-zapping plants to get rid of 26 types of zombies before they break down your door.



▲ **Cover Orange (US\$0.99)**

A simple game that requires you to think through before you act; where you have to safely cover the orange when the nasty acid rain comes in!



▲ **The Impossible Quiz! (US\$0.99)**

It's not the "difficult quiz". It's not the "really hard quiz". It's the IMPOSSIBLE QUIZ! The internet sensation with over 50 millions plays is now available in your pocket, anywhere!

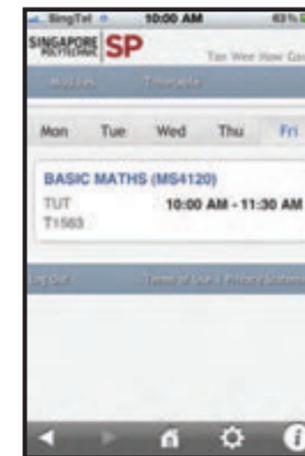


▲ **The Straits Times (Free!)**

Have our national newspaper in your pocket. All the latest news updates with just one touch! Who needs a newspaper anymore?

APP ME PLEASE!

Search "SP" in the iPhone's App Store and you will find quite a few interesting and useful apps. **SPIRIT** writer Terence Yeo checks them out!



▲ **SP. Time Table**

Simply key in your SP admission number and voila! details of your timetable will instantly appear! With a direct feed to Blackboard, you can also view announcements relating to your modules. Go green with this app as you no longer have to print out your timetable.



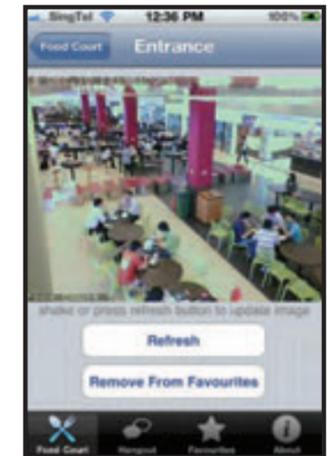
▲ **SP. Exam Timetable**

Exam periods are not the right time to fumble. Don't panic if you can't remember which exam hall you should go to. Simply key in your SP admission number and details of your exam timetable will instantly appear! If you have SP Map app installed on your iPhone, you can use it to find your way to the exam hall!



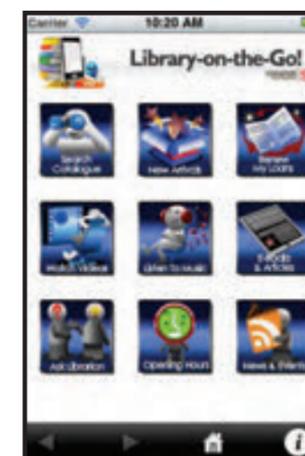
▲ **SP. Alumni *NEW***

Graduated from SP and want to stay connected? This app keeps you updated with the latest news and upcoming events organised by the SP Alumni Relations Office. Get instant access to the latest list of participating merchants that offer exclusive deals and promotions, and update your particulars instantly at your fingertips.



▲ **SP. Cam**

This app lets you check the crowd situation in the Food Courts (FC) and other eating joints. You'll get live feeds from the camera installed in the FC as well as popular hangouts such as Colours and Hilltop Haven. Now, don't complain about not enough seats anymore!



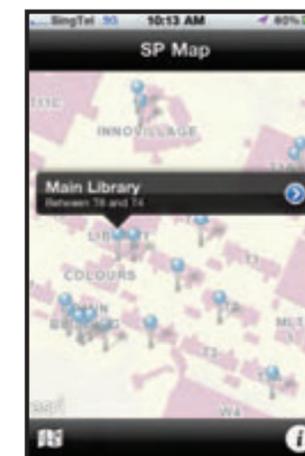
▲ **SP. Library**

The SP Library has an app that allows you to check your loan status and search the library catalogue while on the move. You should make use of this app when it's getting closer to semestral tests or exams as you can view past years exam papers directly on your phones. Cool huh?



▲ **SP. Next Bus**

If you're a public bus commuter, you MUST download this app. This bus schedule app will show you the arrival times of SBS buses at the bus stops around SP. With this app, the excuse 'I missed the bus' will be a thing of the past.



▲ **SP. Map**

This app is especially useful to all freshies, some blur Year 2s and 3s and visitors to SP. The SP Map app is useful to find your way around campus and also allow you to discover more about SP's facilities, social spaces and more.

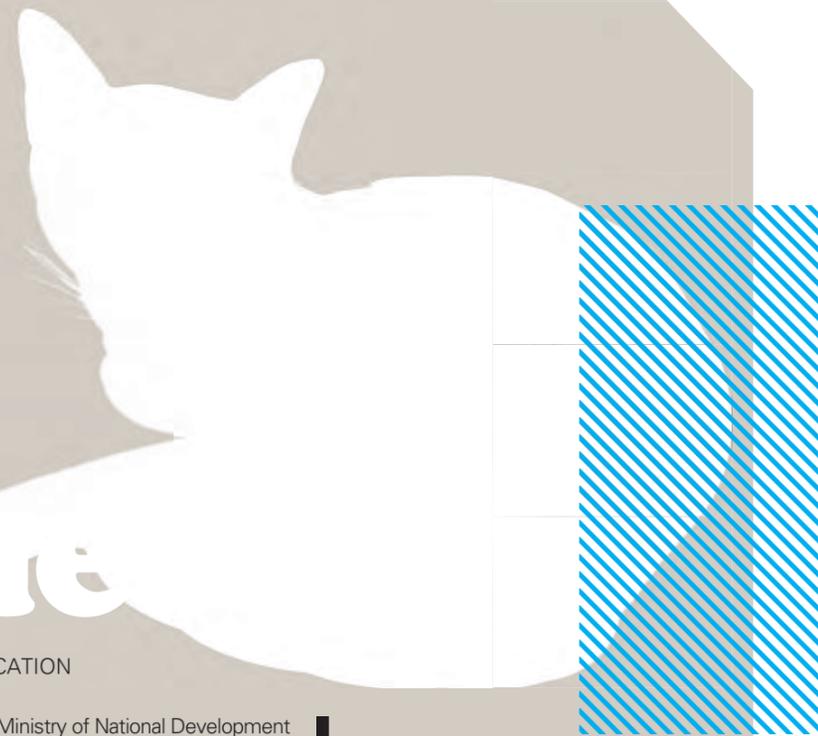


▲ **SP. Courses**

For future SP students, here's the app for you to find out all about the diploma course you are after, from course description to cut-off-points.



Meow... please save me



story by:
KYLIE CHIA/ DIPLOMA AND MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

For all animal lovers out there, there's reason to rejoice. The Ministry of National Development will review policies on stray animal management and pet housing. Less strict measures may come into place again. Yay!

In the previous decade, the Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM) method of controlling stray populations was the first humane thing since culling. After the 2003 SARS panic, TNRM ceased and culling went into full swing, with the scare that cats and rodents were factors to spreading the virus.

Recent efforts to revive TNRM were lauded by pet lovers and animal rights activists. Ms Deirdre Moss, the ex-chief of SPCA believes the TNRM method is most sustainable. "Most people in general are not against sterilisation in principle; it's just that they want a quick-fix solution (culling) to the issues (of overpopulation) they face. For them, here today-gone tomorrow is the best way, but it's not."

I polled 20 SP students on this issue. Many said they have no qualms about the new TNRM programme. Cases of residents having strays soil their corridors and mess up their plants, the frequent animal fights at night were brought up. Hence I asked them if they think culling should not be totally eradicated to help reduce stray numbers. Half of them were neutral, okay with a little bit of euthanasia while the other half insisted that should stop.

Biomedical Science student Ngyyen Doan Hong Nha is sympathetic: "Consider the cats human, for example. The [statistics] given is that there is overpopulation and we solve that problem by killing them! If we put ourselves in their shoes, we see that we are actually taking lives: killing people. They're living things!"

The students interviewed for this story expressed that they were disturbed by culling, since it's inhumane to take a kitten's life just like that. Euthanising without reason, to them, is unreasonable and almost similar to genocide.

If dogs can be our best friends, cats can be our BFFs too. They should also be allowed to live with dignity.

About sterilization:

- ➔ Neuter for male pets – involves castration. OUCH.
- ➔ Spay for female pets – involves abdominal surgery to remove ovaries and uterus.
- ➔ Unaltered animals and their compulsion to mate will drive them berserk, making them mentally frustrated. They make a mess to mark territory and are aggressive to people and other cats/dogs.
- ➔ Sterilising animals reduces the number of abandoned or unwanted pet, threat of rabies, traffic accidents and messes outside your door.
- ➔ Dogs retain their guard dog instinct after operation and it increases their life expectancy.
- ➔ Pets become like Garfield and Scooby Doo when food replaces their sexual drive but they won't be any less loving than before to their masters.

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SPACEFORUM



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✓ ALEX NG

3rd Year Diploma In Computer Engineering